

Shinhan Bank funds KOICA's Hlegu rural development project



KOICA Myanmar Chief Mr. Nam, Kwon-Hyoung, Shinhan Bank's Chief Rep. in Myanmar Mr. Hong Suk Woo and Country Director Mr. Min Ho Choi of Good Neighbors International (Myanmar) at MoU signing ceremony to fund KOICA's Hlegu Rural Development Project by Shinhan Bank.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

Shinhan Bank of the Republic of Korea provided \$80,000 to fund the Hlegu Rural Development project that is being implemented by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), with a MoU signing ceremony held at KOICA Myanmar Office on Thursday in Yangon.

KOICA said the Educational Environmental Improvement Project of the follow-up Project of the Hlegu Rural Development Project in Myanmar began this month in Hlegu Township in three villages—Kha Yaung and Sa Khan Gyi, where new schools will be built and old schools renovated — and Kyauk Gadin where a village hall will be

constructed. The project will be completed within six months, officials said. KOICA had injected \$2 million into the Hlegu Rural Development Project during the period from 2008 to 2010.

The plan is to spend more than \$400,000 in the implementation of the Educational Environmental Improvement project that will focus on building roads and

new schools and upgrading old schools in the township, Mr. Nam, Kwon-Hyoung, chief resident representative of KOICA Myanmar Office told The New Light of Myanmar at the ceremony.

Apart from Shinhan Bank's cash contribution to the project, Good Neighbors, one of the largest non-governmental organizations in South Korea, will also take part in the project with its manpower in the areas of supervision and monitoring, he continued to say.

"KOICA hopes to see

more contributions from Korean NGOs in rural development projects in Myanmar, and that Shinhan Bank's donation will encourage others", said the KOICA Myanmar Chief.

"We are interested in making donations in the education and agriculture sectors of Myanmar and it is planned to make more contributions later," said Mr. Hong Suk Woo, chief representative of Shinhan Bank's Myanmar representative office.

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Moe Pwint Plan 6 to issue national scrutiny cards and household certificates

YANGON, 26 June — Moe Pwint Plans 1 to 5 were completed nationwide from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2013 with the aim of issuing national scrutiny cards and household registration certificates for neutral citizens, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

Moe Pwint Plan 6 will start in 17 July this year as the second phase of the national census has come to an end, with officials saying that field trips will be undertaken two days a

month and visits to township immigration offices are necessary for the remaining days.

An official from the Immigration and National Registration Department said that associate citizens must come to township immigration offices as their data needs scrutinizing.

The department continued to say that the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), teaming with the ministry staff, has been providing voluntary services in four states, Kayin, Kayah,

Shan and Mon, and two regions, Bago and Taninthayi, since entering an agreement with the ministry.

The ministry said it accepts complaints and suggestions about the services, requesting people to give their personal details in doing so.

Citizenship is in part concerned with national sovereignty and it can therefore take some time to check to ensure that information given is complete, the department stressed.

NLM

Myanmar conducts campaign to combat narcotic drugs

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 26 June—A ceremony to mark the United Nations' International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which

falls on June 26 was held here on Thursday.

At the ceremony Lieutenant General Ko Ko said: "Myanmar is fighting against narcotic drugs with three strategic plans for

eliminating the use of illicit drugs and related matters, controlling production and promoting law enforcement and fighting against money laundering with the help of international coop-

eration."

Myanmar has enacted the Anti-Money Laundering Law on 14 March 2014. Under this law, the authorities have investigated 49 cases of money laundering, and 22 out of them ended in prosecution. On Thursday, narcotic drugs such as heroin, marijuana, stimulants tablets and powders and diazepam at a market value of K9.4 billion (\$9 million) were burned in Yangon, with drugs worth K 32 billion destroyed in Mandalay, and narcotics worth K83 billion in Shan State. A police official said these illegal drugs were confiscated in Yangon, Taninthayi, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, and Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states.

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Thai forms committee to help migrant workers

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 26 June—The Thai army's the National Council for Peace and Order on Wednesday form a policy committee for managing problems on migrant labours and human trafficking.

A one-stop-service centre will be set up at the Samut Sakhon of Bangkok as a first model province starting on 30 June 2014, and establishments in other provinces will be announced accordingly.

The statement also said that the existing migrant workers from Myanmar, Lao and Cambodia, already residing in Thailand, but not holding a work permit, or work in occupations not permitted by Law, are al-

lowed to report to these centres, and the respective centres will issue temporary work permit to them not more than 60 days.

It also said that migrant workers are exempted from the implementation the Immigration Act 2522 (1979) on three articles which mention that the unskilled labour seeking job and work in Thailand are not allowed to enter to Thailand; the illegal immigrants, those whose duration of stays expired or permission to stay was revoked, will be deported; and the illegal immigrants, those whose duration of stays expired or permission to stay was revoked, will be imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or 20,000 Baht fine or both imprisonment and fine.—NLM



A policeman burns seized narcotic drugs during a drug destruction operation in Yangon, Myanmar, 26 June, 2014.—PHOTO: XINHUA

Speaker of Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann meets Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June— Speaker of the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann met the Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe at the Hall of Parliament in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening.

Present were U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of International Relations Com-

mittee; U Khin Maung Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, U Win Myint and U Kyi Htut Win who are members of Legal Affairs and Special Issues Assessment Commission; and responsible officials of the Parliament office.

They discussed promotion of Japan-Myanmar relations and cooperation.

MNA



Speaker of the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann meets with Chairman Mr Hideo Watanabe of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association at the Hall of Parliament in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

Union FM discusses human rights with American expert

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — Mr. Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, paid a courtesy call to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26 June 2014.

During the Meeting, they explored future cooperation in the area of human rights and future enhancing bilateral relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United States of America.—MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Tom Malinowski.—MNA



Myanmar, US discuss rights to electioneering and constitution

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June —Myanmar's Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye received an American delegation led by Mr Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, at his office here on Thursday morning, sources said.

They held a discussion on political reforms, the organizational structure of the commission, electioneering rights, cooperation with international organizations, arrangements for free and fair by-elections and general elections in 2015, official permission for local and foreign observers, study tours of international elections, and constitutional issues.— MNA



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye receives Assistant Secretary of State Mr Tom Malinowski.—MNA

Sign language support services to be launched soon in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June —At the launching ceremony of sign language support services on Thursday, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin highlighted the rights of the disabled as disability is directly connected to national development, she said. The courses were jointly organized by the SWRR ministry and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

According to a survey conducted in 120 townships in 2008, 2.3 percent of Myanmar's population is disabled and of them 10 percent are deaf, said the minister, adding that more services to support deaf people are planned.

The Social Welfare Department under the ministry will continue to conduct courses to train 100 sign language supporters. Now joint trainings are being conducted with MRTV and sign language support services that will be screened on Myanmar TV soon. Yangon will be the base for the service, but states and regions will also have services in the future.

MNA

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin delivers speech at the ceremony to launch sign language support services.—MNA



NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Brazilian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr. Alcides Gastao Rostand Prates at the credential hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening.

At the meeting were

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and responsible officials. The meeting focused

on cooperation in technology, health care, rural development and reduction of poverty.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr. Alcides Gastao Rostand Prates shake hands in meeting at the credential hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.—MNA



Veterinary university to offer new subjects

YANGON, 26 June—The University of Veterinary Science will divide the two bachelor degrees into Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Bachelor of Animal Science (BASC) from the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) as of 2014-2015 academic year, said Professor Dr Tin Ngwe, Advisor to the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, on Thursday.

At the press conference in Yangon, he said these international level degrees are aimed at ensuring to produce more qualified students on each majors

within a short term. The ministry is now conducting discussions on this scheme.

The ministry will make an announcement to hold entrance examination on these subjects to the students who passed the matriculation examination in 2013-2014 academic year.

The selected candidates will be decided on the marks of entrance exam and the matriculation exam.

A total of 100 students will be chosen for DVM and 150 students for BASC, Dr Tin Ngwe added.

He also invited educa-

tion foundations at home and abroad to provide scholarship programme for veterinary students.

He said: "Only when diseases of animals can be controlled, they will not spread to human beings. Therefore, the veterinary medical course is very important for human society. It is estimated that around 60 percent of diseases suffered by human beings come from animals."

According to the ministry, the officials are now making efforts to upgrade the existing Myanmar Veterinary Council Law.

Khaing Thanda Lwin



Professor Dr Tin Ngwe, Advisor to the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, delivers address at the conference at Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Shinhan Bank funds KOICA's Hlegu rural development project...

(from page 1)

Shinhan Bank of the South Korea set foot in Myanmar in 2013 with the establishment of its representative office in Yangon.

Since the opening of its residence office in Myanmar in August 2001, KOICA Myanmar has

seen an increased annual budget in recent years, amounting to \$10 million in 2013 compared with 6.2 million in 2012. The total of ODA from the Government of South Korea to Myanmar between 1991 and 2012 is accounted at \$43 million.

Government official, UN officials and foreign diplomats are taking part in anti-narcotic drugs activity on the event of the 2014 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

MNA

Union Minister U Soe Maung meets Brazilian Ambassador

YANGON, 26 June—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung met Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr. Alcides Gastao Rostand Prates at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday afternoon.

Their discussions focused on the promotion of 32-year long relations between the two countries and cooperation in four sectors including economic growth, reduction of poverty, health care and recycling.—MNA

Myanmar conducts campaign...

(from page 1)

The anti-drug campaigns held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon on Thursday were witnessed by representatives from the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA), representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States, and representatives from the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China.

The theme for 2014 International Day Against on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is : 'A message of hope: Drug use disorders are preventable and treatable'.

ble'.

In his message on the occasion, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said "Drug abuse and illicit trafficking have calamitous consequences for the world's efforts to deliver greater prosperity and equality for all. There are up to 200,000 preventable deaths each year from overdoses. Illicit drugs spawn criminal violence and weaken a state's essential institutions."

Ban also said that countries emerging from conflict or escaping economic decline can be overwhelmed when illicit drugs pour across their borders.

He added: "On the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit

Trafficking, I urge the international community to strengthen its efforts to confront illicit drugs as an integral element in building a safe and sustainable future."

Mr Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, also said in his message: "Up to 200,000 people die every year due to illicit drugs; but drugs do not just affect the user, they cause tremendous hardship and misery to families and loved ones. Drug use disorders undermine close relationships, damage home lives, including those of children, and can ruin education and employment opportunities. Their impact is felt in communities, criminal justice systems and across society."



Rubber Weir in Pyinmana to store 14 million cubic feet of water for greening purpose



PYINMANA, 26 June — The construction of Rubber weir on Ngalike Creek in Pyinmana was completed in

June and the inauguration of the weir took place on Thursday. With a length of 120 feet and a height of 10 feet,

the weir can store 14 million cubic feet of water. It was built at a cost of nearly 750 million kyat. With the com-

pletion of the weir, greening of the local environment will be improved, officials said. *MyoZeyar, photo: ThiriKhit*

Myingyan BEHS-3 gets new school building

MYINGYAN, 26 June— The Ministry of Education is building new schools across the country, with officials saying a new building for No.3 Basic Education High School in Myingyan in central Myanmar is nearing completion and the finishing touches are being made. An inspection team visited the school 25 June to check work progress and quality of construction.

U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Essay contests mark Myanmar Women's Day



MYINGYAN, 26 June— Around 30 female students took part in an essay contest to mark Myanmar Women's

Day held on 25 June in Myingyan Basic Education High School No.1. High school students competed

under the headings "Myanmar Women and National Prestige" and middle school students "Fine Tradition of

Myanmar Women".

U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Mechanic school for sailors to be opened in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 26 June — Mercury Training Centre-II in Mandalay, the sole training school recognized by the Directorate of Inland Water Transport in upper Myanmar, will conduct courses for Engineering degree holders to become maritime officers; and Arts and Science degree holders and those who have passed the ninth grade to become sailors in the engine room. Previously there was only training for dockyard service which was to be taken for nearly five years to

be able to join the seaman job, but now as courses for workshop skills have been opened for nearly eight months, one can board the ship after obtaining necessary certificates, said Acting Principal of the centre U Wah Win.

The centre opens Workshop Skills for five months, Basic Safety Training for two weeks, Ship Security Awareness for a day and Pre Sea (Engine Rating) for a month.

Min Htet Aung (MDY Sub-printing House)



REGIONAL

South Korean president's leadership under question over PM troubles

SEOUL, 26 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye rejected the resignation of her prime minister on Thursday and asked him to stay on after her second nominee for the job stood aside over controversial comments he had made about Korea's troubled past with Japan.

The decision to keep incumbent Prime Minister Chung Hong-won, who tendered his resignation two months ago over the government's flawed response to a ferry disaster, heightened concerns about her ability to rule and push through reforms.

"The fact that a prime minister who has offered to resign is staying means it's going to be difficult to see her promises get fulfilled," said political commentator Rhee Jong-hoon, who heads iGM Consulting.

Park has suffered a sharp drop in public support since the 16 April ferry tragedy that killed more than 300 people, many of them children on a school



South Korean President Park Geun-hye

trip. The latest polls show a 20-percentage point plunge in her ratings.

Her government has been criticized for slow and incompetent handling of the rescue operation and she has vowed dramatic reform to fix bureaucratic corruption and regulatory oversight that have been cited as causes of the tragedy.

The post of prime min-

ister is largely ceremonial, with power focused on the presidency, but Park's failure to install a convincing candidate cast fresh doubt about her ability to rule Asia's fourth-largest economy and push through tough reforms.

"It's a problem. We keep seeing these stumbles and mishaps," said Daniel Pinkston of the International Crisis Group. "At

some point, everywhere, governments have to govern. You have to get policy through."

Park is in the second year of a single five-year term and has a parliamentary majority that can help her push through legislation to implement her reform policies.

However, her ruling Saenuri Party has been reluctant to back nominees

who quickly became unpopular.

Park's second nominee for the top cabinet post, former journalist Moon Chang-keuk, withdrew his name on Tuesday amid a public furor over comments he made at a church gathering, where he said it had been God's will for Korea to suffer under Japan's colonial rule in the early 20th century.

Her first nominee, a former Supreme Court justice, quit last month over questions about the ethics of earning a large income soon after leaving public service.

"There is a serious administrative vacuum and division of public opinion as a result of various issues that arose in the confirmation process," said Yoon Doo-hyun, Park's chief secretary for public affairs.

"The president has decided this situation cannot be left to persist and, after deliberations, returned Prime Minister Chung Hong-won's resignation and asked him to continue

on with a sense of mission and dedication," Yoon said.—Reuters



Photo taken on 25 June, 2014, shows South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won in Seoul.

President Park Geun-hye retained Chung, who tendered his resignation about two months ago, after a second nominee for the post withdrew his nomination, a senior presidential secretary for Park said on 26 June.

KYODO NEWS

Philippines, US hold naval exercises

MANILA, 26 June — Troops from the Philippines and the United States began on Thursday their annual joint naval exercises.

The 20th annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Philippines 2014 is part of a broader bilateral exercise series the US Navy conducts with nine partner navies in South and Southeast Asia.

The US embassy in Manila said in a statement that CARAT exercises are aimed at addressing shared maritime security priorities, strengthen maritime partnerships and enhance interoperability among participating navies.

This year's CARAT Philippines will focus on combined operations at sea, amphibious landings, diving and salvage, and maritime patrol and reconnaissance flights.

Exercises will be held in several locations ashore and at sea including Subic Bay, San Antonio in the northern Philippine province of Zambales and Sangley Point in Cavite City and Ternate in western Philippines.

As in years past, the sea phase of the exercises will take place in international waters west of Subic Bay.

The Philippines has participated since the series began in 1995. The US embassy said CARAT exercises are "clear examples" of the long-standing and close relationship between the navies of the Philippines and the United States.

The US embassy said CARAT promotes regional maritime cooperation with many participating navies and "is not in response to current events."

Xinhua

Search for Malaysia Airlines jet shifts south

SYDNEY, 26 June — The hunt for missing Malaysia Airlines (MASM. KL) Flight MH370 will shift further south in the Indian Ocean, Australian authorities said on Thursday, ushering in yet another new phase of the long, costly and so far fruitless search.

The Boeing (BA.N) 777, carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared on 8 March shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing. Investigators say what little evidence they have to work with suggests the aeroplane was deliberately diverted thousands of kilometres from its scheduled route before eventually plunging into the Indian Ocean.

The search was narrowed in April after a series of acoustic pings thought to be from the plane's black box recorders were heard along a final arc where analysis of satellite data put its last location.

But a month later, officials conceded the wreckage was not in that concentrated area, some 1,600 km

(1,000 miles) off the north-west coast of Australia, and the search area would have to be expanded.

"The new priority area is still focused on the seventh arc, where the aircraft last communicated with satellite. We are now shifting our attention to an area further south along

the arc," Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said.

Truss said the new priority search area was determined after a review of satellite data and early radar information as the plane suddenly diverted across the Malaysian peninsula and headed south

into one of the remotest areas of the planet.

"It is highly, highly likely that the aircraft was on autopilot otherwise it could not have followed the orderly path that has been identified through the satellite sightings," Truss told reporters in Canberra.

Reuters



Crew aboard the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield move the US Navy's Bluefin-21 autonomous underwater vehicle into position for deployment in the southern Indian Ocean to look for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, on 14 April, 2014 in this handout picture released by the US Navy.—REUTERS

Four injured by southern Afghan explosion

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 26 June — Four people were wounded on Thursday morning in an explosion in Kandahar city, the provincial capital of southern Afghan province of Kandahar, sources said.

“One improvised bomb went off in Shahidan Square at around 09:15 am local time, injuring two civilians and two Afghan National Police personnel,” a security source told *Xinhua*, adding some of the injured were said to be in critical condition.

Security forces have cordoned off the area for precautionary measures. Initial investigation showed that it was a remote control blast, said the source.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched a rebel offensive against the Afghan government forces and NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.

In neighbouring Helmand Province, six militants were killed and one police wounded following a Taliban attack on security checkpoints in Gereshek district overnight, provincial police spokesman Abdul Ahad Chopan told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

Advisers urge Japan to offer foreign aid to richer nations

TOKYO, 26 June — Advisers to Japan’s foreign minister urged the government on Thursday to include richer nations among its foreign aid recipients, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushes for Tokyo to play a bigger role in global security and diplomacy.

Japan is the world’s fourth-largest donor of official development assistance (ODA) behind the United States, Britain and Germany, and its foreign minister, Fumio Kishida, has called its development aid “Japan’s biggest diplomatic tool.”

The advisers said Japan should keep its policy of refraining from funneling ODA for military uses, but noted that humanitarian activities by armed forces, such as disaster relief, should not be excluded uniformly just because they are military-related.

Abe’s government is reviewing its ODA policy and plans to draw up a set of new principles by the end of the year, after taking into account the panel’s recommendations.

“There are countries that are beset with various types of vulnerability and development challenges even after they have



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks next to a teleprompter during a news conference at his official residence in Tokyo on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

achieved a certain level of growth,” the advisers said in the report. “It is important to respond to development needs of those countries as broadly and as meticulously as possible, without mechanically applying income levels and other criteria.”

Countries that could become new aid targets include those in the Caribbean and Middle East, some of which have

outgrown the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD) list of eligible ODA recipients, according to the foreign ministry.

The advisers also recommended closer coordination between the government and the private sector to maximize the effect of Japan’s overseas development aid, a step that would help Japanese companies

win overseas deals.

“Cooperation between the public and private sectors is getting increasingly important to bring together Japan’s superior knowledge, technology, and various resources, and to support developing countries more effectively,” it said.

Since taking office in December 2012, Abe has traveled extensively overseas to promote Japan’s new foreign policy of

making a more “proactive contribution to peace”, as well as to help Japanese firms expand their overseas businesses.

Abe told a news conference on Tuesday that his approach had helped Japanese companies win more than 9 trillion yen (\$88.2 billion) in foreign infrastructure orders last year, a threefold jump from a year earlier.

Reuters

Philippine film star-turned-senator pleads not guilty to graft



Ramon “Bong” Revilla, a Philippine action movie hero-turned senator, gives a thumbs-up sign inside a police van after his voluntary surrender at the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court in Manila on 20 June, 2014.—REUTERS

MANILA, 26 June — A popular Philippine action movie hero-turned senator pleaded not guilty to plunder on Thursday in a case seen as landmark test of the government’s ability to tackle entrenched corruption in the poor

Southeast Asian nation. Ramon “Bong” Revilla, known for possessing amulets to defeat his enemies in film, stood quietly with about 20 other co-accused during the arraignment hearing. “Not guilty” one of the three judges said

when they did not hear him enter a plea.

The opposition senator faces life imprisonment if found guilty of pocketing 224 million pesos (\$5.11 million) from 2007 to 2010 from congressional funds. Revilla is being held at a

police camp.

The plunder trial is central to President Benigno Aquino’s effort to shed the country’s image as one of the most corrupt in Asia. The court set Revilla’s first hearing for 10 July. Two other opposition senators are facing similar plunder charges. Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada, son of former president and Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, will be arraigned next week.

Juan Ponce Enrile, a 90-year-old former senate president and hero of People Power revolt against the dictatorship in 1986, is appealing to avoid detention due to his age and poor health. Prosecutors, citing government-commissioned reports and witness testimony, said the three senators had siphoned off funds to non-existent non-government organizations for agricultural projects.—*Reuters*

Biden reaffirms US commitment to Asian rebalance

WASHINGTON, 26 June — Vice President Joseph Biden on Wednesday reaffirmed US commitment to its rebalance to Asia on political, security and economic fronts.

Biden highlighted US efforts to “deepen its engagement” with Asia on the three fronts when meeting with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the White House, the White House said in a statement.

The pair discussed a range of bilateral, regional and global issues, with Biden thanking Lee for Singapore’s leadership in “shaping a more peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia,” the White House said.

“The two leaders discussed mutual concerns over a pattern of destabilizing behaviour in the South China Sea and reiterated their mutual interest in international law, freedom of

navigation, and the peaceful resolution of maritime and territorial disputes,” the White House added.

The two leaders met amid growing tension over maritime disputes in the South China Sea. China has made it clear that it encourages dialogue and consultation to resolve disputes in the Asia-Pacific region, but will not waver in its determination to safeguard national interests.

On the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations involving the United States, Singapore and 10 other countries, Biden and Lee agreed to work together to finalize an “ambitious, high-standard agreement” as soon as possible.

Biden underscored the importance of “working to establish new rules of the road” to meet the world’s economic needs in the 21st century, the White House said.

Xinhua

WORLD



A pro-Russian separatist guards a road checkpoint outside the town of Lysychansk in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine, on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

West renews Russia sanctions threat as Ukraine ceasefire crumbles

BRUSSELS / SLAVIANSK, (Ukraine), 26 June — Western powers warned Russia on Wednesday that they could impose new sanctions if Moscow did not do more to defuse the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where a ceasefire between Russian-speaking rebels and government forces appeared to be crumbling.

The upper house of Russia's parliament fulfilled a request by President Vladimir Putin to rescind the right to invade Ukraine in defence of its Russian speakers that it had granted him in March.

However, a leading lawmaker said the power could be quickly restored if required, and Western governments indicated they would judge Russia by the progress that was made to end the fighting in eastern

Ukraine.

On Tuesday, less than 24 hours after a bilateral ceasefire was agreed, rebels shot down a Ukrainian military helicopter, killing all nine on board. This prompted Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to tell his troops to return fire if attacked, declaring that he might call off the ceasefire altogether.

A Ukrainian government spokesman said the rebels had violated the ceasefire 44 times since Monday.

Moscow denies Western accusations that it has allowed fighters to cross into Ukraine along with heavy weapons to confront Ukrainian government forces, and that it is keeping its own troops close to the border to put pressure on Kiev.

Reuters

Iraq presidency convenes parliament in first step to form new government

BAGHDAD, 26 June — Iraq's presidency issued a decree on Thursday for a parliament session on 1 July, state television said, starting the process of forming a new government amid an insurgency that threatens the country's unity.

Vice President Khu-

dair al-Khuzai, who is acting president and a close ally of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, announced the session would be held.

Three months after elections, a chorus of Iraqi and international voices have called for the government formation process to be started.—Reuters



Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki

Russia says next Iran atom talks to be marathon, slams UN experts

UNITED NATIONS, 26 June — Russia's UN envoy on Wednesday said the next round of talks between Iran and six world powers will be a two-week marathon session, while warning a panel of UN sanctions experts not to sabotage the final phase of the delicate negotiations.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told the Security Council that the negotiations are scheduled to run from 2 July to 15 July in Vienna. Other senior officials close to the talks confirmed the talks are expected to last two weeks, as a 20 July deadline for a long-term deal approaches.

Speaking about the previous round of negotiations, 16 to 20 June, Churkin said "it was very useful and confirmed the overall readiness to continue cooperating in a constructive vein." He predicted that their readiness for cooperation would continue in the talks beginning next week.

The long period set aside for the negotiations between Iran and the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany may be an indication both of how difficult it will be to overcome the differences between Teheran and the six — and the parties' determination to get a deal.

The stakes are high in the talks resuming on 2 July, as the powers seek a negotiated solution to a more-than-decade-long



Russia's United Nations Ambassador Vitaly Churkin is shown on a television as he speaks during a news conference marking the start of his month-long term as president of the UN Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York on 3 June, 2014.—REUTERS

standoff with Iran that has raised fears of a new Middle East war and a regional nuclear arms race.

Churkin sharply criticized the UN Panel of Experts on Iran, which monitors compliance with the Security Council's sanctions regime, saying "any information not backed up by concrete facts ... could have a negative impact on the conduct of negotiations of the group of six and Iran."

The panel's latest findings were made public earlier this month. Reuters reported on the panel's report in May, when the experts noted that Teheran's illicit procurement appeared to

have slowed during its negotiations with the six powers, though Iranians continued to attempt to bypass sanctions.

They also accused Iran of pursuing its ballistic missile programme in violation of UN sanctions imposed on Teheran for refusing to suspend its uranium enrichment programme. Iran says enrichment is part of a peaceful nuclear programme.

The panel urged countries to clarify the status of UN sanctions in the event of a deal with Iran that would see them gradually eased in exchange for curbs on Iranian atomic activities. It said some states were confused

about the status of sanctions after a preliminary deal agreed last year. Churkin was dismissive of that and other recommendations.

"This is an issue that is outside their mandate," he said. "The (experts) should not interfere in this extremely sensitive process. And in particular it is unacceptable to pre-judge its outcome."

Churkin reiterated Russia's commitment to a positive outcome of the nuclear talks.

Other council members praised the work of the experts, as did Australian Ambassador Gary Quinlan, chairman of the council's Iran sanctions committee.—Reuters

Iran sending drones, equipment to Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 June — Iran is sending drones and military equipment secretly into Iraq to help the Shiite-led government in Baghdad cope with an on-going offensive by the Sunni militants, *The New York Times* reported on Wednesday.

Teheran has set up a special control center at Al Rashid airfield in Baghdad, Iraq, and is flying its own "small fleet" of Ababil surveillance drones over Iraq, the paper said in a story posted at its website, quoting American officials.

In addition, the Shiite republic has been making two daily flights — 70 tons per flight — of military equipment and supplies to Baghdad, deployed an intelligence unit there to

intercept communications and about a dozen Quds Force officers to advise Iraqi commanders, the report said.

Also, Iran has massed as many as 10 divisions of military and Quds Force troops on the border, ready to come to Baghdad's aid "if the Iraqi capital is imperiled or Shiite shrines in cities like Samarra are seriously threatened," American officials were quoted as saying.

Teheran on Wednesday denied the presence of any Iranian military officials in Iraq, dismissing such claims as "not true."

"As the Iraqi ambassador to Teheran emphasized, none of Iranian military officials are in Iraq," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokes-

woman Marzieh Afkham said.

Washington has stepped up its own surveillance and intelligence gathering over Iraq, and is sending in military advisors in its efforts to try to stabilize the deteriorating situation in Iraq, as fighters from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, a splinter group of al-Qaeda also known as ISIL, are continuing their advances after seizing swathes of five provinces in northern and western Iraq in the past two weeks.

As a parallel tack in defusing the crisis, the United States is pressing for an "inclusive" government in Baghdad and has held off airstrikes on the ISIL militants as request-

ed by Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

US and Iranian officials met in Vienna, Austria, last week on the sidelines of negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme, but US officials said Washington would not cooperate and coordinate with Teheran militarily.

US Secretary of State John Kerry is on a Middle East and European tour with the Iraqi crisis atop his agenda.

As to airstrikes on militant targets inside Iraq reportedly carried out by Syrian warplanes, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters that Washington had no reason to "dispute" the reports but could not confirm them either.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 27 June, 2014

Tripartite dialogues, legal frameworks and rule of law

By Myint Win Thein

Tripartite dialogue means negotiations among the government, employer associations and labour unions. This has proved to be a convenient way to solve labour issues in many other countries in the world, especially in Scandinavian countries.

The reason why they can solve labour issues

successfully through tripartite dialogues is that their strong legal frameworks have guarantee the rights of workers as well as the employers' while their governments effectively implement the rule of law.

Legal framework includes a number of legal documents including the universal declaration of human rights, labour laws and international, regional and national agreements. As workers are human beings, their human rights must not be violated by anyone, including the government and the employers. As citizens of member countries in international or regional organizations, workers have the rights to enjoy their benefit in accordance with international and regional conventions. As citizens of a particular country they are also entitled to enjoy rights and benefits ac-

cording to the laws of the country concerned.

On the part of governments, they have the responsibility to enforce their own laws and international conventions to make sure that everyone abides by them. Most labour issues in Myanmar stem from the lack of a strong legal framework for workers and weak enforcement of laws. If Myanmar has these two essential requirements, it will be able to solve labour issues through tripartite dialogues.

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.

Long lasting old capital Inwa, Part IV Third Inwa under First Konebaung dynasty

**Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr.Khin Maung Nyunt**

(continued from 26-6-2014)

Myanmar small but mobile war canoes proved better than hordes after hordes of invaders. Besides Myanmar commanders worked hand in hand, whereas the invaders made their attacks isolatedly. Manchu General Mingjui, son-in-law of Chinese Emperor marched swiftly through Gokhteik gorge, down to Singaung, just 3 marches to capital Inwa. Hsinbyushin and his court were advised to retreat as the enemies were closing in. But the King scornfully refused saying that Alaungpaya's blood would never submit and surrender, would fight to the last breath. He ordered to cut the line of communication of the invaders. Short of arms ammunitions and food, the Manchus suffered untold losses. At last, General Mingjui cut his pigtail

to be presented to his Emperor and hanged himself on a tree.

At Kaungdong and Kaungsin, the Manchu stormers after many attacks day and night were forced to turn back because of the strength of Myanmar stock-ages and the tactics of Myanmar water forces on fleet of war canoes.

At last in the fourth year of the war 1769, the Manchu Generals asked for truce and finally peace. Myanmar Commanders held a meeting to discuss whether to accept Manchu offer of truce and peace. They agreed that the two immediate neighbour countries must live in peace for the welfare of both. Besides, China baring a bigger country could not be conquered by Myanmar a small country. So it was prudent to accept their offer of truce and peace.

The two parties met

and signed a joint statement and a peace treaty ending the war. The major terms of agreement were –

- (1) Border issues were to be settled peacefully by local authorities from both sides.
- (2) Status quo ante-bellum was to be restored.
- (3) Border trade was to be resumed soon
- (4) To maintain Sino-Myanmar relation (Paukphaw-Myanmar relation) a decennial mission and gifts and presents were to be exchanged every ten years.

When King Hsinbyushin was reported fully, he became angry for accepting Manchu offer of truce and peace without his knowledge and consent. He punished his generals by keeping them in burning Sun shine, with presents and gifts of Manchus on their heads, as the King thought these were bribes.

To alleviate the royal anger the commanders marched to Manipur and brought to Inwa many war booties and captives.

These successful wars with Ayudia, Manchu invaders and punitive expeditions against Manipura proved that Hsinbyushin's choice of old Inwa for his capital was right. He put to use all geopolitical and strategic potentials and facilities of Inwa. With rivers, valleys and land routes converging at Inwa, line of communication was secure. With the entire hinterland of crop fields at Kyaukse, Inwa could never be starved in any eventuality of natural disaster or war. With departed war captives Inwa's urbanization was extended and improved. It was unfortunate that Hsinbyushin's successor was not his next younger brother Bodawpaya (Badon Min) as willed by their father Alaungpaya who issued order to succeed him by his 6 sons, one after another in the sequence of their

age. It was Hsinbyushin's son Singu Min who came to the throne. He ruled at Inwa from 1776 -1782 for 7 years, he was no equal to his father in many ways. But he carried out his filial duty. The unfinished alloy bell his father dedicated to Shwedagon Pagoda was finished at Inwa and taken down to Shwedagon and set up at the north-west corner of the precinct we see till today. The 19 lines of inscriptions on the bell not only recorded religious merits of Hsinbyushin but also the detent extent of his kingdom by mention the countries he conquered such as Linzin, Chiengmai, Ayudia and Manipuri. Identical record is found on a stone pillar on the summit of Pho U Taung hill facing the Town "Pyay". Hsinbyushin in 1774 A.D visited this hill and renovated the pagoda and put a new hti on it. The said stone pillar recorded his religious deeds.

Singu's short reign of 7 years (1776-1782) was marked by peace and pilgrimages. He did send punitive military expedition to Manipur and his army won victories in Cachar and Jaintia two frontier states from which he received tributes and princely daughters. He led a leisure life. Surrounded by poets, musicians and fair court ladies, he would go out on a long journey to far distance pagodas and hills, leaving his capital and court to his ministers' care. It was during his pilgrimage to Anya Thihadaw pagoda on an island in the Ayeyawady River in the district of Shwebo, that his cousin, Maung Maung, Lord of Phaungga son of King Naungdawgyi took over Inwa at right time. Though Singu rushed back

to retake Inwa, it was too late and he was slain by a minister, while Maung Maung escaped.

At last rightful successor Bodawpaya with his mentor U PawU appeared in the scene. U PawU urged Bodawpaya to take Inwa at such an appropriate moment. Bodawpaya spaned no opponent neither he left no stone unturned in establishing his position as an absolute monarch on Inwa throne. He cleaned up the Inwa Court by executing all kinsmen, ministers etc down to their distant relatives who dared to resist him. All rival claimants to throne were done to death or "mercifully asked" to take the oath of allegiance to him.

A year after ascending the throne in Inwa. Bodawpaya moved his capital to a new site which he named Amarapura which was only 6 miles away from Inwa. Astrological and personal reasons caused that move. His Brahman priests advised him to become the founder of a new capital and builder of a new palace." He had lived long at Mingun across the Ayeyawady River. There he and his mentor U PawU waited for an opportune moment to oust usurper King Singu, and take Inwa throne. He wanted to build some big memorials there. Amarapura was much nearer to Mingun than Inwa to fulfill his wishes. But his move cost too much to his people—founding a new capital and building a new palace at the site where there were no natural resources and facilities like Inwa. But he did move there leaving Inwa deserted and abandoned only to be revived under second Konebaung dynasty.

To be continued

Zonal Transfer Inspection for vehicles will not be made in Mandalay: RTA

MANDALAY, 26 June —The Department of Road Transport Administration in Mandalay will not carry out Zonal Transfer Inspection for vehicles registered in other regions. As the number of vehicles is increasing and in order to ease traffic jams, private owned vehicles from other regions will not be allowed to go under the Zonal Transfer Inspection except departmental vehicles, said officials of the Mandalay RTA.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mdy)



NATIONAL

Former military personnel with disabilities entitled to a number of benefits



NAY PYI TAW, 26 June —Army veterans, who lost limbs in battles and families of those who died in action, are entitled to a number

Union Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt explains benefits for former military personnel at the Upper House.

MNA

of benefits, Union Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt told the Upper House on Thursday.

The benefits for retirees from military services includes pensions, good service awards, monthly cash provisions for Thingaha Award, cash awards for other titles, scholarships for their children offered by the military personnel board and healthcare ser-

vices, the union deputy minister said.

In addition to these benefits, those who have lost their limbs can receive promotion, gratuities, and money for care services, he added.

Families of those who died in action are entitled to cash, special pensions for family members, scholarships, health care services and foreign study trips.

Moreover, those who retired from military services or those who had to leave the military service can apply for land plots.

From 1987 to February 2014, a total of 3,953 houses and land plots were handed over and those entitled were also provided with jobs from Myanmar Economic Holding Limited.

MNA

ECC vice chairman promise to uphold national interest, international norms and constitutional provisions

YANGON, 26 June—A meeting on an action plan for the stability and development of Rakhine State was held at the Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon on Thursday.

Those present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of union-level Emergency Coordination Centre Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Union Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Union Deputy Minister for Immigration and Man Power U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Special Advisor for Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar to the UN General Secretary, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Secretary of ECC Dr Daw Yin Yin Nwe, Joint Secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing and members.

At the meeting, Gen Maung Maung Ohn said that the purpose of the talks is to discuss the affairs of Rakhine State without bias after considering the opinions and wishes of national race organizations and Rakhine nationals and youths in addition to the objectives of the Union Government and Rakhine State Government so that development projects in Rakhine State can be carried out in a more practical manner. He promised to place emphasis on the national interests of Rakhine State. He continued to say that he

will uphold the national interests, international norms and provisions of the state constitution in accordance with guidance of the president.

General Maung Maung Ohn invited the opinions, wishes and visions of Rakhine youths at the meeting and urged the participants to focus their discussions on the interests of the race, religion and region without racial hatred in order to overcome the communal conflicts.

Social organizations in Rakhine State, international organizations and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar will discuss the points stated in the action plan for development of Rakhine State on 27 June.

MNA

Myanmar workers in China have rights only when finally allowed to work there officially: Union Deputy Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June —As China has not officially offered to accept Myanmar workers, Myanmar labourers are not enti-

tled for a long stay there. They can only go there with temporary passes individually, Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Em-

ployment and Social Security U Htin Kyaw told the Lower House on Thursday.

The union deputy minister also said that Myanmar workers are subject to human trafficking, with women being sold as brides, for instance.

They fall into the hands of human trafficking brokers in other countries and have to endure months or years of abuse.

However, the union deputy minister said that his ministry is systematically trying to effectively protect migrant workers, so they can travel safely and enjoy their rights in accordance with the laws of the countries concerned.

In addition, the union deputy minister added that his ministry is cooperating with the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, International Non-governmental Organization, the United Nations and the media to educate Myanmar migrant workers.

He said his ministry will be able to help Myanmar workers in China to enjoy their rightful benefits and rights by signing MoUs as the ministry has done with Korea and Malaysia only when China offers to accept Myanmar migrant workers officially.

MNA



Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Kyaw responds to a question at the lower house.—MNA

Biodiversity in Northern Myanmar requires urgent attention

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—As one of the richest areas of biodiversity in Southeast Asia, Myanmar maintains a good balance between the preservation of natural resources and regional development, the government has claimed. The country's northern part is now being considered an area of biodiversity that is in

urgent need of protection.

Myanmar's Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has joined the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in a bid to establish a framework for regional cooperation in the protection of the Brahmaputra-Salween area.

At a workshop here

on Thursday, Union Minister U Win Tun gave an account of its membership to ICIMOD and activities in the conservation of forest resources and different species of flora and fauna in the country's hilly regions.

Of seven areas whose biodiversity requires urgent attention, the Brahmaputra-Salween area borders

China, India and Myanmar.

According to the union minister, the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative took shape at the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference, with subsequent conferences in China in 2009, in Myanmar in 2011, and in India in 2014.—MNA

Myanmar's application to join EITI to be considered in July

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 26 June—The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in July will consider Myanmar's application to join the association, according to the report of the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Thursday.

EITI is an international standard for openness around the management of revenues from the natural resources. Governments disclose how much they re-

ceive from extractive companies operating in their country and these companies disclose how much they pay.

The report said, quoting London-based advocacy group Global Witness on Thursday, that of the 47 local and international companies which won major oil and gas blocks in Myanmar in October and March, only 13 responded to questions about their ownership.

The Netherlands' Beringa Holding B.V., Italy's

Eni, Anglo-Dutch Shell and Thailand's PTTEP South Asia, a subsidiary of publicly traded PTTEP, are among those that did not respond, Global Witness said.

"Company secrecy threatens Myanmar's fragile progress towards a fairer and more open management of its resource wealth," the advocacy group said in a statement.

Vicky Bowman, a former British diplomat now leading the Myanmar Centre for Responsible

Business said: "Myanmar is coming out of decades of opaque business deals which have resulted in civil society being very suspicious of business, particularly in the extractives sector."

"The government is also applying to be a member of the EITI. For these reasons, it is important that companies in the Myanmar extractives sector make their ownership clear, so that citizens understand who is benefiting from the new investment," she add-

ed.

Only two Myanmar private companies — Myanmar's Machinery & Solutions and Myanmar Petroleum E&P Co. Ltd — provided full details of their ultimate owners, Global Witness said.

The EITI is established as a non-profit association under Norwegian law. It is registered as "The Association for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives" or "EITI Association".

NLM

Egypt defends itself at UN amid outcry over jailing of journalists

UNITED NATIONS, 26 June—Egypt defended its judicial system at the United Nations on Wednesday amid a global outcry over the jailing of al Jazeera journalists, telling diplomats and reporters that it respects the role of the media and does not consider journalism a crime.

Diplomats from more than 17 countries, including eight members of the UN Security Council, attended the meeting organized by the UN Correspondents Association to show solidarity with the three imprisoned Al Jazeera journalists.

Australian Peter Greste; Canadian-Egyptian national Mohamed Fahmy, Cairo bureau chief of Al Jazeera English; and Egyptian producer Baher Mohamed were jailed on Monday for seven years. All three denied the charge of working with the now banned Muslim Brotherhood.

The cases sparked global outrage. The United States called for the “chilling, draconian sentences”



Journalists protest the imprisonment of Al Jazeera journalists Peter Greste, Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed in Egypt, outside Al Jazeera offices in Sanaa on 25 June, 2014.—REUTERS

to be reversed.

“The Egyptian judicial system is very well-known for providing full guarantees for the defendant,” Egypt’s deputy UN Ambassador, Osama Abdelkhalek Mahmoud, told

the meeting. “I have confidence that the due procedures will be followed and justice will be done in such cases and in all other cases.”

A social media campaign pushing for the re-

lease of the journalists uses the catchphrase “Journalism is not a crime.”

“We fully subscribe to this wording you have used — journalism is not a crime,” he said. “We have 1,200 foreign correspond-

ents in Egypt working, none of them were harassed or annoyed ... We highly respect the role played by journalists.”

Deputy Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Robert Mahoney,

said some 67 journalists had been detained in the Egypt since the government of former Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi was toppled in July.

“A lot have been let out, but today as we speak there are 14 journalists in jail in Egypt, including the three Al Jazeera journalists,” he said. “That makes Egypt ... the biggest jailer of journalists in the Arab world, more than Syria.”

Newly elected Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Tuesday he would not interfere with judicial verdicts.

Former East Timor President Jose Ramos Horta told the meeting at the United Nations that he believed the situation could be resolved through creative diplomacy.

“Sometimes leaders like President Sisi of Egypt need some way out. They have given a message, their message is heard, now it’s time to find a solution satisfactory to everybody,” he said.

Reuters

UN Security Council blacklists Boko Haram leader, splinter group



A poster advertising the search for Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau and other fighters is pasted on a wall in Baga village on the outskirts of Maiduguri, in the northeastern state of Borno in this on 13 May, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 26 June —The United Nations Security Council sanctioned the leader of Nigeria’s Boko Haram and a splinter group on Wednesday, the first individual and entity to be designated by the world body since the Islamist militant group was blacklisted, diplomats said.

Leader Abubakar Shekau and Boko Haram faction Ansaru will be banned from international

travel and their assets frozen under the UN al-Qaeda sanctions list.

Russia placed a “technical hold” on the designations two weeks ago because it needed more time to review the listings, but diplomats said they lifted the hold on Wednesday, allowing the sanctions to come into force.

Last month, the Security Council al-Qaeda sanctions committee blacklisted

Boko Haram at the request of Nigeria, following global outrage when the group kidnapped more than 250 girls from a school in remote northeastern Nigeria on 14 April.

The Islamist militant group was described in the UN listing as an affiliate of al-Qaeda and the Organization of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). It is subjected to a travel ban, an asset freeze and an arms

embargo.

Boko Haram faction Ansaru, blamed for the killing of several Western hostages, is AQIM’s bona fide affiliate in Nigeria, and called itself “al-Qaeda in the Land Beyond the Sahara” in a video with a British and Italian hostage in 2011.

Ansaru broke off from Boko Haram in protest at its killing 186 mostly Muslim civilians in the medieval Islamic city of Kano in early 2012.

Shekau is the purported leader of Boko Haram. A year ago, US Secretary of State John Kerry authorized a reward of up to \$7 million for information leading to his location.

Boko Haram’s five-year-old insurgency is aimed at reviving a medieval Islamic caliphate in modern Nigeria, whose 170 million people are split about evenly between Christians and Muslims. The group is becoming, by far, the biggest security threat to Africa’s top oil producer. Boko Haram, which in the Hausa language broadly means “Western education is sinful,” is loosely modeled on the Taliban movement in Afghanistan.—Reuters

Al Shabaab insurgents attack hotel in central Somalia

MOGADISHU, 26 June—Explosions and gunfire were heard on Thursday at a hotel in central Somalia used by Somali soldiers and Djiboutian peacekeepers working for the African Union (AMISOM), residents said.

Militant group Al Shabaab said it was behind the attack.

“Our well-armed Mujahideen in similar uniform entered Hotel Amalow in Bulobarde again. They are carrying out the oper-

ations, shootings,” Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab’s spokesman for military operation told Reuters.

Shopkeeper Farah Noor told Reuters from the town of Bulobarde that al Shabaab fighters had hurled several grenades at the gate of the hotel then gone inside and started shooting.

“We don’t know of any casualties. The place is now surrounded by many AMISOM and Somali forces,” he said.—Reuters

Suicide bomber kills two soldiers as clashes erupt in Yemen

ADEN, 26 June — A suicide bomber drove his explosives-laden car into the entrance of army base in the central Yemeni city of Seiyun, killing two soldiers on Thursday, security officials said.

At the same time, soldiers clashed with suspected al-Qaeda militants at the city’s nearby airport, the officials told Reuters. Western powers fear al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) could use Yemen as a springboard for

future international attacks.

Yemen’s army launched an offensive against the militant group, pushing it out of many positions in the south in April in a bid to stem a stubborn Islamist insurgency targeting security forces, military facilities and foreigners.

But the militants have continued to grab land and attack the army in the impoverished country bordering the world’s top oil producer Saudi Arabia.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Testing US crude oil export ban with swaps no simple matter

WASHINGTON, 26 June — Oil producers considering swapping US light crude abroad for the heavier imported oil needed by refiners to work around a decades-old ban on exporting domestic crude may find the strategy harder to execute than it looks on paper.

As US production of light crude oil continues to boom, some companies and lawmakers are calling for the United States to reform its decades-old ban on most US crude oil exports — a policy that followed the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s.

A breakthrough arguably came this week, when US officials clarified that a type of ultra-light crude known as condensate could be exported after enough processing to qualify as a refined product, exports of which are allowed. Swaps would be another way to test the ban's limits.

In theory it should take just weeks for Washington



An oil and gas drilling platform stands offshore as waves churned from Tropical Storm Karen come ashore in Dauphin Island, Alabama, on 5 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

to allow oil producers to execute a deal, since these swaps are allowed by law. But analysts say meeting the base requirement — that the imports be of the same quantity and quality as the exports — is easier said than done.

The current law does not clearly define quality — for example, whether a heavier crude such as the

kind Mexico produces is of higher quality because it is compatible with US refining capacity, or lower quality because of its density.

“Ensuring that crude swapped in is of the same quantity and quality as crude swapped out, which is a loose paraphrase of one of the regulation’s many stipulations, may be

non-trivial,” said Kevin Book, policy analyst at ClearView Energy Partners.

The Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security, which oversees exports, has received at least one application for a permit to export crude through a swap deal, Reuters has reported.

Earlier this month,

Continental Resources confirmed it has applied for a license for a swap “to further demonstrate the need for a free market for crude.” The largest leaseholder in the booming North Dakota Bakken region did not disclose with which country it intends to swap.

Current law says US oil can be exchanged in similar quantity “with persons or the government of an adjacent foreign state” or temporarily exported across parts of an adjacent country, and then reentered into the United States.

Adjacent countries could include Mexico and Panama, according to a BIS official.

US regulations allow a swap of oil exports for imports only if the home-grown product cannot be marketed domestically for “compelling” economic reasons.

Analysts said that if a company makes a strong enough case about the negative economic impacts of

excess crude oil production within the United States, approval could be relatively fast.

“If someone put in the right application that said ‘I’ve got a distressed crude oil, it’s a widget that no one needs and its backing up on production’...I would bet they would get an export license,” said Frank Verastro, chair for energy and geopolitics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Export backers said dislocations in supply will increase in the coming months and years as production from the Bakken and other plays, ill-suited to current refining needs, continues to rise.

North Dakota this month passed the one-million-barrel a day mark in crude production, the state’s petroleum council said on 17 June. In 2000, the state produced less than 100,000 barrels of oil per day.

Reuters

Study links traumatic brain injury to increased dementia risk

NEW YORK, 26 June — Older military veterans who have suffered a serious head injury are more likely to be diagnosed with dementia than uninjured veterans, according to a new study. The report looked at traumatic brain injury (TBI), which includes concussions, skull fractures and bleeding inside the skull.

“There have been a fair number of previous studies that have looked at the relationship between TBI and risk of dementia, and some have found an association while others haven’t,” said lead author Deborah E. Barnes, from the University of California, San Francisco and the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Centre.

She and her colleagues sought to clarify the relationship by taking into account other conditions, like depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“And we found that, even after accounting for these other factors, older veterans with a history of TBI were 60 percent more likely to develop dementia,” Barnes told Reuters Health in an email.

Dementia affects five

percent of people in their 70s and 37 percent of those in their 90s, according to past research.

For the new study, the researchers examined the medical records of more than 188,000 U.S. veterans ages 55 and older who had undergone a medical evaluation between 2000 and 2003 and did not have dementia at the time.

The veterans all visited the doctor again at least once between 2003 and 2012.

According to their records, 1,229 of the veterans had been diagnosed with TBI. Between 2003 and 2012, 196 of those with a history of TBI developed dementia, or 16 percent, compared to 18,255 of the veterans without TBI, or 10 percent.

Veterans with TBI also developed dementia an average of two years earlier than those without TBI, according to results published in *Neurology*. “Of course, these numbers reflect population averages, so there will be many individual veterans without TBI who develop dementia and many with TBI who don’t,” Barnes said. “Having a TBI just increases the risk.”—Reuters

It’s Asian bonds, not equities, that are too rich



An employee counts Chinese 100 yuan banknotes at a branch of China Merchants Bank in Hefei, Anhui Province on 21 June, 2013.—REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 26 June — An unusual parallel rally in Asian bonds and equities, powered for the last five years by cheap global funds, could give out soon with debt becoming a casualty of the increasing confidence in the outlook for global growth. Bonds are now pricing in an extremely bleak economic outlook, making them susceptible to any spike in long-term rates. The rise in equities has been less pronounced, leaving room for further gains as a pick up in global demand boosts corporate earnings.

The tricky part for investors, however, is to pre-

cisely time their exit from bonds. Strictly speaking, bonds can continue to feed off the supply of cheap money from central banks in developed markets. Plus, there is the nagging risk of a hard landing in China and escalating crises in Iraq and Ukraine, which could push investors back into the safety of fixed-income assets.

“It’s a bubble in caution,” said Markus Rosgen, Asian equity strategist at Citi. “The bond market is too bearish on the outlook for growth, and people will say if growth is improving, then I have a claim on growth through equities which I don’t through

bonds, then I ought to switch out of bonds into equities.”

“So it’s generally equity-friendlier than it is bond-friendlier,” said Rosgen. Investment bank analysts warn bond levels are frothy and there are traces of a shift of retail money from bond funds to equity. But the actual decision to sell bonds is complicated by powerful but divergent catalysts. The Federal Reserve is reducing its bond purchases, but appears in no rush to raise interest rates. European authorities are easing policy. Britain has hinted at early rate rises. A handful of Asian

central banks, including in New Zealand and the Philippines, are raising rates.

The growth picture is changing, with Japan, the United States and even parts of Europe showing improvements in demand, although analysts now expect 2014 to be less robust than they did before.

That means the long end of the US Treasuries yield curve may stay lower for longer and so preclude a rise in global yields.

That would leave fund managers at risk of underperforming global bond indexes if they sold bonds prematurely.

As things stand, however, there is not much value in bonds, particularly not for carry traders who borrow cheap short-term funds and seek to exploit interest rate differentials.

Even in markets offering nominal yields above 8 percent on bonds, namely India and Indonesia, returns have shrunk. Foreigners raising money in the offshore rupee swap market and buying a 10-year Indian government bond would make just 150 basis points (bps) or so, less than a third of what they made in 2011. In Indonesia, it is merely 220 bps, and in other markets such as South Korea and the Philippines it is less than 70 bps.

Reuters

Suicide bomber hits hotel near Saudi embassy in Beirut



A policeman secures the area as firefighters put out a fire at Duroy hotel following a bomb attack in Raouche, in western Beirut on 25 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 26 June — A suicide bomber killed himself and wounded at least four security officers at a hotel in Beirut close to the Saudi Arabian embassy

on Wednesday, Lebanese security sources said, the third blast in Lebanon in less than a week.

The Saudi bomber blew himself up when he

was approached by security officers near the Duroy hotel, some 20 metres from the embassy in the seaside district of Raouche, the sources said. The embassy

was not damaged by the blast.

Television footage showed scores of army officers packing a main street filled with emergency vehicles.

Security services arrested a second suspected Saudi militant and are pursuing a third whose nationality was not immediately known, the sources added.

Lebanon has suffered a wave of sectarian violence linked to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

On Monday night, a suicide bomber blew up his car near an army checkpoint in the city, killing himself and a security officer. Three days earlier, the head of Lebanon's General Security service narrowly escaped a suicide bombing near the Syrian border.

Reuters

M4.7 quake hits Hokkaido, no tsunami warning issued

SAPPORO, 26 June — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.7 struck eastern Hokkaido on Thursday afternoon, but no tsunami alert was issued, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 2:47 pm quake, which originated off the Nemuro Peninsula at a depth of around 50 kilometres, registered an intensity of 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in the city of Nemuro, it said.—Kyodo News

Derailment in NE China suspends train services

HARBIN, 26 June— A train derailment on Wednesday night has led to the halt of three passenger trains in north-east China's Heilongjiang Province, local authorities said.

The accident happened at around 10:45 pm, when a freight train numbered 40291 went out of track in the Chenqing-Qingxi section in Heihe City. Casualties are not immediately known.

The derailment has so far caused three passenger trains to suspend services, including K7033, K7035 and K7036.

The Harbin Railway Administration has sent a rescue team to the site, and the cause of the accident is under way.—Xinhua

At least 21 killed in rush-hour blast in Nigerian capital

ABUJA, 26 June — At least 21 people were killed when a suspected bomb tore through a crowded shopping district in the Nigerian capital Abuja during rush hour on Wednesday, police said, adding to the toll of hundreds killed in attacks this year.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the blast and no one claimed responsibility. However, militant Islamist group Boko Haram has increasingly targeted civilians in its bloody five-year insurgency.

The suspected bomb would be Abuja's third in three months and comes as the Nigerian government and military face rising public anger over their inability to protect citizens from daily gun and bomb attacks across Africa's most populous country.

The explosion rocked a crowded district near the popular Banex Plaza shopping centre in the upscale Wuse 2 neighbourhood just before 4 pm (1500 GMT).

"After a preliminary investigation, we can confirm that 21 people were killed and 17 injured," police spokesman Frank Mba told reporters at the scene, adding that one suspect had been arrested.

Another suspect was killed by soldiers as he tried to escape on a motorcycle, the spokesman for Nigeria's National Infor-



Policemen walk towards burnt vehicles at the scene of a blast at a business district in Abuja on 25 June, 2014.—REUTERS

mation Centre said.

Witnesses said the blast shattered windows, sent smoke billowing into the air and carved out a large crater.

One local man, Shuabu Baba, was in a shop making photocopies when the blast hit, killing his taxi driver who was waiting for

him outside.

"I lost a driver. And why? Because I came to photocopy for 10 naira (\$0.06) a page," he said.

"I begged him to take me here and this is the end."

Officials said the explosion hit while the district was at its busiest,

packed with shoppers and rush-hour commuters.

"I heard a loud blast, it shattered the windows of the shop. We ran out. A lot of people ran too, some with bloodstains," said Gimbya Jafaru, who was shopping nearby.

Nigeria has been racked by almost daily

bomb and gun attacks, widely suspected to be the work of Boko Haram, a group that has killed thousands since 2009 in its drive to carve out an Islamist state in the north.

A separate blast rocked an area in the north-eastern Adamawa state on Wednesday, but no

one was injured, local police spokesman Othman Abubakar said.

Abuja has been a target for bombs. A suspected car bomb in May killed at least 15 and an attack on a bus station a month earlier at least 75.

Boko Haram, whose name roughly translates as "Western education is sinful", initially attacked government and security targets, as well as churches and Muslim leaders who rejected its brand of Islam.

Recently it has begun targeting ordinary civilians more, apparently emboldened by the global publicity that followed its kidnapping of more than 200 girls from a school in the remote Borno village of Chibok in April.

Nigerian media reported this week that northeast Borno state had been hit by another mass abduction over the weekend. However, the government said on Wednesday it had found no proof of a fresh large-scale kidnapping.

"Based on available facts before us there was no abduction of 60 persons in Borno state," the National Information Centre said in a statement. Security forces launched an investigation after the reports that as many as 91 people had been kidnapped over the weekend when gunmen raided villages in Borno.

Reuters

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**Government of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health**

**Department of Medical Science
Inviting Application for Refresher Courses**

1. Refresher courses leading to obtaining SAMA for medical graduates will be conducted at University of Medicine (2), Yangon and THAKHA for dental graduates will be conducted at the University of Dental Medicine, Yangon in last week of July 2014.
2. Those who held M.B.,B.S, or B.D.S. degree before 2014, and have not had SAMA or THAKHA (OR) those who have been dismissed under one year service (OR) those who have been dismissed and out of service for more than three years are eligible to apply.
3. Closing date - 23-7 -2014
4. Place for application -University of Medicine (2), Yangon for SAMA & University of Dental Medicine, Yangon for THAKHA
5. Enquiries can be directed to Department of Medical Science, Nay Pyi Taw, University of Medicine (2), Yangon & University of Dental Medicine, Yangon.
Contact Phone - 067-411237(DMS), 01-9699852 (UM 2), 01-571273(UDM-Y)
Department of Medical Science

**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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (030W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (030W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (071)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (071) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**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

**Post-coup
Thailand
safer for
foreign
tourists**

BANGKOK, 26 June — Thailand has become a safer place since the military seized power about a month ago, a senior tourism official has said, trying to alleviate concerns of foreign tourists, especially those from China.

Security risks that had deterred foreign tourists and prompted dozens of countries to issue travel warnings against Thailand "no longer exist," permanent secretary of the Tourism and Sports Ministry Suwat Sidthilaw told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview.

The 22 May coup put an end to protracted street demonstrations and recurrent violence, and brought long-absent peace back to the country, the official now in charge of the ministry stressed.

Over the past month, Thailand has begun to see "stagnant economy revitalized, better understanding created among the people and reconciliation underway in the society," Suwat said. The military junta has instructed relevant agencies to tackle safety loopholes that have long existed in Thailand's tourist sector, such as overcharging by taxi drivers and mafia gangs in popular destinations like Phuket and Pattaya, Suwat said.

In 2013, Thailand recorded a total of 26.4 million inbound tourists, and the figure for this year is expected to drop slightly to 25-26 million, the permanent secretary noted.

Xinhua

**Alaska humpback whales may lose
"endangered" status as numbers grow**



A humpback whale dives in the waters of Prince William Sound near the town of Valdez, Alaska on 9 August, 2008.—REUTERS

JUNEAU, (Alaska), 26 June — Alaska's humpback whales swam a little closer on Wednesday to losing their status as an endangered species after being federally protected for more than 40 years, a US agency said.

Alaska in a 26 February petition asked federal fisheries managers to scrap the "endangered" classification of the central north Pacific population of humpbacks under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA),

citing population growth and existing regulations it says protect the migratory mammals. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on Wednesday said in a statement it found "substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted."

The so-called "positive ruling" comes after the agency's similar response in August to a petition by the Hawaii Fishermen's

Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, which sought to delist all north Pacific whales.

The Alaska-Hawaii findings mean NOAA will conduct roughly year-long reviews of the central north Pacific and entire North Pacific populations, to project population growth rates and threats, such as fishing gear and potential ship strikes, said agency spokeswoman Julie Speegle.

It will then deliver a decision whether to delist the whales, reduce their status to "threatened," or take no action at all, Speegle said.

Speegle said the agency was already reviewing a separate petition urging status review of global populations of humpback whales, which can weigh between 50,000 and 80,000 pounds (22,680 to 36,287 kgs) and can live roughly 50 years.—Reuters

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Atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki participating in the Peace Boat Orizuru Project pose for photos in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 24 June, 2014, after returning from a 104-day journey visiting 18 countries to campaign against what they consider the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. —KYODO NEWS



Violist David Aaron Carpenter holds the 'Macdonald' Viola by Antonio Stradivari, made in 1719, during a presentation at Sotheby's auction house in Paris on 15 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Rare Stradivari viola fails to sell in sealed-bid auction

NEW YORK, 26 June — A rare Stradivari viola, considered to be one of the finest musical instruments in the world, failed to sell in a sealed bid auction with a minimum bid of \$45 million (£26.5 million), Sotheby's said on Wednesday.

The "Macdonald" viola, which was made by the famous Italian artisan Antonio Stradivari in 1719, is one of only two still privately owned, and was last on the market 50 years ago.

"At this time, no sale has taken place," said a spokesman for Sotheby's.

If the viola had reached the minimum bid, it would have been the most world's most expensive instrument. The current world record auction price for a musical instrument is \$15.9 million,

which was achieved in an online auction in June 2011 for the "Lady Blunt" Stradivari violin made in 1721.

Tim Ingles, director of the London-based fine instruments auction house Ingles & Hayday which conducted the sale with Sotheby's, said the viola is so rare because so few of them were made.

"A Stradivari viola has always been, I suppose, the Holy Grail for a collector of musical instruments," he said in an interview ahead of the sale.

The "Macdonald" is considered to be the finest of all the Stradivari violas, he added. It was made between 1700-20, which is considered the artisan's golden period.

Reuters

Shah Rukh Khan completes 22 years in Bollywood, says hasn't seen 'Deewana' yet



Shah Rukh Khan is yet to watch his 1992 movie debut 'Deewana'.

MUMBAI, 26 June — It was 22 years ago on 25 June that Shah Rukh Khan's debut movie "Deewana" hit the silver screen. The actor says he has not seen the movie yet — and he has his special reason.

The Raj Kanwar-directed film, which starred Divya Bharti and Rishi Kapoor in the lead, had Shah Rukh in the supporting role.

The 48-year-old 'Chennai Express' actor also bagged his first award as a best debutante for the film. "I have till date not seen Deewana. I have a notion that I don't want to see my first or last creation. They are bookends, the story is between," Shah Rukh Khan wrote on Twitter. The actor is currently busy with the post-production of his upcoming film 'Happy New Year'. "All notions, creations and experiences of decades will end on the day of truth. I tirelessly work to ignore the inevitable. Thanks for 22 years of O2," he tweeted.—PTI



FIFA World Cup: Reason why Brazil wants Mick Jagger to support their rival teams

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — Brazilian football fans want Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger to root for their rival teams as they feel his support is unlucky for teams. The people of the football-obsessed nation are calling it 'the Jagger curse'.

Italy was the most recent victim of what local press in Brazil have taken to calling Jagger's "pe frio" or "cold foot" a term used to describe the bad luck he seems to bring for teams he supports, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Jagger had assured fans at a concert in Rome on Saturday that four-time World Cup winners Italy would surely triumph over Uruguay.

The team lost 1-0, failing to advance for the second consecutive World Cup.

Similarly in May, the 70-year-old singer had told a crowd in Lisbon that he believed Portugal would win their first World Cup this year. The team,

despite its star player Cristiano Ronaldo, have failed to win a single game and are on the verge of elimination.

In the beginning of the tournament, the rocker cheered for his home country, England, in their match against Uruguay.—PTI



Italy was the most recent victim of what local press in Brazil have taken to calling Jagger's "pe frio" or "cold foot" a term used to describe the bad luck he seems to bring for teams he supports, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. PTI

Brad Pitt's war drama 'Fury' to release in India on 14 November

MUMBAI, 26 June — Brad Pitt starrer World War drama 'Fury' is all set to release in India on 14 November.

Directed by David Ayer, who has previously helmed films like 'Training Day' and 'Fast and The Furious', the period drama stars the stellar duo of Pitt and Shia LaBeouf besides Logan Lerman, Micheal Pena and Jason Issacs.

Set in 1945 towards the end of World War II, the film tells the heroic tales of Army Sergeant named Wardaddy (Brad Pitt) who commands a Sherman tank called 'Fury' and its five member crew. The film will be distributed by PVR Pictures in India.—PTI

Singers Lana Del Rey, Sam Smith score top debuts on Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — Pop singer Lana Del Rey scored her first No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, while British newcomer Sam Smith landed at No 2 with his debut record. Del Rey's "Ultraviolence," her second full-length studio album which includes the single "West Coast," sold 182,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Her previous album, 2012's "Born To Die," sold 76,000 copies in its first week and peaked at No 2 on the album chart. "Ultraviolence" also garnered 7 million streams in the US on music streaming platform Spotify, the highest number of first-week streams this year. British singer Sam Smith, whose soulful vocals have catapulted him into the US mainstream with ballads such as "Stay With Me," came in at No 2 this week with "In the Lonely Hour" selling 166,000 copies.

Jack White's "Lazaretto," dropped from No 1 to No 7 this week. Other new debuts in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 album chart this week include rockers at No 3 with "The Hunting Party" and country singer Willie Nelson at "Band of Brothers." Pop singer and "American Idol" judge Jen Lopez's latest album "AKA" entered the chart at No 8 with sales of 33,000 copies, which Billboard said was her lowest debut yet, despite a high-profile appearance singing this year's theme song at the opening ceremony for the World Cup soccer tournament in Brazil.

Electronic music DJ Deadmau5 came in at No 9 with his latest record, "While (I<2)." For the week ending 22 June, overall album sales totaled 4.55 million, down 17 percent from the comparable week in 2013, Billboard said.—Reuters



Singer Lana Del Rey

GENERAL

A Tribute to Shri Ram Prakash Jee Dhir

Our heart is full of great sorrow and grief to learn about the sad demise of Shri Ram Prakash Jee Dhir on 20th June 2014. He was a great saint and philanthropist and Senior most Pracharak of Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh, Myanmar and devoted his entire life for the noble cause of Dhamma and benevolent humanitarian services, religion and culture.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**Hindu Dharma Mahasabha,
Zeyawaddy**

Adidas says will come out on top in World Cup kit fight

HERZOGENAURACH, (Germany), 26 June — German sportswear firm Adidas expects to keep its position as the world's biggest seller of soccer gear as strong World Cup performances by the star players it sponsors fires demand for its shirts, boots and balls.

Chief Executive Herbert Hainer said Adidas would reach its target of 2 billion euros (1.60 billion pounds) of soccer sales in 2014, keeping it ahead of rival Nike's estimated \$2 billion in soccer turnover.

"We as a brand have by far scored the most goals," Hainer told a news conference, highlighting the World Cup performance of players wearing Adidas boots like Robin van Persie and Arjen Robben of the Netherlands and Thomas Mueller of Germany.

Adidas, the world's second-biggest sportswear company, has been losing market share in western Europe, its home territory, to Nike, which is also challenging its dominance in soccer.

While Adidas has

supplied the match ball for the World Cup since 1970 and has extended its sponsorship of the competition to 2030, Nike is for the first time kitting out more teams - 10 out of 32 finalists — including hosts and favourites Brazil.

Nike, the world's biggest sportswear company, has only been a serious player in soccer since the World Cup was held in the United States in 1994. But it believes it has already overtaken Adidas in boots, including in its home market Germany.

Hainer said he was disappointed that reigning champions Spain were already out but he was happy with the performance of the other teams Adidas sponsors, in particular Germany, Colombia, Mexico and Argentina. He predicted a final between Argentina and Germany.

"Germany was fantastic ... Argentina will get better and better. Messi is Messi. He is a genius," he said, referring to Argentina's Lionel Messi, the player leading the Adidas



Footballs from Adidas, the world's second largest sports apparel firm, are displayed before the company annual general meeting in the northern Bavarian town of Fuerth near Nuremberg on 8 May, 2014.

REUTERS

marketing campaign who has already scored twice for his country.

Brazil's Nike-sponsored player Neymar is the tournament's top goal scorer so far, but the US company's biggest star, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo has yet to score.

Three of the Nike teams have already gone out of the World Cup — England, Australia and Croatia — to two of the Adidas-sponsored sides — Spain and Bosnia.

Hainer said about 80-90 percent of the Adidas World Cup jerseys had already been sold when the competition started.

"Whatever happens through the tournament, this is the icing on the cake," he said. "If Germany wins, we still can sell a few more but this will not materially change our results."

He said it was too early to give a forecast for football sales in 2015, but predicted the World Cup would have a lasting impact, particularly on sales in Latin America: "It will be another great year for us

in football."

Hainer said Adidas expected to sell more than 8 million jerseys of the nine national sides it is sponsoring, including more than 2 million of the Germany shirt, with more than half a million of those sold outside Europe.

It also expected to sell more than 14 million replicas of the "Brazuca" official World Cup match ball, a million more than the ball it produced for the 2010 competition.

He said he was satisfied with the way soccer's governing body FIFA was dealing with allegations of bribery to secure the 2022 World Cup for Qatar, even though he reiterated he would have preferred the tournament to be staged in the United States.

"We are absolutely happy with our relationship with FIFA," he said. "We are preparing ourselves for Qatar 2022." He said everybody was taking seriously concerns about poor working conditions for those building stadiums in the country.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(27-6-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am**
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
* Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
* News/ Weather Report
- 7:40 am**
* Teleplay (Health)
- 8:00 am**
* News/ International News
- 8:30 am**
* Documentary
- 9:00 am**
* News/ International News
- 9:30 am**
* ASEAN Programme
- 10:20 am**
* TV Drama Series
- 11:00 am**
* Clever
- 12:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:30 pm**
* Myanmar Movie
- 2:15 pm**
* Singing in Different Versions
- 3:00 pm**
* News
- 3:30 pm**
* FIFA World Cup (2014) (Algeria & Russia)
- 5:30 pm**
* Documentary
- 6:20 pm**
* Amazing World
- 7:00 pm**
* News
- 7:25 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:45 pm**
* People Talks
- 9:00 pm**
* News
- 9:30 pm**
* Documentary
- * Hyper Sports

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-6-14 07:00am~
28-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Visiting A Serence Village in The Northwest Of Myanmar
- * World News
- * MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
- * Local News
- * Simple and Peaceful Life: "Kay Tu Mar Lar" The Decision
- * World News
- * Myanma Betels
- * Local News
- * Martial Arts: Super Traditional Fencing Form (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * Local News
- * Sarah Special...A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-5)
- * World News
- * Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
- * Local News
- * Making Of Nawarat Rings
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * Local News
- * Image Of The Monks
- * World News
- * Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"

Japan hangs man, brings total to 9 executed under Abe gov't

TOKYO, 26 June — Japan hanged a 68-year-old male death-row inmate Thursday, bringing to nine the total executed since the December 2012 launch of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government, the Justice Ministry said.

The inmate, Masanori Kawasaki, had been sentenced to death for stabbing his 58-year-old sister-in-law and her two granddaughters to death in Sakaide, Kagawa Prefecture, in November 2007 before burying their bodies in a vacant plot.

The latest hanging was the fifth round of executions under the Abe government. It followed the hanging of two inmates last December.

The Kawasaki case was "extremely cruel, and the



Justice Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki tells a Press conference at the ministry in Tokyo on 26 June, 2014, that he ordered the execution earlier that day of a male death-row inmate, Masanori Kawasaki, at the Osaka Detention House. —KYODO NEWS

grief the victims and their family have felt couldn't be greater," Justice Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said at a

news conference. "I ordered the execution after carefully examining it."

The defence for Kawasaki argued during his trial that he was mentally disturbed at the time he committed the killings, but the Takamatsu District Court rejected the argument on the basis of psychiatric tests, sentencing him to death in March 2009. The sentence was upheld by the Takamatsu High Court in October 2009 and the Supreme Court in July 2012.

Also Thursday, the ministry said another death-row inmate, Shigeo Okazaki, a 60-year-old former police officer, died of respiratory failure earlier in the day. Okazaki had been sentenced to death for killing

two people he kidnapped in northeastern Japan between 1986 and 1989. After Thursday's hanging, the number of death-row inmates in Japan with finalized sentences stood at 129.

The human rights group Amnesty International Japan condemned the latest execution, saying in a statement that the run of executions under the Abe government runs counter to calls from the international community for "sincere efforts" to abolish the death penalty. Tanigaki, who as justice minister has ordered the executions of nine death-row inmates, has said the public supports capital punishment and there is no need to review the system.

Kyodo News

India's Srinivasan takes over as ICC chairman

MELBOURNE, 26 June — India's N Srinivasan was confirmed as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) after the governing body approved constitutional change in Melbourne on Thursday. Often described as the most powerful man in cricket, the 69-year-old



Indian cricket board (BCCI) President N Srinivasan

industrialist from Chennai headed the Indian board before stepping aside earlier this year after his son-in-law was indicted for illegal betting in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament last year.

"It is an honour to be confirmed as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council," Srinivasan said in a statement after the 52-member full council approved constitutional amendments. The ICC annual conference also elected Mustafa Kamal of Bangladesh as the 11th president of the governing body and formed a new executive committee headed by Cricket Australia chairman Wally Edwards.—Reuters

Messi shines again and Shaqiri joins the fun



Argentina's Lionel Messi scores on a free kick during the 2014 World Cup Group F soccer match against Nigeria at the Beira Rio stadium in Porto Alegre on 25 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BRASILIA, 26 June — Argentina's Lionel Messi continued his World Cup duel with Neymar by scoring twice in a 3-2 win over Nigeria while Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri got in on the act with a magnificent hat-trick in a 3-0 win over Honduras on Wednesday. Nigeria scraped through behind already-qualified Argentina, becoming the first African team to reach the last 16 at this tournament, while Swit-

zerland also qualified along with France, who drew 0-0 with Ecuador. Shaqiri and Messi will cross paths on Tuesday when Argentina meet Switzerland in their round of 16 match in Sao Paulo while France face Nigeria in Brasilia on Monday. Iran's hopes ended in a 3-1 loss to World Cup debutants Bosnia, who enjoyed their first win at the finals while the Luis Suarez biting controversy rumbled on in

the background. Two days after Neymar scored twice in Brazil's 4-1 win over Cameroon on Monday, Messi replied with a brace of his own to leave the pair as joint top scorers at the tournament with four goals. While Nigeria celebrated qualification, there was less joy for African elsewhere as Ghana became embroiled in a row over appearance fees on the eve of their decisive

Group G match against Portugal which needed the intervention of President John Mahama. In Porto Alegre, Messi lashed in a rebound after three minutes but Nigeria equalised a minute later with a superb finish by Ahmed Musa. But Messi was not to be outdone and curled in a brilliant 20-metre free-kick in first-half stoppage time. Musa levelled again with a clever finish two minutes after the restart but Argentina, who were assured of qualification before kickoff, got a fortunate third eight minutes later when a corner bounced in off the knee of Marcos Rojo. Argentina finished top of Group F with a maximum nine points, followed by Nigeria (4), Bosnia (3) and Iran (1). Bosnia, already eliminated after two losses in their first appearance at a major tournament since independence, went ahead in the 23rd minute through Edin Dzeko. Miralem Pjanic doubled their lead before Reza Ghoochannejhad pulled a

goal back for Iran in the 82nd minute and Avdija Vrsajevic restored Bosnia's two-goal cushion with a fine strike a minute later. Switzerland defied 88 percent humidity in steamy Manaus as they went through from Group E. Shaqiri fired Switzerland ahead in the sixth minute with a long-range effort similar to Messi's match-winning goal against Iran. He struck again on the half hour with a clinical finish and rolled in Josip Drmic's pass in the second half to complete the tournament's second hat-trick following Thomas Mueller's effort against Portugal. It was also the 50th hat-trick in World Cup history. The Swiss (6 points) took second place in Group E behind France (7) who could not break down 10-man Ecuador, the only one of the sixth South American teams to fall at the first hurdle. Ecuador had Antonio Valencia sent off for a challenge on Lucas Digne which left the France left back needing treatment in the second half. Reuters



Ecuador's Gabriel Achilier (2nd R) jumps for the ball with France's Olivier Giroud during their 2014 World Cup Group E soccer match at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 25 June, 2014.—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	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9	
2) Greece	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4	
3) Côte d'Ivoire	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3	
4) Japan	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1	
Group D									
1) Costa Rica	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7	
2) Uruguay	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6	
3) Italy	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3	
4) England	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1	
Group E									
1) France	3	2	1	0	8	2	6	7	
2) Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	6	1	6	
3) Ecuador	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4	
4) Honduras	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0	
Group F									
1) Argentina	3	3	0	0	6	3	3	9	
2) Nigeria	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4	
3) Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3	
4) Iran	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1	
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	

Second seed Li dreams of being a housewife



Li Na of China reacts after defeating Paula Kania of Poland in their women's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 23 June, 2014. REUTERS

LONDON, 26 June — China's Li Na looked at home on the grass of Wimbledon as she powered into the third round on Wednesday, but the second seed revealed that she dreams of becoming a housewife. Though the Australian Open champion eased to a routine 6-2, 6-2 win against Austrian Yvonne Meusberger with a display of athleticism and aggression belying her 32 years, she is prepared to embrace a more relaxing environment when she finally calls it a day. Not for her the well-trodden path from tennis professional to coach or media pundit. "You know, my dream for after I retire, I want be housewife," the two-time grand slam winner said when asked whether she plans to put her journalism degree to use after she ends her playing career. Li, who suffered a

first-round defeat at the French Open last month, secured her place in history by becoming the first Chinese grand slam winner when she was crowned champion at Roland Garros in 2011. That served to raise the hopes and expectations of the millions of fans in China who follow her matches across the globe. Li has handled that pressure with aplomb, but she is clearly undaunted by returning to a more normal life at home with her husband, in spite of her past complaints that his snoring has cost her sleep ahead of matches. "He's getting better," she laughed. Li's opponent in the third round will be unseeded Czech Borna Zacharova Strycova, a 6-4, 6-2 victor against 32nd seed Elena Vesnina. Reuters

World Cup 2014 Results			
Match 41	Nigeria	2-3	Argentina
Match 42	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3-1	Iran
Match 43	Honduras	0-3	Switzerland
Match 44	Ecuador	0-0	France