

Treasures from Myanmar ancient cities displayed in New York show high culture of the Pyu era

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 24 June —Coinciding with the designation of the ancient city states of the Pyu as a UNESCO world heritage site, some statues excavated from Pyu are now for the first time being exhibited at “Lost Kingdoms: Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia, 5th-8th Century” at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

“When we talk about Pyu, people know just the three popular Pyu city states of Sri Ksetra, Beikthano and Hanlin and the ruins there,” says U Tin Win, an artist and an expert for Pyu-era artifacts, but “in fact, ancient Pyu cities are located across the country.”

The ornaments and utensils made of stone, bronze, iron, gold and earth excavated from the ancient cities show that the Pyu people possessed high professional artistic skills that are now extinct.

“The artifacts can tell their high-level culture,” he said. “Just a bead of Pyu can tell us their high culture, high skills for arts and engineering.”

Different designs of cornelian, rock crystal, agate and chalcedony beads with white lines were used as ornaments and the designs are related to Buddhism and its customs.

“It is surprising to see that the colour of the beads are still bright even though



Bronze Buddha statue from the Pyu era on display at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.—PHOTO: SUPPLIED

the beads had been buried over 1,000 years. It shows that the technique they used to paint stone beads was very high,” U Tin Win said.

It is found that designs on earthen pots with dancers, soldiers, birds and floral designs are more

artistic than that of earthen utensils today.

Besides, beads, stone seals, which flourished in Egypt and the Roman Empire, were also used in the Pyu era and after the Pyu era, the culture of stone seals and coins have been extinct, according to

the artifacts discovered in the ancient cities.

Some experts have assumed that there must be relations between Pyu and Egypt, Europe and India as they found that some Roman head figures and faces are inscribed on Pyu-era stone seals.

The stone seals made of cornelian, agate and quartz inscribed with designs of animals, including cow, pig, lion, elephant and cock and human figures were unearthed at the sites of Pyu cities across the country.

The three Pyu-era stone seals with cow, bee and scorpion figures can be seen at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and two bronze Buddha statues of the Pyu-era at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Stone seals from the Pyu-era have so far not been exhibited in Myanmar.



A bronze jar which is over six inches in height with Roman head shows that there might have been relations between the Pyu and the Roman empire over 1,000 years ago.—PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Beads unearthed from the Pyu city states show high-level technique and skills for creating arts over 1,000 years ago in Myanmar.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Earthquake News

(Issued at 15:00 hours M.S.T on 24-6-2014)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.9 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 3 miles south-southeast of Bawlake, about 180 miles north east of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 14 hrs 12 min 04 sec M.S.T on 24th June 2014.—MNA

Myanmar has longest maternity leave in Southeast Asia: Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Myanmar is a country where women working for the government are entitled to a six-month maternity leave, the longest in Southeast Asia, with additional two weeks for those giving birth to twins as the government increased the previous period of three months,

a high-ranking official said in his respond to a query raised at a session of the Lower House on Tuesday here, sources said.

Husbands are also entitled to a two-week paid leave to help look after newborns if they are government employees, with the official noting that

paternal leave is granted only in two countries in Southeast Asia—Myanmar and Singapore.

Meanwhile, in the Upper House, the question was raised on how to train high school teachers to become senior assistant teachers in the basic education sector.

Regarding the query,

the deputy minister for Education explained that around 4,500 high school teachers annually graduate, adding that the number of teachers appointed is proportional to the total number of students. The ratio of teachers to students currently stands at 1:23, he noted.

MNA



18th day session of the 10th Upper House in progress.—MNA

Ho Chi Minh City Trade and Services Expo 2014 will be held at Tatmadaw Hall

YANGON, 24 June—Ho Chi Minh City Trade and Services Expo 2014 including a forum on Vietnam-Myanmar Business Matching will be held at Tatmadaw Hall here from 26 to 30 June and organized by Investment and Trade Promotion Centre of Ho Chi Minh City (ITPC) Vietnam.

Activities of ITPC include providing information on market, sectors and products of exporters, importers and investors.

Training courses for businessmen on corporate management will be conducted, and advice given to entrepreneurs on investment promotion, among other activities.

Thant Zin Win



South Dagon Township municipal committee trying to prevent floods in residential areas by using machinery to clear already affected places on 23 June. Heavy rains in Yangon have caused floods, and debris blocked the flow of water mostly in suburban areas.

MYINT THAN (OXYGEN)



Agricultural Department in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw, organised the demonstration of modern paddy plantation methods on 22 June. A total of 60,000 acres is expected to be put under paddy, with high yield paddy seeds distributed to farmers.

KO PAUK (022)



H.E. Mr Hany Riad Moawad, Ambassador at the Egyptian Embassy in Myanmar, welcomes Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism on 20 June, at the ceremony to mark the Egyptian National Day on 23 July.—MNA

Capital market likely to be introduced in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—The Myanmar Ministry of Finance has joined the Financial Services Agency (FSA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in a bid to shape a capital market in the country.

Deputy Minister Dr

Maung Maung Thein told a meeting at his office here on Tuesday that the development of capital markets depends on the Yangon stock exchange, which is expected to come into practice in 2015.

Dr Maung Maung Thein stressed that stock

markets can create capital needed to start a business, thereby contributing to economic growth.

He continued to say that the Securities Exchange Law was passed last year and plans are under way to enact related rules and regulations.

Mr Tatsushi Terada, Deputy Secretary-General Financial Services Agency, pledged Japan will share its experience on stock exchange with Myanmar so that the country can boost its economy through capital markets.

MNA



NATIONAL

Myanmar launches 51st Gems Emporium

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views a jade displayed at the gems emporium.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—The 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium was held here on Monday, displaying 7,454 lots of jades, 436 lots of gems and 342 lots of pearls.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham viewed the emporium which will be held till 6 July at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in the capital.

On the first day of event, Thet Naing Aung Company handed over a raw ruby of 4.63 kilogram in weight which was extracted by a joint-venture in which the government is involved.

During the forum, private gems companies will sell 7,000 lots of jades from 28 June to 3 July through open tender system, and

300 lots of jades from 4 to 6 July through a competitive system.

Among them, a total of 69 jade lots will be sold at the floor prices from one million euro to 60 million euro.

Moreover, 271 lots of gems will be sold on 27 June through open tender system, and that of 165 through competitive sys-

tem with the floor prices ranges from 40 thousand euro to one million euro.

The 204 lots of state-owned pearls and that of 138 lots from private sector will be sold for three days from 25 June through open tender system and competitive system.

Myanmar has held 87 gems emporiums since 1964.—MNA

A Delegation from the Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC) Thailand, paid a Study Visit to Union Civil Service Board



A Thai delegation with Myanmar officials gather for a group photo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Under the program for strengthening and leveraging ASEAN Civil Service Connecting amongst ASEAN Member States, a delegation led by Mr. Phanu Sungkhavon, Director of the Information and Communi-

cation Technology Center and Acting Senior Advisor from Thailand, paid a study visit to the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) this morning and afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed by U Wai Myint, Director General of the

Civil Service Selection and Training Department, U Kyaw Soe, Acting Director General of Civil Service Affairs Department and responsible officials from the Union Civil Service Board.

During the meeting, the UCSB officials openly

discussed about Myanmar Government Executive Officials Management Training Course and Senior-level Officials Management Training Course. Furthermore, the UCSB and OCSC officials frankly exchanged views on matters concerned with accelerating actions for progress through enhancing inclusive coordination between Myanmar and Thailand Civil Service Organizations and strengthening ASEAN Civil Service Community that will benefit all ASEAN Member States in the field of human resource management and human resource development, later posed for documentary photos.

The delegation comprises (11) Senior and Middle level Officials from OCSC and Chulalongkorn University of Thailand.

MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Slovenian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia, which falls on 25 June 2014.

Similarly, the President has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Alenka Bratusek, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia.—MNA

FM sends felicitations to Slovenia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Karl Viktor Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia, which falls on 25 June 2014.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Notification (No.22/2014)

12 Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME

(24 June, 2014)

Number of Myanmar Commission of Region Hluttaw representative of Armed Forces changed

The Union Election Commission has changed the number of the Myanmar Commission under point 4 of the Notification (No. 20/2014) dated on 20th June, 2014 with the title of 'Six region/state Hluttaw representatives of Armed forces substituted'.

(4) From MC 35132 To MC 27769
Captain Khin Maung Win Captain Khin Maung Win

By Order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission



RAILWAY FAMILIES' GENEROSITY FOR HOME FOR THE AGED: Family members of Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation donated K 420,000 to Ywahtaung Home for the aged on 21 June. Cash for the home were handed over by Minister of Rail Transportation and his wife to the Head of Diesel Engine Shed. The home was established on 9 April 1996 with seven grandpas and seven grandmas. Currently it accommodates 50 aged people — 19 grandpas and 31 grandmas.—NLM

Talks on crime reduction, traffic rules given

MYINGYAN, 24 June—Officials of the Myanmar Police Force, Road Administration Department, Law Office in Myingyan gave talks on crime, traffic rules, and the dangers of narcotic drugs to school children in Basic Education High School No.1 on Monday. The officials talked about crimes and



penalties, how to follow traffic rules, prevention of human trafficking, consequences.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Trees for generations to come



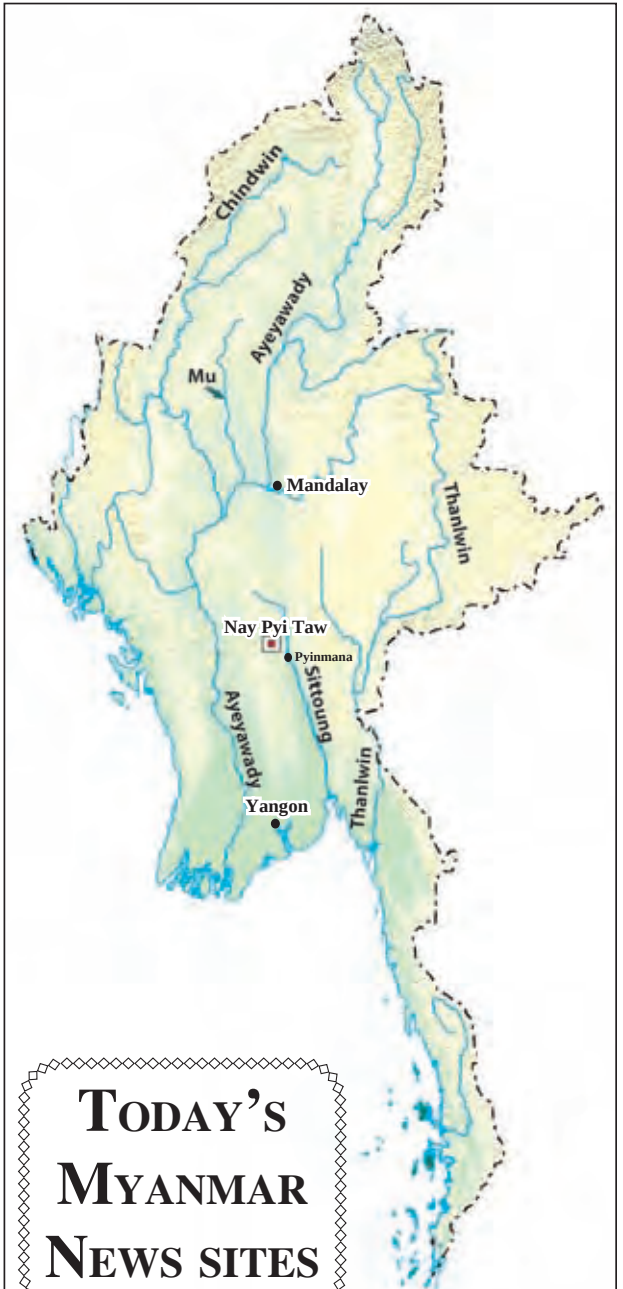
PYINMANA, 24 June—With the motto “Grow, Nurture and Preserve”, members of Nay Pyi Taw Women’s Affairs Committee planted trees together with school children in the compound of No.3 Basic Education High School in

Dekkina District on Tuesday. The tree planting ceremony was held to mark Myanmar Women’s Day. Various species of 200 saplings were planted by women and school children.

Myo Zeyar

Nay Pyi Taw honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay honoured students of Pobathiri Township who passed the matriculation examination in the 2013-2014 academic year with flying colours on Monday. Altogether 45 outstanding students were honoured at the ceremony.—Shwe Kokko



Nature Foundation’s get-together on 29 June in Yangon

YANGON, 24 June—The Nature Foundation of Universities Hiking & Mountaineering Association will hold its 19th anniversary get-together at Royal Rose Garden in Shwegondaing in Yangon on 29 June.

The mountaineers will recount their experiences of scaling mountains in-

cluding a mountain in China, Phangran Razi snow-capped mountain in Kachin State and Kennedy peak in Chin State. The foundation will honour its members who have engaged in philanthropic tasks, and explain future plans. All old and new members are invited to join the meeting.—NIM

Myanmar, Vietnam to discuss trade promotion

YANGON, 24 June—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Vietnam Investment and Trade Promotion Centre of Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee will jointly organize an Investment Trade and Tourism

Promotion Conference at UMFCI Officer Tower in Yangon on 26 June.

Myanmar will explain its economic development to the Vietnamese delegation and both sides will discuss matters on mutual cooperation and investment.

NIM

MAGNIFICENT BOAT OF DAKYUN VILLAGE: Once famous for its unrivalled quality, a boat named Sein Mann Nyunt now rests under a monastery in Dakyun village in Myingyan Township, in central Myanmar. The boat was built in 1951 with 76.5 feet in length and was rowed with 37 oars, said helmsman U Tun San. Now, it just serves as a decorated float in the Ayeyawady River during ceremonies. —U ZAW MIN NAING (MYINGYAN)



REGIONAL

Opponents of Thai military regime launch campaign for democracy

BANGKOK, 24 June — Opponents of Thailand's junta launched a campaign on Tuesday to restore democracy and "oppose the military dictatorship and its aristocratic network", the first sign of organized resistance to the army since it seized power last month.

Jarupong Ruangsuan, chairman of the Puea Thai Party that led the government ousted by the military, said in an open letter to fellow Thais that the military council had no legitimacy.

He cast doubt on its promise to transfer power back to civilian authorities at some point.

The military's aim, he said, was to create "a new puppet structure whose sole purpose will be to re-entrench anti-democratic elements into Thailand's body politic and to sabotage the development of Thai democracy".

"Any such structure will need to be removed before a more democratic and civilised society can be built," he added.

His movement, the letter said, sought "to oppose the military dictatorship



Soldiers patrol around the Royal Thai Army Headquarters as members of the Radio and Satellite Broadcasters gather in Bangkok on 18 June, 2014. — REUTERS

and its aristocratic network and establish the people's complete and unchallenged sovereignty". The military staged a bloodless coup after months of street protests had undermined the government of Yingluck Shinawatra.

The protesters wanted to kick out Yingluck and change the electoral system to stop her influential brother, ex-premier Thak-

sin Shinawatra, from ever controlling the government again.

Yingluck was removed by the Constitutional Court for abuse of power on 7 May, leaving a rump cabinet that was then ousted in the coup on 22 May.

Thailand has been in crisis for almost a decade because of a power struggle between Thaksin and the royalist establishment

backed by the army and the middle class in Bangkok.

Thaksin, a billionaire former telecoms tycoon, is adored by the poor in the rural north and northeast, because of policies such as cheap healthcare and village development that raised their living standards when he was in office from 2001.

He was toppled in a coup in 2006 and has cho-

sen to live in exile since 2008 rather than serve jail time for an abuse of power conviction, but parties led by or loyal to him have won every election since 2001.

The junta moved quickly to neutralize resistance inside Thailand after its coup in May, briefly detaining hundreds of politicians and members of the pro-Thaksin "red shirt" movement and warning them not to work against the military government.

It was unclear how Jarupong's movement, the Organization of Free Thais for Human Rights and Democracy, would oppose the junta and his letter did not reveal where it was based.

Jakrapob Penkair, a former spokesman for Thaksin, told *Reuters* from neighbouring Cambodia on 5 June that a movement was being formed outside Thailand to lead a campaign of civil disobedience. Cambodia's long-serving prime minister, Hun Sen, is close to Thaksin, but his government has said it will not allow a Thai resistance movement to base itself in the country. — *Reuters*

Second nominee for South Korea prime minister withdraws

SEOUL, 24 June — The second nominee for South Korea's prime minister withdrew his name on Tuesday over controversial comments he made about the country's troubled past with Japan in the latest political setback for President Park Geun-hye.

The decision by Moon Chang-keuk, a former journalist, to pull out follows the withdrawal of a former Supreme Court justice last month over questions about the ethics of earning a large income after leaving public service.

"I wanted to help President Park Geun-hye. I have decided that I would be helping President Park by withdrawing at this time," Moon told a news conference. Moon, a devout Christian, had come under criticism after comments he made at a church gathering that it had been God's will for Korea to suffer under Japan's colonial rule in the early 20th century.

Reuters

India to open civilian nuclear programme to greater scrutiny

NEW DELHI, 24 June — India said on Monday it was ratifying an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to expand oversight of its civilian nuclear programme, in a move aimed at unblocking a major nuclear partnership with the United States.

The ratification sends a strong signal that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, elected by a landslide last month, wants to bolster strategic and trade ties with the United States when he meets President Barack Obama in Washington in September.

"I can confirm that we are ratifying the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement," said Syed Akbaruddin, spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs.

The move signals India's commitment "to the responsible use of nuclear power", Akbaruddin added, confirming earlier domestic reports. No comment was available from the IAEA. Yet critics say the pact fails to address concerns that India could



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) speaks with the media as he arrives to attend his first Parliament session in New Delhi on 4 June, 2014. — REUTERS

as a result get its foot in the door of a club of countries that trade in nuclear materials, without first signing a treaty that seeks to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

There would be "no gain for non-proliferation" said Tariq Rauf, a former

senior IAEA official now at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

India, which first tested a nuclear weapon in 1974, is not a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. That means its military nuclear programme is not

subject to inspections by the IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog.

Both India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons in 1998, setting off an arms race between neighbours that have fought three wars since independence. That

in turn has raised tensions with Asian superpower China, Pakistan's patron.

In a report last week, a defence research group said one Indian enrichment facility was undergoing an expansion and could be capable of producing a large

surplus of weapons-grade uranium from mid-2015.

The plant would be able to produce an estimated 160 kg of weapons grade uranium a year — enough for five atom bombs — in excess of the needs of India's planned fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, IHS Jane's said.

Indian officials have shown displeasure over the report, with a newspaper quoting one saying it was "mischievously" timed to influence a meeting this week of the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) in the Argentinian capital Buenos Aires.

Following the US-India nuclear deal, the IAEA in 2009 approved the Additional Protocol, intended to clear the way for the NSG to grant India a waiver to trade with other countries in the civilian nuclear field.

Ratification is a key step towards separating India's civilian and military nuclear operations, and could help unlock tens of billions of dollars in US-led investment in new nuclear generation capacity.

Reuters

Aquino backs Abe's bid to exercise collective self-defence

TOKYO, 24 June — Philippine President Benigno Aquino on Tuesday backed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's initiative in changing the government's interpretation of the Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence, or defending an ally under armed attack.

"We believe that nations of goodwill can only benefit if the Japanese government is empowered to assist others, and is allowed...to come to the aide of those in need, especially in the area of collective self-defence," Aquino told a joint news conference with Abe after a summit in Tokyo where they agreed to cooperate in advancing the rule of law in ensuring regional security.

Aquino made the comment as the two countries have promoted security tie-ups in the face of Beijing's muscle-flexing to press its territorial claims in the East and South China seas.

Aquino said Manila does "not view with alarm any proposal to revise the Japanese Constitution if the



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippine President Benigno Aquino meet in Tokyo on 24 June, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Japanese people so desire, especially if this enhances Japan's ability to address its international obligations and bring us closer to the attainment of our shared goals of peace, stability and mutu-

al prosperity."

In the summit, Aquino thanked Abe for supporting Manila's efforts to pursue a peaceful solution to territorial disputes it has with China and its smaller neigh-

bours in the South China Sea, according to a senior Japanese official.

The leaders reaffirmed cooperation in ensuring maritime security through measures such as Japan's

provision of patrol boats to the Philippines, the official said.

Last week, Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Manila plans to ask the UN arbitral

tribunal to issue a speedy ruling on the Philippines' dispute with China over exploiting waters in the South China Sea after Beijing refused to take part in the proceedings. Del Rosario said Manila hopes to get the ruling by next year.

Abe and Aquino underscored the importance of observing the rule of law as the regional situation "has become increasingly severe," apparently taking aim at China's military buildup and increased assertiveness in the South and East China seas.

Abe said Japan will continue to assist the development of urban infrastructure in the Philippines.

The two leaders agreed to promote cooperation in disaster relief, with Aquino thanking Japan for its assistance — including the dispatch of Self-Defence Force personnel in an unprecedented scale — to help Manila cope with damage from a powerful typhoon last fall.

It was the fourth summit between Abe and Aquino in a year.

Kyodo News

Terrorist groups using Internet to recruit, plan attacks

BEIJING, 24 June — Terrorist groups are using the Internet to recruit people, raise funds and plan attacks in China, the State Internet Information Office (SIIO) said here on Tuesday. Calling audio and video materials that promote terrorism a "cancer" of the Internet, SIIO spokesman Jiang Jun told reporters at a Press conference that terrorist forces have "turned the Internet into a principal tool for their operations."

He said the groups have sought to "spread terrorism and violent beliefs and teach terrorist skills online," adding that such actions must be struck down decisively.

China launched a campaign on Friday to rid the Internet of audio and video materials that promote terrorism and violence. The move is aimed at safeguarding social stability in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and long-term peace, according to the SIIO.—Xinhua

Afghan forces kill 22 militants in operations

KABUL, 24 June — The Afghan Ministry of Interior Affairs on Tuesday said that the country's security forces had killed 22 Taliban militants during operations since early Monday.

"Over the past 24 hours, Afghan army, police and intelligence agency

carried out several cleanup operations in Nangarhar, Laghman, Sari Pul, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Logar, Herat, Badghis and Helmand provinces. They battled the militants, killing 22 armed militants, wounding 12 and arresting five other militants," the

ministry said in a statement.

The security forces also found and seized weapons, the statement said, without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces.

The Taliban-led vio-

lence continues in Afghanistan. Security forces have press on to clear the militants in restive provinces.

The Taliban responds by bombing and armed attacks.

On Monday, about 18 civilians were injured by gunshots in an armed en-

gagement between Taliban and the security forces in a local bazaar in eastern Nangarhar Province.

The Taliban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments.

Xinhua

Kosmajac in Montenegro as tourist

PODGORICA, 24 June — Just hours after being identified by Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic as Serbia's biggest drug dealer, Dragoslav Kosmajac, 61, crossed into Montenegro at the Rance border crossing in the night between

Friday and Saturday after leaving Serbia at the Jabuka crossing, the *Podgorica Vijesti* daily reports.

According to reports in some Montenegrin media, he has been located in Herceg Novi.

Vijesti's sources say that Kosmajac owns a lux-

urious villa in Risan's Strp district that, as some say, has been a gathering place over the past years for many people with criminal records in Serbia and Montenegro.

A source in the police administration said that no international arrest warrant has been issued against Kosmajac.

"No arrest warrant has been issued by the Interpol office in Serbia or any other country, and he entered Montenegrin territory in a completely legal manner. Had a local arrest warrant been issued against him in Serbia, officers at the border crossing there would have reacted," the source said.

The source could neither confirm, nor refute the allegations that Kosmajac entered Montenegrin territory with a Slovakian passport.

"Just like any other tourist who crossed the border that night, he had documentation that was completely in order," the source said.

The 2001 white paper of the Serbian Ministry of Interior identified Kosmajac as one of the major narcotics traders.

Serbian media have reported that he has also been named by protected witnesses and defendants in the Zemun clan trials as the person from whom members of the criminal clan obtained drugs.

He is alleged to have ties with international narcotics smugglers, and has channels for smuggling cocaine from Turkey, Bulgaria and Macedonia to Western Europe via Montenegro and Serbia.

There have also been media reports about Kosmajac's ties with the Pljevlja-born drug lord Darko Saric but, despite the information the police have on him, he has never been arrested due to a lack of evidence, *Vijesti* reported.

Commenting on media allegations that Kosmajac has left Serbia, Serbian Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic said on Sunday that "the police know who is where."

Tanjug



WORLD

Obama presses Putin on Ukraine, warns of further 'costs'

WASHINGTON, 24 June — President Barack Obama urged Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday to support peace in Ukraine and said Moscow would face further sanctions if it did not take steps to reduce tensions in the country, the White House said on Monday. “The president spoke to President Putin and once again urged him to support peace instead of allowing the provision of arms and materiel across the border and continuing support for militants and separatists who are further destabilizing the situation in Ukraine,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters.

“Russia will face additional costs if we do not see concrete actions to de-escalate the situation,” he said of Obama’s message to Putin. The two leaders spoke in a call earlier on Monday.

Putin and Obama discussed proposals for peace in Ukraine, after Ukraine’s leader announced a ceasefire in military operations in the east, the Kremlin said in a statement. “They discussed ... the implementation of the peace plan proposed by (Ukrainian) President Petro Poroshenko,”



US President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the White House Summit on Working Families at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, on 23 June, 2014. REUTERS

the Kremlin said. “Putin stressed that priority must be given to halting military operations and to the start of direct negotiations between the opposing sides.”

The White House said in a follow-up statement that Obama welcomed Poroshenko’s peace plan and pressed Putin for Russia to work toward implementing it. “The president called upon President Putin to press the separatists to recognize and abide by the ceasefire and to halt the

flow of weapons and materiel across its border into Ukraine,” the statement said. “The president emphasized that words must be accompanied by actions and that the United States remains prepared to impose additional sanctions should circumstances warrant, in coordination with our allies and partners.”

US Vice President Joe Biden told Poroshenko in a phone call on Monday that the United States would continue to strongly support

his peace plan, including the disarmament of all illegally armed groups, release of hostages, and de-occupation of government buildings, the White House said in a statement.

Poroshenko underscored to Biden the importance of Ukraine having full control over its border to prevent the inflow of armed militants and weapons, which continue to cross into Ukraine from Russia, the White House said.

Reuters

Ukrainian insurgents agree to ceasefire

KIEV, 24 June — Anti-government insurgents in eastern Ukraine agreed on Monday to observe a ceasefire declared by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said.

The ceasefire came after talks in the eastern city of Donetsk attended by Kuchma, officials from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Russian ambassador and representatives from the restive Donetsk and Lugansk regions, local media reported.

The insurgents in Donetsk and Lugansk regions agreed to halt fire till on 27 June, the deadline of a week-long truce declared earlier by Poroshenko.

If both sides observe the ceasefire, “then a normal peace process could start,” Kuchma told reporters after Monday’s talks.

Speaking positively of the talks, Poroshenko’s deputy chief of staff, Valeriy Chalyi, agreed they were a “move in the right direction.”

Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov also voiced hope that the self-proclaimed

“Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Lugansk People’s Republic” would be willing to continue negotiations so as to achieve a lasting truce and peace, and the launch of an inclusive negotiation process.

Poroshenko on Friday unveiled a plan offering unilateral ceasefire, power decentralization in the country through constitutional reform, early parliamentary elections and local elections in the crisis-hit regions.

It also includes a provision to enhance the status of the Russian language across the country and provides security guarantees to all Ukrainians regardless of political belief.

Under the initiative, a 10-km buffer zone on the Ukraine-Russia border and a special corridor are to be created to allow insurgents to leave crisis-hit areas safely.

The armed activists in the two regions, who demanded more autonomy and closer ties with Russia, in April seized administrative buildings and unilaterally declared people’s republics.

Xinhua

Peru’s President Humala reshuffles cabinet as popularity sinks



Peru’s President Ollanta Humala

LIMA, 24 June — Peru’s President Ollanta Humala replaced his foreign affairs, interior and transportation ministers on Monday in a surprise cabinet shake-up as his popularity sinks to new lows.

Humala swore in Gonzalo Gutierrez, Peru’s ambassador to top trade partner China, as his new foreign affairs minister. Daniel Urresti, currently the czar in charge of preventing illegal mining, will become the sixth interior minister.

Jose Gallardo, an economist on the board of the central bank, became Humala’s new transportation and communications minister.

Humala, a former left-leaning military officer who turned to the right after being elected to the country’s top job in July 2011, did not say why he made the replacements.

Environment Minister Manuel Pulgar-Vidal remained in power despite speculation he might step down after Humala proposed weakening some of his ministry’s functions in an economic reform package delivered to Congress.

Humala has reshuffled his cabinet several times in his nearly three-year administration, as disappointment with unfulfilled electoral promises, concerns about crime and corruption and relatively sluggish economic growth over the past year have deflated his popularity.—Reuters

Israel says Assad forces behind Golan attack that killed boy

JERUSALEM, 24 June — Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Tuesday forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were responsible for an attack on Sunday that killed an Israeli boy on the occupied Golan Heights.

An anti-tank missile fired from Syria across the frontier fence killed Mohammed Qaraqara, 13, drawing Israeli tank fire and air strikes on Syrian army positions, which a monitoring group said had killed 10 Syrian soldiers.

“We got all the analysis, all the intelligence and it was clear it was Syrian authorities, Assad’s forces, who fired on the Israeli boy ... and they must pay the price,” Lieberman told Israel Radio. “I hope Damascus got the message,” he said.

It was the first time an Israeli official had said who perpetrated the attack, which Israel had earlier described as intentional and the most serious on the frontier since the start of



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

the three-year-old Syrian conflict.

The Syrian army has a presence on the Golan Heights but many areas are controlled by rebels, including militant groups hostile to the Jewish state.

“I think Israel responded exactly as we should have, in this case and all

others. We cannot just gloss over an Israeli citizen, a boy, being murdered in cold blood with no one being held responsible,” Lieberman said.

The Syrian conflict has spilled over into bordering countries and escalated regional tensions. Shelling from Syria has occasional-

ly hit the Golan, including what Israel has said were deliberate attacks on its troops.

Israel captured the western part of the plateau from Syria in a 1967 war and annexed it in a move that is not recognized internationally.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 25 June, 2014

Visa-free travel will help establishment of ASEAN Community

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has signed bilateral agreements on visa-free travel with Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Thailand has agreed to sign this scheme, but it was postponed after the Kingdom's former prime minister cancelled her trip to Myanmar last November due to political turmoil in her country.

Negotiations are now underway with Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, with the scheme believed to help implement the ASEAN Com-

munity by 2015.

The ASEAN region has a population of about 500 million, a total area of 4.5 million square kilometers, a combined gross domestic product of US\$737 billion, and a total trade of US\$ 720 billion.

According to The Impact of Visa Facilitation in ASEAN Member States, the report prepared by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) and Tourism Economics in January 2014, visa facilitation can generate between 6 to 10 million additional international tourist arrivals for ASEAN Members States by 2016. These extra arrivals would bring in between US\$7 and US\$12 billion in additional international tourism receipts and create from 333,000 to 654,000 new jobs by 2016.

Moreover, visa-free travel scheme should be implemented without hesitation to boost multi-lateral relationships among the ASEAN member countries, and to establish the ASEAN Economic Community, a European Union-style open trad-

ing market.

Despite the income gap and human development index, agreements on this programme should not be delayed to help regional development as the establishment of AEC and Visa-free travel scheme has a mutually supportive relationship.

Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines have signed the 'Statement of Intent on Smart Visa' in June 2013 with the objective of eliminating barriers on movement of tourists.

ASEAN member countries should adopt visa policies on grounds of appropriateness and mutual respect. Criteria should be balanced without different treatments. Delaying obstacles should be removed with bilateral negotiations.

Write for us

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

A Slipper We Lost

Maung Phyo (WYU)

On one October evening, last year, I was awaiting the bus at Pan So Dan bus-stop in front of ToKyoo Donuts. Not long afterwards, a bus No (243) pulled up and I got on. I thought I would find many vacant seats as the bus-stop is not far away from its terminus. I came to know I was wrong when I saw it was almost packed. I took a seat beside a girl. Of course, she was seated beside the window. In Yangon, the first ones to get on are very likely to seat themselves beside the window. However, a few exceptions come up when the window is out of order, or the seat is dirty or the one who got on first is about to get off or the late-comer requesting the place nearest to the window over his or her bus-sickness or habit of chewing betel or the place is seared by the hot beams of the Sun.

Of course, I took a glance at her. She was just a plain face not a striking beauty. She appeared a hawker on the way home selling petty items roundabout the downtown cinemas. Our seat was on the right side of the bus and so she was sitting on my right. Therefore, I only could see her left side. She held a plastic bag in her left hand. Inside it were some one-thousand notes and a few changes. I was such a sharp-eye before and was doubled by my profession. Yes, I was a teacher. Just a sweeping look is always enough whenever I enter my classroom. Teachers' eyes proved to be as sharp as those of the detectives.

I am in the habit of closing my eyes or reading downcast whenever I am aboard. However, that day, I brought with me one of my favorite books and was reading it. A few moments later, she made some moves and I turned to her. She was trying to unfold a bind of rubber band at the neck of a Burmese traditional snack. Strangely enough, she was trying to bite open the rubber band. Why don't you use your right hand, yours are just awkward moves, I thought. But, another relieving thought came. Maybe she was holding her purse in her right hand. She looked starving, insatiably emptying the snack.

The bus was approaching Hlaing Thar Yar, a small township in the outskirts of Yangon. She started to move. Perhaps she was about to get off. I happened to ask her. Yes she answered. Her destination was next bus stop. The bus rolled towards her bus stop with a loud creaky brake. I shrank to make room for her. But,

it looked something came up against her. She was bending over and feeling under the seat. And she turned to ask me if I found one of her slippers. Negative was my answer. Her enquiry flew about our seat. "No" was repeated in the air. She looked she gave up on her hope for her missing slipper. She shouldered past me. Only then did I notice that she was without her right hand. Her right hand was lost as from the elbow. I should have noticed it earlier. Maybe because of her long-sleeve shirts or maybe she was sitting side by side with me. I was ignorant of the fact. She got off with an only slipper on. Our car just started to roll off when I saw her throw away her remaining slipper. She looked serene and assured. It started to bucket down instantly when our bus took off. The jerk shook the bus all over and something slid into my view from the front seat. Yes, it was the slipper she claimed to lose.

Those sitting around us did not bother to feel it with their foot. I also had the heart to sit still. In fact, we are always found to be reluctant to help the needy out. She looked a daily wagger, a type from hand to mouth. That means she might think twice or thrice before deciding to buy a new pair of slippers. If she had a family to look after (probably she did), her

family daily needs must simply be her first priority. In fact, not only in Hlaing Thar Yar but also in many places of outskirts Yangon, there remain so many who have to search dustbins and heaps of rubbishes for discarded slippers and who have to beg other peoples for used garments. At my street, Than Lane, great shouts "Rubbish Time" echoed by dirty and miserable barrow kids of school-age in and out of alleys are day-to-day scenes. Sometimes, they are with adults but for the most part, alone. If asked, one would come to know that they are bread-winners.

Most of Myanmar had said that there appeared a downright change in recent years. However, they are silenced by recent civil war refugees from Kachin and Shan, victims of natural disaster like scarcity of clean water in Middle Myanmar and those homeless resulted from communal clashes. On social networks like Facebook, one would come across many a begging-for-help photo uploaded so often. At such time, many would pop up flying lip-services but the number of actual helping hands is the opposite. Sometimes I catch myself rendering lip-services even in the cases that I am able. Just have a train ride. Look at the passengers. Many would try to occupy the place as wide as they can.

As a result, 8-seat bench would hardly hold five passengers. Their skins are thick enough to bear scornful looks from the up-standers nearby. They would lean against each other, cross their legs, sit sideways, smoke like chimneys, chew betel shooting spots of saliva inadvertently on other's cloth and worst, and leave their rubbishes behind. There are so many stories to tell when it comes to behaviors, ethics and mindset.

In brief, what I want to touch on here is that we are very reluctant to understand other's feelings and help them out especially when they are in need. To offer a seat shrinking oneself a little bit and to help hold bags of others who have to stand often look so hard, I question myself. When we have to stand on a bus, we would dart out to the one who seems to get off soon, stand close to him or her blocking other's way, sometimes cajole others into offering a seat giving reasons like "I am dizzy" or "I am chewing

betel". Some people tend to beg seat carrying their kids who can stand very well. When all of these cases are brought into public, all would agree these should not be so. But, practicality is quite different from reality.

Most of us are Buddhists and know that the summary of Buddhist Teachings is: to do good deeds, to avoid evils and to purify one's mind. The Buddha said those who abide by the said teachings are his followers regardless of their religions. All of these are for Peace. In fact, we all are just victims of the Age. That means we are fellow-sufferers. We should help each other out from difficulty. Such thoughts pop up due to the said girl's missing slipper. It is simply because I feel like we all lost one of our slippers, not hers only. Since then, whenever I see slippers, it reminds me not to let the same thing happen again, not to be reluctant to help the needy. And I sincerely wish others feel the same.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (24-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K674,300 per tical: Selling K675,300

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K674,300 per tical: Selling K675,300

FE RATE

USD Buying K972 - Selling K978

SGD Buying K776 - Selling K784

Euro Buying K1315 - Selling K1328

NATIONAL

Minister calls for job creation in China-backed copper mine area

Union Minister U Hla Tun addresses a meeting on creating job opportunities in local Chinese copper mines.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June— Union Minister U Hla Tun at the Ministry of the President Office on Monday urged responsible persons to create job opportunities for locals in the area of the Latpadaung-taung copper mine project site in Monywa in north-west Myanmar's Sagaing region.

The union minister said the coordination meeting of the Working Committee for implementation on the suggestions of the Investigation Commission formed to settle protest against the project of Myanmar Wanbao Mining Copper Mine Limited.

He said, "The mining project has not reached its production period. The momentum of the construction period must be maintained. Mere compensation is not enough for the locals who lost their lands. The local farmers must be supported with long term livelihoods to develop their socio-economic lives."

He also said that the responsible persons must persuade the residents to calm down their resentment against the mining project, and to prioritize their needs.

A systematic mine closure plan must be drawn for the development of this area, the minister said.

U Hla Tun said the government is using state budget, in addition to corporate social responsibilities (CSR) funds of business companies, for the development programmes in that area.

The company promised 2 percent of profits toward CRS funds once the mine is in operation, which analysts commented is a "conspicuous and unusually generous social investment" for a Chinese company.

The government formed a probe panel for the project after environmental concerns by local communities to shut down the project.



The final report of the panel to the president was submitted in March 2013, suggesting that the project should go on for the economic benefit of the nation and the people as the best

choice.

The construction work on the Latpadaungtaung copper mine project resumed last October under a revised contract signed last July by the state-owned

Myanmar Mining Enterprise, Myanmar Economic Holding Ltd and China's Wanbao Mining Ltd.

The Wanbao Mining Ltd., a subsidiary of state-owned Chinese arms

manufacturer China North Industries Corp., has promised more than \$1 million a year in social investments in villages around the mining site.

MNA

Parliament yet to meet motion target, OMI's second report says

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 June— Parliament's average motion submission rate per day merely neared one during its first regular sessions despite four motions per session-day allowed by the Parliamentary rules and regulations, noted a report by the Open Myanmar Initiative, a Yangon-based parliamentary monitoring organization.

The group headquartered at No. 82 on Insein Road, Hline Township,

Yangon, released its Parliamentary Monitoring Report No. 2 on Tuesday with a press conference attended by local journalists and observers. The report focuses on motions submitted at the parliament.

During the press conference, an OMI's technical team launched a Myanmar MPs mobile application, developing public awareness on the parliament and relationship between the constituencies and parliamentarians through email and Facebook.

The report said 286 Lower House representatives and 108 Upper House representatives did not submit a single motion during six regular sessions. It also revealed only two Defence Services Personnel Representative from the Lower House and the Upper House submitted one motion each, with 19 others from both houses participating in discussions.

Despite its presence in only three sessions of the parliament, the National League for Democracy had five out of eight motions approved at the Lower House, standing second after Union Solidarity and Development Party that had 47 motions approved at the same house.

According to the OMI's recently-released report, Chin national representatives with a low percentage of presence in Parliament, accounting for only five per cent, had made 22 proposals in the Upper House, accounting for 14.8 per cent of total motion submission percentage.



U Ko Ko Gyi who pioneered the Open Myanmar Initiative takes a floor at the press conference on the release of OMI's second report on Parliament.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

On the Parliament's cooperation in the realization of OMI Parliament monitoring programme, U Ko Ko Gyi, one of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society leaders, who also pioneered the OMI, told *The New Light of Myanmar* that more cooperation in the technical field could turn the next reports into ones with qualitative-based approach as the previous reports were based on quantitative-based approach and

recounted how the Parliament welcomed OMI activities.

Following the release of OMI's first report on parliament focusing on questions in February, meagre participation of Defence Services Personnel Representatives in question and answer sessions was found in the headlines of local media.

Open Myanmar Initiative is a non-profit organization with the vision of promoting the right of

information and education—a prerequisite to get each and every citizen involved in Myanmar's transition towards the future where peace prevails and democracy prospers.

Weather forecast for 25th June, 2014

(Issued at 2:00 p.m on Tuesday 24th June, 2014)

Outlook for subsequent two days

Continuation of increase of rain in the Coastal areas.

Chest-pain follow-up linked to better survival, heart health

NEW YORK, 24 June — After an emergency-room visit for chest pain, people who follow-up with a doctor are less likely than those who don't do so to have a heart attack or die in the next year, Canadian researchers say.

Based on more than 200,000 patients at low risk for heart attack who were seen in an Ontario ER for chest pain, the study team found that almost 30 percent never went for any kind of follow-up. But those who did tended to fare better.

"Patients often mistake being discharged from the emergency department for having a clean bill of health, but this is not necessarily true" said the study's senior author, Dr Dennis Ko, a cardiologist at the University of Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Doctors use follow-up appointments as an oppor-

tunity to pin down the cause of an individual's chest pain, which can be hard to do, Ko said, especially for patients without heart attack risk factors like diabetes or high blood pressure.

After running more tests, the primary care doctor can refer the patient to a cardiologist or another specialist. Indeed, patients in the study who saw their primary care doctor and a cardiologist, or just a cardiologist, were the least likely to die or have a heart attack within a year of their ER visit.

"We were surprised that there really was a benefit to getting follow-up in this group because these patients did not have a lot of risk factors for heart disease," Ko told Reuters Health.

Chest Pain is one of the main symptoms of a heart attack, and according to



the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 5 million Americans visit an emergency room complaining of chest pain each year.

Medical guidelines state that after discharge, even patients with no apparent heart attack should be sent for a follow-up exam to investigate the chest pain.

In a past study, Ko's team had shown that people at high risk for heart disease did better if they followed-up an ER visit, although many of those

patients didn't seek further treatment either.

To see whether follow-ups make a difference for low-risk patients, Ko and his colleagues analyzed medical records for 216,527 patients who were discharged after having their chest pains assessed at an Ontario emergency department between April 2004 and March 2010.

The patients were all over age 50 and considered at low risk for heart disease because they did not have diabetes or any known heart

risk factors. People with other serious illnesses, such as cancer, were excluded from the analysis. The researchers looked at whether patients saw a primary care doctor or specialist within 30 days of their ER visit and tracked whether they died or had a heart attack in the 12 months after that.

During the first month, 29 percent of patients - almost 70,000 people - did not see any kind of doctor. Sixty percent saw at least their primary care doctor, 8 percent saw both a primary care doctor and a cardiologist and 4 percent of patients saw only a cardiologist.

Compared to patients who got no follow-up, those who saw both a primary care physician and a cardiologist had a 19 percent lower risk of heart attack or death in the next year. For those who saw just a cardiologist, the risk was 13 percent lower,

the study team reports in the American Heart Journal.

Seeing just a primary care doctor was not linked to reduced risk compared to not seeing any doctor. Still, the authors emphasize that primary care typically plays an important "gatekeeper" role in referring patients to the right specialists.

Why so many patients never followed up their ER visit with any kind of doctor is unclear from the data the researchers had. But further studies should look at who would most benefit from follow-up attention and how to make sure they get it, the authors write.

"I think one of the most striking findings is that in a system where all medical costs are paid, 29 percent of patients did not follow up with any doctor after having chest pain," Umesh Khot told Reuters Health.

Reuters

Indonesia sees chance to rump up automotive industry in ASEAN market

JAKARTA, 24 June — The Indonesian government expected automotive industry to develop faster when the ASEAN economic community kicks off next year, a minister said here on Monday.

Indonesian Industry Minister MS Hidayat disclosed that the competitiveness of the country's automotive industry has been on the rise as huge investment flew in the last two years.

The minister promised that the government would keep supporting the efforts to raise competitiveness.

"The ASEAN economic community will be an opportunity for domes-

tic automotive industry to develop," Minister Hidayat said at Industry Ministry.

The minister disclosed that the capacity of the country's automotive industry has risen recently due to rapid investment in the sector.

"The capacity of Indonesia's automotive factory has hiked to 2 million annually following the huge investment flows in the last two years," Hidayat said.

The biggest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia, manufactured 1.2 million cars last year, according to the data from ministry.

His upbeat over the

industry's progress in the years to come was also caused by the presence of over 1,500 factories producing components for supporting the automotive industry.

"For this year, the export of the car is projected to rise to 200,000 units," he added.

So far, Indonesia's automotive industry ranks the second, after Thailand, in the region.

Nevertheless, having political stability and sound macro-economic condition, Indonesia has been expected to be production base by several foreign car makers. — Xinhua

New Zealand, Singapore in joint funding of healthy food studies

WELLINGTON, 24 June — New Zealand and Singapore are to jointly invest in a series of collaborative research projects on the development of food products with proven health benefits, New Zealand Science and Health Minister Steven Joyce said on Monday.

The New Zealand government would be an equal partner in an investment of about 3.5 million NZ dollars (3.06 million US dollars) over two years in five projects to develop innovation in the food science and technology industry, Joyce said in a statement.

The projects include studies on digestive mi-



crobes and other agents that could improve the health of children, pregnant women and Asian population.

"Our small size means we contribute a very small proportion of the world's research and development

activity. Therefore, sharing knowledge and working collaboratively with countries such as Singapore is a very important part of developing our own innovations," Joyce said.

Xinhua

Asian shares creep higher, encouraged by global data

SYDNEY, 24 June — Asian shares clinched slender gains on Tuesday as improved manufacturing data from China, Japan and the United States augured well for global growth, despite a disappointing result from the euro zone.

Though moves were modest as markets slipped into something of a summer lull, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan managed to gain 0.3 percent.

Japan's Nikkei lagged by losing 0.36 percent, but

South Korea outperformed with a rise of almost 1 percent, led by Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Hyundai Motor Co.

"Market heavyweights closely follow global economic recovery, and the manufacturing surveys in the US and China have provided positive signals," said Hyundai Securities market analyst Bae Sung-young. The performance of manufacturing surveys (PMI) tend to be reliable, and timely, leading indicators of output trends and are close-

ly watched by economists. So there was relief that readings from the United States, China and Japan all rose strongly in the month. The US PMI was a particularly pleasant surprise as it climbed to a four-year peak of 57.5.

That helped offset an unexpected dip in Markit's euro zone PMI to 52.8 in June from May's 53.5.

David Hensley, an economist at JPMorgan, said the PMI's taken as a whole pointed to a quickening in global industrial out-



A pedestrian is reflected on an electronic board showing the graph of the recent fluctuations of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Stock Price Index (TOPIX), outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 2 June, 2014. — REUTERS

put, perhaps to as much as a 5 percent annualized pace.

"Emerging Asia lies at the center of global manufacturing, so any acceleration in global activity normally would be confirmed there," he added.

"The continued recovery in China's manufacturing PMI is a positive sign, both outright and because China's survey typically is aligned with the broader EM complex. The trend in official data for EM Asia ex China remains murky, however." — Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

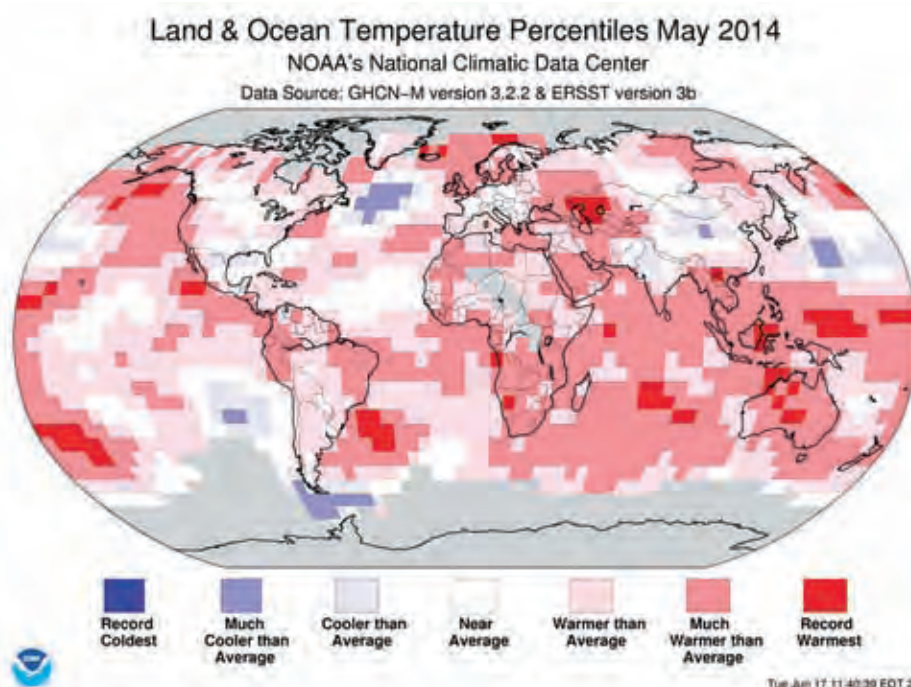
May global temperature reaches record high: NOAA

WASHINGTON, 24 June — Last month was the hottest May since record keeping began in 1880, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Monday.

The combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces was 15.54 degrees Celsius 0.74 degrees Celsius higher than the 20th century average, the NOAA said.

“This surpassed the previous record high anomaly of 0.72 degrees Celsius set in 2010,” the NOAA said in its monthly state of the climate report.

“Four of the five warmest Mays on record have occurred in the past five years:



2010 (second warmest), 2012 (third warmest), 2013 (fifth warmest), and 2014 (warmest).” Currently, 1998 has the fourth warmest May on record. According to the NOAA, the majority of the world experienced warmer-than-average temperatures in May, with record warmth across eastern Kazakhstan, parts of Indonesia, and central and northwestern Australia. Scattered sections across every major ocean basin were also record warm, it said. Additionally, on May 2014 marked the 39th consecutive May and 351st consecutive month with a global temperature above the 20th century average.

Xinhua

Apple suppliers to start making larger iPhones next month

NEW YORK, 24 June — Apple Inc’s suppliers will begin producing larger versions of the iPhone in China next month, Bloomberg reported citing sources.

Apple is ramping up production of iPhones with 4.7 and 5.5-inch screen siz-

es, which may be shipped to retailers around September, the report said.

Apple launches new versions of the smartphone line that drives half its business around the fall of every year.

The industry has spec-

ulated for some time now that Apple intends to design and sell a device with a larger screen, to fend off Samsung phones with much bigger displays that have proven popular in Asia and elsewhere.

Hon Hai Precision Industry will recruit over 100,000 people in mainland China to produce the newest iPhone from Apple, Taiwan’s *Economic Daily News* reported on Monday, in what the report called the firm’s largest single hiring spree in China.

Fellow Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron Corp will also expand its workforce in one mainland factory by 30 percent, in response to expected high demand for the new iPhone.

Apple was not immediately available for comment outside regular US business hours. —Reuters



The Apple logo is pictured at a retail store in the Marina neighbourhood in San Francisco, California on 23 April, 2014.

REUTERS

New Zealand 3D scanner gives new insight into health

WELLINGTON, 24 June — New Zealand scientists have claimed a world first in developing a 3D scanner that could revolutionize treatment of diseases by showing a detailed view of the inside of the body.

The University of Canterbury’s MARS-Bioimaging scanner was capable of examining molecular structures and tissues, as well as diagnosing common illnesses such as the build-up of plaque in heart disease, and cartilage and arthritis, said associate Professor Anthony Butler.

It also enabled drug delivery systems that allowed researchers to follow drugs in the body to help fight cancer and joint diseases.

“We have been the first in the world to explore the scanner and its applications. While others theorize about scanner uses we can actually test them,” Butler said in a statement on Monday.

Researchers expected to be safely scanning large animals such as sheep in about three years and to undertake human clinical trials in five years.

“We face a number of technical challenges such as the quality of sensor materials and coping with the high power of the x-ray tubes used for human scanning,” said Butler. “On the clinical side we know there is likely to be benefit for monitoring drug delivery agents and joint implant imaging.

The purpose of a human scanner for clinical trials is to evaluate how this new information translates to improved human diagnosis and management.”

Xinhua

SpaceX puts Falcon 9 rocket launch on hold until July

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 24 June — Be-deviled by a spate of technical problems, Space Exploration Technologies on Monday said it will suspend launch attempts of its next Falcon 9 rocket until early July.

The privately owned company, also known as SpaceX, has been trying since Friday to launch a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on a satellite-delivery mission for Orbcomm Inc, which provides machine-to-machine

data and messaging services worldwide.

SpaceX had slated its fourth launch attempt for Tuesday.

“SpaceX is taking a closer look at a potential issue identified while conducting pre-flight checkouts during (Sunday’s) countdown,” the company said in statement posted on its website on Monday.

“SpaceX will stand down on Tuesday while our engineering teams evaluate further,” it said.

Taking into account a previously scheduled

maintenance period for the Eastern Test Range, which supports launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the earliest SpaceX expects to be able to fly is the first week of July.

“We ... will work with the Range to confirm the next available launch opportunities,” the company, which is owned by technology entrepreneur Elon Musk, said.

A launch attempt on Friday was called off by a potential technical problem with the rocket’s upper-stage engine. No other



File picture of a Falcon 9 rocket carrying a small science satellite for Canada is seen as it is launched from a newly refurbished launch pad in Vandenberg Air Force Station.—REUTERS

information about the issue was provided by SpaceX, though the glitch apparent-

ly was cleared in time for a second launch attempt on Saturday. That attempt was

Google’s Nest opens doors to third-party apps

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 June — Nest, the Google Inc-owned maker of smart thermostats and other home automation products, will allow other companies to create apps that communicate with its devices. The programme marks the first time Nest has allowed third-party companies to access its gadgets, potentially opening the door to the rich selection of apps and services that have made smartphones popular. More than 5,000 developers have already expressed interest in developing apps for Nest products, according to the company.

Nest said that it was working with companies including washer-dryer maker Whirlpool Corp and automatic garage door opener company Chamberlain. Closing a garage door for instance, can alert the Nest Thermostat that the user is away from home and to turn off the heat. LED light bulbs from Lixf can be set to flash red if a Nest smoke detector senses smoke in the house.

Google acquired Nest for \$3.2 billion in January, underscoring the Web search company’s efforts to extend its reach into a broad field of Internet-connected devices.

Nest on Friday announced plans to acquire Dropcam, a video-monitoring home security product.

Nest suffered a public relations black eye in April when it halted sales of its smoke alarms because of a defect that could cause users to turn the alarm off unintentionally. —Reuters

Reuters

Kerry says US support to Iraq will be “intense and sustained”

BAGHDAD, 24 June — Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday that US support for Iraqi security forces will be “intense and sustained” to help them combat an Islamist insurgency that has swept through the country’s north and west.

Kerry said that during talks he had with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad on Wednesday, the Iraqi leader reaffirmed his commitment to a 1st July date for forming a new government.

President Barack Obama offered up to 300 American advisers to help coordinate the fight. But he held off granting a request for air strikes from Maliki’s Shi’ite Muslim-led government and renewed a



US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Iraq’s Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari (not pictured) in Baghdad on 23 June, 2014.—REUTERS

call for Maliki to do more to overcome sectarian divisions that have alienated the Sunni Muslim minority.

“The key today was to get from each of the

government leaders a clarity with respect to the road forward in terms of government formation,” Kerry said. “Indeed, Prime Minister Maliki firmly and

on multiple occasions affirmed his commitment to 1st July (to form the new government).”

Kerry said Obama will not wait before he acts to provide advisers and support for Iraq’s military. “The support will be intense and sustained and if Iraq’s leaders take the necessary steps to bring the country together, it will be effective.

“It will allow Iraqi security forces to confront ISIL more effectively and in a way that respects Iraq’s sovereignty while also respecting America’s and the region’s vital interests,” he said, referring to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant insurgents who have spearheaded the Sunni revolt.—Reuters

US ship to start loading Syrian chemical agents next week

WASHINGTON, 24 June — An American cargo ship converted into a mobile chemical weapons destroyer is expected to take charge of some of Syria’s most dangerous materials next week, a US defence official said. Syria on Monday handed over the remaining 8 percent of a total 1,300 tonnes that Syria declared to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The handover had faced repeated delays, leaving the Cape Ray docked in southern Spain awaiting a green light to proceed. Its mission now is to transform toxic agents into a much less poisonous soup of chemicals, ready for disposal back on land.

The Cape Ray’s crew were given word on Monday that they needed to be ready to depart Spain in the

coming days for southern Italy’s Gioia Tauro port, where they will meet with a Danish ship carrying Syrian chemical agents, the US defence official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The cargo will then be transferred from the Danish ship to the Cape Ray in a pier-side operation next week. The Cape Ray is expected to leave sometime later next week for international waters of the Mediterranean, the official said.

Once there, the Cape Ray will need weeks of round-the-clock processing to neutralize the chemical agents. Syria agreed last September to destroy its entire chemical weapons program under a deal that averted US military strikes after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin gas attack in the outskirts of the capital, Damascus.—Reuters

Sunni tribesmen seize Iraqi border crossing with Jordan

AMMAN, 24 June — Sunni tribesmen took control of a border crossing between Iraq and Jordan after Iraq’s army pulled out of the area following clashes with rebels, Iraqi and Jordanian intelligence sources said on Monday.

It was not immediately clear if the tribesmen’s seizure of the Turaibil crossing, the only legal crossing point between Iraq and Jordan, late on Sunday was part of the broader advance by Sunni militants led by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The militants earlier overran posts further north along Iraq’s border with Syria, pursuing their goal of forming a “caliphate” straddling both countries that has raised alarm across

the Middle East and in the West.

The withdrawal of the Iraqi army from the Turai bil border crossing left it with no presence along the entire western frontier, which includes some of the Middle East’s most important trade routes.

Jordanian army sources said their troops had been on a state of alert along the 180-km (112-mile) border with Iraq for several days to ward off “any potential or perceived security threats”.

Army units in the desert town of Ruweished near the Iraqi-Jordanian border crossing and in other army camps in the area were put on a heightened state of alert, an army source said later on Mon-



A Jordanian trailer carrying a military tank drives along a road in Ruweished, near Jordan’s eastern border with Iraq, east of Amman on 23 June, 2014.—REUTERS

day. Witnesses saw dozens of armoured vehicles and scores of tanks on the highway heading to the Iraqi border crossing in what a Jordanian official said were reinforcements “that were sent in the last 24 hours in view of the latest developments”.

Minister of State for Media and Communication Mohammad al-Momani told Reuters “the authorities were continuing to beef up defences as a preventive step in view of the security situation which Iraq is passing through.”

Truck drivers who crossed the border into Jordan said Sunni tribesmen were now manning checkpoints along large stretches of the Baghdad-to-Amman highway.—Reuters

Hospital attack leaves one dead, another injured

HARBIN, 24 June — A man stabbed a woman to death and injured another on Tuesday morning in a hospital in Jiamusi City, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province.

The man has been caught by police.

The attack happened in Jiamusi Maternal and Child Health Hospital and was out of personal revenge, Jiamusi municipal government said.

The suspect is alleged to have been angered after the mother of his 15-year-old pregnant girlfriend took her to the hospital for an abortion.

The two had a brawl, resulting in the girl’s mother being stabbed to death by the man. A nurse was severely injured in the attack.

Police are investigating.

Xinhua

World Bank report calls for smart policy to combat climate change

WASHINGTON, 24 June — Government policies that improve energy efficiency, waste management and public transport could increase global economic output by trillions of US dollars a year, a World Bank report showed on Monday.

The “Adding up the Benefits” report, which focuses on Brazil, China, India, Mexico, the United States and the European Union, found that government policies stimulating a shift to clean transport and

improved energy efficiency in factories, buildings and appliances could increase global GDP growth by about 1.8-26 trillion US dollars a year by 2030.

“The report’s findings show clearly that the right policy choices can deliver significant benefits to lives, jobs, crops, energy, and GDP, as well as emissions reductions to combat climate change,” said Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank.

The policies could

avert approximately 94,000 premature deaths from pollution-related diseases a year in 2030 as well as prevent the production of greenhouse gas emissions roughly equivalent to taking 2 billion cars off the road.

If fully implemented, the set of regulatory, tax and other policy actions outlined in the report could account for 30 percent of the total emissions reduction needed in 2030 to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

The report advised India to build new bus rapid transit lanes, Mexico to equip 90 percent of its pig and dairy farms with biogas and solar energy systems, and China to deploy 70 million clean cookstoves.

The report was released in advance of the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in September when heads of state and government will meet in New York to discuss actions of combating climate change.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(14/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -055(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Rotary Slips (14) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -056(14-15)	Spares for Rotary Tong (BJ Type "B" & "C") (14) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB -057(14-15)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator Mark V (11) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -058(14-15)	Spares for P & H Crawler Crane (20) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -059(14-15)	Spares for Kenworth Oil Field Truck (15) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -060(14-15)	Spares for Sumitomo Crane (5) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -061(14-15)	Spares for Nissan PE-6 Diesel Engine (13) Item	US\$
(8)	IFB -062(14-15)	Spares for Mitsubishi 8D C8 Engine (19) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB -063(14-15)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator Mark VI (16) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB -064(14-15)	Tong Dies (2) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB -065(14-15)	Electrical Spares for D ₃ T ₂ SR I Rig (13) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB -066(14-15)	CNG Compressor Driven By Electric Motor with Complete Package (1) Lot	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 23-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 25th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

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INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER(MIXED LPG)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mixed LPG (1,800 MT ± 5%).
2. Tender Closing Date : 3 - 7 - 2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 3 - 7 - 2014 at (13:00) hrs .
4. Delivery Time : Within July 2014
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 25-6-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Extension of the Invitation for Letter of Expression of Interest (LEOI)

Myanma 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 Kyemon, Myanma Alinn 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.**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (020)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.6.2014 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 Yangan.

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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J009R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J009R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.6.2014 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 Yangan.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Indian man gets 5 months in jail for charge related to riot in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 June—An Indian man has been jailed for five months, making him the first of 25 men who claimed trial for charges related to their roles in a rare riot in Singapore in December last year, local media reported on Tuesday.

Mahalingam Thavamani, 27, was found guilty of an amended charge of obstructing a public servant

when the latter was endeavoring to disperse an unlawful assembly on the evening of 8 December last year, the *Straits Times* said.

He was initially charged with rioting.

The man was also the first to be convicted of obstructing a public servant in relation to the rare riot that broke out among some 300 foreign workers following

a fatal accident that killed an Indian worker in Little India, a neighbourhood in Singapore known for its distinctive Indian culture and shops.

The riot in Little India left 39 officers injured and 25 emergency vehicles damaged.

District Judge Salina Ishak on Monday accepted the testimony of prosecu-

tors that Thavamani had refused to leave a road in the Little India area, and had insisted on moving into a restricted area in the same road even though he had been told to leave.

The court had heard during the trial held over April and last month that the accused's voice grew louder as he spoke to the police officer.—*Xinhua*

Girls learn self defence skills at Krav Maga Club in New Delhi, capital of India, on 22 June, 2014. As crimes against women happens from time to time in India, martial arts clubs became popular among girls in cities. They came to learn self defence skills in order to better protect themselves.—XINHUA



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Senior jailed for vandalism of bus stops in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 June — A 71-year-old man were sentenced to four weeks in jail for vandalism at several bus stops and on a transformer box in support of a controversial blogger in Singapore, local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Loh Thiam Hock admitted to five counts of committing mischief, of which one caused losses of 500 Singapore dollars (about 400 US dollars) or more. He was given two weeks' jail on Monday for each charge, and three of the jail terms will run concurrently, the *Today news-*

paper reported.

The court heard that Loh defaced several bus stop advertisement boards and a transformer box, using a permanent marker to scrawl on four bus stops along several streets in the downtown area.

One of the phrases he painted reads "We support CPF Blogger, Return our CPF Money," in apparent reference to a blogger who has published a blogpost alleging Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has misappropriated funds contributed to the Central Provident Fund.—*Xinhua*

Maleficent becomes Angelina Jolie's highest grossing film



Angelina Jolie in a still from *Maleficent*.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — The Disney fairytale *Maleficent*, starring Angelina Jolie, has crossed the USD 500 million mark at the box office, making it the highest grossing film of her career.

Jolie's previous career best earning was in *Mr & Mrs Smith* in which she starred with Brad Pitt. The 2005 film minted USD 478.2 million at the box office, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Maleficent, which saw Jolie playing the role of vengeful fairy, has enjoyed impressive staying power. The film continues to earn money in its fourth weekend. — PTI

'Idol' judges Lopez, Urban and Connick to return for next season



Judges Harry Connick, Jr (L), Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban react during the *American Idol XIII 2014 Finale* in Los Angeles, California on 21 May, 2014. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — The high-profile judges of Fox's reality singing competition "*American Idol*," Jennifer Lopez, Keith Urban and Harry Connick Jr, will all return for the show's 14th season along with host Ryan Seacrest, the network said on Monday.

Pop singer Lopez will take the seat for the fourth time while country music star Urban will reprise his for the third, and jazz crooner Connick will enter his second season on the judges panel.

Seacrest has hosted the show since its premiere in 2002, and has become one of the highest-profile US television hosts. The new season of "*Idol*" will begin the audition process in New Orleans on Wednesday and is scheduled to premiere early 2015.

"*American Idol*" was once a ratings juggernaut for Twenty-First Century Fox Inc's Fox Broadcasting, drawing more than 30 million viewers at its peak and propelling the careers of its talent, such as winner Kelly Clarkson and finalist Jennifer Hudson, and its high-profile judges.

But the show's most recent season concluded last month with 10.6 million viewers, the lowest number in its 13-year history. "*Idol*" will be scaled back for its next season from about 50 hours to 37 hours. —Reuters

The Eagles know why the fans turn up — to hear the oldies

LONDON, 24 June — When veteran California rock band the Eagles hit the stage in London at the weekend, there was no pretence about why people had come to see them or what the band was expected to do.

It was a case of play the songs we know, dudes, and please don't change anything.

So a lively run-through of "Hotel California", "Tequila Sunrise", "Take it Easy", "Witchy Woman", "Life In The Fast Lane", "Desperado", "Take It To

The Limit" and more than three hours of other Eagles standards went down a storm with a packed crowd at the cavernous O2 Arena.

Which is exactly what the band—founded in 1971 and still playing, give or take a 14-year split-up - intended.

"We know why our audience comes," co-founder Don Henley told *Reuters*. "We are not up there to indulge our musical interests. We are most interested in making the listener happy."



Indeed, the Eagles' current world tour is called "History of the Eagles" and is a rare beast in that it is the concert of the DVD rather than the other way round.

Reuters

Members of the band The Eagles, (L-R) Timothy B Schmit, Don Henley, Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh, attend a news conference before the premiere of the film "History of Eagles Part One" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, on 19 Jan, 2013. REUTERS



Madhuri Dixit

Madhuri Dixit: I am a strict mother

MUMBAI, 24 June — Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit, a mother to two sons — Arin and Raayan — is strict when it comes to their healthcare. She says that she never lets them go to bed without brushing their teeth no matter how tired they are.

"There is one thing that I am really strict about my kids and that is (making sure that they are) brushing teeth twice a day. No matter how tired they are or how late they are arriving after attending birthday parties, I make sure that they brush their teeth," Madhuri told IANS over phone from Mumbai.

"I think that is very important. Brushing teeth for two minutes every morning and night is very

important," said the actress, who is the face of oral care brand Oral B.

Madhuri, who married Sriram Nene, a doctor, in 1999, also says that "a family is very important in Indian culture" and it is necessary to have a healthy family.

"A healthy smile shows a happy family because they all represent health when they smile healthy. So I think it is very important for a family to establish a good smile," said Madhuri, who was recently shooting for a new Oral B toothpaste ad campaign.

After having started her acting career with the 1984 film *Abodh*, Madhuri went on to cement her space in Hindi movies with entertainers like *Tezaab*, *Ram Lakhan*, *Tridev*, *Parinda*,

Dil, *Sailaab*, *Khalnayak*, *Hum Aapke Hain Koun* and *Dil To Pagal Hai*.

If acting came naturally to her, her fluid dancing skills, grace and charming smile made her a favourite among the best of banners, actors and filmmakers. The actress believes that a "smile says a thousand words and when you smile, the world smiles with you."

"I think smile sends a very positive message so it important to take care of it. When you have good teeth, you don't hesitate to smile and it also gives you confidence. So when you are confident, it changes your life as well," she said, stressing on the importance of brushing right twice, and visiting the dentist every six months.—PTI

GENERAL

India may extend price caps to more drugs

MUMBAI, 24 June — The health ministry has formed a committee that is meeting for the first time on Tuesday to consider raising the number of drugs deemed essential and subject to price caps, people directly involved in the process said.

The panel will consider adding more drugs to the list of essential medicines, all of which would then come under price caps, one of the people said, a move to make them affordable for the 70 percent of people living on less than \$2 a day.

The move, if implemented, will draw the ire of global drugmakers like Pfizer Inc (PFE.N), GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK.L) and Abbott Laboratories (ABT.N), all of which have a large presence in India's \$15 billion pharmaceutical industry.

The global drugmakers have already been hit by wide-ranging government-imposed price reductions and a legal system with a history of disallowing patent protection in recent years in an emerging market that is a vital growth driver for the firms.

Bringing more drugs under price controls would dash hopes for an easing of the populist drug policies of the previous government under new, business-friendly Prime Minister Narendra Modi, industry analysts said. New Delhi last year raised the number



Medical illustration : Pills of all kinds, shapes and colours, March 2003. — REUTERS

of drugs that are subject to price controls to 348 from 74 earlier.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Secretary for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Lov Verma did not respond to mails for comment. All the sources declined to be named because the details of the plan are not public.

Reuters

Cambodia attracts 1.9 mln foreign tourists in 5 months, up 6 pct

PHNOM PENH, 24 June — Cambodia has received some 1.9 million foreign visitors in the first five months of 2014, a 6 percent rise compared to the same period last year, a tourism official said Tuesday. “Vietnam, China and South Korea are the largest sources of tourists to Cambodia,” Kong Sopheareak, chief of the Tourism Ministry's Statistics and Planning Department, told *Xinhua*. He said during the January-May period this year, Cambodia drew some 340,000 Vietnamese tourists, up 1 percent compared to the same period last year, around 240,000 Chinese, up 19 percent, and roughly 220,000 South Koreans, up 3 percent. “We see a remarkable rise in Chinese tourists to Cambodia from year to year thanks to more direct flight connection between the two countries and Cambodia's attractive tourism sites,” he said. “In addition, close ties between the two governments have encouraged more Chinese investors and businessmen to come to Cambodia for business opportunities.”

The Southeast Asian nation is famous for two cultural sites in the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(25-6-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercises

6:40 am

* Classical Songs

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* Myanmar Language

7:50 am

* Songs of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

8:00 am

* News/ International News

8:30 am

* India Drama Series

9:00 am

* News/ International News

9:30 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:40 am

* TV Drama Series

11:20 am

* Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

12:00 pm

* News/International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Myanmar Video

3:00 pm

* News

4:45 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)

6:50 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary

8:45 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* News/ Weather Report

9:30 pm

* Documentary

Friend of Boston bomb suspect rejects plea deal, lawyer says

BOSTON, 24 June — A friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is confident he will beat charges he hampered the investigation into the blasts, one of his attorneys said on Monday citing a “lack of evidence” in the case.

Attorney Matthew Myers said his client, Azamat Tazhayakov, had rejected a deal with prosecutors for a reduced sentence and believes the government's case is “beatable.”

“He knows he isn't guilty. He's confident,”

Myers told reporters outside the federal courthouse in Boston. “I think everybody will be shocked, even just the average juror in Boston will be shocked at the lack of evidence in this case.”

Tazhayakov, 20, is one of three of Tsarnaev's college friends accused of hampering the investigation by removing a laptop and backpack containing empty fireworks casings from Tsarnaev's dormitory room at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth three days after the

attack.

Three people were killed and 264 injured in the bombing at the finish line of the historic race on 15 April, 2013.

Tazhayakov and Dias Kadyrbayev, a Kazakh exchange student, were charged with obstruction of justice and could face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. The third friend, Robel Phillipos of Cambridge, Massachusetts, faces up to 16 years if convicted of the less serious charge of lying to investigators.

A fourth man, 23-year-

old Kyrgyzstan national Khairullozhon Matanov, has separately been accused of lying to investigators and was denied bail on Monday at another hearing.

Kadyrbayev and Tazhayakov were first questioned by investigators four days after the bombing, when heavily armed law enforcement agents arrived at their New Bedford, Massachusetts, apartment. The next day, they were arrested on charges of violating the terms of their student visas.

Reuters

US football star Hope Solo pleads not guilty to assault

SEATTLE, 24 June — US women's football star Hope Solo pleaded not guilty on Monday to domestic violence charges stemming from a weekend altercation with her sister and a nephew and was ordered released from jail on her own recognizance.

Solo, 32, was arrested shortly after midnight on Saturday by police officers who responded to an emergency 911 call at her house in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland and heard a disturbance from the street, police said.

Entering a not guilty plea on her behalf in Kirkland Municipal Court, defence lawyer Todd Maybrown said Solo was the actual victim in the incident. “She was hit over the

head with a broom handle,” Maybrown told the judge.

The judge ruled there was probable cause for the case to proceed.

He ordered Solo, a goalkeeper for the US women's football team, released from custody but granted prosecution motions seeking court orders barring her from drinking alcohol or having any contact with her sister or nephew while the case was pending.

Solo, who is charged with two counts of domestic violence in the fourth degree, said little during the proceedings except to state her name for the record.

Police said that during the incident she appeared to be upset and intoxicated,



US women's football star Hope Solo

ed, while her adult sister and her 17-year-old nephew had visible injuries. Solo was hosting a party at her home when the dispute took place, the *Seattle*

Times reported.

Her husband, Jerramy Stevens, who played nine seasons for the National Football League as a member of the Seattle Seahawks

and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, attended the hearing, and the couple stared at one another silently from across the courtroom.

Representatives from

US Soccer and Solo's professional Seattle team, Reign FC, said they were aware of Solo's arrest but declined to comment further over the weekend. Stevens declined to speak with the media afterward.

Stevens was himself arrested on suspicion of domestic violence against Solo hours before their wedding in November 2012, but he was released because of insufficient evidence, and charges were never brought, according to media reports.

Solo has appeared as a contestant on ABC television's popular “Dancing with the Stars” and has played on two women's football teams that won Olympic gold medals.

Reuters

Nadal determined to make his mark in Wimbledon first round



Rafael Nadal of Spain

LONDON, 24 June — World No1 Rafael Nadal will begin his Wimbledon campaign against Slovakian Martin Klizan on Centre Court on Tuesday hoping to ease the painful memories of his past two years in southwest London.

After a second-round defeat to Lukas Rosol in 2012, Nadal was dumped out by Belgian Steve Darcis in his first match last year, but the two-time former champion, who has lost three of his past four matches on grass, is confident history will not repeat itself once again.

“I am going to try to play with the best attitude that I have,” the Spaniard said.

“I am practising that way, very positive every moment, playing my best in every moment, working in the things that I really believe that I need to work to play well here. I am feeling better this year than last couple years, seriously.”

Nadal follows German Sabine Lisicki on Centre Court after last year’s women’s singles runner-up was given the honour of opening proceedings on what is traditionally known as ladies day, in the absence of the now retired 2013 champion Marion Bartoli.—Reuters

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing									
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	
Group A									
1) Brazil	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7	
2) Mexico	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7	
3) Croatia	3	1	0	2	6	6	0	3	
4) Cameroon	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0	
Group B									
1) Netherlands	3	3	0	0	10	3	7	9	
2) Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6	
3) Spain	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3	
4) Australia	3	0	0	3	3	9	-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	

Spain restore pride by outclassing Australia

CURITIBA, (Brazil), 24 June — Veteran striker David Villa helped to fire Spain to a comfortable 3-0 win over Australia on Monday to ensure that the deposed champions left Brazil on a winning note after a miserable World Cup. Both teams were already out of the tournament after defeats to the Dutch and Chile in group B but Villa and Spanish midfielder Andres Iniesta, who won his 100th cap, at least had something to celebrate.

Spain’s record scorer, Villa put Spain 1-0 ahead with his 59th goal in 97 internationals. He flicked home in the 36th minute with a clever backheel after a fine pass from Iniesta had sent defender Juanfran clear. Fellow striker Fernando Torres finished neatly in the 69th minute when he found space in the penalty box. Substitute Juan Mata rolled a third goal between the legs of goalkeeper Mat Ryan in the 82nd minute as Australia ran out of steam. “In my opinion we played with dignity, we fought, we worked well apart from the first 15 minutes of the first half,” Spanish coach Vicente Del Bosque said. “The rest of the game we controlled well.”

The goals silenced Brazilians fans in the crowd in Curitiba who had jeered Spain and wanted to see Australia cause them



Spain’s David Villa (R) scores past Australia’s Mathew Ryan (C) during their 2014 World Cup Group B soccer match at the Baixada arena in Curitiba on 23 June, 2014. —REUTERS

more pain. The damage had been done for the Spain when they lost 5-1 to the Dutch and 2-0 to Chile in their first two games, ending the reign of a team who have dominated European and world soccer since 2008. “This time it was our turn to lose and I think we go out with our heads held high,” Del Bosque added, saying he will make a decision on his future once he gets home.

Del Bosque made seven changes to his starting line-up to ensure as many as his squad as possible saw some action in Brazil.

Villa, who is heading for the MLS next year via a stint at Melbourne City, got the chance to make what was probably a farewell appearance.

“If it were up to me, I would play all my life for Spain. It’s more likely it will end here but we’ll see,” man of the match Villa told a news conference. For Australia, the defeat was chastening after they had run the Dutch close in a 3-2 defeat last week. They leave the World Cup with no points, their worst showing at the tournament. Australia coach Ange Pos-

tecoglou said his team had faded after performing well in the first 10 to 15 minutes.

“We lost our discipline and our decision making wasn’t great. We gave the ball away far too cheaply which we haven’t been doing in this tournament,” he said. Spanish goalkeeper Pepe Reina, who replaced captain Iker Casillas, had a quiet afternoon, with Australia missing suspended leading scorer Tim Cahill up front. “Ultimately we’ve come here and lost all three games so we haven’t got the results we wanted,” said Postecoglou.—Reuters

US vs Portugal match attracts record American viewers

WASHINGTON, 24 June — A record American viewers watched the World Cup group match between the United States and Portugal, cable sports network ESPN said on Monday. The Group G second round match, ended 2-2 on Sunday, drew 18.2 million viewers to become “the most-viewed soccer match in the United States ever” — and the biggest event on ESPN that wasn’t professional or college American football.

The previous record came from the 1999 Women’s World Cup final between the United States and China that attracted nearly 18 million Americans to sit in front of their TV sets, ESPN said.—Xinhua

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match-41

Nigeria

Match-42

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Match-43

Honduras

Match-44

Ecuador

Argentina

Iran

Switzerland

France

22:30 MST (25.6.2014)

22:30 MST (25.6.2014)

02:30 MST (26.6.2014)

02:30 MST (26.6.2014)

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 33	Netherlands	2-0	Chile
Match 34	Australia	0-3	Spain
Match 35	Cameron	1-4	Brazil
Match 36	Croatia	1-3	Mexico