

Golden Myanmar airline to launch Imphal-Mandalay flights this week



The A-320 airplane of Golden Myanmar airlines at Tuliha International Airport in Imphal of Manipur State.

PHOTO: SEVEN DAIRY

MANDALAY, 23 June—With the aim of developing cooperation in tourism services and trade between the north east region of India and Myanmar, Golden Myanmar airlines will launch its new Imphal-Mandalay route on 27 June 2014, officials said.

The chartered flight of Golden Myanmar Airlines will fly the new route twice a week, said an official of the airlines.

The A-320 airplane

landed for the first time at the Tuliha International Airport in Imphal of Manipur State in India from Mandalay on 21 November 2013. After a seven-month trial period, the airline implemented regular flights for the Imphal-Mandalay route.

The Golden Myanmar ART-72-690 airplane manufactured by France will be used for the foreign flight schedules, giving seats to 69 passengers. On 3 July,

the second flight will commence, according to the Transport Ministry of Manipur State of India.

The deputy chief commercial officer of Golden Myanmar Airlines and officials of KB Enterprises of Manipur held a meeting in Mandalay on 3 June and inked the agreement for plying regular flights between Imphal and Mandalay.

The 237 miles long Imphal-Mandalay route will be a 58-minute flight. The air

ticket price is 14,500 rupees (K225,000) per passenger, said proprietor P Kunjabihari of KB Enterprises.

At present, local people rely on the road transport from Mandalay to Imphal. Each passenger ticket costs K40,000-K50,000 for over 20-hour drive, said Ko The of Tamu.

With regard to the new flight, the chief minister of Manipur State said, "We relaxed the Protected Area Permit (PAP) system for

Myanmar citizens. It will be two-year valid for Myanmar citizens. We have arranged issuance of visa on arrival (VoA) to them smoothly."

In Manipur State, 20% value-added tax is charged over aviation turbine fuel. For the new flight schedule, the Authority Airport of India is making arrangements to reduce the value-added tax as much as they can.

According to the observation conducted by the KB Enterprises, at least

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100 passengers from Manipur State travel to Thailand by flights every month. At present, over 300 women students are pursuing medical education in China.

With regard to the Imphal-Mandalay flight transport, the secretary of the Transport Ministry of Manipur State said that helicopter/chopper transport service will be given to passengers from Tamenglong, Jiribam, Ukhrul, Jessami and Moreh of India, centering at Imphal, and the plan has been submitted to the state government.

Implementation of the new flight schedule will contribute towards the ASEAN-India Trade in service and investment agreement.—NLM-005

Thai Army to reduce restrictions on immigrant workers

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 23 June—The Thai military on Sunday announced to reduce some restriction on immigrant workers in the Kingdom, according to the report of Thai PBS News.

However, business firms that are facing a shortage of workers will have to submit applications to hire migrant workers to the Ministry of Labour, commencing 23 June.

The meeting of officials from military and Ministry of Labour also decided

that registration for immigrant workers will start in Samut Sakhon or Mahachai in Bangkok from 1 July, and this programme will be extended to other 22 provinces, the report said.

Thai officials believe that this new plan will benefit an estimated two million migrant workers.

The report also mentioned that applications for registration will be submitted to the Ministry of Labour, and the ministry will issue permits within 60 days, saying the application process will not need the

role of brokers, and reduce the cost.

Some sources in Thailand said that employers will have to report the number of their illegal immigrant workers to the Ministry of Labour, and then submit application to hire them.

The workers will have to take medical checkup to be able to receive medical treatment.

The United States ranked Thailand third place for human trafficking cases, with the abuse of children and forced labourers in a range of industries.—NLM



Circular Road Finished: In accordance with the guidance of Vice President U Nyan Tun, the circular road and four archways have been constructed at Botahtaung Pagoda to enable pilgrims from various regions of the nation to pay homage to the pagoda through the archways of the precinct.—PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Myanmar sees rise in tax revenue

YANGON, 23 June—The Internal Revenue Department and the Board for Scrutinizing and Monitoring Tax Collection have seen an increase in tax revenue, Union Minister for Revenue U Win Shein told officials at the department on Saturday, sources said.

The two bodies are striving to expose cases of tax evasion by improving the tax collection system and making it more systematic, U Win Shein said, calling for the need to stick to the Union Tax Law, which was passed by parliament earlier this year.

The union minister stressed the importance of transparency in collecting



Union Minister U Win Shein discusses scrutinizing and monitoring tax collection.—MNA

taxes, urging employees to gather more knowledge on tax collection.

Reports said that the

Internal Revenue Department is finding ways to shift from its current tax system to a system conform

with international norms in close cooperation with tax experts from the international community.—MNA

MoU on establishment of Asia Specialty Education Center signed

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attended the signing ceremony of a MoU on the establishment of an Asia Specialty Education Center between the Department of Technical and Vocational Education under the ministry and the Institute for Environmental Technology Promotion in Asia of Non-Profit Organization

(NPO) of Japan at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

President of Institute for Environmental Technology Promotion in Asia Mr Tashiki Naito and Director-General Dr Zaw Win of the department signed the MoU, which is aimed at promoting co-operation in technological training between Myanmar and Japan.

MNA

YANGON, 23 June—The Yangon General Hospital renovation work committee and four subcommittees are to hold discussions to move patients to a new place as quickly as possible and co-operate with renovation of the main building, Chief Minister U Myint Swe of Yangon Region said at the coordination meeting of the committees at the hospital on Sunday afternoon.

Officials reported on extension and renovation of the hospital and main building renovation tasks.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo, Deputy Minister

Renovation and extension of Yangon General Hospital discussed



Chief Minister U Myint Swe speaking about the renovation and extension of Yangon General Hospital.—MNA

for Construction Dr Win Myint and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay discussed supply of power, technical assistance and invitation to open tender for soonest renovation of the hospital.

Medical Superinten-

dent Dr Hla Myint reported on the master plan for extension and renovation of the hospital.

The chief minister pre-

sented 20 trash bins worth K5.4 million for the hospital to the Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Myint.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw women's organizations to get their own buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—The stake driving ceremony for construction of the buildings of the Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organization and Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held beside Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road in Aungzabu Ward of Zabuthiri Township on Saturday.

Officials of the Myanmar Women's Affairs



Federation, Nay Pyi Taw WAO and Nay Pyi Taw

MCWSC drove stakes for the buildings.—MNA

High season for Malaria, DHF

MANDALAY, 23 June—Malaria and dengue hemorrhagic fever are mosquito-borne diseases. According to the statistics compiled by hospitals and clinics of Myanmar, about 500,000 people are suffering from malaria and about 1,000 patients die yearly. In Mandalay, the data from hospitals and clinics states there are 14,026 malaria

patients.

In general, malaria is an issue from June to November in Mandalay. In 2013, 2,288 people suffered from malaria and of them, eight patients lost their life. Thirty-three malaria patients received medical treatment at the hospitals and clinics till 18 June 2014, with no fatalities reported.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Desks, copy books worth K3 million donated to Yamethin BEHS No 1

YAMETHIN, 23 June—A ceremony to donate 100 sets of desks and 250 dozens of copy books to No 1 Basic Education High School was held at the hall of the school in Yamethin of Mandalay Region on Sunday.

Chairman of Mandalay Industries Association U Maung Maung Oo presented the desks and books worth K3 million to Headmistress Daw Than Win who returned a certificate of honour to the association.

Htoo Nyunt (Yamethin)

Drains dredged, culvert repaired in Myanaung

MYANAUNG, 23 June—Local people participated in the reconstruction of the culvert and dredging of drains for proper flow of water in Ward 2 of Myanaung in Ayeyawady Region on Sunday, aiming at ensuring

prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever in children and adults.

Wellwishers donated cash to the fund for improvement of the earth-

en roads in the ward for smooth transport of people in the rainy season, said the administrator of ward 2 in Myanaung.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Best sale agents awarded

MANDALAY, 23 June—The AAA Cement Plant held the annual celebration at Green Restaurant lawns in Kandawgyi of Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay on Saturday evening.

Director Daw Li Li Hlaing presented three ticals of gold as best sale agent award to Shwetaung construction materials shop and two ticals of gold each to seven sale agents. She also presented gold awards

to five construction entrepreneurs including Mann Myanmar Construction Company for their high purchase of cement.

Vocalists performed song entertainments to the attendees.

The AAA Cement Plant located in Kyaukchaw area of Patheingyi Township produces the quality cement and instant concrete to the market.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein and wife to pay goodwill visit to China

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win will be paying a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China in the near future, and will be subsequently attending the Commemorative Ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of the Announcement of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence by Myanmar, China and India to be held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.—MNA

No plan to rename Armed Forces Day: Lower House



Upper House session in progress on Monday.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—To honor the Myanmar Armed Forces, 27 March was designated as Armed Forces Day, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung told the Lower House on Monday.

The union minister was responding to a question on whether to change the Myanmar Armed Forces Day into its previous name “the Resistant Day”.

On 27 March 1945, the Myanmar Armed Forces led the people to fight against fascist Japan and the day was later designated as the Resistance Day, according to the union minister.

On the 10th Resistance Day in 1955, General Ne

Win changed the name into Armed Forces Day, the union minister continued to say.

The union minister pointed out the designation of armed forces days around the world and said that the government has no plan to rename the anniversary.

Another question responded at the Lower House session today was drafting the prison bill.

At the Upper House session on Monday, officials answered questions concerned with establishing 7 national universities, construction of mobile communication towers, soil testing and allocation of farmland for peasants.

MNA

Upper House Speaker receives WB Group guests

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Speaker of the Upper House U Khin Aung Myint received Mr. Vikram Kumar and delegation of International Finance Cooperation (IFC) of the World Bank Group at the hall of the Upper House in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

They focused on investment in education sector.

MNA

Preparations to hold free and fair mid-term elections and 2015 general elections discussed



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye welcomes Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan at the commission office in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday to hold talks about cooperation between Myanmar and China and the political reform process in Myanmar.

They also discussed historical issues between the two countries, further strengthening bilateral ties between Myanmar and China, development, peace

and stability of Myanmar, goodwill visits of political parties of Myanmar to China, preparations to hold free and fair mid-term elections and the 2015 general election under the law and constitutional issues.

MNA

Myanmar, AIPA to promote bilateral relations



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann receives Secretary General of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Mr. Periowsamy Otharam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received Secretary General of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Mr. Periowsamy Otharam at the hall of the Lower House at Hluttaw

complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning to discuss bilateral cooperation between AIPA and Myanmar Hluttaws.—MNA

Taw on Monday.

The course is being conducted to train coaches for athletes participating in the 28th SEA Games in Singapore.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the course. In his speech, he said Myanmar is preparing for the SEA Games by hiring foreign coaches.

A total of 166 trainees are attending the course.

MNA

Coaching course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—The Coach Training Course No. 4/2014 for cycling, fencing, basketball and volleyball sports events started in Nay Pyi



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivers a speech at a coaching course. MNA

Ambulance donated to social association in Pyuntaza

NYAUNGLEBIN, 23 June — A ceremony to mark the fifth anniversary of Shwezarmyay social association took place at Zabuaye Tawya monastery in Pyuntaza of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region on Sunday.

Abbot of the monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vijaya and wellwishers donated a Toyota Hiace Ambulance worth K18 million to the association for smooth transport of patients.

Audit U Than Win of the association explained the financial report and use of vehicle.

At the ceremony, the merit was shared for col-



lective donations of the local people worth K400 million in social, funeral

service, regional development, health, education, religious affairs, natural

disaster and philanthropic affairs.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

War Veterans Organization holds annual general meeting in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 23 June—Aungmyethazan Township War Veterans Organization of Mandalay Region held the annual meeting for the 2013-14 fiscal year and a cash assistance presentation ceremony at the hall of No 8 Basic Education High School in the township of Mandalay on Sunday.

Member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee and Chair-

man of Mandalay Region WVO Supervisory Com-

mittee (Municipal Area) Col Khin Maung Tin (Rtd)



presented cash assistance to elderly members, reserved members and disabled members.

Officials gave cash assistance to offspring of members from primary to university levels for 2014-15 academic year and outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2013-14 fiscal year. The cash assistance delivered to the members and students amounted to over



K24 million.

After that, the annual meeting was held on the second part of agenda, followed by submitting and

discussing the annual report and adopting the future plans.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Nyi Nyi Phyu (Black Pearl), Khaing Wai Lwin (Bahtoo Club) secure Mr. and Ms. Golden Mandalay awards

MANDALAY, 23 June—In commemoration of International Olympic Day, the Golden Mandalay body-building & physical culture contest, organized by Mandalay Region Body-building and Physi-

cal Culture Subcommittee, took place at the City Hall in Mandalay on Sunday.

Aung Soe Min (Mylife) secured the first prize, Arkar Hein (Hollywood) the second and Khin Maung Tun (Bahtoo Club) in the men's

junior body-building event. Nyi Nyi Phyu (Black Pearl) won the first prize, Aung Soe Min (Mylife) the second and Arkar Hein (Hollywood) the third in the men's open event. Nang Loung Kham (Laurel) stood first in

the women's junior physical culture event, followed by Hsu Myint Win (Mylife Gym) the second and Win Htay (Bahtoo Club) the third.

The first prize in the women's senior event

went to Khaing Wai Lwin (Bahtoo Club), the second to Cherry Maung (Flora) and the third to Naygyi Tint Wai (Bahtoo Club).

Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and Mandalay region

Sports and Physical Education Committee presented the championship trophies, medals and cash awards to the first prize winners and consolation prizes to the respective winners.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Nang Loung Kham (Laurel) crowned with trophy in Ms Golden Mandalay Award.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)



Body-builders participate in men's body-building contest for securing Mr. Golden Mandalay award.—THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

REGIONAL

Minister apologizes for remark on Fukushima nuclear soil storage

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 23 June — Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara apologized on Monday for a remark suggesting the issue of where to store contaminated soil from the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was a matter of money.

Ishihara made the apology to Toshitsuna Watanabe, the mayor of the town of Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, one of the candidate sites for the construction of temporary storage facilities for the waste.

On 16 June, Ishihara told reporters that protracted negotiations between the central and local governments would ultimately be settled by the “monetary value” of accepting interim storage facilities, such as grants to local authorities hosting them.

He suggested that money would ultimately decide whether local authorities accept the central government’s proposal for



Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara apologizes on 23 June, 2014, in Aizuwakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture, for a remark suggesting the issue of where to store contaminated soil from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is a matter of money. He bowed to Okuma Mayor Toshitsuna Watanabe, whose town is one of the candidate sites for the construction of temporary storage facilities for the waste. —KYODO NEWS

building facilities in the prefecture to store contaminated soil after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

Watanabe told Ishihara in Monday’s meet-

ing that many residents of the town were hurt by his remark but that the town would accept his apology, noting that Ishihara came to Fukushima Prefecture to apologize.

The meeting between Ishihara and the mayor was held in the city of Aizuwakamatsu in the same prefecture, where the town government has established a temporary

municipal government office as residents remain evacuated since the Fukushima Daiichi disaster.

Later Monday, Ishihara met with the mayor of Futaba, Shiro Izawa, in Iwaki, also in Fukushima Prefecture, to make a similar apology. He is also scheduled to meet with Fukushima Gov Yuhei Sato in the prefectural government offices in the prefectural capital Fukushima City. Futaba is another candidate site for the temporary storage facilities.

After Ishihara made the remark, Gov Sato criticized him, saying his comment damaged residents’ feelings about their hometowns.

Following the criticism, Ishihara apologized during a news conference last Tuesday and retracted his comment during a session on Thursday of the House of Councillors Environment Committee.

Kyodo News

India can export combat aircraft, missiles

NEW DELHI, 23 June — India has the potential to export combat aircraft and missiles, but needs a “policy mechanism,” a top defence official has said.

“We have a list of equipment that includes the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Akash air defence system, *Prahar* class of missiles and *BrahMos* supersonic cruise missiles along with a number of systems that can be exported,” Avinash Chander, the head of state-owned Defence Research and Development Organization, told the media.

“We are discussing the methodology for developing the export potential as well as a policy mechanism for export of weapon systems,” he added. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier asserted the need for producing and exporting arms to friendly countries.

Xinhua

Bangladesh sentences 14 militants to death or life sentence for bomb attack

DHAKA, 23 June — A court in Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka on Monday awarded death penalty to eight militants of a banned Islamist outfit, including its ringleader for their involvement in a bomb blast at an open Bengali New Year concert in 2001.

The court also awarded life sentence to six other militants for the attack, which left at least eight people killed and many more others injured.

According to Public Prosecutor of the case Abdullah Abu, the banned Harkat-ul-Jehad-al-Islami (HUJI) members led by its chief Mufti Abdul Hannan planned and carried out the attack in Ramna Park in Dhaka where thousands of people gathered to celebrate Bengali New Year on 14 April, 2001.

The country’s Criminal Investigation Department on 30 Dec last year pressed charges against HUJI chief Hannan, who is now under custody, and 13 others for committing the tragic incident.

Xinhua

South Korea troops corner young soldier who killed five comrades — military

SEOUL, 23 June — South Korean troops cornered a conscript soldier who killed five comrades near the heavily militarized border with North Korea on Monday, and were trying to negotiate a peaceful end to a manhunt that started two days’ earlier with a grenade attack.

The Defence Ministry said officials were trying to persuade the 22-year-old to surrender in a densely forested area near a small town in Goseong county, a mountainous region on the eastern coast of the peninsula.

Late on Saturday night the soldier threw a grenade and opened fire, killing five members of his unit and wounding seven at a base outpost in Goseong county.

The soldier, surnamed Lim, was described by an official as an “introvert” and said there had been earlier concerns over his psychological health, but he was deemed fit to be deployed to the outpost after passing a test in November.

A massive manhunt saw troops, who had orders to “shoot to kill” if the soldier failed to surrender, exchange gunfire with him on



South Korean soldiers stand guard at a temporary checkpoint during a search for the South Korean conscript soldier who is on the run after a shooting incident, in Goseong on 22 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Sunday. A platoon leader was wounded in a gunfight.

“The idea is to capture him, but we are trying to get him to surrender,” Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a briefing. “We are tightening the circle around him.”

The soldier was allowed to speak to his father by telephone and officials

are working with his parents to try to convince him to turn himself in, Kim said.

Another soldier was wounded on Monday in a friendly fire incident during the pursuit for the rogue soldier, Kim said.

The military has been criticized before for lax discipline in some units and

failure to prevent previous cases where soldiers, suffering personal problems, have shot fellow soldiers.

In a similar incident in 2011, a South Korean marine went on a shooting spree at a base near the tense maritime border with North Korea, killing four fellow soldiers before trying to blow himself up with

a hand grenade.

Kim, the defence ministry spokesman, said a large number of conscript soldiers, most of whom are in their early 20s, are classified as “of interest” and are under supervision by the command for concerns over potential disciplinary or mental health issues.

Reuters

China detains 380 in month-long Xinjiang terror sweep



Riot policemen lead men who are about to be executed into a police van in this still image taken from video in an unknown location in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, on 16 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 23 June — Authorities in China's far-flung western region of Xinjiang have detained 380 people and busted 32 terror cells in a month-long crackdown on violence, state media said on Monday, following an upsurge in attacks blamed on Islamist militants.

China has been toughening its response after a spate of bloody incidents nationwide centred on Xinjiang, the traditional home of the Muslim Uighurs.

China has blamed previous attacks on Islamist separatists in the region, who, it says, want to establish an independent state there called East Turkestan.

The official *Legal Daily* said 315 people had been tried for terror-related offences, at least 13 of whom have been executed, an announcement made last week. Six police officers had died on the job as well, the report added.

Police also seized 264

explosive devices, 357 weapons, 101 computers with extremist contents on them and books and DVDs offering training at terror attacks, the newspaper said.

It gave instances of some cases, from the seizures of bows and arrows in the city of Aksu to the testing of bombs in the Gobi desert.

Authorities praised public support for the campaign, including reports about suspicious people, the

paper said.

Exiled Uighur groups and human rights activists say the government's own repressive policies in Xinjiang, including controls on Islam, have provoked unrest, a claim Beijing denies.

Around 200 people have died in unrest in Xinjiang in the past year or so, the government says, including 13 people shot dead by police in a weekend attack on a police station.

Reuters

Indonesian presidential candidates debate int'l policy, defence

JAKARTA, 23 June — Indonesian presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto strongly stresses Indonesia's sovereignty cannot be bargained, while rival Joko Widodo wants to avoid war with other countries if conflict occurs, they said at a televised debate late Sunday.

The presidential hopefuls expressed their opinions on international policy and national defence during the two-hour debate, the third of five planned debates during the monthlong campaign before the 9 July election for the country's top job.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who is barred from seeking re-election by term limits, will step down Oct. 20 after two five-year terms.

Many had expected Prabowo, a former army general, would perform better than Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, because the topics for debate focusing on international policy and national defense might be better known to Prabowo.

Some political analysts said, however, Jokowi won the debate for presenting detailed, more concrete ideas than Prabowo, who proposed concepts but few details. "It was a win for Jokowi. He went into details, while Prabowo only

delivered rhetorical remarks," Hamdi Muluk, a professor in the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Indonesia, said.

Burhanuddin Muhtadi, executive director of pollster Indikator Politik Indonesia, said the public expected better answers from Prabowo because he is a former military man.

"But he repeated his answers over and over again," he said.

On the other hand, he said, the public had low expectations for Jokowi, but they saw he was not less knowledgeable than Prabowo.

Asked if he would involve "military diplomacy" to deal with various international problems such as border issues, overlapping territorial claims and asylum seekers, Prabowo, 62, answered, "My principle: a thousand friends is too few, a single enemy is too many. We need to always conduct dialogues. We need to establish friendly relations with everyone and respect every nation."

He stressed, however, there is a principle interest he "will not compromise the sovereignty of Indonesia. I will not let any single inch of our country be taken. I will not give up our land even for one metre, one centimetre."

Kyodo News

India allows easier access to its nuclear facilities

NEW DELHI, 23 June — The Indian government has allowed greater and easier access of all its nuclear facilities to global watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency, highly placed sources said on Monday.

"The granting of easier inspection to IAEA, through ratification of India-US civil nuclear deal, will facilitate India's entry as a full member of the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group.

This will also indicate this country's seriousness about being a responsible nuclear weapons state," the sources said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party government recently made the decision, despite

expressing some reservations, under the nuclear deal sealed by the previous Congress-led government.

The move came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States in September this year.

India has already placed several nuclear facilities under the IAEA's watch.

This includes a part of the nuclear fuel complex in the southern city of Hyderabad, the nuclear reactors in the western state of Rajasthan, the older reactors at Tarapur, and India's largest nuclear reactors at Kudankulam in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Xinhua



Activists of Madhya Pradesh Congress party jostle with police as they block the way of a passenger train during a protest against the hike in rail fares in Bhopal, India, on 22 June, 2014. Demonstrators opposed the hike in rail fares of 14.2 percent announced by the government in its steps to reform a sluggish economy. —XINHUA

WORLD

Fighting strains Ukraine ceasefire, Putin urges dialogue

MOSCOW/KIEV, 23 June — Fighting flared between Ukrainian and pro-Moscow separatist forces, both sides reported on Sunday, further straining a unilateral ceasefire declared by Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin pressed Kiev to talk to the rebels. Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, at separate ceremonies marking the anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, both stressed the need to bring peace to Ukraine's rebellious east.

The seven-day ceasefire came under pressure almost as soon as it began on Friday night, with the government accusing the separatists of attacking its military bases and posts on the Russian border. The violence continued for a second night into Sunday.

"Unfortunately, what we are seeing ... tells us that the fighting is still going on and last night we saw some active use of artillery from the Ukrainian side," Putin said after laying flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow.

He said it was not clear whether artillery was used by the Ukrainian army or the "so-called paramilitary of the right-wing forces" supporting the government. He appeared to attach no



A pro-Russian separatist shows an anti-tank rifle in Seversk (Siversk), Donetsk region on 22 June, 2014.—REUTERS

blame to separatist forces.

Poroshenko wants Putin's unqualified backing for a 15-point peace plan he announced on Friday, before meetings with the European Union in the coming week. These will include the signing on 27 June of an association agreement with the bloc which includes a free trade deal.

In his comments published on the Kremlin web-

site, Putin repeated his support for the ceasefire and peace plan in only general terms. "We need to ensure that all fighting is stopped," he said. "Ultimately the political process is the most important. It is important that this ceasefire lead to dialogue between all opposing sides in order to find compromises acceptable for all."

Poroshenko told US

Vice President Joe Biden during a phone call on Sunday that Russian separatists continue to attack Ukrainian forces, including with artillery, despite the ceasefire, the White House said.

"The vice president reiterated that the United States was working closely with its G-7 partners to prepare further economic sanctions against Russia if Moscow did not take ac-

tions ... to stop the flow of arms and militants across the border and use its influence to publicly call on the separatists to lay down their arms," the White House added.

The insurgency in the largely Russian-speaking east erupted in April after street protests in the capital Kiev toppled the Moscow-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich. Russia subse-

quently annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and the West has accused Russia of supporting the insurgency. French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Putin by telephone on Sunday to work for the resumption of talks to end the conflict, Hollande's office said. The two leaders "reiterated the importance of ensuring full control of the Russia-Ukraine border to prevent the infiltration of gunmen and military equipment", the statement said. In Kiev, Poroshenko stressed the need for dialogue, saying his plan "was specifically put together to ensure peace, the laying down of weapons and to establish, through talks, a single united state", news agency *Interfax Ukraine* quoted him as saying. Ukraine's state border service reported further rebel attacks on its posts in Luhansk region on Sunday, while a separatist spokesman said Ukrainian forces were firing mortars at a village near the Russian frontier. In Donetsk region, which like Luhansk has declared itself a "people's republic", rebels reported a morning shootout with Ukrainian troops in Siversk, north of the city of Donetsk.—Reuters

Attack from Syria kills Israeli teen on Golan, Israel says



An Israeli soldier carries a tank shell near Alonei Habashan on the Israeli occupied Golan Heights, close to the ceasefire line between Israel and Syria on 22 June, 2014.

REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 23 June — An attack from inside Syria on Sunday killed a 13-year-old Israeli boy on the occupied Golan Heights, the first fatality on Israel's side of the frontier since the Syrian civil war began, relatives and the military said.

Israeli tanks fired at

Syrian army positions in response to what an Israeli military spokesman described as an intentional attack. Israel launched more strikes later from the air and land at nine Syrian army positions, including a military headquarters, the army said. It confirmed di-

rect hits on the targets. The Defence Ministry said the teenager, an Arab citizen of Israel from a village in the Galilee, had accompanied his father, one of the ministry's civilian contractors, to the Golan, and that two other people were wounded in the incident.

Israeli officials initially said the boy, Mohammed Qaraqara, was 15. Relatives said he was 13. "He was an excellent student, everyone loved him," his cousin, Salah Qaraqara, 52, told *Reuters*.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the attackers of indiscriminate killing of Israeli citizens.

"The enemies of the state of Israel use all means, they don't hesitate to attack civilians and kill children ... they do not differentiate between Israel's Jewish and non-Jewish citizens," he said. A military spokeswoman said an anti-tank missile fired from Syria across the frontier fence on the Golan had struck the water tanker in which Qaraqara had been traveling.

"This is the most substantial event that we have had on the border with Syria since the beginning of the (Syrian civil) war," a military spokesman said.

Reuters

Kerry arrives Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders

BAGHDAD, 23 June — US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Monday for talks with Iraqi leaders on the Iraqi crisis as the country is trying to curb a Sunni blitzkrieg, an official television reported.

While in Baghdad, Kerry will meet with the outgoing Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, and discuss with him the political and security situations in the country, the state-run channel of Iraqiya said.

Kerry is also expected to meet with the Parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi, a Sunni, and the leading Shiite cleric Ammar al-Hakim, as well as other Iraqi officials, before he travels to Erbil, capital of the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan to meet with the Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani, according to local media reports.

Kerry's visit is part of a tour in the Middle East to consult with US partners and allies on measures to

support security, stability, and the formation of an inclusive government in Iraq, as well as other developments in the region.

The top US diplomat's visit to the country came amid a worsening security conditions that began less than two weeks ago when armed Sunni insurgents, spearheaded by an al-Qaeda splinter group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, launched a surprise offensive that led to the debacle of Iraqi security forces, and the fallen of a large part of the country's northern and western territories.

Kerry would discuss US actions to assist Iraq as it confronts the security threat, and urge Iraqi leaders to move forward as quickly as possible with its government formation process to forge a government that "represents the interests of Iraqis," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 June, 2014

At the crossroads

By Aung Khin

When you' are driving a car and passing the crossroads, are you sure that you will not have a traffic accident even though you follow the traffic rules? You might cross the junctions within the speed limit when the traffic light is green. However, you should not feel overconfident that everybody will strictly follow traffic regulations.

Laws, rules and regulations cannot prevent people from every accident or damage. Measures for strict enforcement could help only reduce possible accidents. When you pass the crossroads regardless of other vehicles that breach the traffic rules, you might experience crash, damage or loss whether you are right or wrong.

Nowadays politicians are passing through the crossroads on their paths of politics. Some routes are quite strange for them. All of them are not accustomed to the changing trend. Rule of law is not enough to prevent them from certain losses. They must have tactical and clever means to reach their goals.

In a road accident, someone who follows traffic rules could receive compensation after a crash.

However, judgment will come later. He would first face delay in the accident, and even the loss of life in serious accident. Likewise, politicians at the crossroads of politics should have strategic plans and wise decisions to accomplish their mission. Being overconfident on something does not guarantee success.

All the crossroads should be free from accidents by taking serious care with far-sighted decisions.

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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.

Does FIFA World Cup Tournaments cause consequences of sleep deprivation: Controversy

Dr Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

Physical exercise, no doubt is a major component of life style modification for good health and prevention of Non Communicable Diseases, along with healthy diet, cessation of smoking, moderation of alcohol, avoiding stress and strain, adequate sleep and relaxation. Non communicable diseases, as the majority of laymen know, include cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, coronary artery diseases, strokes, diabetes, over weight, obesity, chronic occlusive pulmonary diseases and so on.

FIFA World Cup Football tournaments are in full swing since 12 June with an expected closing in mid July. World Cup attracts each and every football fan in all parts of the planet including Myanmar. People all over the world has patiently waited for a long period of four full years to encounter this heart-thrilling occasion. Football may be regarded as a national game in Myanmar. It is played in urban as well as rural areas, on the streets, playgrounds, stadiums and even on mobile handset screens, creating joy, excitement, fitness and health. World cup inspires general public, regardless of age or gender, to initiate or to keep up playing football.

Perhaps there may be some sleep deprivation for spectators due to time difference between country of play in the west and

world cup fans in the east, which unfortunately may create negative impact on the health.

Roughly, optimum time required to sleep per 24 hours for an adult is seven hours, modern medicine describes. Sleep has a restorative function and is important for conservation of energy and growth.

Insomnia is a condition of inadequate quantity or quality of sleep. It may be a symptom of a depressive illness, an anxiety disorder or some other psychiatric condition. More commonly it arises at a time of increased life stress; some people then become preoccupied with lack of sleep and fear trying to get to sleep. This establishes a vicious circle which perpetuates the problem.

Disturbances of sleep are common, may include watching FIFA World Cup. Apart from insomnia, patients may complain of excessive day-time sleepiness, disturbed behaviour during night-time sleep, the parasomnias (sleep walking and talking, or night terrors) or disturbing subjective experiences during sleep and/or its onset (nightmares, hypnagogic hallucinations, and sleep paralysis)

Let me share some fundamentals regarding sleep. Normal sleep is controlled by the reticular activating system in the upper brain stem and diencephalon. During

overnight sleep, a series of repeated cycles of EEG patterns can be recorded. As drowsiness occurs, alpha rhythm disappears after 60-80 minutes superimposed rapid eye movements (REM) occurs. A few minutes of REM sleep is followed by another slow wave spell, and the cycle repeats several times throughout the night. The REM periods tend to become longer as the sleep period progresses. Dreaming takes place during REM sleep, which is accompanied by muscle relaxation, penile erection and loss of tendon reflexes. REM sleep seems to be the most important part of the sleep cycle for refreshing cognitive processes. Deprivation of REM sleep causes tiredness, irritability and impaired judgment. Overnight TV watching may be one example.

Excessive sleepiness in the day is most commonly due to inadequate night-time sleep related to fatigue and poor sleep hygiene, including the excessive television affinity. Somnolence due to disturbed night-time sleep particularly occurs after meals and during dull monotonous activities, such as long car journeys, particularly dangerous for Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay highway drivers!

Causes of sudden death are numerous. Cardiac arrest, heart attack, pulmonary embolism, cerebro-vascular accidents, road traffic and other accidents, electrocution, etc. are among them. In a recent *Xinhua* News Agency

news release "overnight session watching the FIFA World Cup may have caused the death of a 25-year-old man in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou, said a local hospital on Monday."

The man was found dead in his room early in the morning with his TV set still airing the football. Doctors in the Xiangcheng People's Hospital to which he was sent said they suspect his death was linked to staying up late watching the games, which are taking place in the middle of the night in China due to the time difference with tournament host country Brazil.

Although the doctors did not specify what exactly may have caused this fatality, exhaustion or a heart attack is possible factors. They warned football fans to be cautious about their health. Chinese have been burning the midnight oil to watch games broadcast from midnight to 6 a.m. Beijing Time, *Xinhua* News Agency says.

In Myanmar, World Cup fans watch three tournaments each night on TV screens. Audio-visual live telecasts from Brazil appear on local television sets at 10.30 pm to 12.20 am, from 1.30 am to 3.20 am and again from 4.30 am to 6.20 am at dawn, stretching all over the night.

It is a controversial issue whether World Cup matches create sleep deprivation consequences. People watching FIFA tournaments in Brazil and nearly countries do not suffer any sleep deprivation.

Professional Certification Schemes urgently needed

-By Dr Myint-Sein

There appeared yesterday a highlight news on a routine budget requirement of 580.859 million Kyats for Electro Technical Officer (ETO) Certificate of Competency courses in the Ministry of Transport under the guidelines of IMO Model Courses, quoted as reported in a local newspaper (Democracy Today, 21 June 2014).

The issue was among those discussed at the Tenth Upper House Session of Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw in the sixteenth day agendas on 20th June 2014.

Noticeably, the similar technology gaps could also be identified in other areas of public importance such as health-related industries which are manufacturing and/or distributing pharmaceuticals, medical devices, food and cosmetics, etc.

With the Foreign Investment Law came into force and looking forward to 2015 AEC, we are now already facing to a vast sum of opportunities and challenges in the above-mentioned technical areas of which safeguarding public health appears to be prioritized among the most important current issues.

Due to being highly regulated industrial practices, medicinal products, medical devices, cosmet-

ics and foodstuff are systematically manufactured and distributed according to the strict State regulatory control under the close supervision of licensed professionals. In the EU, US and other developed countries the healthcare professionals, legally designated as Qualified Persons (QPs) by 2001 EC Directives or as Authorized Persons (APs) by the 41-member-country worldwide group's PIC/S-GMP Guidelines since 1995, work together with the Certified Pharmaceutical Industrial Professionals (CPIPs) accredited by a US-based non-governmental International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE), forming as pillars of public health service providers for safe, efficacious and of good quality healthcare products.

This HR group of highly responsible Certified Professionals for the healthcare industrial operations is now urgently needed to be generated at any cost through an integrated system of academic qualification, practical training and professional experience and thus required a concerted and all-out effort of authorities responsible for education, public health, veterinary, agriculture, livestock, industry, science and technology among all the stakeholders, public and private alike, for our young intellectuals.

Dr. Myint-Sein is a France-educated pharma biotech consultant and teacher, retired general manager of a pharmaceutical factory and adviser (technology & regulatory) in the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Association.

LOCAL NEWS

Prevention of head injuries lectured in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 23 June—The Neurosurgical Department of Mandalay General Hospital and Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay) jointly conducted the prevention against head injury at the MMA (Mandalay)'s hall at the corner of 31st and 71st streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

Neurosurgeons Professor Dr Khin Maung Lwin and Professor Dr

Than Win Nyunt gave talks on neurology and replied to queries raised by the attendees.

According to records at the emergency unit of Mandalay General Hospital, most of the patients sustained injuries to their heads due to lack of wearing helmets in motorcycle accidents.

They are under treatment at the Neurosurgical Ward. Every two days a person dies in traffic



accidents in Mandalay, according to statistics.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Outstanding students honoured at Langkho District GAD

LANGKHO, 23 June—Deputy Commissioner U Soe Myint of Langkho District General Administration Department presented certificates of honour, medals and K50,000 each to Ma Yi Wai Mon (Langkho Township), Maung Zin Lin Htet and Nang Thet Hsu Hlaing (Mongnai Township) and Sai Zaw Naing Lin (Mauk-mai Township) for their excellent performance in 2013-14 academic year matriculation examination.

The prize presentation ceremony was held at the District GAD in Langkho of southern Shan State on

Friday.

Those outstanding students are offspring of staff from the district GAD. It was the first ceremony of

its kind in honouring students, said the deputy commissioner.

Hsaung Hnin Latt (IPRD)



MANDALAY, 23 June—Organized by the Myanmar Egress, the Empowering Democratic Change Agents Regional Capacity Building Course was conducted at the Zaygyo Hotel on 84th street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

The course was aimed

at encouraging political, social and economic reforms and was supported with financial assistance from the European Union.

According to the agenda, U Kyaw Lin Oo gave lectures on the review of the present reform process in Myanmar and the democratic aspiration for the

constitution.

The course is being conducted from 22 to 25 June, attended by 101 trainees. A similar course opened in Myitkyina of Kachin State in May. A plan is underway to conduct one more course in Monywa of Sagaing in July.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Traditional costume contest held in Toungoo

TOUNGGOO, 23 June—To mark the Myanmar Women's Day which fell on 3 June 2014, the Toungoo District Women's Affairs Organization held a traditional costume contest at the gymnasium in Toungoo of Bago Region on Sunday.

Thirty-six girls from six townships in Toungoo District, Toungoo University, Toungoo Education College and Toungoo Nurses Training School participated in the contest.

Of them, 14 pageants were selected in the contest. Ma Shwe Sin Nyein of Ward 17 in Toungoo was crowned in the contest, followed by Ma Thandar Tun of Toungoo University and Ma Su Nandi Phyto of Ward 21 in Toungoo together with five consolation prize

winners. Daw San Htar Myint, wife of the deputy commissioner of Toungoo Dis-

trict and officials of District WAO awarded the winners.

Kyaw Swa (Toungoo)



Schools, buildings sprayed in Myingyan Tsp to prevent dengue fever



MYINGYAN, 23 June—The spraying of classrooms and buildings was conducted at basic education pri-

mary schools and post-primary schools in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on Sunday morning, aimed at

preventing an outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever which is triggered by mosquito bites.

Led by the Union Solidarity and Development Party, officials sprayed the basic education primary schools in No 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 wards of Myingyan and Thiri Mingala monastic education school in Ward 4 in cooperation with the school heads and teachers of respective schools.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Theatrical drama professionals need to prevent alien culture

KYAUKPADAUNG, 23 June—A meeting of theatrical drama professionals was held at the hall of Township Thabin Association in Kyaukpadaung of Mandalay Region, on 20 June.

Secretary of the association (Central) Sithu Academy Daw Nwe Nwe San said that the meeting was to take wishes and attitudes of the theatrical drama profession-

als across the nation so as to amend the disciplines of the association. She noted that the theatrical drama professionals are to preserve Myanmar culture and traditional music and prevent alien culture from taking over. She stressed the need to establish theatrical drama troupes in line with the rules.

Responsible persons

of the association explained the establishment of the troupes, formation of the artists foundation and micro-credit cooperative society.

Executive committee member U Win Maung of the association (central) discussed the reports submitted by the township association.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Egypt court to rule in case of three Al Jazeera journalists

CAIRO, 23 June — An Egyptian court will rule on Monday in the case of three Al Jazeera journalists on trial for aiding members of a “terrorist organization” in a case that has raised questions over Egypt’s respect for freedoms of expression.

The hearing began on Monday morning.

Australian Peter Greste, Al Jazeera’s Kenya-based correspondent, and Canadian-Egyptian national Mohamed Fahmy, bureau chief of Al Jazeera English in Egypt were detained on 29 December at the Marriott hotel room where they were working.

Baher Mohamed, an Egyptian producer was detained at his home a day later. All three have been held at Egypt’s notorious Tora Prison for six months, in a case that has drawn criticism from Western governments and human rights groups.

The journalists are accused of publishing lies that harmed the national interest and supplying money, equipment and information to 16 Egyptians. The foreigners were also accused of using unlicensed broadcasting and communications equipment.



Al Jazeera journalists (L-R) Peter Greste, Mohammed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed stand behind bars at a court in Cairo on 1 June, 2014.—REUTERS

The 16 Egyptians are to face trial for belonging to a “terrorist organization”, an apparent reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been protesting against the government since the army toppled Islamist president Mohamed Mursi in July.

Fahmy’s brother Adel, who was at the hearing,

said this was “the perfect chance” for the new Egyptian authorities to show their respect for freedom of expression with an acquittal.

“It’s an opportunity for Egypt to prove to the international community that they encourage and welcome freedom of expression in this new era,”

he said. “There’s no evidence against them. After 12 hearings there is nothing to condemn them with.”

Al Jazeera’s Cairo offices have been closed since 3 July when security forces raided them hours after the army ousted Mursi following mass protests against his rule.

Western governments

have voiced concern over freedom of expression and Press freedom in Egypt since Mursi’s ouster and the crackdown has raised questions about Egypt’s democratic credentials three years after an uprising toppled Hosni Mubarak after 30 years in power and raised hopes of greater freedoms.—Reuters

At least 20 killed in tribal clashes in Kenya

NAIROBI, 23 June — At least 20 people were killed in inter-clan violence in northern Kenya on Sunday, the police said, further destabilising one of Kenya’s most volatile regions.

The clashes between the Degodia and Gare communities started in mid-May and has led to more than 40 deaths in Wajir county that borders Somalia, local media reported.

The fighting was the latest in a series of tit-for-tat killings that are ostensibly part of a longstanding grazing land and water dispute between the two tribes.

“I can confirm that 20 people have been killed in the fighting between militia from the Degodia and Gare. Nine people were also injured” Masoud Mwinyi, a police spokesman, told Reuters.

Wajir area is widely seen one of the least stable parts of Kenya, with bandits roaming vast tracts of arid land and Somali al Shabaab Islamist militants staging cross border raids.

Mwinyi said the police had launched an investigation to establish whether the latest Degodia and Gare clashes were politically motivated. Wajir county has few roads in rural areas and many of the details about the clashes were unclear.

Last year more than 100 people were killed in Kenya’s Tana River area when two rival communities fought each other for weeks over land and water resources. The police said the clashes were incited by local politicians.

Reuters

Reuters

Anti-government cleric returns to Pakistan, supporters clash with police

RAWALPINDI, (Pakistan), 23 June —A plane carrying a prominent Pakistani cleric was diverted from the capital Islamabad on Monday where his supporters clashed with police amid government concerns about the return of a man who describes himself as a revolutionary.

The aircraft carrying

Tahirul Qadri, who is usually based in Canada, circled above Benazir Bhutto International Airport for hours before it was diverted to Lahore, an airport official said.

A Reuters reporter outside the airport said police fired tear gas and fought running battles with 2,000

Qadri supporters, in chaotic scenes rarely seen in the usually quiet Pakistani capital.

Police had cordoned off major roads leading to the airport with cargo containers, and blocked mobile phone services to prevent protesters from communicating with each other.

At least eight people including a policeman were killed in Lahore last week when protesters clashed with police in a standoff over Qadri.

In remarks issued ahead of his return, Qadri said he was ready to lead a “revolution” against the government and praised

the army.

Qadri, who champions religious tolerance and once issued a fatwa against the Taleban, is a divisive figure in Pakistan where he made headlines last year when he led mass rallies against the previous government.

Equipped with Humvees, ISIL clashes with rivals in Syria

BEIRUT, 23 June — The Islamic State of Iraq in the Levant (ISIL) battled with rival opposition fighters in northern Syria on Sunday, using US-made military vehicles captured from neighbouring Iraq for the first time, a monitoring group said.

ISIL, a splinter group of al-Qaeda which wants to set up an Islamic caliphate encompassing both Iraq and Syria, has made rapid gains in Iraq in the past two weeks, taking control of the northern city of Mosul

and major border crossings with Syria.

Its advances in Iraq appear to have spurred on the Syrian branch, which is fighting both the army of President Bashar al-Assad and also rival opposition groups such as the Western-backed Free Syrian Army, a more moderate force.

The Sunni Muslim ISIL fighters seized strategic Syrian towns near the Iraqi border from rivals last week.

For the first time, ISIL

combatants have been using US-made Humvees — four-wheel drive military vehicles - in fighting in northern areas of Syria’s Aleppo Province, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The vehicles, which appear to have been seized during ISIL’s recent Iraqi offensive, were used to gain control of villages outside the town of Azaz, close to the Turkish border, it said.

The Observatory, an

anti-Assad group which tracks events on the ground through activists, said ISIL in Syria had been supplied with dozens of the vehicles from Iraq.

The United States has long supplied Humvees to the Iraqi army, which has been fighting an increasing violent insurgency since US forces withdrew at the end of 2011.

ISIL fighters in Iraq have often seized abandoned military equipment from Iraqi forces, including armored vehicles.—Reuters



A Kurdish security forces convoy travels during clashes with Sunni militant group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on the outskirts of Diyala on 14 June, 2014.—REUTERS

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Apple, Google, Samsung vie to bring health apps to wearables

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 June — For decades, medical technology firms have searched for ways to let diabetics check blood sugar easily, with scant success. Now, the world's largest mobile technology firms are getting in on the act.

Apple Inc, Samsung Electronics Co and Google Inc, searching for applications that could turn nascent wearable technology like smartwatches and bracelets from curiosities into must-have items, have all set their sites on monitoring blood sugar, several people familiar with the plans say. These firms are variously hiring medical scientists and engineers, asking US regulators about oversight and developing glucose-measuring features in future wearable devices, the sources said. The first round of technology may be limited, but eventually the companies could compete in a global blood-sugar tracking market



A model presents a Samsung Galaxy Gear smartwatch after its launch at the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin, on 4 Sept, 2013. — REUTERS

worth over \$12 billion by 2017, according to research firm GlobalData.

Diabetes afflicts 29 million Americans and costs the economy some \$245 billion in 2012, a 41 percent rise in five years. Many diabetics prick their fingers as much as 10 times

daily in order to check levels of a type of sugar called glucose. Non-invasive technology could take many forms. Electricity or ultrasound could pull glucose through the skin for measurement, for instance, or a light could be shined through the skin so that a

spectroscope could measure for indications of glucose." All the biggies want glucose on their phone," said John Smith, former chief scientific officer of Johnson & Johnson's LifeScan, which makes blood glucose monitoring supplies. "Get it right, and there's an enormous

payoff." Apple, Google and Samsung declined to comment, but Courtney Lias, director at the US Food and Drug Administration's chemistry and toxicology devices division, told Reuters a marriage between mobile devices and glucose-sensing is "made in heaven." In a December meeting with Apple executives, the FDA described how it may regulate a glucometer that measures blood sugar, according to an FDA summary of the discussion. Such a device could avoid regulation if used for nutrition, but if marketed to diabetics, it likely would be regulated as a medical device, according to the summary, first reported by the Apple Toolbox blog.

The tech companies are likely to start off focusing on non-medical applications, such as fitness and education. Even an educational device would need a breakthrough from current

technology, though, and some in the medical industry say the tech firms, new to the medical world, don't understand the core challenges. "There is a cemetery full of efforts" to measure glucose in a non-invasive way, said DexCom chief executive Terrance Gregg, whose firm is known for minimally invasive techniques. To succeed would require "several hundred million dollars or even a billion dollars," he said.

Silicon Valley is already opening its vast wallet. Medtronic Inc Senior Vice President of Medicine and Technology Stephen Oesterle recently said he now considers Google to be the medical device firm's next great rival, thanks to its funding for research and development, or R&D. "We spend \$1.5 billion a year on R&D at Medtronic — and it's mostly D," he told the audience at a recent conference. — Reuters

ANA chief denies public stock offering to buy 70 new aircraft



ANA Holdings Inc President Shinichiro Ito

TOKYO, 23 June — ANA Holdings Inc President Shinichiro Ito said on Monday his company is not planning a public stock offering to fund 70 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft, whose list prices amount to more than 1.7 trillion yen.

"We are not short of funds," Ito said at a general shareholders' meeting in Tokyo, shrugging off concerns about dilution after a possible stock offering.

The company will secure funds by utilizing its internal reserves and financial loans, he added.

Ito said ANA is planning to invest about 150 billion yen annually for

the 70 aircraft to be delivered by 2027, together with more than 60 other planes for which it has made orders.

In March, ANA Holdings said it would buy 20 Boeing 777-9Xs, large twin-aisle aircraft, as well as six Boeing 777-300 ERs and 14 Boeing 787-9s from Boeing Co of the United States and smaller single-aisle jets from the A320 family — seven A320neo and 23 A321neo from Europe's Airbus SAS, representing the biggest purchase by ANA both in terms of number of aircraft and cost.

Kyodo News

French gov't wins Alstom stake deal



PARIS, 23 June — The French government on Sunday announced the acquisition of 20 percent stake in Alstom, making it the major shareholder in the country's main engineering group and paving the way for a tie-up with American General Electric (GE).

"The agreement with

Bouygues gives the state the means to acquire with certainty 20 percent stake in Alstom. It preserves the heritage interest of the state while guaranteeing the rights of governance that sought to ensure the long-term interest of Alstom," Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg said. — Xinhua

Global infrastructure, capital spending to hit \$9 trillion by 2025

WASHINGTON, 23 June — Global spending on capital projects and infrastructure will shift from West to East, and jump to more than \$9 trillion a year by 2025, according to a forecast released on Monday by accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The growth will be driven by China, which overtook the United States as the top spender on capital and infrastructure in

2009, Pricewaterhouse said. Globally, this investment spending stood at just \$4 trillion in 2012.

"Emerging markets, especially China and other countries in Asia, without the burden of recovering from a financial crisis, will see much faster growth in infrastructure spending," Richard Abadie, global capital projects and infrastructure leader at Pricewaterhouse, said in a prepared statement.



Labourers work at a construction site of a railway station in Hefei, Anhui Province, on 28 March, 2014. REUTERS

About \$78 trillion is expected to be spent on capital projects and infrastructure globally between now and 2025, according to the study.

Availability of funding and government finances, demographic factors, urbanization and natural resource endowments will all drive future infrastructure spending, Pricewaterhouse said.

In the United States, capital projects and infra-

structure spending is expected to reach \$1 trillion annually by 2025, growing an average of 3.5 percent a year, according to the firm.

US infrastructure spending will face constraints from relatively tight government finances, but capital spending elsewhere will get a lift from the nation's shale oil boom and investment in telecommunications, it said. — Reuters

Okinawa marks 69th anniversary of end of WWII battle



Bereaved families of those who died during the 1945 Battle of Okinawa pray for the victims in front of the Cornerstone of Peace memorial in Itoman, Japan, on 23 June, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

NAHA, (Japan), 23 June — Okinawa marked the 69th anniversary on Monday of the end of the Battle of Okinawa, a World War II ground battle that claimed more than 200,000 lives, with about 4,600 people attending a memorial service for the war dead in the southwestern prefecture.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy were among the attendees at the event at the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, the site of the final stage of the battle.

The anniversary came amid local concern that the

island prefecture, where many civilians died after being caught in the battle between Japan and Allied forces, almost all from the United States, could again be drawn into war as the Abe government proceeds to remove the country's postwar self-imposed ban on coming to the aid of an ally under attack.

"On this day marking 69 years since the Battle of Okinawa, I lower my head silently, while closing my eyelids together with all the people of this country and etching deep in our hearts the fact that we owe our existence today to the sacrifices endured by Okina-

wa, and the blood and tears shed by its people," Abe said in his remarks.

On the enduring concentration in Okinawa of US military bases in Japan decades after the US occupation of the island prefecture ended, Abe indicated he would do his best to lessen the base-hosting burden on the people of Okinawa, saying that he will walk "close to the feelings" of the residents.

In his peace declaration, Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakaima said the burden on the people of his prefecture must be reduced and "various measures" taken with regard to the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in the crowded city of Ginowan, including its relocation outside of Okinawa.

The governor stressed the need to stop operating the air base within five years.

Okinawa is home to roughly 74 percent of the facilities exclusively used by the US military in Japan. US military bases were built on land expropriated from islanders in Okinawa during decades of postwar US occupation until 1972.

Opposition remains strong among residents to the Japan-US plan to relocate the Futenma base within Okinawa's main island despite the governor's decision late last year to allow landfill work to proceed for a replacement facility in the Henoko coastal area of Nago.

Antipathy toward US bases has grown strong among residents, mostly because of crime committed by US service members on Okinawa and crashes

involving US military aircraft.

In her prepared remarks, Kennedy said, "Built on the devastation of war by countless acts of courage, reconciliation, perseverance and friendship, our two countries work together to ensure peace and prosperity around the world." "Visiting this place, on this day, we renew our commitment to that cause," she added.

The US ambassador's presence at the ceremony

marks the second visit to Okinawa by Kennedy, who assumed the diplomatic post last November. She also visited in February.

Last year, her predecessor John Roos became the first US ambassador to Japan to attend the ceremony since Walter Mondale in 1995.

This year, the names of 54 war dead were newly inscribed on the Cornerstone of Peace in the park, bringing the total to 241,281, irrespective of nationality and military or civilian status.

The Battle of Okinawa started in the spring of 1945, when US forces landed on the main island of Okinawa and other islands in the area. Some 94,000 civilians, about a quarter of the residents in the prefecture, died in the three-month battle between Japanese and US troops.

Organized fighting by the Japanese military in the battle is said to have ended 23 June, 1945, with the suicide of commander Mitsuru Ushijima, although sporadic clashes continued for some time.

The total death toll exceeded 200,000, including Americans.—Kyodo News



US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy offers flowers at the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, Japan, on 23 June, 2014, to mark the anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.—KYODO NEWS

US missile defence system hits target in key test

WASHINGTON, 23 June — The US missile defence system managed by Boeing Co on Sunday hit a simulated enemy missile over the Pacific in the first successful intercept test of the programme since 2008, the US Defence Department said.

The successful intercept will help validate the troubled Boeing-run Ground-based Midcourse Defence (GMD) system which provides the sole US defence against long-range ballistic missiles, and the Raytheon Co kill vehicle that separates from the rocket and hits an incoming warhead.

"This is a very important step in our continuing efforts to improve and increase the reliability of our homeland ballistic missile defence system," said Missile Defence Agency (MDA) Director Vice Admiral James Syring.

He said the agency would continue its ongoing drive to ensure that the ground-based interceptors and overall homeland defence system were effective and dependable.



A flight test of the exercising elements of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defence (GMD) system is launched by the 30th Space Wing and the US Missile Defence Agency at the Vandenberg AFB, California on 22 June, 2014.—REUTERS

tive and dependable.

Reuters reported on Friday that the Pentagon is restructuring its \$3.48 billion contract with Boeing for management of the missile defence system to put more emphasis on maintenance and reliability.

Sunday's high-stakes test came after the system had failed to hit a dummy

missile in five of eight previous tests since the Bush administration rushed to deploy the system in 2004 to counter growing threats by North Korea.

Earlier this month, Syring said that another test failure would have forced the Pentagon to reassess its plans to add 14 more interceptors to the 30 already in

silos in the ground in Alaska and California.

During the test, a long-range ground-based interceptor launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, intercepted an intermediate-range ballistic missile target launched from the US Army's Reagan Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Pentagon said.

It said all components involved in the test appeared to have performed as designed. Programme officials will spend the next several months assessing the performance of the system using telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

The test marked the first successful intercept by Raytheon's Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle Capability Enhancement II, or EKV CE-II, which failed in both previous tests conducted in 2010.

The companies involved had no immediate comment.

Reuters

Britain to consider east-west high-speed rail link

LONDON, 23 June — Britain will consider building an east-west high-speed railway between cities in northern England to help boost economic growth outside London, finance minister George Osborne will say on Monday. Less than a year away from a national election and with his Conservatives trailing by six points in the polls, Osborne's call to build a "northern powerhouse" will be seen as an attempt to boost the party's appeal in the opposition Labour party's northern heartlands.

"The cities of the north are individually strong, but collectively not strong enough ... So the powerhouse of London

dominates more and more. And that's not healthy for our economy. It's not good for our country," Osborne will say at a speech in Manchester, according to extracts released in advance.

"We need an ambitious plan to make the cities and towns here in this northern belt radically more connected from east to west ... That means considering a new high-speed rail link."

Osborne will say the potential link between Manchester and Leeds could be based on the existing rail route, but with trains running faster and with new tunnels and infrastructure.

A connected network of northern cities will provide better jobs and opportunities, Osborne will say.

"In the modern knowledge economy, businesses and entrepreneurial types want to flock together more than ever. To form clusters where they can learn from and spark off each other."

Reuters



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (391)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (391) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (370N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (370N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2014 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY NO (428)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (428) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GIANG HAI 11 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIANG HAI 11 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FREE HERO VOY NO (CAM037)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FREE HERO VOY NO (CAM037) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CAM SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NASHICO-06 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NASHICO-06 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-3 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 5 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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

Extension of the Invitation for

Letter of Expression of Interest (LEOI)

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) is inviting interested foreign companies to submit Expression of Interest for Joint Venture project in Myanmar Onshore Drilling Operations, Joint Venture/Alliance in Seismic Acquisition Services and Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance services from 2.06.2014 to 7.06.2014 in Kyaymon, Myanmar Alin and the New Light of Myanmar newspapers, with the submission deadline by 30th June 2014.

Now, by the requests, MOGE hereby announces that the submission deadline for LEOI for all three projects is extended up to **31st July, 2014.**

Venezuela facing severe drought: environment minister

CARACAS, 23 June — Venezuela is suffering the seventh worst drought in the last 60 years, which has forced the government and people to take extreme clean water saving measures, Environment Minister Miguel Leonardo Rodriguez said on Sunday.

The minister urged the people to join the campaign for the rational use of clean water and to "carry out the water supply plans until the

rain season arrives and the dams will be filled again."

Rodriguez told a Press conference that the dams' water levels are low due to a lack of rain. He added that the November-April dry season has been prolonged, especially affecting the northwestern region, where the country's main dams are located.

Rodriguez said the most affected dams are Manuelote, Tres Rios and Tule

in Zulia state, on the border with Colombia. Their water levels have lowered more than 10 metres. The minister added that the situation might worsen if Venezuela is affected by El Nino, the prolonged warming in the Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures.

"El Nino has not affected yet, but it is possible that it might appear during the year's second half. This will mean more droughts

and we should be prepared if that happens," said Rodriguez.

If the weather conditions do not improve, restrictive measures for the use of water would emerge based on consulting the people and listening to their opinions, the minister said.

The government needs the support of the people and the media to extend and guarantee clean water service, he stressed.—Xinhua

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Batman solo film with Ben Affleck in the offing



Mr Affleck will return as Batman for a film due in 2019.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — Ben Affleck will get to wear his cape again amid buzz that there will be a standalone movie on Batman following Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice.

Mr Affleck will return as Batman for a film due in 2019, Ace Showbiz reported quoting *Latino Review*.

The film joins a series of rumored DC projects that include Shazam!, Sandman, Justice League, Wonder Woman and The Flash.

The only officially-announced project so far is Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice which is scheduled for 6 May, 2016.

Henry Cavill and Amy Adams are returning as Clark Kent and Lois Lane respectively. Gal Gadot is cast as Wonder Woman, and Jason Momoa is expected to play Aquaman. —PTI

Selena Gomez, Justin Bieber enjoy romantic date

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — Singers and on-again, off-again couple Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez enjoyed a romantic date here.

The duo, who first started dating in 2010, were spotted leaving an upmarket steak restaurant Mastro's on 20 June after rekindling their relationship again earlier this month, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Following their meal, they reportedly went to the nearby Westfield Century City mall, where they went to watch the new comedy

Think Like A Man.

Gomez was spotted wrapping her arm around Bieber's back, as they followed two bodyguards out of the theatre after the screening.

The newly-reunited couple are said to have been inseparable over the past few days, spending time in a recording studio together and at a bible study class on 18 June.

"They were very lovey dovey and cute. They came and left together with a few friends. They sat next to each

other and listened to the sermon and were smitten with each other," said a source.—PTI



Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber have been dating sporadically.—PTI

Harrison Ford healing after surgery on broken leg



NEW DELHI, 23 June — Harrison Ford is recuperating after surgery to heal a broken leg suffered during production on Star Wars: Episode VII.

The actor's publicist said on Thursday that Ford is doing well after surgery and will soon begin rehab. Ford was injured a week ago during filming of the much-anticipated sequel at Pinewood Studios outside of London.

The accident involved a spacecraft door falling on

the 71-year-old actor's leg. Mr Ford's Han Solo pilots the Millennium Falcon, which is returning in Episode VII. Disney has said that shooting is continuing while Ford recuperates. He is expected to be sidelined up to two months.

Mr Ford is one of several original Star Wars stars returning to the JJ Abrams-directed sequel. He is joined by fellow alumni Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Peter Mayhew.

PTI

Ella Henderson tops British singles chart for second week



Ella Henderson

LONDON, 23 June — Former TV talent show contestant Ella Henderson retained the top spot in the British singles chart on Sunday with her debut track "Ghost", the Official Charts Company said.

The 18-year-old pipped Australian boyband 5 Seconds Of Summer's "Don't Stop" by nearly 3,000 copies to stay at number one for a second week running, while Ed Sheeran slid one spot to number three with his former chart topper "Sing".

In the album chart, Lana Del Rey went straight in at number one with her third album, "Ultraviolet", outselling second placed "The Hunting Party" by Linkin Park by almost two copies to one, the Official Charts Company said.

Sam Smith held on to the number three spot with his album "In The Lonely Hour", while Coldplay's "Ghost Stories" slid two places to number four. Last week's number one album, Kasabian's "48:13", dropped to fifth place.—Reuters

'Man' beats '22 Jump Street,' 'Dragon' to win weekend box office

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 23 June — "Think Like A Man Too", a sequel to the 2012 comedy based on Steve Harvey's book "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man", collected \$30 million in ticket sales to lead the weekend box office, outdistancing last weekend's top film, "22 Jump Street".

In a rare summer week with no big-budget movie openings,

"22 Jump Street", starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum, took the No 2 spot with \$29 million at US and Canadian theaters for the three days ending on Sunday.

Reuters



Actresses (L-R) La La Anthony, Gabrielle Union, and Regina Hall pose during a photocall for the film 'Think Like A Man Too' in Beverly Hills, California on 7 June, 2014. —REUTERS

GENERAL

Condolences

Deep and heartfull condolence the Demise of Mananeeya Shri Ram Prakash Dhir, Patron of Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (H.Q) on 20th June 2014 at Yangon General Hospital. May almighty bless the departed soul.

**Brindaban Bajoria & Family
Yangon**

Michelle Wie wins US Women's Open by two stroke

CARY, (North Carolina), 23 June — Michelle Wie finally lived up to the burden of expectation when she won her first major title with a clutch two-stroke victory at the US Women's Open in Pinehurst, North Carolina, on Sunday.

More than a decade after becoming famous when she almost made the cut against the men in a PGA Tour event, the 24-year-old from Hawaii was emotionally moved after winning the biggest prize in women's golf. "I'm just unbelievably happy," she told reporters after shooting even-par 70 to hold off fellow American Stacy Lewis (66) at Pinehurst No 2.

"I'm so honoured to have my name on the trophy, just so grateful for everything," Wie seemed poised to win in style until she double-bogeyed the 16th hole after almost losing her ball in a thick clump of wire grass after a poor second shot. It took almost two minutes to locate the ball and she subsequently chose to take a penalty stroke, eventually sinking a five-foot putt to avoid dropping three shots. "I definitely gave myself a heart attack when I couldn't find that ball," she said. "I was stressing out for sure. I also left myself a hefty double bogey putt. All you can do at that point is laugh. I joked with my caddie we

really like to make things difficult for ourselves."

Wie has a reputation for not being a strong closer and, whether that is warranted or not, the pressure was immense when she stepped to the par-three 17th tee with a tenuous one-shot lead. But she responded magnificently, sinking an 18-foot birdie that she described as 'the best putt of my life'.

After paring the last to secure victory at two-under 278, she lifted her right hand to her mouth as if she could not believe what she had achieved, before breaking out in a huge smile. Wie, who previously had twice led into the final round at the Women's Open, collected \$720,000, small change for a woman who has made millions in endorsements.

It has been a long and winding journey for someone who was barely a teenager when she saddled herself with huge expectations by saying she thought she belonged on the PGA Tour (as well as the LPGA circuit) and wanted to play the Masters. She earned fame in 2004 when she came within one stroke of making the cut at the Sony Open in Hawaii on the PGA Tour, but flopped in subsequent appearances in men's tournaments and has since stuck with women's events.—Reuters



Michelle Wie reads a birdie putt on the sixth hole during the final round of the US Women's Open at the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club-#2 Course on 22 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Returning hero Murray ready for business as usual



Andy Murray of Britain returns the ball during a training session ahead of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on 22 June, 2014.

REUTERS

LONDON, 23 June — Wimbledon welcomes back a British men's singles champion for the first time in 78 years on Monday but Andy Murray says he will allow himself only a brief moment to milk the adulation before getting down to business.

Not since Fred Perry's return as defending champion in 1936, when he went on to win retain the title in his last appearance at the tournament, has the All England Club been able to celebrate the achievements of a home favourite on the opening day of the championships.

After his momentous defeat of Serbia's Novak Djokovic on the final Sunday last July, Murray has the honour of opening proceedings on Centre Court against Belgium David Goffin in what he hopes will be the first step to retaining his title.

"I think tomorrow, I need to enjoy that moment

when I walk back on the court," the world number five, told reporters.

"But as soon as I start playing the match it's about trying to win. I enjoy winning. That's it. I mean I don't really want to go out on the court tomorrow and enjoy playing and then lose.

"It's time when I get on the court to start concentrating, not think about last year. Concentrate on this year's tournament, and that's it." The 27-year-old Scot has made Centre Court his home in recent years. Since losing to Roger Federer in the 2012 men's singles final he has been unbeatable on the hallowed turf, a run that has included an Olympic gold and a Wimbledon title.

Not since 2008 has Murray failed to reach the semi-finals at his home slam, with the vast majority of those victories coming on Centre Court.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(24-6-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
- * Physical Exercises
- 6:30 am**
- * The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
- 6:40 am**
- * Documentary
- 7:00 am**
- * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
- * People Talks
- 8:00 am**
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am**
- * India Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
- * News/ International News
- 10:15 am**
- * TV Drama Series
- 11:15 am**
- * Songs of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 12:00 pm**
- * News/International News/ Weather Report
- 12:25 pm**
- * Myanmar Video
- 2:40 pm**
- * Traditional Boxing
- 3:00 pm**
- * News
- 3:30 pm**
- * FIFA World Cup (2014) (Croatia & Mexico)
- 6:00 pm**
- * News/ Weather Report
- 6:50 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**
- * News
- 8:00 pm**
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
- * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm**
- * News
- 9:30 pm**
- * Documentary
- * Fashion Show

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-6-14 07:00am~ 25-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Travel to The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)
- * World News
- * Short Cuts "Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary"
- * Local News
- * Jeyyanandi
- * World News
- * A Highland with Peace and Charm
- * Local News
- * Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * 19 Hours
- * World News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Noni)
- * Local News
- * Mandalay Noodle Salad
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Gold Leaf
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies
- Review "Satan Dancer"

Who'll make it? World Cup scenarios before group finales

(From page 16)

GROUP G

Qualified: No-one
Eliminated: No-one

Still at stake: With Germany and the United States on four points, and Ghana and Portugal on one, there are a lot of possibilities in Group G. Germany and the United States play each other on Thursday, with a draw ensuring passage for both and top spot for Germany on goal difference. A win for either would open the door for Ghana and Portugal to slip into second place.

If Germany win, Portugal would need to beat Ghana and hope they can overturn a goal difference deficit of five with the United States. If the United States win, Portugal would have to win and close a deficit of eight goals with Germany to pip them.

Ghana have a better goal difference than Portugal, -1 to -4, so if they beat Portugal and the United States lose then Ghana would go through provided they surpassed the goal difference deficit of two between them and the United States. If Ghana won 1-0 and the United States lost 1-0, however, both would be on four points each with the same goal difference. In that case, the United States would qualify because they beat Ghana in their group game earlier.

GROUP H:

Qualified: Belgium
Eliminated: No-one

Still at stake: With group favourites Belgium already qualified on a maximum six points from two games, Algeria are in pole position for the second berth

after securing three points from a win against South Korea. A win for Algeria against Russia on Thursday would ensure that they go through to the last sixteen. If they draw, however, Russia are eliminated but South Korea could sneak second place if they win heavily against Belgium.

If Algeria win and Belgium lose, Algeria will top the group on goal difference.

If both Russia and South Korea win, they would move to four points each from one now, and second place will be decided on goal difference between the two of them.

Russia have a one goal advantage right now. If Russia beat Algeria and South Korea draw or lose against Belgium, Russia would take second spot on four points. If South Korea are to finish sec-

ond, they would need to beat Belgium by a healthy margin and, at the same time, hope Algeria and Russia draw, or Russia beat Algeria but by a narrow margin.

THE RULES

According to FIFA regulations, the ranking of teams in each group is based, in this order, on:

- Points in all group matches, with three points awarded for a win, one point for a draw and none for a loss.
- Goal difference in all group matches.
- Goals scored in all group matches.
- Points in matches between tied teams.
- Goal difference in matches between tied teams.
- Goals scored in matches between tied teams.
- Drawing of lots.

Reuters

Who'll make it?

World Cup scenarios before group finales



BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 23 June — With the final round of games about to start in the World Cup groups, there is plenty to play for and a plethora of permutations for many of the 32 teams competing for glory in Brazil.

Here are the main possibilities based on the latest standings (here).

GROUP A

Qualified: No-one
Eliminated: Cameroon

Still at stake: Brazil and Mexico are joint top of the group on four points. They will both qualify if they beat Cameroon and Croatia respectively on Monday.

Brazil are currently first with a superior goal difference but only one more than Mexico, so both Latin American sides will be aspiring to top spot which would reward them with a game against the runners up of Group B on 28 June.

If Brazil draw or lose to Cameroon, then Croatia, currently on three points, could still win the group if they beat Mexico. A Croatia-Mexico draw, and Brazil defeat, would see the hosts eliminated on goal difference to Croatia.

GROUP B

Qualified: Netherlands, Chile
Eliminated: Australia, Spain

Still at stake: Having secured maximum points in their first two games, the Netherlands and Chile play each other on Monday looking for a victory they hope will enable them to avoid facing Brazil in the

next round assuming the hosts top Group A.

A draw would be enough to give the high-scoring Dutch top spot due to a goal difference of +5 versus Chile's +4.

Australia and Spain, also meeting on Monday, are battling for pride alone. The 2010 champions need to win in order to avoid the ignominy of bottom spot

qualify for the next round with a win against Uruguay in their game on Tuesday or a draw thanks to a superior goal difference. Uruguay must win to join Costa Rica, who are guaranteed passage with two wins out of two. Should Costa Rica lose to England in their match on Tuesday, and Italy or Uruguay win, the top two teams would finish on

GROUP E

Qualified: No-one
Eliminated: No-one

Still at stake: With maximum six points and an enviable goal difference of +6, France look assured of qualification from Group E but do not yet have mathematical certainty.

It would take a heavy Ecuador defeat of 'Les Bleus' and a big win from

would be the deciding factor. Honduras would have to hope the games produce a five-goal swing between themselves and Ecuador, who like the Swiss are currently on three points.

The Swiss will be hoping that France beat Ecuador, which would mean a draw or win against Honduras would promote them to second in the group.

GROUP F

Qualified: Argentina
Eliminated: Bosnia

Still at stake: Nigeria and Iran are battling for the second qualifying berth in Group F, with Nigeria on four points and Iran one.

To have any chance, Iran have to beat Bosnia, who are already out on zero points, and hope that Argentina, top on six points, defeat Nigeria.

A 1-0 win for Iran and 1-0 defeat for Nigeria would leave them level on both points and goal difference. In that rare scenario, the rules state the teams must be separated by goals scored in all matches, then points between them and goals between them. But given Iran and Nigeria would have both scored one goal each in the group, and they drew 0-0 against each other, that would not separate them so there would have to be a drawing of lots.

(See page 15)



Men ride on a conveyor at the arrival hall of the airport in Brasilia on 22 June, 2014.—REUTERS

due to Australia's superior goal difference.

GROUP C

Qualified: Colombia
Eliminated: No-one

Still at stake: Colombia are top of Group C with six points from two wins, but need at least a draw against Japan on Tuesday to ensure top spot and the reward of a knockout game against the runners up of Group D.

The Ivory Coast, on three points, would qualify with a win over Greece in their remaining game on the same day.

Greece, who have one point from two games could reach the last 16 if they beat Ivory Coast to reach four points and Japan — also currently on one point — draw or lose to Colombia.

If Japan and Greece both win, then the second position would depend on goal difference, with Greece needing to catch a two-goal deficit to Japan. If they ended level on goal difference, it would go down to goals scored over the three group games.

GROUP D

Qualified: Costa Rica
Eliminated: England

Still at stake: Italy will

six points and the group winner would be decided on goal difference. Costa Rica currently have a +3 goal difference to Italy's 0.

England, bottom on zero points, need a win to have any chance of catching Uruguay or Italy and avoiding the humiliation of last spot. But even that would be impossible if Uruguay and Italy draw.

Switzerland over Honduras on Wednesday to cause that unlikely scenario. Should France win or draw against Ecuador, they would top the group and face the runners up of Group F in the knockout stage.

Though bottom on zero points, Honduras could still qualify if they beat Switzerland and Ecuador lose, though goal difference

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing									
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	
Group A									
1) Brazil	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4	
2) Mexico	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	
3) Croatia	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3	
4) Cameroon	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0	
Group B									
1) Netherlands	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6	
2) Chile	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6	
3) Australia	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0	
4) Spain	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0	
Group C									
1) Colombia	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6	
2) Côte d'Ivoire	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3	
3) Japan	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	
4) Greece	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1	
Group D									
1) Costa Rica	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6	
2) Italy	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3	
3) Uruguay	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3	
4) England	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0	
Group E									
1) France	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6	
2) Switzerland	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3	
3) Ecuador	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3	
4) Honduras	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0	
Group F									
1) Argentina	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6	
2) Nigeria	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	
3) Iran	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	
4) Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0	
Group G									
1) Germany	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4	
2) USA	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4	
3) Ghana	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	
4) Portugal	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1	
Group H									
1) Belgium	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6	
2) Algeria	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3	
3) Russia	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	
4) Korea Republic	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1	

World Cup 2014 Brazil					
 FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil		22:30 MST (24.6.2014)			Uruguay
	Italy				
		22:30 MST (24.6.2014)			England
	Costa Rica				
	02:30 MST (25.6.2014)			Colombia	
Japan					
	02:30 MST (25.6.2014)			Côte d'Ivoire	
Greece					
World Cup 2014 Results					
Match 30	Belgium	1-0		Russia	
Match 31	Korea Republic	2-4		Algeria	
Match 32	USA	2-2		Portugal	