The New Light of Myanmar
MYANMAR'S OLDEST ENGLISH DAILY
Volume XXII, Number 55 | 3rd Waning of Nayon 1376 ME | Sunday, 15 June, 2014

Yangon marks World Blood Donor Day 2014 with ceremony

By: Ye Myint/ Thant Zin Win

World Blood Donor Day 2014 was observed at the National Blood Centre in Yangon on Saturday, with high-ranking officials urging the public to make blood donations.

Myanmar established the country's first blood bank facility at Yangon General Hospital in 1945. The facility is now known as National Blood Centre. There are two national blood banks—one at Yangon General Hospital and another at Mandalay General Hospital, with an annual demand of 180, 000 units of blood. About 1,500 blood units are being kept at National Blood Centre which delivers blood to hospitals across Yangon, with about 30 or 40 units per day needed, officials said.

Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Chandadhika donates blood at 25th Shwe Parami blood donation ceremony at National Blood Centre on 9 June.—PHOTO: CREDIT TO NBC

The Blood Centre in Yangon has won the International Society of Blood Transfusion award for developing countries 2014 and there are many voluntary organizations assisting in donor recruitment and blood donations across Myanmar.

At the ceremony, Dr Min Than Nyunt, Director-General of the Health Department, the President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Dr. Koji Wada of JICA's MIDC Project and Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, made speeches to raise awareness of the importance to donate blood.

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated annually around the world. It provides an opportunity to highlight the lifesaving role of voluntary unpaid blood donors and also thank those donors who give this precious gift, with no incentive to them, to save millions of lives every year, according to the World Health Organization.

The theme for World Blood Donor Day 2014 is "Safe blood for saving mothers", with the WHO calling on countries to improve access to safe blood for saving the lives of mothers. Every day, about 800 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related compilations. Severe bleeding during delivery and after childbirth is the major cause of mortality, morbidity and long-term disability.

According to the latest WHO survey on blood availability, blood supply is critically inadequate in many low-and middle-income countries as almost half of about 108 million blood donations collected globally every year are from high-income countries, home to just 15% of the world's population.

NLM

National Blood Centre at Yangon General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Latha Township, Yangon.
PHOTO: CREDIT TO NBC

INSIDE

Poverty reduction strategies crucial for delta residents: President PAGE-3

Outstanding students, teachers honoured in Zeyathiri township

PAGE-3

Union Ministers visit relief camps in Myebon, Sittway Tsps PAGE-3

Investing in Teacher Education PAGE-8

Realistic steps should be taken to help Myanmar migrants in Thailand PAGE-8

In appreciation to all Fathers across the nation on Father's Day June 15, 2014 PAGE-9

Courses for part-time diploma in journalism to be launched in mid July

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Working journalists in Myanmar can apply for a one year part-time diploma in journalism to be conducted by the Myanmar Journalism Institute-MJI, said Fiona Barton from Fojo Media Institute from Sweden on Saturday at a press conference.

The course will be launched on 14 July.

At the press conference at Myanmar Media Library in Yangon, she said that those journalists with a minimum two years experience in print, broadcast or online media can send their online applications to www.mjimyanmar.org not later than 25 June. Of them, MJI will offer scholarship to 15 journalists for the first time.

They will have classes early morning from Monday to Friday and full time every Saturday for one week per month. The course covers specialist courses in Business Journalism, Investigative Reporting and Political Journalism that will

(See page 9)

Fiona Barton from Fojo Media Institute from Sweden.

Patrick Benning, Programme Coordinator Myanmar of DW Akademie of Germany.

Myingyan to get new building for the practice of Buddhism

MYINGYAN, 14 June — A ceremony to drive stake for construction of a one-storey extended building took place at Shwepyisoe religious building in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on Friday.

The ceremony was led by the chairman abbot of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and Buddhist monks.

The building will be donated by U Aye Lu, wife Thudhamma Theingi Daw Yin Yin and family of Shwepyisoe cheroot factory in Ward 2 of Myingyan.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung and officials participated in the stake driving ceremony.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Water purifier donated to monastery in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 14 June—In memory of her late husband U Shwe Thein, Daw San Yi (Aung Chan Thar) family of Kywehsekan of Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay donated a set of Zhulian water purifiers worth K1.5 million to Phayagyi monastery of Hsipaw in Shan State on Thursday.

The donation will help supply drinking water to Buddhist monks, nuns and devotees at the monastery. The trustees board of the monastery has started preparations to install the water purifier, locals said.

Hsipaw Ko Latt

Knowledge about monetary affairs shared

MANDALAY, 14 June—The Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd and ANZ Bank Myanmar will jointly conduct monetary affairs talks at the office of the CCI of Yadanabon Supercentre on 78th Street in Chanayethazan Township from 8 am to 6 pm on 27 June.

As admission is free and the participants will be limited, the members of the CCI, staff and interested people are to register no later than 20 June at MRCCI if they wish to attend the talks.

Officials will give advice on systematic savings, banking services and credit cards to the attendees.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Electrification of village in Kyaukpadaung Tsp nearly completed

KYAUKPADAUNG, 14 June—The electrification committee of Kyansoh village of Kyaukpadaung Township has completed 90% of the power supply tasks for local people with loans from Mandalay Region government.

"Electrification for the village started on 19 March 2014. A total of 133 households from the village funded K300,000 each for the task. Due to the inadequate fund, the electrification committee took K25 million from the region government. So, the total cost may be K70 million for power supply," said a patron of the committee. The committee must pay back the loan and interest to the government within six months after starting the power task.

A total of 133 households from 196 houses of the village enlisted to take installation of power lines. The committee will supply power to poor families at reasonable rate, said the patron.

The lamp-post erection and installation of power lines started on 15 May 2014 and the transformer was installed on 29 May.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Farmers in central Myanmar prepare cultivation of crops during monsoon

KYAUKPADAUNG, 14 June—Although the monsoon season has begun in central Myanmar in early June, the rains in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region started about 15 days later than the last year, with local farmers now preparing to cultivate sesame and pigeon pea.

"Our villagers cannot grow beans due to the late rain in the township. Therefore I prepare cultivation of sesame," said farmer U Soe Win of Hsintaingkan village.

Kyaukpadaung Township relies on cultivation of sesame plants. Although farmers planted sesame seeds on their farmlands in late May with the hope of rainfall, the monsoon season did not start on time, with all sesame seeds lost. Per-acre yield of sesame will therefore be on the decline in the coming year, said a source. According to locals, farmers now plan to grow groundnut in the cold season.—*Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)*

Consumer protection team members inspect markets, supermarkets in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 14 June—The Head of Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department of Mandalay Region U Swe Tint Kyu and departmental officials from Sanitation and Health Division of Mandalay City Development Committee, Mandalay Region Food and Drug Administration Branch and Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department visited food and snacks shops, food factories and oil mills at Yadanabon Market, Zaygyo Market and on 78th street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday.

The region head of the Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department requested the snack and food producers to stick labels on the products in Myanmar language to enable consumers to know the ingredients and other facts about the foods and snacks, including expiration date.

In Mandalay, educative talks are being given to entrepreneurs and producers of foodstuffs. After enacting the Consumer Protection Rules, action will be taken against the law offenders.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Associations plan to grow 1,000 raintree saplings at Yangon-Mandalay expressway

MANDALAY, 14 June—The abbot of the All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation, the Border and Hill Regions Missionary Association and the Byamaso Social Service Association will lead the growing of raintree saplings along both sides of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

They will grow 1,000 raintree saplings along either side of the expressway in June in cooperation with environmental conservation associations.

The committee formed at Taungsalin monastery in Mandalay with persons from TadaU and Singaing townships adopted a plan to grow the saplings during a two-year term. Responsible persons will nurture the saplings during the period.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Poverty reduction strategies crucial for delta residents: President

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June— President U Thein Sein on Saturday said that residents in Ayeyawady delta region need the supports of a poverty reduction plan as they are still struggling to make a livelihood after Cyclone Nargis wrought havoc in the area in 2008.

U Thein Sein attended the ceremony, which was held at Naung Yoe Town Hall of Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, and pledged the government would provide loans and agricultural machinery, as well as fishing gear to rural people.

He visited the garment factory of Delta Industrial Company Limited in Pathein Industry Zone.

One aid programme is already being carried out by the Ministry of Co-operatives under the poverty alleviation plan.

At the ceremony, U Thein Sein said, "The residents in Ayeyawady region were seriously hit by Cyclone Nargis in 2008, with 130,000 people killed and nearly 800,000 homeless. Rice cultivation, the fishing sector and the salt industry were completely destroyed. The cyclone-affected people are still suffering the consequences and the poverty in the aftermath of this disaster until now."

When the deadly cyclone hit the country, U Thein Sein was the prime minister of the State Peace and Development Council.

He said, "I am still taking pride in my leading role for rehabilitation works as a prime minister at that time. The poverty resulting from Cyclone Nargis is a chronic problem in this region. Although this problem cannot be wiped out totally, the Ministry of Co-operatives is now supporting the locals with rehabilitation plans." The president said that the poverty rate of the country was 26 percent when his government took office in 2011.He also reaffirmed that the new government is making efforts in speeding up poverty alleviation plans, by improving education and healthcare services. U Thein Sein said that his government has drawn plans for social and administrative reform processes with the supports of the international community, including local and foreign experts and international organizations of the United Nations.

President U Thein Sein views round agricultural machinery displayed at Naung Yoe Hall in Myaungmya.— MNA

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan then said that his ministry will disburse K11.2 billion micro-finance loans and will sell 1,115 units of agricultural machinery worth K823.83 million in installments for the 2014 monsoon cultivation season. Under the poverty alleviation plan, the ministry will sell sewing machines and tricycles worth K43.2 million, and 5,150 units of fishing gear worth K148.50 million.

(See page 9)

Outstanding students, teachers honoured in Zeyathiri township

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets teachers at Zeyathiri BEPS No 131.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—Outstanding students and teachers were honoured with a ceremony in Zeyathiri township here on Saturday morning, with an address by Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House, officials said.

The students were awarded for passing the matriculation examinations with distinction in the 2013-2014 academic year and the teachers were awarded for providing excellent training.

In his address, Thura U Shwe Mann urged teachers to motivate students, adding that students should do their part by learning continuously.

"No matter what education system is in practice, a good learning environment is of paramount importance," the speaker said.

He stated that a national education bill is now under discussion as part of the education reform, urging teachers and parents to nurture students to grow as well-rounded individuals in the future.

A primary school in the township got a new two-storey building, which was constructed and donated by ShweTaung Development Co Ltd, with Thura U Shwe Mann attending the school-handover ceremony, sources said.

The new school building houses 185 students.

MNA

Union Ministers visit relief camps in Myebon, Sittway Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Aung Kyi and U Khin Yi and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin met towns elders and local people in Myebon of Rakhine State on Saturday morning, and visited relief camps for Bengalis, where they called for "better understanding" among the different groups in Rakhine.

U Khin Yi said that anyone, though granted citizenship according to the Myanmar Citizenship Law of 1982, can be stripped of their citizenship if found guilty of violating laws.

Regarding regional development, U Soe Thane urged locals to make best use of the town's rich land and water resources for development on a self-reliant basis.

At a relief camp in Sittway, U Soe Thane stressed the need for peaceful coexistence between the two communities, urging camp-dwellers to take care of their health and hygiene and prevent the outbreak of epidemic and contagious diseases.

U Khin Yi emphasized cooperation with local officials for bringing about reconciliation and security in the region.

The union ministers also went on a guided tour of relief camps for Bengalis in three other places, officials said.

MNA

Union Minister U Soe Thane speaking at a meeting with locals at Thetkebyin relief camp in Sittway Township.—MNA

Buddha image consecrated in Bawkyo Village of Hsipaw Tsp

HSIPAW, 14 June—The consecration of Janamudra Buddha image was held in the precinct of Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Bawkyo Village of Hsipaw Township in northern Shan State on Thursday.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha image, and religious association recited religious verses.

The Buddha image was curved at the blue colour quartz stone. The image is seven feet high kept on a four-foot high throne. U Sai Nwam and Daw Nang San Hwam and family of Golden Lake Hotel in Tachilek donated curving of the Buddha image. Sai Shwe Khant and family of Bawkyo Village of Hsipaw Township donated the land plot for the Buddha image.

Hsipaw Ko Latt

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Press briefing on presenting excellent award to cooperative union held

MANDALAY, 14 June—Chairman of Mandalay Region Cooperative Union U Soe Myint Aung met media at a press briefing at the office of the union at the southern wing of Zaygyo Market on 84th street between 27th and 28th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday.

He explained matters related to presenting the excellent award of the president to the cooperative union.

The Mandalay Region Cooperative Union is formed with 30 township cooperative syndicates to undertake businesses in line with the objectives of the Ministry of Cooperatives. The union is carrying out production, trade and services for the people.

The union yearly shared K78.514 million profits from its businesses to the members.

Under the permission of the Ministry of Cooperatives, the cooperative union is undertaking the joint venture tasks with Mandalay Dairy Milk Products Factory and other businesses.

In addition, the cooperative union sells products to the staff of the government, cooperative societies and companies though 10 months installment.

In 22 townships of the region, the cooperative union plans to disburse K8.642 billion loans from Exim Bank to 91,905 members of 1,473 societies.

The cooperative union has paid over K1.2 million as commercial tax and over K92 million as income tax in 2012-13 fiscal year.

It has formed 3,814 village cooperative societies with 483,681 members in 28 townships of the region.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Amendment of laws related to taxation clarified

MUSE, 14 June—A ceremony to clarify amendment of the laws related to taxation and tax affairs was held at the city hall in Muse of northern Shan State on Thursday.

Deputy Director U Khin Maung Nyunt of Shan State Internal Revenue Department explained the Union tax law and the amendments of the law on taxation. He distributed pamphlets on amendments on income tax law and commercial tax law and law amending the Union Stamp Act.

The deputy director replied to queries raised by Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw and Head of District Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Ko.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, entrepreneurs and taxpayers.

Muse District IPRD

School uniforms donated to primary school students in Kyaiklat

KYAIKLAT, 14 June—A ceremony to donate school uniforms to poor students was held at Saddhammayanthi religious building in Kyaiklat of Ayeyawady Region on Thursday.

Thukha Myitta social welfare association presented school uniforms to 550 students at primary level from 10 Basic Education Primary Schools and one BEHS Branch for the 2014-15 academic year. Tow students representing respective schools accepted the donations.

"As we are poor families, we rely on donors for their distributions," said a parent of student.

The association contributes donates cash to local people to support with health, social, education and funeral services and also organizes literary talks.—*Athawka*

Modi boards on India's largest aircraft carrier

MUMBAI, 14 June —Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi boards on the country's largest aircraft carrier on Saturday morning in Southern Indian state of Goa, local media reported.

This is also his first visit to a military facility after assuming office last month. He also hopped into the cockpit of a *MiG-29 K* fighter jet.

Modi was accompanied by navy chief Admiral RK Dhowan, and was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour.

The 44,500-tonne *INS Vikramaditya*, procured from Russia, is one of the newest acquisitions of the Indian Navy and the most powerful symbol of its military reach. It was commissioned by then defence minister AK Antony last November at Russia's Sevmash shipyard.

He also witnessed high-speed maneuvers by the Navy's Western Fleet ships, including aircraft carrier *INS Viraat*, Delhi-class destroyers and Talwar-class frigates.

INS Vikramaditya has an overall length of 284 meters and a beam of 60 meters, stretching as much as three football fields put together. Standing about 20 storeys tall from keel to the highest point, the vessel has 22 decks.

With over 1,600 personnel on board, *Vikramaditya* is literally a floating city. Linked to the personnel on board is mammoth logistics requirement — nearly 100,000 eggs, 20,000 liters of milk and 16 tonnes of rice, to name just a few, per month.

During his visit to Goa, Modi is expected to announce some development projects for the state that has played a crucial role in his political career.

Xinhua

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

China says will never send military to oil rig spat with Vietnam

BEIJING, 14 June —A Chinese official said on Friday that China will never send military forces to the scene of an increasingly ugly spat with Vietnam over an oil rig in the South China Sea and accused Hanoi of trying to force an international lawsuit.

A senior US official in Washington dismissed the Chinese statement as "patently ridiculous" and said Beijing had been using air force and navy as well as coastguard assets "to intimidate others."

Scores of Vietnamese and Chinese ships, including coastguard vessels, have squared off around the rig despite a series of collisions after the Chinese platform was towed into disputed waters in early May.

Vietnam has accused China of sending six warships, but Yi Xianliang, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, said that Beijing had never sent military forces.

"I can tell you very clearly that from 2 May to today, including to when the (drilling) operations are complete, we have never, are not and will never send military forces. Because we are carrying out normal, civilian, commercial activities," he told a news conference.

"What I can tell you is that this is on a maritime route and at some periods there have been certain Chinese military ships coming back from the south but these have been far away" from where the standoff round the rig has been taking place, Yi added.

China claims about 90 percent of the South China Sea, but parts of the potentially energy-rich waters are also subject to claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Beijing stations military forces on some of the numerous islands it occupies in the Spratly and Paracel Island groups in the South China Sea.

The Haiyang Shiyou 981 rig is drilling between the Paracel Islands and the Vietnamese coast. Vietnam has said the rig is in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone and on its continental shelf, while China says it is operating within its waters.

The United States has not taken sides in the territorial disputes but has been strongly critical of China's behaviour in pressing its claims and called for negotiatiated solutions.

The US official called Yi Xianliang's statement "a weak attempt to obscure what China is really doing."

"China has maintained a robust and consistent military presence near the oil rig since its placement on 2 May, including flying helicopters and planes over and around the rig. There are currently multiple military vessels in the vicinity of the rig," he said.

The official said that on any given day, there were also Chinese navy warships in waters disputed with the Philippines.

Reiterating US criticism of how China has handled maritime disputes with its neighbours, he said China's actions were "creating serious frictions" in relations with Washington.

Reuters

*Chinese oil rig Haiyang Shi You 981 is seen surrounded by ships of China Coast Guard in the South China Sea, about 210 km (130 miles) off shore of Vietnam on 14 May, 2014.—*REUTERS

Complaints about air pollution in China's capital double in five months

BEIJING, 14 June — Complaints about air pollution in the Chinese capital of Beijing more than doubled in the first five months of 2014, the city environment authority said, a sign of rising public anger about the cost of rapid economic growth.

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Bureau revealed late on Friday that 12,599 formal complaints about smog were lodged by members of the public from January to May, 124 percent higher than the same period of last year.

Beijing, routinely shrouded in hazardous smog, has been on the front line of a "war against pollution" declared by Premier Li Keqiang in March in a bid to head off growing discontent about the state of the country's skies, rivers and soil.

Smog was involved in 72.6 percent of the total number of environment-related complaints submitted to the Beijing authorities from January to May, the environmental bureau said.

In a bid to defuse potential sources of unrest, China's leaders have been desperate to show they are firmly on the side of the public in the battle against pollution, setting up hotlines, task forces and rapid response teams, and encouraging the public to participate in campaigns against violators.

A newly amended environmental law also stipulates that authorities must ensure transparency and accountability, and also promises to improve access to the court system for people harmed by pollution.

In a separate notice, the Beijing environmental bureau said as many as 114 firms had been punished this month after its latest week-long campaign targeting environmental violations in the catering, car manufacturing and car repair sectors.

It said the firms were ordered to pay a total of 2.45 million yuan ($394,600) in fines. *—Reuters*

*A woman wearing mask walks across a street during a hazy day in Beijing, on 27 March, 2014. —*REUTERS

Abe, outgoing S Korean envoy agree to seek better bilateral ties

TOKYO, 14 June —Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Lee Byung Ki, South Korea's outgoing ambassador to Japan, agreed on Friday to work toward a cordial relationship as next year marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties.

The two Asian neighbours have been at odds over a territorial row and differing perceptions of wartime history.

After their meeting at the prime minister's office, Lee told reporters he proposed establishing future-oriented relations to deal with the issues.

Abe pledged to make efforts, Lee said.

Lee was visiting the prime minister's office to tell Abe he is leaving his position.

South Korean President Park Geun Hye appointed Lee as head of the state intelligence agency on Friday as part of her first Cabinet shuffle since taking office in February last year.

Kyodo News

Egypt's cabinet to be formed by Sunday, many ministers to stay

Cairo, 14 June — Egypt is expected to unveil a new cabinet by Sunday, three officials said on Friday, with the finance minister and others likely to keep their posts following the election of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Keeping the main ministers could allow Sisi to quickly implement the types of reform urged by the United Arab Emirates — one of the Gulf states that gave billions of dollars in aid after Islamist President Mohamed Mursi was ousted by the army.

Sisi, the former army chief who was inaugurated last Sunday reappointed Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb last week.

Consultations on the cabinet lineup are ongoing, state radio reported on Friday. Mehleb has said the current government would stay on in a caretaker role until he forms his cabinet.

The new cabinet is expected to be sworn in on Sunday, two ministers said, speaking on condition of anonymity. It is likely to convene for the first time on Monday, another government source said.

Finance Minister Hany Kadry Dimian is expected to stay, as are the ministers for planning and international cooperation, supplies, housing, industry, defence and interior, government sources have said.

Educated at Columbia University in the United States, Dimian worked as a senior finance ministry official for more than five years until he resigned last year under Mursi.

A senior European diplomat has described him as the only ministry expert able to deal professionally with the International Monetary Fund during a failed attempt under Mursi to secure a $4.8 billion loan.

Mehleb, 65, was appointed prime minister in a February reshuffle after serving as housing minister. A civil engineer, he is a former chairman of Arab Contractors, one of the region's largest construction companies. He worked briefly in Saudi Arabia before joining the government following Sisi's overthrow of Mursi last July after mass protests against the Islamist president.

Economists see cutting Egypt's subsidies as central to any meaningful fiscal reform. The finance ministry said last month it would cut its subsidies bill, but still forecast a deficit of around 12 percent of gross domestic product in the new fiscal year starting on 1 July.

The ultra-conservative Salafist Nour party has said it is willing to join a cabinet under Sisi. — *Reuters*

UN peacekeepers need to expand further in Mali's north

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

United Nations, 14 June — UN peacekeepers should expand further into the volatile north of Mali, beyond cities and towns, amid fears that militants will step up their attacks against international and Malian troops and threats to civilians, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said on Friday.

In a report to the UN Security Council on the MINUSMA peacekeeping mission, Ban said a strategic review recommended the operation "expand its static and mobile presence in the north, within its means and capacities."

The one-year-old UN operation, however, is at only three-quarters its mandated strength of 11,200 troops and 1,440 police and lacks the mobility and air cover needed to expand beyond the population centres in the West African nation, Ban said.

Mali slipped into chaos in 2012 when al Qaeda-linked Islamist fighters took advantage of a military coup in the capital, Bamako, and hijacked a Tuareg separatist rebellion to seize the landlocked country's desert north.

Four UN peacekeepers were killed and others wounded in a suicide attack on their base in the northern town of Aguelhoc on Wednesday. MINUSMA said a car packed with explosives was driven to the entrance of the camp and detonated.

France led a military intervention in northern Mali last year that scattered the Islamists and allowed the Tuareg separatists to retain control of parts of their northern stronghold, pending peace talks. But negotiations have largely stalled due to foot dragging by the government.

Reuters

Union says wage deal to end S African platinum strike is imminent

Johannesburg, 14 June — The leader of South Africa's AMCU union said on Friday a wage deal with the top three platinum producers was imminent, signalling a possible end to a crippling five-month strike that has disrupted global output of the metal.

Workers from the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) begged leader Joseph Mathunjwa on Thursday to end the country's longest mining strike and sign the latest offer — an increase of about 20 percent, or 1,000 rand (54.7 pounds) a month.

Mathunjwa told Johannesburg radio he would take the offer to more AMCU members at mines on Friday, before meeting with management at Lonmin, Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum later or over the weekend to relay the response of his miners to their offer.

"At least there is light at the end of the tunnel, which is not the light of a goods train," he told Talk Radio 702.

The main outstanding sticking point was whether the wage deal should stretch over three or five years, he said.

"We are in quite a sensitive stage of trying to resolve this and reach an agreement. We won't do things haphazardly," he said. — *Reuters*

Striking platinum miners attend a rally near Lonmin's Marikana mine on 29 April, 2014. — Reuters

Israeli forces search for three missing Jewish teens in West Bank

Jerusalem, 14 June — Israeli forces are searching for three Jewish teenagers who went missing in the occupied West Bank late on Thursday, the military said on Friday.

As media speculated that the three youths might have been abducted, large numbers of Israeli soldiers scoured the countryside around the flashpoint city of Hebron, carrying out house-to-house searches in neighbouring villages and blocking roads.

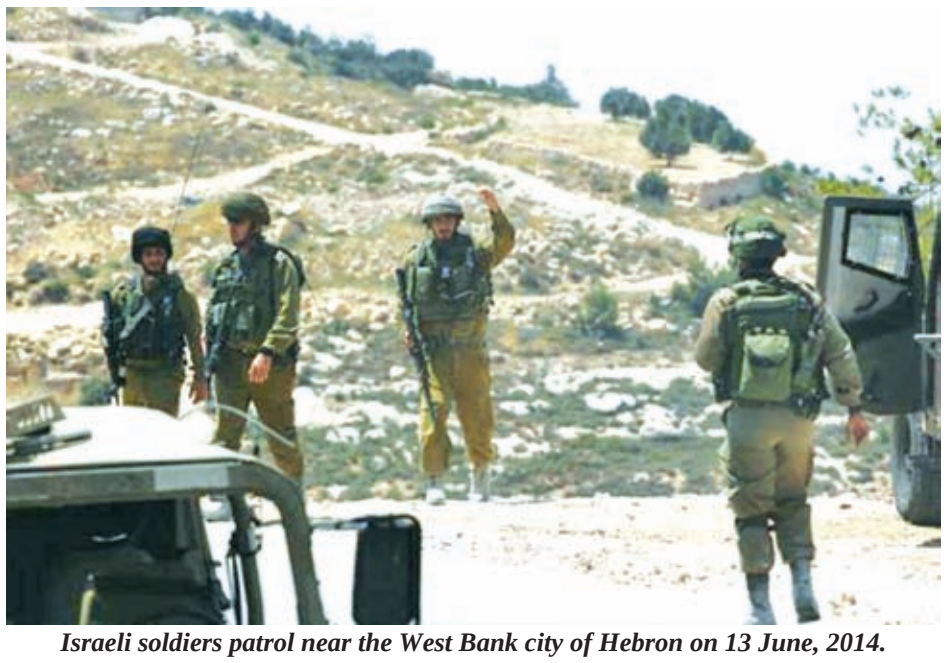
Local media said the three youngsters had last been seen trying to hitchhike home from a religious seminary in the Jewish settlement of Gush Etzion, to the north of Hebron.

"Forces are conducting a widespread operation to locate the individuals," the military said in a statement. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a special meeting of security ministers and said in a statement that Israel held President Mahmoud Abbas's Western-backed Palestinian Authority responsible for the safety of the three.

But Adnan al-Dmairi, a spokesman for Palestinian security services in the West Bank, deflected Israel's criticism.

"Three settlers are missing — why is this the fault of the Palestinian Authority? We have nothing to do with this issue. If a natural disaster hits Israel, would we be responsible? This is mad and unacceptable. We have no knowledge about this," he said.

The military did not name the teenagers. The newspaper *Haaretz* said two were aged 16 and one was 19. Local media added that one of the three also held American citizenship, and that the US ambassador to Israel had been briefed.



Israeli soldiers patrol near the West Bank city of Hebron on 13 June, 2014. Reuters

US Secretary of State John Kerry "expressed grave concern ... and ... our commitment to working with both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to try to ensure the situation is resolved quickly and the teenagers are returned to their families," a US spokesman said.

"Secretary Kerry has ... spoken to President Abbas to urge him to do everything possible to assist in the effort to find them. President Abbas assured him that he is doing so." Kerry met Israeli chief peace negotiator Tzipi Livni at a conference in London and later also spoke to Netanyahu, an Israeli spokesman said.

"The prime minister said to Kerry: Abu Mazen (Abbas) is responsible for the wellbeing of the missing (boys)," part of the Israeli statement about the conversation said.

Palestinian militants have said in the past that they want to kidnap Israelis to win concessions from the Israeli government.

Reuters

Mabuchi Motor to set up new plant in Mexico

Tokyo, 14 June — Mabuchi Motor Co said on Friday it will set up a plant in Mexico, its first in the Americas, in light of expanding sales of automotive electrical motors and the need to build a global production and supply chain system.

With a total investment of $57 million, Mabuchi Motor plans to commence operation of the new plant in Aguascalientes in the summer of 2016, it said. Its annual production capacity will increase to about 10 million units through 2018, it added. — *Kyodo News*

Brazil takes advantage of World Cup crowds to test for HIV

Sao Paulo, 14 June — Brazilian health officials handed out condoms to World Cup fans in Sao Paulo on Friday and took advantage of festivities in the city to test people for HIV.

"We can't miss an opportunity like this," said Ivone De Paula, Sao Paulo state's coordinator for sexually transmitted disease prevention. "The fact that it's the Cup lightens the mood a bit. People say 'Hey I'm going to watch the game, I'm having fun, why not get tested too?'"

The programme, part of the UNAIDS "Protect the Goal" HIV/AIDS prevention programme, provides rapid HIV testing and counseling, as well as free condoms and emergency retroviral drugs. It is also being offered in 11 other cities across Sao Paulo state where visiting World Cup teams are based.

De Paula expected the programme to conduct about 300 rapid HIV tests outside Friday's Fan Fest, where a giant screen displayed the Cameroon vs Mexico match. Many were getting tested for the first time ever, she said. "I had no idea this was going to be here, I just came across it," said a middle-aged man who asked not to be identified. "I wouldn't know where to get tested otherwise, so this helps quite a lot."

A child flies a kite with a red ribbon during a World AIDS Day event in Beijing on 30 Nov, 2008. —Reuters

Brazil usually conducts HIV and AIDS prevention campaigns during the Carnival holiday, including widespread advertising and condom distribution. Aggressive HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention efforts in the South American country have been held up as a model for the developing world for more than a decade. — *Reuters*

Weight-loss surgery can improve diabetes

New York, 14 June — Two small studies provide more evidence that weight-loss surgery may benefit people who are obese and have diabetes.

Both studies found that blood sugar levels were more likely to improve among people who were randomly assigned to have surgery than among those who went through intensive diet and lifestyle programmes instead.

The studies included people on the lower end of the obesity spectrum, some of whom wouldn't be recommended for surgery under current guidelines.

"In appropriate patients, this is something really worth considering," said Dr Allison Goldfine. She worked on one of the studies at the Joslin Diabetes Centre and Harvard Medical School in Boston."There are multiple health issues that are related to type 2 diabetes," she told Reuters Health, such as high blood pressure and cholesterol."It's very important to address these issues to improve (people's) health.

I think this can be done through an intensive medical and weight management program, and I think this can be done through surgery," Goldfine said.

"One has to individually weigh the pros and cons."

Obesity and diabetes are known to be closely linked. But there is a lack of long-term evidence on whether weight-loss surgery helps alleviate diabetes and related complications, researchers say, especially among people who are obese but not morbidly obese.

In one of the new studies, Dr Anita Courcoulas from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre and colleagues tracked 61 obese people with diabetes who were randomly assigned to undergo gastric bypass or gastric banding surgery or to complete a weight control programme.

One year later, half of gastric bypass patients and about one-quarter of the gastric banding group had at least partial remission of their diabetes, meaning their blood sugar levels were closer to the normal range and they didn't need diabetes medications.

No patients in the non-surgery group saw their diabetes go into remission.

In Goldfine's study, researchers randomly allocated 38 patients — all obese, all with diabetes — to gastric bypass surgery or a group weight loss programme.—*Reuters*

Chinese economy improves mildly

Beijing, 14 June — China's economy improved mildly in May as retail sales and industrial production edged up although investment slowed slightly, the National Bureau of Statistics said recently.

Retail sales rose 12.5 percent from a year earlier to 2.12 trillion yuan (US$341 billion) last month. The pace accelerated from the 11.9 percent gain a month earlier. Industrial production added 8.8 percent, slightly faster than April's 8.7 percent.

Fixed-asset investment growth, however, slowed to 17.2 percent in the first five months from the 17.3 percent rise in the January-April period.

"China's economy is stabilizing," said Li Maoyu, an analyst at Changjiang Securities Co. "After the pro-growth policies have deepened further, there will be more signs of recovery."

Earlier this week, the People's Bank of China said it will further cut the reserve requirement ratio for targeted banks, the second time it has done so in two months as it bids to support small companies and agriculture.

Seen as part of a mini-stimulus package, the other steps included tax breaks and quicker government spending in railway construction as growth was hit by a property slowdown.

Chang Jian, an economist at Barclays, expects further monetary easing because the central government is serious about achieving the 7.5 percent growth target for 2014.

China's gross domestic product in the first quarter grew 7.4 percent, the slowest in six quarters and below the government goal.—*Xinhua*

GM recalls half million Camaros, safety crisis deepens

Detroit, 14 June — General Motors Co (GM.N) recalled 511,528 Chevrolet Camaros on Friday for an ignition switch problem similar to the defect linked to at least 13 deaths in Chevrolet Cobalts and other models.

GM said it was aware of minor accidents but no fatalities from the Camaro, a sporty two-door car. It said the Camaro switch defect differed from the problem in the Cobalts, but a consumer advocate said GM still should have recalled the Camaros sooner.

GM said a driver's knee could bump the Camaro key fob and move the ignition switch out of the "run" position, causing the engine to shut off.

The earlier recall of Cobalts and other small cars involved an ignition switch in which a bump of the key fob could turn off the engine, disabling power steering and airbags.

That defect, first observed by GM engineers in 2002, was not reported to consumers for years. Chief Executive Mary Barra in recent months overhauled the way GM handles safety recalls. The Camaro recall bloats the number of GM vehicles summoned back for switch-related problems to more than 3.1 million as Barra prepares to return to Congress next week to give more testimony on the earlier recall.

"It is troubling that GM continues to announce ignition switch-related recalls on late-model vehicles (which) raises questions about how pervasive the problem is and why it is taking so long for GM to act," said Representative Henry Waxman of California, the senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee that is investigating GM.

Reuters

A 2014 Chevrolet Camaro is pictured in Thurmont, Maryland on 6 Feb, 2014.
Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 15 June, 2014

Realistic steps should be taken to help Myanmar migrants in Thailand

By *Aung Khin*

Media have reported that more than one thousand Myanmar migrants have been arrested in Thailand since early June.

Myanmar and Thai labour officials have agreed to cooperate and provide full labour rights to Myanmar migrants, and to protect them from extortion and employment scams.

A team of Myanmar officials began processing applications for migrant workers in early March. However, migrant advocacy groups said that application for a new passport can take up to six months under the new scheme with many complications and demands on documentations that many migrants simply don't have.

Some Myanmar migrants were arrested while their applications were delayed after the coup of the Thai military.

Although the Thai military insisted that arrest on illegal migrants was legally operated, this long-term problem will be a quite complicated issue for the military which on Friday has promised to form an interim government in September at the latest.

Law enforcement should be based on reason, pragmatism and common sense. If a certain law, rules and regulations do not meet the real situations, it is clear that there have been some weakness.

Myanmar and Thailand have a long history spanning of cross-border migration. Ethnic groups, especially Kayin, Mon and Shan people have crossed the borders to visit friends, buy goods or seek healthcare services in the past.

Thailand officially opened up its labour market for Myanmar migrants in 1992. The scheme has helped boost the economy of the Kingdom until now. The influx of migrant workers from Myanmar has continued from 1992 to 2012. The role of Myanmar migrant workers have contributed in the agriculture, manufacturing and some service works of the neighbouring country.

More than two million Myanmar migrant workers are now staying in Thailand under three categories of registered workers, those who go through national verification, and those who are recruited and formally from Myanmar. Thai employers are even relying on the migrant workforce.

The role of migrant workers takes part in the implementation of ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Therefore, the officials from both sides should have a common sense in taking systematic steps to protect them and facilitate their documentation processing.

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.

Investing in Teacher Education

By *Myo Myint*

It is generally acknowledged that investing in education is the best investment for a nation's future. So too, investing in teacher education can be said to be the best investment for the education sector. This is due to the fact that teachers play an important role not only in providing knowledge to students but also in character building, life skills promotion, and in the long run, building a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous and united nation.

Teacher education usually involves developing mastery of child psychology, theory of education, teaching methodology, and knowledge of subjects to be taught and teaching practice or classroom experience. However, there are other factors that need to be addressed. Among the important recommendations made for initial teacher education by the UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/14: TEACHING AND LEARNING: Achieving quality for all, are promotion of equitable learning in students in initial teacher education, preparing teachers to support learners from diverse backgrounds, and making up for weak subject knowledge during initial teacher education as part of the thrusts to improve teacher education so that all children can learn.

Seen from the Myanmar perspective, as more and more school age children in all parts of the country attend school, there is bound to be greater diversity among students in terms of learning abilities as well as backgrounds both in the school as well as in the classroom. Therefore, as recommended by the UNESCO 2013/14 report, in addition to education theories, teaching methods and techniques, trainee teachers should also be taught how to solve problems related to practical issues that teachers face daily in class due to diversity of students such as differences in learning preparedness, learning styles, learning abilities and physical and mental capacities, and due to background differences such as differences in mother tongue, socio-economic status and family attitude towards the benefits of education.

In enhancing teacher education in Myanmar, there are specific areas which deserve careful consideration. The first is related to the management of education colleges. The twenty-one Myanmar education colleges provide initial teacher education for primary and middle school teachers and also training for middle school teachers via correspondence and intensive courses. The two Institutes of Education provide both initial teacher education for high school teachers as well as in-service and correspondence programmes. They have practising schools and provide hostel accommodations to trainees. Consequently, those in charge of teacher education institutions have to supervise a diverse population: teacher educators, teacher trainees, and administrative staff, and also teachers, staff and students of practising schools. They also manage teaching and learning facilities which includes classrooms, ICT, science and language labs, sports facilities, hostels and institution grounds. Hence, it is very obvious that they are not mere office administrators. Those appointed as heads of education institutions need to have management skills as well as academic qualifications and a strong interest in their work and an intense sense of responsibility in order to provide effective guidance to academic departments. They need to be clear about the vision and mission set for their institutions and they need to have their personal visions and missions in order to implement the strategies laid down for the institutional development so that their institutions become unique quality institutions. The basic principle for heads of teacher education institutions is supervision through active observation rather through static management from the office room to ensure that effective teaching is going on in the institutions, coordination, collaboration and unity exist among the different departments and that the needs of those on the campus are met. In short, they must have the ability to mobilize, the skill to supervise, the energy to observe and the capacity to respond in order to fulfil the requirements of the teaching programmes, the facilities, the campus, and the different groups of people with diverse needs and wants in their institution. Lastly, they need to find ways and means to enrich themselves – not with wealth, but with ways and means for the progress of their institutions.

The shapers, movers and skill developers in a teacher education institution are undoubtedly the teacher educators. The first requirement of a teacher educator is to be a fully qualified one with sound knowledge and skills related to one's specialization. The second requirement is having received training as teacher educators so that they will be able to prepare teachers adequately and effectively as recommended in the UNESCO 2013/14 report. The third requirement is possessing dedication and enthusiasm. Without dedication and enthusiasm, an educator will be just going through the motion aimlessly, thoughtlessly, and emotionlessly. Any teacher, educator or otherwise, needs to be well prepared with a proper lesson plan to guide them through a lesson, provide feedback, seek feedback, and do remedial work. Another quality necessary for 21st century teacher educators is to have creativity, demonstrate it in their teaching and also pass this quality on to their students. Since like in other sectors, the education sector, including teacher training is always progressing, it is vital for teacher educators to keep themselves updated with changes and to have an open mind to accept positive changes. It is also important for education authorities to conduct regularly refresher programmes to update, if not all teacher educators, at least those who can later serve as mentors to other teacher educators. A necessary part of teacher educators' responsibility should be to conduct action research so that they will constantly be in touch with latest discoveries through extensive reading, be able to discover needs, problems and solutions, boost thinking skills, and also can pass on the research methodology to trainees so that when they start working at schools, they can also discover the reasons for success and failure in their teaching. The moral standard expected of a Myanmar teacher is very high in Myanmar society as he/she is regarded as being on the same level as the Buddha, and parents and teacher educators must be able to serve as models for their trainees, not only in teaching, but also in other aspects such as neatness and tidiness, honesty, fairness, patience, politeness, compassion, dependability, self-discipline, ability to get along well with others, high moral principles, etc. In brief, teacher educators should aspire to produce better teachers than themselves so that these teachers can promote 21st century skills in their students.

The need to getting entry requirements right for teacher trainees has been pointed out by UNESCO report 2013/14. This is an important factor in producing capable and enthusiastic teachers for our schools. Myanmar is fortunate in that there are so many young people who want to become teachers and among them are those willing to work in schools in remote areas. With the rapid expansion of education in Myanmar, it is important to balance between quantity and quality regarding teacher appointments, particularly for distant areas. A necessary part of the initial teacher training, as suggested by UNESCO, is to make up in weak subject knowledge of teacher trainees. Myanmar primary school teachers have to teach all the prescribed subjects for the level concerned once they become teachers. There may be subjects like maths and English in which not all teacher trainees are strong. To pinpoint areas of weakness, it is suggested that pre-tests should be conducted and remedial teaching provided to ensure that all teacher trainees graduate with the same level of knowledge and skills.

(See page 9)

ARTICLE & POEM

Investing in Teacher ...

(from page 8)

It will be noted that the majority of those who join teacher education institutions are young people of around age seventeen who have just matriculated. They are of an impressionable age and it is vital that they be provided with the right role models and be familiarized with what Myanmar society and their future students expect from them as teachers and community leaders. In this connection, teacher educators serve a very important function in the all round-development of trainees and it is also essential that the institutions have a well-stocked library that will provide trainees with access to necessary information and guidance.

Just as teacher educators may be equated to a potter, so also the curriculum and teaching materials may be likened to a potter's wheel that is used to shape the pot. The quality achieved by a teacher trainee depends very much not only on the effort exerted by the trainer and trainee but also on the quality and content of the curriculum, the focus given on different aspects of the curriculum and the learning materials. As the objectives of the curriculum shape both its content as well as the focus, it is necessary to ensure that the right questions are asked and the right answers given about the training programme when designing the curriculum. For instance, is the programme to train teachers or does it also want to promote continuing education? If it is to do both, does it have adequate time? Can the continuing education component link up with what the teacher trainees actually do later in their career? As all teachers will know, since there are many components to deal with in a teacher education programme, time is one of the most valuable commodities in the classroom and every minute needs be utilized beneficially. Another vital point is how much focus is given to a component of the programme. If an important component is not given enough focus, trainees will have a difficult time when they actually start teaching. For instance, if not enough attention is given to the textbooks used in schools during the training, then some teachers are likely to find difficulty in using the teaching materials and the quality of teaching will be affected. To ensure that the end-product – the trainees are able to fulful the role expected of them, it is also vital that the teacher education curriculum and teaching materials are evaluated regularly to see if it is still in tandem with the curriculum prescribed in schools, especially when changes are being made to the education system. It is not enough to have an impressive curriculum. The quality of the learning materials must match the quality of the curriculum. The learning materials must impart the skills and knowledge as aimed by the curriculum and must be error free so that trainees have a high regard for what they are learning.

One of the important factors of achieving success in education is the use of appropriate teaching methodology. In Myanmar, both the higher education sub-sector and the basic education sub-sector advocate the use of learner-centred approach with the aim of developing problem solving and critical thinking skills in addition to mastering knowledge of specific subjects. Observation of classes at teacher education institutions reveal that educators who teach content subjects do it use traditional lecture method while those who teach methodology use a child centred approach. Since only one approach has been prescribed for both higher education as well as basic education, it is important that only one common method is used when instructing teacher trainees by all departments. This is to ensure that the discrepancy does not cause confusion or use of wrong methodology when trainees become full-fledged teachers.

Teacher education institutions in Myanmar have evolved from various forms. For instance, Yangon Institute of Education was first established as the Department of Education under Rangoon University in 1924, and in 1931 gained the status of a college under Rangoon University in 1931 and became an independent institute of university level in 1964. Most education colleges came into existence as teacher training schools and then were upgraded to education colleges. For example, Yankin Education College in Yangon Region was first founded as a teacher training school in 1947 and then became a grade 1 education college in 1998. Bogalay Education College started as a teacher training school in 1970, became a grade 2 education college in 1998 and grade 1 education college in 2004. For this reason, the quality of facilities at teacher education institutions, especially those of education colleges differ. Some are built on huge campuses with sports facilities, but some have limited space and little room for expansion. However, what they have in common is the provision of hostel and messing facilities for trainees. As teacher education institutions are not only responsible for training teachers in teaching core subjects but also special and co-curricular subjects such as ICT, physical education, agriculture, carpentry, art, music and dancing, they have a wide range of activities to undertake and also need a wide variety of equipment and facilities such as ICT, language and science labs, gymnasiums and playing fields, and space for growing plants to teach gardening and agriculture, spacious rooms to teach music and dancing. Priority must be given to upgrading the facilities of teacher education institutions as so much can be achieved by improving teacher education. However, while waiting for improvement in the facilities, heads of teacher education institutions and teacher educators need to creatively use the existing facilities, equipment and funds so that nothing is wasted or wanting.

It is often said that the quality of education is very much dependent on the quality of teachers and the quality of the teachers is very much dependent on the quality of the initial training they receive and the teacher development programmes initiated for them.

Nobody can deny that many nations need more teachers, some to replace retiring teachers, some to be appointed in the place of those who have migrated to more lucrative professions and some to teach in the growing number of schools. How do we maintain the attraction to the profession? How do we raise the quality of graduates of teacher education institutions? Do we maintain the same institutional form or do we need to think of introducing other forms? There are many, many questions to be answered and many things to be done regarding the enhancing of teacher education in Myanmar. What should be remembered is that like other higher education institutions, they need investment not only in terms of money, but also in terms of interest, support and expertise. Another thing to remember is that 21st century institutions require 21st century solutions.

In appreciation to all Fathers across the nation on Father's Day

June 15, 2014

* Father, you are a great role model to me !
All through your career
You work smart
You work hard
In diligence and perseverance
You always stand first

* Integrity and character
And the values you treasure
You walk the talk
Righteousness along you brought
A good legacy to leave behind is your main thought

* You are a special brand
A kind so rare and so grand
With little or no self-interest
You extend your hand to your best

* You are a top-class leader
Yourself, a man of principle
Great mentor, coach, advisor and teacher
That's what you are to all your people

* A true scout you stay
"Be prepared" is your way
With non-stop thinking to serve community
For the betterment of mankind and society

* You said I've been a blessing from the start
And you love me with all your heart
The same goes with me
"I love you, too"
All my life through.

Aye Phyu

Poverty reduction strategies crucial for delta ...

(from page 3)

U Kyaw Hsan said that the ministry is now upgrading cooperative groups which are supporting their members with money, technology and information through micro-finance loans by sharing experiences from other successful cooperative groups abroad

He said his ministry has planned to help reduce the country's poverty rate to 16 percent and to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

MNA

Public digital library service helps raise reading habits of people

Myitkyina, 14 June— Myitkyina District Information and Public Relations Department installed the device of public digital library service at the Myitkyina railway station and highway bus terminal in Myitkyina of Kachin State on Friday.

Readers can download e-books from the device of the public digital library service in a 650-metres radius area on their mobile phones and laptops through WiFi system.

A similar device was installed at the people's library of Myitkyina District IPRD on 1 June.

District IPRD

Courses for part-time ...

(from page 1)

be taught by international and Myanmar co-trainers and guest speakers.

Patrick Benning, Programme Coordinator Myanmar of DW Akademie of Germany said all candidates will receive the result of the scholarship selection process by Sunday, July 6.

Applicants are requested to write a motivation statement, explain why they are interested in attending the course and how they hope to benefit from the training. According to an official of MJI, applicants require K800,000 for the cost of the whole course to join the next part-time diploma course, and plans are underway to launch full-time journalism courses at MJI at the end of the year. MJI was established by the media industry in Myanmar with international partners including UNESCO Myanmar,aimed at providing professional qualifications for journalists.—*NLM*

EU should share out refugees rescued at sea

ROME, 14 June —European Union countries should help Italy absorb the huge number of migrants arriving by boat from North Africa, by agreeing to take in people rescued in international waters, a UN refugee agency spokeswoman said on Friday.

The EU law governing asylum seekers — the Dublin Regulation — requires the country where a person first arrives to handle their application, putting extra pressure on countries, like Italy, on the EU's outer edge to take in migrants.

But those rescued in international waters could be taken in by any EU country, perhaps according to a negotiated quota system, said Carlotta Sami, southern Europe's spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Migrants are seen aboard a navy ship before being disembarked in the Sicilian harbour of Augusta on 1 June, 2014. —REUTERS

"This is particularly needed in the case of Syrians, but could be also (done) for other nationalities that in this moment represent very vulnerable groups," she told *Reuters*.

Last year, the majority of the more than 40,000 migrants who reached Italy by sea were fleeing Syria's civil war and Eritrea's harsh military service. Most of the 366 people who drowned in a shipwreck off Sicily in October were Eritrean.

So far this year, more than 50,000 people have been rescued by Italy's navy and coastguard, more that reached Italy in the whole of 2013, and the number is set to exceed the 62,000 who came in 2011, at the height of the "Arab Spring" uprisings.

"Asylum claims could be processed jointly by several EU member states, and this could be followed by an assignment of quotas among different states that could host and receive a certain number of refugees," Sami said.

Asylum requests to EU members rose more than 30 percent last year, with Germany receiving almost 110,000, more than any other country in the world, according to the UNHCR.

On Friday, Germany agreed to take in an additional 10,000 Syrians this year through resettlement, doubling its original offer, far more than any other European nation.

About two-thirds of those who arrive in Italy move on to other EU countries but, because of the Dublin Regulation, often are sent back to Italy, where they cannot find jobs or housing.

Italy's economy has shrunk by more than 9 percent since 2007 and unemployment has soared to levels last seen in the 1970s.

Reuters

Ukraine rebels shoot down military plane, spokesman says 49 dead

KIEV / DONETSK, (Ukraine), 14 June — Forty-nine Ukrainian military personnel were killed when rebels shot down a cargo plane during the night over the airport of the eastern city of Luhansk, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

Luhansk is one of the centers of a pro-Russian separatist movement in Ukraine's east which has risen up against the pro-European government in Kiev.

"On the night of June 13-14, the terrorists...fired from an anti-aircraft weapon and a large caliber machine gun, shooting down an *Il-76* military transport aircraft ... as it was about to land," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It gave no death toll but a military spokesman, Vladislav Seleznyov, later said by telephone that 49 had been killed.

The toll would be the biggest suffered by government forces in a single incident since Kiev started a military operation to try to defeat the insurgency in east Ukraine, which the rebels want to be part of Russia.

Scores of people, including rebels, civilians and government troops, have been killed in the violence since April.—*Reuters*

Ukrainian forces reclaim port city from rebels

MARIUPOL, (Ukraine), 14 June —The Ukrainian flag fluttered over the regional headquarters of Mariupol on Friday after government forces reclaimed the port city from pro-Russian separatists in heavy fighting and said they had regained control of a long stretch of the border with Russia.

The advances are significant victories for the pro-European leadership in a military operation to crush the armed rebellion, which began in east Ukraine in April, and hold the former Soviet republic of 45 million together.

In central Mariupol, police cordoned off several streets, where roadblocks of sandbags and concrete blocks, once manned by rebels, were riddled with bullet-holes and the burnt-out hulk of an armoured personnel carrier with rebel insignia smouldered.

Local residents look at destroyed vehicles at the site of fighting in the eastern Ukrainian port city of Mariupol on 13 June, 2014. —REUTERS

"At 10:34 am (0834 BST) the Ukrainian flag was raised over City Hall in Mariupol," Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote on Facebook, less than six hours after the attack began on the city of 500,000, Ukraine's biggest Azov Sea port.

A ministry aide said the government forces stormed the rebels after they were surrounded and given 10 minutes to surrender. At least five separatists and two servicemen were killed in the battle before many of the rebels fled. A group of around 100 Mariupol citizens, who had gathered in the town centre to show their opposition to the government's actions, exchanged obscenities and crude gestures with Ukrainian soldiers, who were driving through town in a column of armoured trucks.—*Reuters*

Hollande urges end to French rail strike, school exams at risk

PARIS, 14 June —The French government called on Friday for a rapid end to one of the longest railway strikes in years but labour unions vowed to prolong industrial action that risks disrupting end-of-school exams for hundreds of thousands of students. A separate strike by baggage handlers at Charles de Gaulle airport north of Paris looked set to compound disruption on Sunday, with Air France predicting delays but no cuts in flights on a day when 150,000 people travel via France's main air hub.

Workers at the SNCF train operator voted to continue their three-day stoppage over a rail reform bill due to go to parliament next week, annoying President Francois Hollande. "This does not mean the dialogue cannot continue but the time has come and this industrial action must come to an end," Hollande said. Rail services have been cut or scrapped since the strike began on Tuesday evening over government plans to bring the SNCF rail operator and the RFF network company under the roof of one holding company while keeping their operations separate.—*Reuters*

US Democrats have Clinton, but race for Republican presidential contender wide open for 2016

WASHINGTON, 14 June — While it may be a foregone conclusion that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will be the Democrats' pick for the 2016 White House race, the Republican ticket remains wide open, experts said.

To prepare for her race, Clinton is kicking off an unofficial public relations campaign with the recent release of her new book, "Hard Choices," which was followed by a nationally televised interview on Sunday.

But Republicans have no such early starter, although most analysts and pundits at this early stage of the game point to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

Appearing on the popular "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" on Thursday night, the ever-bombastic and colourful governor performed a dance skit parody with the show's host. When asked whether he could hypothetically beat Clinton in a bid for the White House in 2016, Christie replied, "hypothetically, you bet."

Still, analysts said the Republican Party's field for the 2016 nomination is far from clear, especially after the recent surprise victory of a relatively unknown Tea Party candidate over House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in Virginia's Republican primary elections.

Ultimately, the question will be whether a more centrist Republican will win the nomination, or whether candidates such as Senators Ted Cruz or Rand Paul will be able to ride the Tea Party and the Libertarian wing of the party through the primaries, said Dan Mahaffee, an analyst with the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.

Other experts said the Republicans will be seeking a candidate to whom ordinary Americans can relate, as Clinton, a former First Lady, is often regarded to be hard to connect with ordinary Americans.

"What the Republicans are really looking for at the end of the day is a current or former governor who can say 'I'm not a bean counter for Wall Street. I'm a defender of Main Street,'" Republican strategist Ford O' Connell told *Xinhua*.

"You have to be able to bridge that white and blue collar divide," he said. "It will come down to who can pass what I call the 'beer litmus test'— which candidate would you rather have a beer with."—*Xinhua*

Deep underground, water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink

WASHINGTON, 14 June — If you want to find Earth's vast reservoirs of water, you may have to look beyond the obvious places like the oceans and polar ice caps.

Scientists on Friday said massive amounts of water appear to exist deep beneath the planet's surface, trapped in a rocky layer of the mantle at depths between 250 miles and 410 miles (410 km to 660 km).

But do not expect to quench your thirst down there. The water is not liquid — or any other familiar form like ice or vapour. It is locked inside the molecular structure of minerals called ringwoodite and wadsleyite in mantle rock that possesses the remarkable ability to absorb water like a sponge.

"It may equal or perhaps be larger than the amount of water in the oceans," Northwestern University geophysicist Steve Jacobsen said in a telephone interview. "It alters our thoughts about the composition of the Earth."

"It's no longer liquid water that we're talking about at these great depths. The weight of hundreds of kilometres of rock and very high temperatures above 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,832 Fahrenheit) break down water into its components. And it's not accessible. It's not a resource in any way," Jacobsen added.

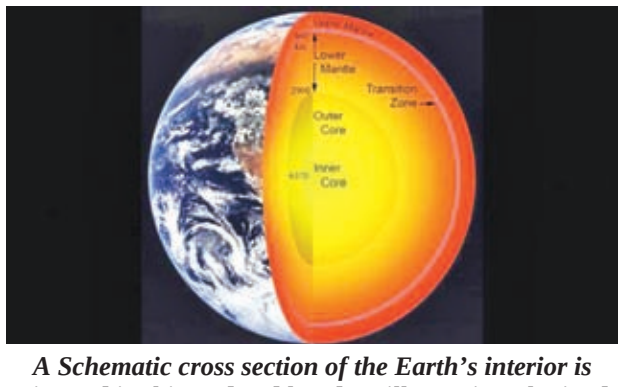
Jacobsen said water is taken down into the mantle with minerals during the process known as plate tectonics — the slow, inexorable movement of the colossal rock slabs that make up the Earth's surface.

When the minerals containing this water reach certain depths, they break down in a process called dehydration and release the water to form magmas. Such "dehydration melting" is common in the shallow mantle and forms the source for magmas in many volcanoes.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, the researchers present evidence that this is also occurring much deeper in the mantle in a region called the "transition zone" between Earth's upper and lower mantle.

The study combined lab experiments involving synthetic ringwoodite being exposed to conditions simulating the heat and pressure of the "transition zone" and observations of events in this zone based on seismic data from a network of more than 2,000 seismometres across the United States.

A team led by Jacobsen and University of New Mexico seismologist Brandon Schmandt identified deep pockets of magma, a likely signature of the presence of water at those depths. "Melting of rock at this depth is remarkable because most melting in the mantle occurs much shallower, in the upper 50 miles (80 km)," Schmandt said in a statement. "If there is a substantial amount of H2O in the transition zone, then some melting should take place in areas where there is flow into the lower mantle, and that is consistent with what we found." The research built on another study in March showing that a commercially worthless diamond found in Brazil contained ringwoodite that entrapped water amounting to more than 1 percent of its weight. Ringwoodite has been found in meteorites, but this was the first terrestrial sample because it normally is so deeply buried.



A Schematic cross section of the Earth's interior is pictured in this undated handout illustration obtained by Reuters on 13 June, 2014. — REUTERS

Reuters

At E3, signs that virtual reality's time may finally be coming

An attendee tries out the Virtuix Oculus Rift and Omni Treadmill game at the 2014 Electronic Entertainment Expo, known as E3, in Los Angeles, on 11 June , 2014. — REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 14 June — In 2013, Oculus VR's booth at Electronic Entertainment Expo, the gaming industry's biggest annual convention, was relegated to a far corner of the showfloor near the restrooms.

What a difference a year makes. At the 2014 expo this week, the startup, which Facebook bought in March for $2 billion, drew crowds of oglers for its latest virtual reality headset, Oculus Rift.

The change is a sign of the rising interest in virtual reality platforms among publishers and developers, who hope the years-old technology — which creates a 360-degree view that immerses players in fantasy settings -- can finally become a viable platform to reverse shrinking video game industry revenues and draw a new generation of users.

Whether gamers will buy into that remains to be seen, but Facebook's big bet has jolted gaming companies into action. At the expo, known as E3, Sony let gamers try out its virtual reality headset, Project Morpheus, and teased them with experiences such as zipping down a highway on a luge. Electronic Arts has dedicated research teams to explore virtual reality, even beyond headsets. Yves Guillemot, chief executive of French video game publisher Ubisoft, told *Reuters* his company is working on a virtual reality experience that's "coming soon."

The chief executive of Oculus, Brendan Iribe, has gone on a hiring spree for engineers, designers and developers to fine-tune the technology, develop games in-house, and convince others to make VR-content.

"It's just the beginning. We're all learning and making a lot of mistakes along the way," Iribe said at the expo.

Some developers say the Rift headset has undergone improvements in display technology in the past six months and is inching closer to overcoming perennial obstacles to mainstream adoption: nausea-inducing motion-blur, uncomfortably grainy displays and sheer bulk. "I have rarely seen this kind of very ground-up, groundswell of developer support," said Andrew House, group CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment. "Maybe its time has come."

Oculus and Sony are expected to begin selling their devices next year, but content remains scarce.

Reuters

Ancient bronze vessel returning home

BEIJING, 14 June — A 3,000-year-old bronze ritual vessel is being brought back to China, almost a century after it left its homeland.

Auction house Christie's on Thursday handed over the Min Fanglei wine vessel to collectors from central China's Hunan Province, where it was found by farmers in 1919.

The collectors are donating the vessel to the Hunan Provincial Museum in its capital Changsha. There it will be reunited with its lid, which has been with the museum for decades.

The vessel, which stands more than 60 centimeters tall, was set to go under the hammer at a Christie's auction in New York on 20 April, but was withdrawn after the group of collectors made a private bid, the auction house said in a statement.

The Hunan collectors reportedly took a 3D printed copy of the lid to New York on 17 March, where they confirmed that it matched the vessel.

It was reported that they bought the vessel for a much lower price than it could have made at auction, although the actual amount was not revealed.

Under the agreement of the sale, the vessel, which dates from the 12th or 11th century BC, can never be auctioned or traded again.

Chen Jianming, Hunan museum director, described the reunion as a dream come true.

"The Min Fanglei was unearthed in 1919 in Hunan's Shuitian Town, but the vessel and its lid became separated during wartime," he told the China News Service.

The lid has been with the Hunan museum since 1956.

Xinhua

Judge says InterDigital patents not violated by two phone makers

WASHINGTON, 14 June — Handsets made by ZTE Corp and Nokia, now owned by Microsoft Corp, do not violate InterDigital Inc's patents for wireless phones, a US International Trade Commission judge said in a preliminary ruling released on Friday.

The full commission is expected to issue a final ruling in October.

InterDigital shares plunged more than 10 percent on the ruling, and but they recovered somewhat and were down about 7.3 percent in late-afternoon US trading.

InterDigital said in a statement that it would appeal to the full commission, and potentially to the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

"Today's decision by the administrative law judge is unfortunate, and does not align with the validation of our portfolio and licensing practices that is reflected in our numerous agreements with major wireless companies worldwide," the company said in a statement.

Initially, Wilmington, Delaware-based InterDigital had also sued Samsung Electronics and Huawei for infringement but these two companies opted to settle.

It had accused the companies of infringing on seven patents when the case was filed in 2013, but four dropped out in the course of litigation.

Originally, InterDigital had sued Nokia, which sold its handset business to Microsoft during the course of litigation. That deal closed in April 2014.

Microsoft had no comment on the case, while ZTE did not respond to requests for comment.

The ITC is a popular venue for patent lawsuits because it can ban products that infringe on patents from being imported into the United States more easily than district courts can.

The case at the International Trade Commission is InterDigital Communications v. Nokia Corp and ZTE Corp and is No 337-868.

Reuters

Afghans vote again in final test as Taleban threats loom

KABUL, 14 June — Afghans headed back to the polls on Saturday for a second round of voting to elect a successor to President Hamid Karzai in a decisive test of Afghanistan's ambitions to transfer power democratically for the first time in its tumultuous history.

The vote pits former anti-Taleban fighter Abdullah Abdullah against ex-World Bank economist Ashraf Ghani after neither secured the 50 percent majority needed to win outright in the first round on 5 April.

Voters were not put off by a couple of rockets landing in the capital and some other explosions, forming long queues at polling station before voting began at 7 am (0230 GMT)

"Afghan people always rise from the ashes to face challenges. Today is one such challenge and we will rise to the occasion," said Arash Yarmand, an electrical engineer preparing to cast his vote in Kabul. "There's a lot of expectations from the new government and we hope they live up to it."

As most foreign troops leave by the end of 2014, whoever takes over from Karzai will inherit a troubled country with an increasingly violent Taleban insurgency and an economy crippled by corruption and the weak rule of law.

The process has been fraught with accusations of fraud by both candidates and many fear a close outcome will make it less likely the loser will accept defeat, possibly dragging Afghanistan into a risky, protracted stand-off over the vote.

Independent Election Commission chief Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani sought to reassure voters and observers they would ensure the process would deliver a legitimate winner.

"We have zero tolerance for fraud and if we detect any case of election staff working in favour of a candidate, they will be sacked immediately," he said. From windswept deserts on the Iranian border to the remote, rugged Hindu Kush mountains, 12 million eligible voters can cast ballots at 6,365 polling centres.

"Everyone - young, old, rich and poor - came out in unpleasant weather, despite threats, to vote in April and we hope it will be the same this time. This is Afghanistan's spirit," said Shukria Barakzai, a female parliament member.

The Taleban may prove a formidable obstacle. The insurgents, now at the height of their summer offensive, have warned people not to vote in an election they have condemned as a US-sponsored charade.

One person was reported to have been wounded in the blasts in Kabul early on Saturday.

On 6 June, Abdullah survived an assassination attempt when two bombs exploded outside a Kabul hotel where he had just held a rally. Twelve people were killed.

Afghan men lead a donkey, loaded with ballot boxes and other election material to be transported to polling stations which are not accessible by road, in Shutul, Panjshir Province, on 13 June, 2014. — REUTERS

The high turnout of nearly 60 percent in the first round of the election was a major defeat for the Taleban. Observers expect fewer than 5 million voters this time, partly due to security concerns.

"This time, the Taleban will try to compensate for what they couldn't achieve in the first round," Defence Ministry spokesman General Zahir Azimi said before the vote.

Officials in Kabul are haunted by the prospect of a close outcome that could furnish the losing candidate and his supporters with an excuse to reject defeat, and, in the worst scenario, propel the country back into war along ethnic lines.

Reuters

Rockefeller heir killed in small plan crash near New York City

WHITE PLAINS, (NY), 14 June — The great-grandson of oil tycoon John D Rockefeller was killed on Friday when his small plane crashed in fog and rain shortly after taking off from a suburban New York airport, a family spokesman and the Federal Aviation Administration said.

Dr Richard Rockefeller, 64, of Falmouth, Maine, was piloting the Piper *PA-46* aircraft when it went down about 10 minutes after takeoff from Westchester County Airport in Purchase, 23 miles (37 km) north of New York City, family spokesman Fraser Seitel and the FAA said.

He was the only person on board, according to an FAA statement.

Rockefeller flew to New York on Thursday to have dinner with his father, banker and philanthropist David Rockefeller, who was celebrating his 99th birthday, and was returning home to Maine, Seitel said.

Conditions at the airport on Friday morning were poor, and visibility was low, said Peter Scherer, the airport's manager, at a news conference.

"There were foggy conditions outside. You can only see about a quarter mile down the runway," he said. "Those are extreme conditions for the airport."

Several flights had taken off but many others had been canceled, he said.

"Richard was an experienced pilot, who had flown for many years," Seitel said.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

Rockefeller took off at 8:08 am, but his single-engine plane soon disappeared from radar, the airport manager said.

It crashed into trees on a horse farm about a half mile away in Purchase, New York, 23 miles (37 km) north of New York City, local police said. It broke into many pieces, and debris was spread about 100 feet (30 metres), police said.

The plane narrowly missed a house that was occupied, officials said. Rockefeller was one of six children of David Rockefeller, a former chairman of Chase Manhattan Corporation and grandson of Standard Oil founder John D Rockefeller.

He practiced and taught medicine in Portland, Maine, until 2000, has served on the advisory board to Doctors Without Borders and was a former chairman of the Rockefeller Family Fund, according to his biography on the fund's website.

Rockefeller frequently flew in and out of the small suburban airport, where about 400 planes take off and land each day, the manager said.—*Reuters*

Police and firefighters stand near the site of a small plane crash in the town of Harrison, Westchester County, New York on 13 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Iran's Rouhani says ready to aid Iraq, nuclear deal by 20 July possible

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani addresses the audience during a meeting in Ankara on 10 June, 2014. REUTERS

ANKARA, 14 June — Iran stands ready to help Iraq's government in its fight against Sunni Muslim insurgents within the framework of international law, although Baghdad has so far not requested assistance, President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday.

In a Press conference broadcast live on state television, Rouhani also said Iran believed it was possible to conclude a comprehensive agreement ending its nuclear dispute with major powers by a 20 July deadline. Remaining differences could be settled through goodwill and flexibility, he said. Shi'ite Muslim Iran, which has strong leverage in Shi'ite-majority Iraq, is so alarmed by the Sunni jihadist advance from Iraq's north that it may be ready to cooperate with longtime arch-enemy Washington in helping Baghdad fight back.

A senior Iranian official told *Reuters* earlier this week that the idea is being discussed within the Teheran leadership. For now, officials say, Iran will send its neighbour advisers and weaponry, although probably not troops, to boost Baghdad.

In the nuclear talks the main stumbling block has been the permissible scope of Iran's uranium enrichment.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
INCOME TAX DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FILING OF RETURN OF INCOME

1. All taxpayers under the Income Tax Law including Company, Partnership, Joint-Venture, and Co-operative society, Association of collective farming, Individuals (excluding the heading 'salary'), Associations formed by individual or by an existing law, those whose income exceeds 1,200,001 kyats during the income year-from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014, shall file the return of income, properly filled-in and signed according to the Income Tax Regulations, to the Township Revenue Office and Companies Circle Tax Office, in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of return filed in person.
2. The person, whose income exceeds 1,440,000 Kyats under the heading 'salary' during the income year, is not required to file the return of income. However, the employer needs to furnish the Annual Salary Statement to the respective Township Revenue Office.
3. **To be Attached to Annual Return**
   Financial Report, including the particular forms conducted in the account concerning the business of the Taxpayer as prescribed the Income Tax Regulations, is needed to submit with the return of income.
4. **Filing Due Date**
   30th June 2014, Monday.
5. **Penalty for late filing and non-filing of Annual Returns**
   A penalty not exceeding ten percent of the tax shall, in addition to the tax payable, be imposed for default.
6. **To get the form of Return and Annual Salary Statement**
   Forms of Return and Annual Salary statement are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue office or at Companies Circle Tax Office (CCTO) or on official website of the Internal Revenue Department http//www.irdmyanmar.gov.rnm.
7. **Further Information**
   Further information can be obtained from the respective Township Revenue Office and from Companies Circle Tax Office.

Kyaw Thant Lwin
Director
Income Tax Directorate

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
COMMERCIAL TAX DIRECTORATE
Reminder to Taxpayers to File Annual Returns for 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

1. This is to remind that economic enterprises of the Union Government, State-owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, which have taxable sale proceeds or receipts from services in the 2013-2014 fiscal year (1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014) are required under the Commercial Tax Law, to fill up, sign and file annual returns together with annual financial reports to respective Township Revenue Offices or the Companies Circle Tax Office in person or by registered mail. Taxpayers are also reminded to claim acknowledgement receipts from respective offices in the case of filing the returns in person.

2. For the Cooperative and Private Sectors, Commercial Tax is not assessed if the total sale proceeds or total receipts from services does not exceed each of the following amounts-
   (a) in the case of the goods mentioned in Schedule 2 to Schedule 6 of the Commercial Tax Law, which are produced within the country, the total sale proceeds of Kyat 10 million in a fiscal year.
   (b) in the case of the services mentioned in Schedule 7 of the Commercial Tax Law, the total receipts of Kyat 10 million in a fiscal year.

3. **The Last Date of Filing the Returns** is 30th June 2014 (Returns may be filed to respective offices until 18:00 hours of 30th June 2014.)

4. **Penalty for failure to file returns**- For failure to file annual returns within the stipulated period without sufficient cause, a fine equivalent to ten per cent of the additional tax payable after the final assessment of tax.

5. **Return forms** will be provided free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or the Companies Circle Tax Office.

6. **Inquiries** may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office or the Tax Service Unit (Yangon), which is situated at No.59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit (Mandalay), which is situated at 65th Street, Between 22nd x 23rd Street, Mandalay.

Soe Naing
Director
Commercial Tax Directorate

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1438)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1438) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
Phone No: 01-2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 VASI SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 01-2301185

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

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 & 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

People donate blood in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 14 June, 2014. The World Blood Donor Day is observed on 14 June every year in Cambodia to raise the awareness about safe blood and to thank the voluntary blood donors.

XINHUA

Rare blue diamond could fetch more than $35 million

LONDON, 14 June — A rare 122.52-carat blue diamond found in South Africa could fetch more than $35 million (20.6 million pounds) for a London-listed mining company.

Only three or four blue diamonds over 100 carats have ever been recovered, according to Cathy Mallins, corporate communications manager at Petra Diamonds Ltd. So far, the highest price on record for a rough diamond is $35.3 million, paid in February 2010 for a 507-carat white stone recovered from the same mine, finnCap analyst Martin Potts said in a research note. "We think that this stone may break that record," he said.

Both diamonds were recovered from the Cullinan mine, the source of many large diamonds, including the largest rough gem diamond ever recovered — the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond found in 1905. That diamond was cut into two stones that are part of Britain's Crown Jewels held in the Tower of London. Petra's shares rose as much as 7 percent on Friday, making them the top percentage gainer on the FTSE-250 Midcap Index. Petra said it would evaluate the optimal route to market the stone after further analysis to assess its potential value.

Last month, a 100-carat yellow diamond fetched $16.3 million at a Sotheby's auction in Geneva — the highest amount ever paid for a diamond of that colour. The rough stone was 190 carats.

"Given that blue diamonds are rarer, more desirable than both yellow and white stones, we would expect multiples of this in terms of value," Numis analysts said in a note. "If it comes back from analysis as 'fancy vivid' colour then it could blow the roof off."

Other notable diamonds discovered at the mine include the 25.5-carat Cullinan blue diamond found in 2013, and sold for $16.9 million, and the Star of Josephine diamond recovered in 2008, which sold for $9.49 million. Petra bought Cullinan in 2008. The mine, located at the foothills of the Magaliesberg mountain range northeast of Pretoria, is one of the company's five producing mines in South Africa. It also has mine in Tanzania.

Reuters

US joins Jolie's call to end use of rape in war

LONDON, 14 June — US Secretary of State John Kerry joined Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie and the British government on Friday in calling for action to end the use of rape as a weapon of war.

Closing the world's first global summit on sexual violence in conflict, Kerry echoed Jolie and British Foreign Secretary William Hague by demanding concrete steps to ensure those responsible for such crimes were punished, and victims helped. The four-day conference has received global attention due largely to the involvement of Jolie, special envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who joined forces with Hague in 2012 to tackle sexual violence in conflict. Recent shocking cases of violence against women, including the kidnap of 200 Nigerian girls and the rape and murder of two Indian girls, have also focused attention on the summit. Kerry, who flew into London on Friday, said there was no place in the world for sexual violence as a tool of war.

"It's time for us, in an age where we see enough of chaos, failed and failing states, to write a new norm, one that protects women, girls, men, boys ... from these unspeakable crimes," said Kerry, a war veteran with two daughters.

"Ending the cycle of violence is not just a personal priority, it is a priority .. of the US government and its allies." Up to 1,200 government ministers and officials, lawyers, activists and survivors from over 120 countries attended the summit, which agreed a new set of international guidelines on how to investigate sex crimes, collect evidence and prosecute.—*Reuters*

Actress and campaigner Angelina Jolie speaks at a global summit on ending sexual violence in conflict, at the ExCel Centre in London on 13 June , 2014. **REUTERS**

Ugandan writer wins 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

LONDON, 14 June — A tale about a grieving widow returning to Entebbe airport with her husband's coffin has earned Ugandan writer Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, organizers said on Friday.

Contest judges praised "Let's Tell the Story Properly" for its grace, breadth and taking risks and selected it as the top story from nearly 4,000 entries from writers in 53 countries.

"This is a dream," said Makumbi, who is based in England. "For Uganda, once described as a literary desert, it shows how the country's literary landscape is changing," she said in a statement.

Novelist and short story writer Romesh Gunesekera presented the award to Makumbi in Kampala on Friday. The Commonwealth Short Story prize identifies original voices from member states of the Commonwealth, independent countries that were formerly under British rule.

Makumbi will receive 5,000 pounds (US$8,483) and her story will be published online by the literary magazine *Granta*.

Reuters

Oprah Winfrey cast in Martin Luther King Jr biopic

LOS ANGELES, 14 June — Talk show host Oprah Winfrey has joined the cast of Martin Luther King Jr biopic Selma.

Oprah, who is also producing the film alongside Brad Pitt, is now set to portray civil rights protester Annie Lee Cooper, an elderly woman who tried to register to vote and was denied by a sheriff, reports contactmusic.com.

The movie will reunite the 60-year-old with her Lee Daniels' The Butler co-star David Oyelowo, who will play Martin Luther, while Cuba Gooding Jr will star as American civil rights lawyer Fred Gray.

British actor Tom Wilkinson has signed on to play former US President Lyndon B Johnson, and Tim Roth will portray controversial US governor George Wallace.

PTI

***Oprah is also co-producing the biopic along with actor Brad Pitt.*—PTI**

The amazing Spider-Man 3 delayed

LOS ANGELES, 14 June — The web-casting superhero may not keep his date with theatres in June 2016 as there are reports that the third film in The Amazing Spider-Man series has been pushed to 2017.

The Marc Webb-directed film, featuring Andrew Garfield as Spider-Man, was originally scheduled to arrive in theatres on 10 June , 2016 but Sony has decided to delay it, according to Ace Showbiz.

Sony may go ahead with The Sinister Six or Venom (2017) first to fill the gap left by Spider-Man.—*PTI*

Parineeti Chopra

Parineeti Chopra excited about working with her 'Crush' Saif Ali Khan

MUMBAI, 14 June — Parineeti Chopra has so far not worked with any of the Khan superstars. That's about to change as she's doing a movie with Saif Ali Khan, on whom she has a crush since long. Saif's wife Kareena Kapoor reportedly likes Parineeti's spontaneity and she thought the Ishaqzaade actress to be ideal for the part in the film that her husband will co-produce and play the lead in.

According to sources, the film is a romantic comedy about two vastly mismatched people who find love under extremely trying circumstances."I've been a Saif Ali Khan fan for years. He makes me go weak in the knees," said Parineeti.

"Even as I say it I find it hard to believe (that I'm doing a film with Saif). It will be produced by Saif's production house Illuminati. What is most interesting is that Saif's partner Dinesh Vijan will turn director with the film starring Saif and me. So I've double reason to be happy and excited."

Adding to her pleasure is the fact this would be her first film with a Khan. "So far I've only worked with the younger heroes, practically all of them from Ranveer Singh to Sushant Singh Rajput to Aditya Roy Kapur. This is my first film with a Khan superstar. Hopefully, I'll get to work with the other Khans after this." —*PTI*

Kagawa wants to put Japan on map of world football

RECIFE, (Brazil), 14 June — Shinji Kagawa plans to end the four-year wait for his World Cup debut by helping put Japan on the map of global football powers in Brazil.

The Manchester United midfielder said on the eve of Japan's World Cup opener against Ivory Coast on Saturday that the Blue Samurai, despite their rise in recent years, still have a lot to prove.

Kagawa himself has done a lot of proving since 2010, when he missed Takeshi Okada's cut for South Africa. He transferred to Borussia Dortmund following the World Cup, which led to his move to Old Trafford two years ago, and he has made the left wing berth his to lose in Alberto Zaccheroni's first team.

"We want the world to find out about Japan and how well we're capable of playing," Kagawa said. "Because I still don't think we're that well known yet around the world."

"We go into the game like we always do through our usual preparations. Naturally, I think each and every one of us feels a bit of pressure because this is a massive tournament."

"But we've got to use that to get the most out of ourselves. We've always felt the first game is crucial. We need to have faith in one another and keep fighting."

Japan's Group C, which also includes Greece and Colombia, is regarded as being wide open. Winning Saturday's match will send Zaccheroni's men a long way toward qualifying for the second round.

Shinji Kagawa

But if Japan are to overcome the physicality of the Ivorians, they must do it all for one, one for all.

"We've got to play as a team at both ends of the pitch in order for us to have a chance of winning," he said. "Everyone has to work hard; it was like that four years ago."

"Most teams tend to be conservative in the first game. Not a whole lot separates you from the opposition; it's about concentration, or one lapse of it."

"We believe we can do it, and we've got to believe we can do it. I'm excited."

Kyodo News

20th Shanghai TV Festival ends

The 20th Shanghai TV Festival ended in Shanghai, China on 13 June, 2014. —XINHUA

Egyptian police officer shot dead in pro-Morsi protest

CAIRO, 14 June —An Egyptian policeman was shot dead here on Friday after dispersing a small protest staged by supporters of the ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, the interior ministry said in a statement.

The police officer was shot in the chest from a rooftop while taking an arrested protestor into a police vehicle, the statement said.

About 50 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, staged the protest at one of Maadi neighborhood in southern Cairo.

Since Morsi's removal by the military last July, his supporters have been regularly staging such protests, especially on Fridays, Egypt's weekends, despite a massive security crackdown that left about 1,000 killed and thousands of others arrested over the past 10 months.

But recently, pro-Morsi protests are diminishing due to mounting security measures in the country.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(15-6-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am
* Physical Exercises

7:20 am
* MRTV's Youth Programme

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* Amazing World

9:00 am
* News / International News

9:30 am
* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am
* News

11:15 am
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

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

2:40 pm
* Documentary

3:00 pm
* News

4:35 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Botany)

5:00 pm
* News

5:15 pm
* Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
* News / Weather Report

6:30 pm
* Cartoon Series

7:00 pm
* News

7:20 pm
* Weekly Entertainment News

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

9:00 pm
* News
* Tamyethar Takwetsar
* New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-6-14 07:00am~ 16-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- The Making Procedure of Goldsmith
* World News
* Myanmar Movies Review "The Goddess of the Golden Abode"
* Local News
* Lantern Floating Festival in Kyauk Kyi Township
* World News
* Kid's Home
* Local News
* Dawei - Tavoy, Travel to the Southern Part of Myanmar
* World News
* In the Studio: Sunee
* Local News
* Enterpreneur "Kalayar Pyi Wai Shan"
* World News
* Will you feed the pigeons
* Local News
* "Great Shwedagon" Reopsitory of the Buddhist Scriptures and Archives of Shwedagon Pagoda
* World News
* Myanmar Harpist
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Festival
* World News
* In the Studio: Shin Min Eain
* Local News
* "Youth of the Future" Vocalist, L-Jar Ngaing
* World News
* Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
* Local News
* Rakhine Tourist Area
* World News
* Myanmar Movies Review "The Giggles"

Suicide car bomb kills five Yemeni soldiers, wounds 10

ADEN, (Yemen), 14 June — A predawn suicide car bomb attack killed on Saturday five Yemeni army soldiers and injured 10 others in the troubled southern province of Abyan, a security official told *Xinhua*.

"A suicide bomber detonated an explosive-packed vehicle near an army outpost in the Abyan's district of Mahfad around 2:30 in the morning, as a result, five army personnel were killed and 10 others injured," the local security official said on condition of anonymity.

He added suspected members of the Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot were behind the large explosion in Mahfad town of Abyan.

Heavy shooting and armed confrontations occurred after the suicide blast, according to local residents.

In the southern port city of Aden, a Somali gunman was killed while trying to infiltrate into Aden International Airport by sea late Friday, a police officer told *Xinhua* anonymously.

Several towns and provinces in southern and southeastern parts of Yemen have seen growing al-Qaeda-led insurgence for three years.

The Yemeni military and security forces have recently intensified operations against suspected al-Qaeda strongholds throughout the country, killing many non-Yemeni al-Qaeda suspects.

Territories in Azzan and Mahfad, two of al-Qaeda's main bastions, have been recaptured by army troops late in May.

Xinhua

Netherlands outclass reigning champs Spain 5-1 in Group B opener

Paced by their talismen Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie, Netherlands notched a stunning 5-1 victory against Spain in the Group B opener here on Friday in what was a rematch of the 2010 World Cup final in South Africa.—XINHUA

The New Light of Myanmar

Ayeyawady beat defending champion Yangon 3-2

Ayeyawady United FC defeated a so far victorious Yangon United with a 3-2 win in the 12th fixture of the Myanmar National League on Saturday at Yangon United FC ground.

Despite securing a record with victories at home matches, the defending champion Yangon United lost as Ayeyawady showed off some serious skills, with the goals scored by Naing Lin Oo in the 39th minute, Min Min Thu in the 79th minute and Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit in the overtime. Cezar Augusto scored twice for Yangon United FC in the 20th and 59th minutes.

At Aung San Stadium, GFA and Zeyar Shwemyay ended in a 2-2 draw.

By Shine Htet Zaw

FIFA referee chief defends contentious penalty in World Cup opener

Rio de Janeiro, 14 June — The head of refereeing at FIFA on Friday defended a contentious penalty decision during the opening game of the 2014 World Cup between host nation Brazil and Croatia.

At Thursday's match at Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo, Japanese referee Yuichi Nishimura ruled that Croatia's Dejan Lovren had fouled Fred when the Brazilian fell to the floor with 20 minutes remaining and the score at 1-1.

Neymar converted the penalty for his second goal of the game and Brazil went on to win 3-1 in the Group A match, but the spot kick decision dominated debate after the game and drew condemnation from Croatia's players, coach and further afield.

Massimo Busacca, in charge of refereeing for world soccer's ruling body, told reporters in Rio de Janeiro that Nishimura appeared to be justified in awarding a penalty.

"The referee was in a very good position," he said of the 42-year-old match official.

He said a photograph of the incident showed that there was contact between the two players in the area, and that Lovren touched Fred not only with his left hand but also his right.

"If you make contact you permit the referee to go in one direction," he added.

Busacca declined so say whether Nishimura would officiate at other matches during the World Cup, as he and his team had yet to make a full analysis of the referee's performance over the full duration of the opening game.

When one reporter suggested that Nishimura's decision was a mistake, Busacca replied: "A mistake? It's you're opinion and I'll let you think it if you want."

Nishimura showed Felipe Melo a red card as Brazil crashed out of the World Cup quarter-finals in 2010, effectively ending Brazil's hopes of coming back from 2-1 down and their dreams of a sixth world title.

Fierce debate over refereeing decisions was unlikely to end with Nishimura's intervention.

One of the main talking points after Friday's game between Mexico and Cameroon at a rain-soaked Dunas arena in Natal was the officiating, after two Giovani dos Santos efforts were controversially disallowed in the first half.—*Reuters*

Referee Yuichi Nishimura (C) of Japan gestures for a penalty during the 2014 World Cup opening match between Brazil and Croatia at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 12 June, 2014.
Reuters

ANALYSIS - Spain facing tough choices after Dutch humiliation

Salvador, (Brazil), 14 June — Chastened Spain coach Vicente del Bosque faces some serious soul-searching after his team of champions were brutally exposed and destroyed 5-1 by Netherlands in a shocking World Cup Group B loss on Friday.

Spain's humiliating defeat in Salvador in their opening game, by far the heaviest under Del Bosque since he took over in 2008, was their biggest at a World Cup since they lost 6-1 to Brazil in 1950 and only their fourth competitive loss under the affable 63-year-old. Although the match started well for the holders and they led 1-0 through Xabi Alonso's penalty, they were ripped to shreds by the rampant Dutch in the second half.Proven winners of the calibre of goalkeeper Iker Casillas, centre backs Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique and midfielders Xavi and Alonso were simply brushed aside by their opponents' intensity and muscular tactics, with Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie in devastating form.

Fans around the world used to watching Spain effortlessly dominating opponents with their "tiki-taka" brand of passing football watched opened-mouthed as the Dutch poured forward and repeatedly breached the Spanish line.Although Casillas had a terrible game by his standards, surrendering possession to gift Van Persie his second goal, if it had not been for a number of superb saves the Netherlands could have won even more comfortably.Spain's desperately ragged performance will leave Del Bosque wondering whether a serious overhaul is needed before they face Chile in their next game on Wednesday.An indication of the scale of Friday's reverse is that on their way to winning Euro 2008, the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, Spain conceded a mere six goals in 19 games.

Del Bosque is unlikely to drop Casillas, the team captain, but Pique could be dropped after the Barcelona player was made to look slow and witless by the Dutch forwards.

Javi Martinez, a converted midfielder with pace and strength, has looked assured at the back in Spain's last two warm-up matches and could partner Ramos.

In midfield, it might be time for Xavi and Alonso to make way, with Koke and Santi Cazorla the obvious replacements.Reverting to a system without a recognized centre forward, which was so successful at Euro 2012, and playing Cesc Fabregas instead of Diego Costa or Fernando Torres, is another option. "When a team loses a match it's not just the performance of one single player, it's a weakness in the whole squad," Del Bosque told a news conference.

"I feel very upset and disappointed but I have enough experience to understand this defeat," he added.

"We are all to blame. We have to look ahead and secure a win against Chile."

Del Bosque can take comfort from the fact that Spain lost their opening game at the 2010 World Cup to Switzerland but eventually went through as group winners. However, unless he can find a way to fix what was wrong with the team on Friday, he and his players may find themselves returning to Spain much earlier than anyone expected.

Reuters

***Spain's players react on the bench during their 2014 World Cup Group B soccer match against the Netherlands at the Fonte Nova arena in Salvador on 13 June, 2014.*—Reuters**

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match-9	Switzerland	22:30 MST (15.6.2014)	Ecuador
Match-10	France	01:30 MST (16.6.2014)	Honduras
Match-11	Argentina	04:30 MST (16.6.2014)	Bosnia and Herzegovina

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 2	Mexico	1-0	Cameroon
Match 3	Spain	1-5	Netherland
Match 4	Chile	3-1	Australia

Gmail thenewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar
The New Light of Myanmar
R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.