

Hiking and Mountaineering Association to scale SE Asia's highest peak Mt. Khakaborazi in August



An expedition of the “Universities’ Hiking & Mountaineering Association—Invitation of Nature Foundation” is planning to climb the summit of the 5,881-meter Mt. Khakaborazi for the first time in the organization’s history.—PHOTO: AUNG MYINT MYAT

By Kerstin Winter

Myanmar’s Hiking and Mountaineering Association convened on Sunday for its annual reunion

in Yangon, with organizers saying that seven core members will for the first time in the association’s 50 year history attempt to

climb the peak of South-east Asia highest mountain—Khakaborazi in Kachin state.

The expedition is expected to take 50 days from

the start at the beginning of August in Kaunghmulon Pagoda outside Putao to the base camp, located 13,700 feet above sea level.

“It will be our associa-

tion’s first time at the summit, so if we succeed we want to hoist the Myanmar flag at the peak which is at 5,881 meters. Only the fittest members will go as this

is one of the most strenuous climbs in Myanmar, but also the most amazing,” said 32-year old Aung Myint Myat, who reached the (See page 9)

WHO Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination provides psychological support to residents of Mayanchaung resettlement village

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 29 June—The goodwill ambassador of the World Health Organization for Leprosy Elimination Mr. Yohei Sasakawa called for an end to discrimination against leprosy victims and their families on Sunday at the Mitta Philanthropic Centre of Mayanchaung leprosy resettlement village, emphasizing his point by shaking the hands of affected people at the event.

The purpose of his visit is to interact with residents of the village and raise awareness among the general public on the social problems attached to lepro-



Mr. Yohei Sasakawa meets a resident with impaired hearing at the Mitta Philanthropic Centre.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

sy, said Mr. Sasakawa who is also the Chairman of The

Nippon Foundation, a Japanese philanthropic organ-

ization.

“While travelling

around the world to interact with affected people, I always visit their places to see what they need”, he told The New Light of Myanmar during his tour around Mayanchaung leprosy resettlement village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. “I do it as a main task before meeting with officials of the countries concerned”, he added.

Mr. Sasakawa, who has also been appointed as Japan’s Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, said he will meet the president and the minister for health during his stay in Myanmar.

Meeting a group of affected people who were (See page 2)

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Banks survive on loans: Union Minister

YANGON, 29 June—Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Ltd held its 19th annual general meeting in Bahan Township here on Sunday, with an introductory speech by Union Minister U Soe Thane and a speech by Union Minister U Maung Myint, sources said.

In his speech, U Maung Myint cited loans as a major source of income for banks, adding that lending institutions are required to follow to the letter existing monetary laws, acts, proclamations and instructions so that loans they disburse will become quality loans.

According to him, loans totalling 85.5 billion kyats were taken out in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, 40% of which went to industries.

He pledged that ways would be sought to turn the bank into a leading bank which is dedicated to the development of SMEs.



Union Minister U Soe Thane accepts cash donation for social organizations by official of Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Ltd.—MNA

After the meeting, Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Ltd donated money to social or-

ganizations through the union ministers.

Founded in 1996, the bank has so far opened 13

Mayanchaung leprosy resettlement village, about a 2-hour drive from downtown Yangon. The village was established in 1989 and is home to 1,667 people. Among the residents, 140 are affected by leprosy.

Despite meeting the target of achieving the WHO elimination level of having less than 1 patient in a population of 10,000 in 2003, about 3,000 new cases of leprosy are being reported yearly in Myanmar.

branches, with five more to open in 2014. —MNA

WHO Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination...

(from page 1)

attending the Sunday service at a Baptist church in the village, he acknowledged their efforts to survive hardships with faith, saying that all human beings should be treated the same way as they possess the same fundamental rights.

He also called on the media to heighten public awareness that the disease

is curable and not hereditary.

According to the WHO, over the past 20 years, more than 14 million leprosy patients have been cured, about 4 million since 2000.

Mitta philanthropic centre, which is home to the aged and those with disabilities caused by leprosy, is run by the Social Welfare Department in

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 29 June—A landmark report on 'The State of the Tropics' was launched here on Sunday with a keynote speech by Noble Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and an introduction by Professor Sandra Harding, Vice Chancellor of the James Cook University, Australia.

The report analyses a broad range of environmental, social and economic indicators and is designed by 12 research institutions from around the world to provide a foundation for policy makers, analysts and others to examine in greater detail the tropics and the major issues affecting the region.

Simultaneous, satellite-linked events also took place in Singapore and Australia, with introduc-

Report on 'The State of the Tropics' released in Yangon

tory remarks by Professor Bertil Andersson, President of Nanyang Technological University of the city state.

At the event held in Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: "This report can make us understand the importance of biodiversity and quality survival among different species, peoples, culture and attitudes and that to me is what politics is about. We all have to learn to live together. We are closer connected than ever before. When we talk about diseases and disease control we cannot avoid talking about education. It is not just about medical research, but education of the wider public. To be healthy they need to be educated on it."

She added that everything is linked to-

gether, health, education, economy. And everything should be linked, and politics is about improving the lives of all those who are in the area of influence, and that is the whole world.

The report said that over the past half-century the Tropics has emerged as an increasingly significant region, while more than 40 percent of the world's population are now living in the tropics and this is likely to be close to 50 percent by 2050.

The report also mentioned that nearly one-third of all land experienced some form of degradation between 1981 and 2003 compared to the global rate of 20 percent, and that deforestation and poor agricultural practices are the major causes of degradation.

Continuing dental education programme held in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 29 June—Dr Myint Htein, Dental Surgeon of M.H. Dental Clinic, urged the juniors to make group practice together with experienced seniors or teachers to be an academically sound practitioner, on Sunday at the continuing dental education programme.

In his point of view, Dr Myint Htein gave advice to the dentists that they should

create warm and close relationship with patients, and conduct a good clinic management that plays a vital role in order to be a professional dentist. He also urged them to let the patients fully understand about the treatments they are going to receive and to try to perform painless treatments. He also discussed how to search modern treatments and prod-

uct information.

An experienced senior provided a suggestion to the dentists to surely make the patients' records that can improve dental care and research. At the programme at Myanmar Medicine Council in Yangon, Prof: Dr Than Swe of the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) also discussed the topic under the title of "Peripheral Tracing in Prosthodontics" to the attendees.

NLM

Myanmar, China exchange views on further strengthening friendly ties

BEIJING, 29 June—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin on Sunday afternoon attended a working luncheon hosted by Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Wang Yi at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

They exchanged views on further strengthening friendly ties between the two countries and cooperation matters.—MNA

MIC Chairman visits oil and gas pipeline control system in Beijing

BEIJING, 29 June—Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission and Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Soe and Dr Myint Aung visited China National Petroleum Corporation-CNPC in Beijing on Saturday

afternoon.

They viewed round oil and natural gas pipeline control system of the corporation after holding discussions on cooperation in energy sector between Myanmar and China.

MNA



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives keynote launch address on 'The State of the Tropics'.—PHOTO: AUNG KHIN

According to the report, extreme poverty has, globally, declined by almost 50 percent since the early 1980s, but more than two-thirds of the world's poorest people live in the

Tropics, and an estimated 508 million were considered undernourished.

Moreover, the Tropics have seen the faster urbanisation rate than the global rate, and the proportion of

the urban population living in slum conditions is higher than in the rest of the world. Poor sanitation is a major issue in many tropical nations which have 470 million slum inhabitants.

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein meets Vice President of India, visits Beijing Museum

BEIJING, 29 June — President U Thein Sein met with Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari of India in Beijing on Sunday morning.

They discussed promotion of bilateral relations, trade and investment, potentials of agricultural export from Myanmar to India, implementation of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and stability and security of border regions.

Ministers and senior officials from the two countries attended the meeting.

Myanmar and India established diplomatic relations in 1948.

As an exchange of visits between the lead-

ers of the two countries, President U Thein Sein visited India in 2011 and 2012 and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Nay Pyi Taw in 2012 and 2014.

Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari visited Myanmar in 2009.

Trade between the two countries amounted to US\$ 1.67 billion in 2013-2014, a 24.5 percent increase from 2012-2013.

President U Thein Sein, Vice President Mr Li Yuan Chao of China and Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari of India viewed round the documentary photo exhibition held to mark the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in

Beijing on Sunday morning.

President U Thein Sein and delegation visited Beijing Museum in Beijing on Sunday afternoon, and viewed round ancient ceramics and the display of the history of ceramics and ancient social environment in China.

In the evening, President U Thein Sein met with staff, family members of Myanmar Embassy and military attaché's office and scholars in Beijing and made a speech.

Union ministers, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials attended the meeting.

MNA

President

U Thein

Sein shakes

hands

with Vice

President

Moham-

mad Hamid

Ansari of

India at

a talk in

Beijing.

MNA



National development relies on natural resources, human resources: Union Election Commission Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June — A basic education middle school has got a new building in Sakar Inn Village, TadaU Township of Mandalay Region, on Sunday, sources said.

The new school building was handed over with a ceremony which was attended by Union Election

Commission Chairman U Tin Aye and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

At the basic education high school of TadaU, U Tin Aye and U Ye Myint awarded prizes to students who matriculated with distinctions. Speaking at the ceremony, U Tin Aye

stressed the world has come to accept the fact that both natural resources and human resources play a robust role in bolstering national development, citing developed countries which rely heavily on their skilled human resources in building infrastructure needed for development.—MNA

Upper House speaker attends upgrading of schools



Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint unveils signboard of upgraded school in Yamethin Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June—Poverty can be reduced by raising education and health standards as part of long-term projects, said Speaker of the Upper House U Khin Aung Myint at a ceremony to upgrade a school in Yamethin Township into a high school on Saturday.

The school was built as a primary school in 1952 and became an affiliated high school in 2013.

The Upper House speaker also attended the ceremony to mark the upgrading of another school into a high school in Shwe Dar on the same day. The

school was founded in 1943 and became an affiliated high school in 2010.

The Upper House speaker presented K 10 million donated by the Ministry of Border Affairs and stationery donated by the Upper House to the head monk of Hman Nan monastic education school in Pyawbwe.

The Upper House speaker also attended ceremonies to upgrade schools into high schools in Pyawbwe on Sunday. At the ceremonies, he urged the attendees to cooperate for the better future.

MNA

YANGON, 29 June—Chairman of Lower House Bill Committee U T Khun Myat and member of Lower House Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Tin Win arrived back in Yangon on Sunday morning after attending the International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems held in Johannesburg of South Africa from 24 to 26 June.

They were welcomed back by Deputy Speaker of Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials.

MNA

Deputy Speaker of Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa welcomes back U T Khun Myat.—MNA

Lower House Bill Committee Chairman and party back from South Africa



Fund for Emerald Green Project handed over

NYAUNGU, 29 June—A ceremony to hand over the fund for emerald green project was held at the hall in NyaungU of Mandalay Region recently.

On the occasion, Head of District Rural Development Department U Aung Shein said that a fund supervisory committee and financial committee have been formed in the project villages through the votes of local people. In addition, the accountancy course has

been provided to the officials. People from the project areas are also responsible for the development of their villages and must spend the allotted fund systematically, he said.

Officials of NyaungU Township Department of Rural Development handed over K30 million each to five project villages in NyaungU Township through the village project supervisory committees.

Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)



Cash, construction materials provided to storm-hit victims

KYUNSU, 29 June—Taninthayi Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Thein Lwin and

Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Tin Soe presented K1 million to the fund to townselders at Pan-

zin Basic Education High School in Kyunsu Township of Taninthayi Region recently. The fund will be

spent on construction of the bridge in Panzin Village of the township.

At the Basic Education Primary School in Wahaw Village, the two region ministers also provided K1.2 million and 20 corrugated iron sheets each to 16 families from the houses that collapsed in the recent storm and K500,000 and 20 CI sheets each to 14 other storm victims.

They also gave cash assistance for reconstruction of housings, schools and other buildings in storm-hit villages in the township. They also provided one dozen of copy books and one set of school textbook to 41 students.—*Yan Naing Tun (Kyunsu IPRD)*



Mandalay Region forms Consumer Protection Association

MANDALAY, 29 June—The formation of the Mandalay Region Consumer Protection Association was undertaken at its office on 38th street between 83rd and 84th streets in Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay Region on 26 June.

U Hla Soe of the association explained future plans of the association,

saying that being a partner organization of the Consumer Protection Department, the association will check snacks and foods at the schools and markets for public foods safety not to eat the improper foods, meals and medicines. If the association accepts the information on sales of foods and drugs which are

not suitable for consumption, coordination and giving educative talks will be given to the sellers. Being a social organization, the association can make coordination with sellers but will submit the information to the departments concerned

MANDALAY, 29 June—A total of 96 students from Final Part I of Mandalay University of Medicine held an educative talk at No 31 Basic Education High School in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay District on Friday with the aim of implementing the aims of Ministry of Health.

Headmaster U Than Nyo welcomed the talks of medical students.

The students visited the classrooms and gave talks on personal hygiene and common diseases in the rainy season such as dengue hemorrhagic fever to the students.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Dagon North Township celebrates Myanmar Music Day

YANGON, 29 June—A ceremony to mark the Myanmar Music Day was observed at the School for Girls (Htaukkyant) of Social Welfare Department at No 45 on Pyay Road in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region on Friday.

Executive U Maung Maung Hteik read the message sent by the chairman of Myanmar Music Association and Secretary of Dagon Myothit (North)

Township Music Association U Mann explained facts about the Myanmar Music Day. Chairman of Dagon Myothit (North) Township Music Association vocalist Khin Nyunt Nyunt Than and party donated K100,000 to the fund of the school and served the girls with foods.

Members of the association performed songs for the girls at the school.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)



Township WVO presents cash assistance to members

THABEIKKYIN, 29 June—Thabeikkyin Township War Veterans Organization held the plenary meeting for 2014 at its office on 25 June.

Organizers reported on the increase of members, uplift of living standard of

families, creation of job opportunities and welfare affairs for organization members.

Responsible persons presented K14,000 each as assistance to 100 members.

Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)

Medical university students gave talks to basic education students



LOCAL NEWS



To mark Myanmar Women's Day, members of Women's Affairs Organization of Zigon Township, staff of Township Forest Department and local people participates in planting over 1,000 saplings along Zigon-Bawbin road in Htantabin Village of the township in Bago Region on Sunday.

TOWNSHIP IPRD

Mandalay Region government to create website for disseminating its information

MANDALAY, 29 June —Preparations are being made for disseminating information from the Mandalay Region Government to local people through a website in early July.

The website will feature news on activities of region ministers, information about Mandalay Region, progress of economic, social, education and health sectors and traffic rules enforcement.

The website of the

region has been live since 18 June, with officials saying it is not complete, as offices of region ministers need to provide more information to the website. The news and information to be posted are to be sent to the region government, said an official of Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department.

The website is under www.mdyregiongov.mm

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

BEMS branch in Nyaunglebin Tsp gets new school building



NYAUNGLEBIN, 29 June—The handover ceremony of an upgraded

Region on Thursday.

The Basic Education Primary School in the village was allowed to upgrade the Basic Education Middle School Branch in the 2014-15 academic year.

On the occasion, a new school building was also handed over to school officials. Wellwisher U Tin Win and wife Daw Ohn Myint of Kyaikto Township in Mon State handed over documents related to the deputy township education officer.

The new school building, 55 feet long and 25 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K15 million.

Khin Maung Lwin (Nyaunglebin)

Motorcycle licences issued to locals

KARATHURI, 29 June—Departmental officials from a combined team issued licences to motorcycles in Karathuri Sub-Township of Taninthayi Region on Friday. At the administrator office in Ward 2 of Karathuri,

officials of Sub-Township General Administration Department, Directorate of Road Administration, Myanma Insurance, Myanma Economic Bank, Customs Department and police force issued the licences to

motorcycle owners.

“The licences will be issued to locals during the designated period but action will be taken against the unlicensed motorcycles under the law, said an official.

Karathuri IPRD



Confiscated farmlands released by military units handed over to owners



MANDALAY, 29 June —A ceremony to hand over confiscated farmlands to their rightful original owners was held at the monastery in Mongmao Village in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region on 25 June.

On the occasion, Mandalay Region Chief

Minister U Ye Myint said the land utilization management committees were formed at different levels in Mandalay Region in order to hand over the confiscated farmlands released by the armed forces to original owners. The region chief minister presented tempo-

rary certificates of farming rights to owners from Mongmao and Kanswe villages.

At the ceremony, a total of 1,542.30 acres of farmlands were given back to 119 farmers from Mongmao and Kanswe villages.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Buddhist monks donate food packets to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June—Buddhist monks led by Abbot Bhaddanta Caritta of Saddhamma Waiponlapariya monastery in Danatheikdi Ward of Nay Pyi Taw donated over

1,000 packets of foods to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital on Sunday.

The packets of foods were from the donations of local wellwishers who donate alms to the Bud-

dhist monks in the early mornings. The abbot and Buddhist monks from the monastery are also helping people in natural disaster-hit areas, officials said.

Than Oo (Laymyethna)

Knowledge about traffic rules disseminated

THANDWE, 29 June—The talks on traffic rules was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Thandwe of Rakhine State on Friday, attended by Headmaster U Ngwe

Zan Oo, teachers and students.

IP Tun Hla Aung of the traffic police squad disseminated knowledge about traffic rules and disciplines for road users and

Township Law Officer Daw Myint Myint Than, matters related to the traffic rules and the root causes of releasing the Section 144.

District IPRD

Eyes on defence deals, Western powers rush to court India's Modi

NEW DELHI, 29 June — Western governments are rushing to visit India's new Prime Minister Narendra Modi, drawn by the prospect of multi-billion-dollar deals as the government prepares to open the nascent defence industry to foreign investment.

Senior politicians from France, the United States and Britain arrive in quick succession over the next 10 days as Modi prepares to accelerate the modernisation of the country's mostly Soviet-era weaponry.

Modi intends to build up India's military capabilities and gradually turn the world's largest arms importer into a heavy-weight manufacturer — a goal that has eluded every prime minister since independence in 1947. On the table is a proposal circulated within the new government to raise caps on foreign investment — with one option to allow complete foreign ownership of some defence projects.

"All the countries are trying to make their case, especially as there is the sense that the Indian market will undergo a shift," said Harsh Pant, professor of international relations at King's College London.

"They get a sense from their dealings that something dramatic is going to happen and they want first-mover advantage," said Pant, who specialises in Indian defence. First to arrive in New Delhi will be French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, whose top priority is to close a stalled deal to sell India 126 Ra-

fale fighter jets, built by Dassault Aviation, for an estimated \$15 billion.

Fabius, who arrives on Monday, will meet Modi as well as his most powerful minister, Arun Jaitley, who holds the twin portfolios of defence and finance — and can therefore decide both whether to sign the deal and when to release the money. US Senator John McCain is also due in India next week. McCain, whose Arizona constituency includes weapons makers such as Boeing and Raytheon, told the Senate on Thursday that Washington should seek to bolster India's economic and military rise.

"This is an area where US defence capabilities, technologies, and cooperation — especially between our defence industries — can benefit India enormously," McCain said of India's drive to modernise the armed forces.

In the second week of July, Britain is likely to send in Foreign Secretary William Hague and finance minister George Osborne, a British government source said on Friday.

Britain has drawn some cheer from the slow progress of the negotiations for the Rafale deal. The Eurofighter Typhoon was shortlisted along with the Dassault fighter before India announced the French jet was the winner.

Cost escalations and disagreements about building the Rafale in partnership with India's state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have complicated talks with France, and



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2nd R) lights the traditional lamp as Home Minister of India Rajnath Singh looks on (1st L) during the inauguration of the newly elected Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Members of Parliament (MPs) workshop at Surajkund in Haryana, India, on 28 June, 2014.—XINHUA

London has never entirely given up hope that it will return to the race.

However, on Thursday, one source at the Indian defence ministry said the deal was likely to be finally closed during Fabius' visit and could be signed this year. A French foreign ministry source said talks were ongoing, but refused to provide more detail.

Russia, for years India's top weapons supplier, pipped all three countries to the post, sending Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin to visit the new government in Delhi two weeks ago. Washington last year replaced Moscow as India's top defence supplier, according to IHS Jane's.

The Western nations will have noted that India's foreign minister expressed displeasure with Russia's recent offer to sell Mi-35 attack helicopters to India's arch-rival Pakistan.

"I don't think it's a competition," US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Biswal said after an early post-election visit to New Delhi.

"India will have strong and positive relationships with a variety of countries and that is to be encouraged," said Biswal. "We want to see India taking on a stronger and a leadership role in the region and around the world so we welcome that."

India spent some \$6 billion last year on weapons imports. It makes few of its own weapons, beyond ballistic missiles and assembly lines for foreign jets.

On Thursday, the government signalled it was in the mood for liberalization by allowing manufacturers to build more defence components without licences, making it easier for Indian firms to partner foreigners.

At present foreign

companies can only invest 26 percent in Indian defence projects without committing to technology transfer, which has put off many investors.

Before the election, sources in Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party said there was a plan to increase the cap to 49 percent.

"For higher-tech intellectual property we would want to go over 50 percent to be in a position to share technology that we have significant investments in," said Phil Shaw, chief executive of Lockheed Martin India Pvt Ltd.

"An uplift from 26 to 49 percent maintains the status quo and may not be sufficient incentive to make an investment here."

Lockheed Martin already has a 26 percent investment in an Indian joint venture with Tata Advanced Systems that manufactures airframe components for the C-130J

Super Hercules cargo lifter.

India's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has circulated a discussion document that proposes allowing up to 100 percent foreign direct investment, or FDI, in defence production, two government officials told Reuters.

The note suggested allowing 100 percent FDI in manufacturing of state-of-the-art equipment, one of the officials said. It also recommends a cap of 49 percent for investments which do not involve transfer technology and a 74 percent ceiling in such cases where the foreign investor is ready to share technology know-how, the official added.

Last week, Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said foreign investment in the sector would help increase defence preparedness of the country and reduce import dependence, saving billions of dollars in foreign exchange.

However, she said the government was yet to take a final call on increasing the FDI ceiling and the decision would be taken by Jaitley and Modi. The proposals face pockets of resistance in Indian industry, Modi's party and the military establishment.

AK Antony, who was India's longest serving defence minister until his Congress party's election defeat in May, said this week that allowing higher foreign investment in defence would be "suicidal".—Reuters

Philippine security forces in south on alert due to terror threat

MANILA, 29 June — Security forces went on full alert in the southern Philippines on Sunday, police said after military intelligence reported sightings of Islamist militants in the region after the detention of a top al-Qaeda-linked leader.

Last week, a team of soldiers and police officers arrested Khair Mundos, an expert bomb-maker and the "spiritual leader" of the Abu Sayyaf faction, which rose to notoriety early last decade by kidnapping foreigners.

Mundos is wanted by

the United States, which put a \$500,000 bounty up for his arrest.

"Information received with high reliability, revealed a possible terrorist threat to the peace and security Region 11, particularly in Davao City," Chief Superintendent Reuben Sindac, national police spokesman, said in a statement.

"All police forces in Mindanao have already been alerted to beef-up security operations against possible infiltration of suspected members of said

reported threat groups."

President Benigno Aquino called the Davao City mayor to relay the possible threat.

Local officials held a meeting on Saturday night with security officials to assess protection at shopping malls, parks and transport terminals.

Road blocks were set up around Davao City. Patrols were also stepped up General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Kidapawan and Koronadal.

"We are preparing for possible retaliatory attacks

from Islamist militants to avenge the arrest of Mundos," an army intelligence officer told Reuters, adding the presence of Islamist rebels was reported to them in Davao City a couple days ago.

A brother-in-law of Khair Mundos, a member of the militant group's special operations unit, was seen in the city. He trained under Malaysian bomb-maker and Jemaah Islamiah leader Zulkifli bin Hir or Marwan, also on the US terrorist list.

Reuters

Mainland's Taiwan affairs chief meets Taipei mayor

BEIJING 29 June — Chinese mainland's Taiwan affairs chief Zhang Zhijun said the Chinese mainland will continue to develop cross-strait ties when meeting with Taipei mayor Hao Lung-bin on Sunday.

Zhang expressed his appreciation for the active role Hao and the city of Taipei have played over the past years in promoting cooperation and exchange.

Zhang said throughout his four-day visit to the island, he has felt mainstream public support for

peaceful development across the Strait deeply and the Taiwanese people from all walks of life have expressed the hope that cross-strait ties to be further enhanced in the future.

Zhang also expressed his hope to Hao, also vice-chairman of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party, that the Chinese mainland and Taiwan enhance interaction and cooperation in all areas so as to bring more benefits to the common people across the Strait.

Xinhua

WORLD

Indonesia's presidential front-runner battles the puppet image

JAKARTA, 29 June — When one of Indonesia's most powerful politicians wanted to be part of a new government, he did not approach Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, the front-runner in next week's presidential election.

Instead, sources say, he went to the home of Jokowi's political patron, a former president who did not impress in her short tenure and who many fear will be the power behind the throne if the favourite wins the on 9 July election.

The politician, Aburizal Bakrie of the Golkar party, was rebuffed by ex-President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

But the fact Bakrie went to Megawati, not Jokowi, to seek an alliance underlines the biggest worry about the front-runner — he may become president but will not be in charge. Critics say he will defer to Megawati and she will call the shots in the new government in Southeast



Indonesia's presidential candidate Joko Widodo stands near a picture of former president Megawati Sukarnoputri during a ceremony to launch the presidential campaign in Jakarta on 4 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Asia's biggest economy.

It is an image Jokowi does little to dispel with his public displays of deference to Megawati. Interviews with senior members of his camp suggest frustration with his modest mien, but they were adamant he will not be any-

one's stooge. "One thing I can assure you, you cannot dictate to Jokowi, he has his own mind," said Luhut Panjaitan, a former trade minister who quit Bakrie's Golkar party to help run the Jokowi campaign.

"People say he's a puppet of Megawati, but I

promise you, no. He's very polite and very humble but that doesn't mean that he'll say yes to everything you say," Jokowi has a film-star following in Indonesia. Born in poverty, he has stormed his way to the top rungs of leadership with a clean image and a reputa-

tion for competence in local government, a reversal of the autocracy, corruption and power politics that have weighed down the country for decades.

He became mayor of his hometown Solo in 2005 and governor of Jakarta in 2012 after his populist approach and willingness to stand up to powerful regional officials won national attention. The only real worry about him, analysts say, is his relationship with Megawati and how it may affect state policy if he wins. Panjaitan, who was present at the meeting between Bakrie and Megawati, said after the rebuff, the Golkar party chief went over to the rival camp of the other presidential candidate, former general Prabowo Subianto.

"I said to Bakrie...Why do we always have to make transactions like this? It doesn't set a good example for the public, to the young generation," Panjaitan said.

Reuters

North Korea launches two short-range Scud missiles

SEOUL, 29 June — North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into seas east off its coast on Sunday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, in a breach of UN resolutions against the use of ballistic missile technology by the isolated country. The launch came days before Chinese President Xi Jinping's scheduled state visit to South Korea. China is the main benefactor of the North, which is also under sanctions for conducting nuclear tests.

The missiles, which appeared to be Scud class, were launched from an area on the east coast of the peninsula and flew about 500 km (310 miles) before crashing harmlessly into the water, an official for the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The test firings on Sunday came three days after the North launched three short-range projectiles into the waters off its east coast, which flew about 190 km (120 miles) and landed in the sea. —Reuters

Saudi king, in Ramadan message, vows to crush terrorists

DUBAI, 29 June — Saudi King Abdullah, in a Ramadan message on Saturday, vowed to crush Islamist militants threatening the kingdom, the state news agency reported, saying the world's top oil exporter would not tolerate "a band of terrorists".

The remarks came two days after the monarch ordered all necessary measures to protect the country against potential "terrorist threats" resulting from tur-



Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

moil in neighbouring Iraq, where Sunni Islamist militants have captured some cities from the government of Shi'ite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"We will not let a band of terrorists who have taken religion as a disguise behind which they hide private interests to terrorize the protected Muslims, to touch our homeland or any of its sons or its protected residents," King Abdullah said in a message at the start

of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Saudi Arabia crushed al-Qaeda after the Islamist militant group began a campaign of bombings and attacks on vital installations and expatriate compounds in the kingdom.

The US-allied kingdom has been rattled by a lightning advance through Iraq by Sunni militants spearheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) — aided by other

Sunni Muslim militants, tribal leaders and remnants of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party — which seized swathes of the country this month.

Saudi Arabia shares an 800-km (500-mile) border with Iraq.

The birthplace of Islam, it sees itself as a champion of pure Sunni Muslim values and regards Shi'ite Iran as its main regional foe.

Reuters

Ukraine rebels free OSCE monitors, three Ukrainians killed in attack

DONETSK, (Ukraine), 29 June — Pro-Russian separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine on Saturday released a second group of four monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) who had been seized on 29 May, a Reuters witness said.

Their release, which followed the freeing of another group of OSCE monitors early on Friday, came after Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko announced a 72-hour extension to a ceasefire until Monday night. That ceasefire appeared under threat when three members of the Ukrainian military were killed in a rebel attack on

their post near the eastern city of Slaviansk.

This correspondent saw the four — three men and a woman — driven by heavily armed men up to the entrance of a hotel in the eastern city of Donetsk.

They stepped out, shook hands with other waiting OSCE representatives and then went into the hotel. A first group of OSCE monitors, seized days earlier by pro-Russian separatists, were released in the early hours of Friday.

The OSCE monitoring groups are part of a 300-strong force sent there to observe compliance with a four-way agreement in Geneva in April aimed

at defusing the crisis in Ukraine's east. The circumstances of their detention is not yet clear. "A total of eight were detained and we have released eight," Aleksander Boroday, "prime minister" of the self-styled Donetsk People's Republic said on Friday.

A ceasefire extension until Monday night announced by Poroshenko called for the release of "hostages" held by both sides. But elsewhere on Saturday the ceasefire appeared under threat when three members of the Ukrainian military were killed in a rebel attack on their post near the eastern flashpoint city of Slaviansk. —Reuters



An unidentified member of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine walks out of a bus on arrival in the city of Donetsk after been released from captivity, on 28 June, 2014. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 30 June, 2014

People are the making of their environment and need support to develop a good mindset

By Aung Khin

Mindset is a set of attitude or idea that is rooted in the mind through experiences and knowledge, and mindset determines a way of response to the world. Developing the right mindset is crucial to succeed in anything. As man reacts to and judges the world

based on their own experiences and knowledge, we need to be exposed to good experiences, knowledge and education.

If daily activities of human beings are summarized as their life, good deeds should be done to secure a better life. Greed, hatred and illusion are the root causes for misdeeds, while humane treatment, sympathy and wisdom are the underlying reasons for good deeds. Everybody, regardless of race or colour, expects kind and fair treatment from others. If someone does not recognize the feeling of others, no one could enjoy peace and trust in their community.

Society dominates someone's mindset. If someone has grown up in an ethical and civilized society and is working among them, he has many opportunities to possess a right mindset. Nevertheless, someone who has been living for some

times in an inhumane society has been influenced by pessimistic views.

A good mindset will reflect reality and will help us. But we need exposure to a good environment. Sometimes, development of a good mindset will need material support. Those who are living in the depth of poverty will likely not have an optimistic view. They will not be satisfied with their existing situation.

Though inequality is not totally inevitable, ordinary people need to be treated well to develop a good mindset.

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Huawei to provide Smartphone technologies to Myanmar's technological universities



Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Dr Kan Zaw hear clarifications on communication and information technology at Huawei Company.—MNA

BEIJING, 29 June—Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Dr Kan Zaw who accompanied President U Thein Sein on his good-

will visit to China on Saturday observed communication and information technology at Huawei Company in Beijing of

China.

Vice Chairman of the company Mr Zhang Chun Xing and party explained production of new genera-

tion Smartphones at the company, plans of the company to provide modern IT to e-government process of Myanmar and arrangements for sharing Smartphone technologies to technological universities in Myanmar.

MNA

Requirements fulfilled for living standard of rural people

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June—Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe on his inspection tour explained livestock and veterinary tasks, fish breeding, village roads and bridges, sufficiency of drinking water and electrification in Padaukkhin Village of Ottwin Township in Bago Region on 26

June.

Local people reported on requirements of village electrification and construction of roads and bridges.

In meeting with townsenders and officials in Kyaukdaga, Shwegyin, Kyaukkyi and Pyu townships, the deputy minister explained rural development plans. Local authori-

ties submitted their requirements on repair of roads and bridges, supply of power, undertaking of fish plus paddy farming, extended construction of school buildings, appointment of adequate number of teachers and health staff.

The deputy minister fulfilled their needs for respective townships.

MNA

Kyunhla Township to provide cash assistance to students on test

KYUNHLA, 29 June—A coordination meeting on provision of stipends to the students and cash assistance for basic education students was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Kyunhla of

Sagaing Region on Thursday.

District Education Officer U Sein Win and Township Education officer U Win Shwe explained implementation of the tasks for providing cash

assistance to the students as a test.

Heads Basic Education High, Middle and Primary Schools in eight groups participated in the discussions.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

Post-Primary School in Yepone Ward of Myeik gets new school building

MYEIK, 29 June—The opening ceremony of new school building donated by Myeik Township Lower House MP Wunna Kyawhtin U Htay Myint was held at the Basic Education Post-Primary School in Yepone Ward of Myeik in Taninthayi Region on Friday.

On the occasion, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko said that the government is undertaking the reform process in education sector such as granting stipends and cash assistance, constructing new school buildings, upgrading the school levels and implementing child approach teaching methods. He stressed the need for officials to participate in upgrading the education standard to be on a par with the international level.

Donor Wunna Kyawhtin U Htay Myint explained the purpose of donation and handed over the documents related to the new school building to Taninthayi Region Education Director U Tun Yi.

Wellwishers donated stationery and K25 million to the school.

A total of 17 teachers are teaching 629 students at the 102 feet by 36 feet two-storey building. Due to increasing number of students this academic year, wellwisher Wunna Kyawhtin U Htay Myint and family of Yuzana Company donated one-storey reinforced concrete building which is 195 x 90 feet formed with nine classrooms and one office spending K243 million.

Khaing Htoo
(Myeik District IPRD)



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and officials seen after opening of new school building at Post-Primary School in Yepone Ward of Myeik.

ARTICLE

Hiking and Mountaineering Association to scale SE Asia's...

(from page 1)

base camp with other members in December last year, after an almost 3-week, 175-mile trek through dense jungle and far-flung villages of Rawan and Tibetan people.

"The Tibetans are very friendly along the route and we either sleep in their villages or in our tents. It is very difficult to get food on the way and in August with the rainy season the hike will be hard, but the adventure and the beauty of the ecosystem make up for it, because you can see butterflies that only exist in that area and black orchids, which can only be found in Myanmar," said Aung Myint Myat.

The average annual temperature in the villages on the way to Mt. Khakaborazi is 10 degrees Celsius, with the base at camp minus five in the daytime and minus 16 at night, he said. While a "slow" trek to base camp would take 21 day-

sand a fast one 16, according to Aung Myint Myat, most members do not have the time for such an expedition and have to make do with short trips.

Some members at the reunion explain that the peak season for climbing and hiking in Myanmar is November to December, with April one of the best months as well, but that the "Universities' Hiking & Mountaineering Association—Invitation of Nature Foundation" as it is known by its full name, organizes short trips all year round. "Kachin, Shan and Chin states have the most challenging terrain, but we also go to the Bago and Hpa-an areas for rock climbing or easy hikes," said Dr. Soe Minn Aung, executive member of the original committee, who joined in 1986. Now with 300 registered members and many who drop in and out or simply support the association, camaraderie, exercise and



Mt. Khakaborazi has hardly been scaled as the trek to the base camp alone takes three weeks, with no infrastructure and professional support on the way.—PHOTO: AUNG MYINT MYAT

seeing the biodiversity and different cultures of Myanmar are the most important aspects for everyone.

"Southern Chin State is my favourite destination, and in Mt. Victoria National Park the weather is very

comfortable. We have also climbed Mt. Kennedy in the northern part and learnt a lot about the culture of the different ethnic groups there and how they struggle to make a living by collecting and selling herbs and orchids," he said. As all of the active members are highly educated, including doctors, nurses and teachers, they never go on a trip without supplies for the locals, including medicine, he said.

One of the nurses, 24-year old Nway Nway Shein who works at Yangon General Hospital, said it makes her "very happy" to combine her passion for hiking with helping villagers in remote areas. "When we get to a village we always see if we can help them. So many of us are doctors and nurses, so of course we spend

time with the communities and support them as much as we can and sometimes we sleep there as well."

To learn about the struggle of people in rural areas and to get to know the "real" Myanmar, foreigners are welcome to join the association on smaller trips, but expeditions to areas requiring permits, including Kachin, cannot be joined for safety reasons. "Some years ago hiking was not encouraged by the government, because of the various conflicts, but with the new government it is recognized as a sport and being encouraged, and every university has hiking clubs. But we cannot take responsibility for the safety of foreigners in the restricted areas," Dr. Soe Minn Aung said.

While the long expe-

ditions in any case need months of preparation and good physical fitness, the short trips only require medium fitness levels, with 30 to 50 member straining every weekend at Kan baung park in Yangon to keep in shape for hiking smaller mountains like Five Su in Bago and Wai Pone La. "The short trips are also a great way of improving team work, leadership ability and decision making. And of course it is great for getting rid of stress," said Nway Nway Shein, adding that on the short trips sometimes up to 120 members of all age groups and backgrounds join, and many bring their friends and family members to get out of Yangon for a few days. The next short trip is planned on July 10 until 13.



Top form is required for the trek to Mt. Khakaborazi as bridges are rare and many streams have to be crossed.

PHOTO: INVITATION OF NATURE FOUNDATION

Seminar on education promotion for higher education kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June — A seminar on education promotion for higher education was launched in Yangon, with an address by U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister at the President Office.

The Union Minister discussed human resources management, formation of an Innovative Driving Committee to produce technicians and the National Education Law, which will be

discussed at the Hluttaw.

The Union Minister urged officials to provide Internet access to every college and university.

He also discussed activities of a decentralization process and prospects for the establishment of autonomous universities in the higher education sector.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi urged officials to take more responsibility to carry

out an education reform.

She also discussed plans to cooperate with international universities and partner organizations for human resources development, more investment in the education sector and drawing policy, plans and financial requirements. The Union Ministers urged the seminar to focus on creating action plans for the implementation of national education promotion.—MNA



Mt. Victoria in Chin State is among the easier trekking destinations and one of the favourites of the association.—PHOTO: ROSE AUNG

ECB's Mersch says sees no acute risk of deflation

BERLIN, 29 June — The European Central Bank sees no acute risk of deflation, Executive Board Member Yves Mersch said in an interview broadcast on Sunday, but what it does see is a long period of low inflation ahead.

The ECB's target for medium-term inflation is below, but close to 2 percent, a far cry from the current level of 0.5 percent, which has sparked concern the euro zone could enter a Japan-style deflationary spiral of falling prices, slowing growth and reducing consumption and investment.

"At the moment we see no heightened or acute danger of deflation, in the sense that consumers would change their behaviour and postpone making purchases

because they expect prices to fall ... which would create a negative spiral causing more deflation," Mersch told Germany's Deutschlandfunk radio.

"What we do see is a long period of very low inflation. When we have such low inflation then the risk is greater, that should the European economy suffer an unforeseen external shock again, we have no buffer."

The ECB on 5 June cut interest rates to record lows, the deposit rate to below zero, and launched a series of steps to boost lending to companies. The bank's monetary policy committee is set to meet next on July 3.

Asked about widespread expectations that interest rates will stay low until 2016, Mersch said: "If



Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank presents an oversized newly unveiled 10 euro note at the headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, on 13 January, 2014 file photo. —REUTERS

everything else stays as it is today then that could be the model."

"We as a central bank

will try to fulfil our aim as quickly as possible, which is to bring inflation back towards the level of close

to but below 2 percent. But this will take time, because currency policy takes a while to work through the

different economic structures."

Commenting on the bank's recent measures, Mersch said the curve for short-term interest rates had moved down by 10-15 basis points.

"In this respect, our measures have had the desired effect," he said.

He dismissed fears of an asset bubble building in property prices or in stocks.

"Just as in Germany you have regions where property is worth less now, when adjusted for inflation, than 40 years ago, we also can't speak of an asset bubble on the stock exchange," he said.

"We could though have a risk of overheating if things continue as they are."

Reuters

Canola oil-enriched diet may benefit people with diabetes

NEW YORK, 29 June — Switching to a diet low in simple sugars and high in healthy fats, like the types found in canola oil, could help people with type 2 diabetes control their blood sugar, according to a new study.

People with type 2 diabetes who were advised to follow a diet with a low glycemic index supplemented with extra canola oil had lower blood glucose levels and greater reductions in heart risk than those who ate a diet high in whole grains, researchers found.

"We know that olive oil has a good pedigree among clinicians but canola oil has a good pedigree too," lead author Dr. David Jenkins, from the University of Toronto, told Reuters Health.

Canola oil is rich in alpha-linolenic acid, a type

of omega-3 fatty acid also found in walnuts, as well as monounsaturated fatty acids, which are also in avocados and olives.

A food's glycemic index refers to how quickly it causes blood sugar to rise. Starchy foods like white bread and potatoes are considered to be high glycemic index foods because they can cause blood sugar levels to spike. Low glycemic index foods, such as lentils, soybeans, yogurt and many high-fiber grains, create a more gradual increase in blood sugar.

Sugar builds up in the blood of people with type 2 diabetes because it can't be absorbed by cells, ultimately increasing the risk of other health problems such as heart disease.

"We thought using canola oil might be a good way to hit the heart disease and the high glucose prob-

lem," said Jenkins.

The researchers recruited 141 people with diabetes, all of whom were taking medication to help lower their blood sugar levels. None of the participants reported smoking, drinking excessively or having other illnesses such as heart disease, liver disease or cancer.

Jenkins and his colleagues randomly assigned the participants to one of two groups.

People in the test group were asked to supplement their diet with four and a half slices of canola oil-enriched whole wheat bread each day and were told to focus on eating foods with a low glycemic index.

Those in the comparison group were instructed to eat seven and a half slices of whole wheat bread without the added canola oil each day — providing

an equivalent number of calories — and to avoid products made with white flour.

Over the next three months, blood glucose levels dropped in both groups, but the drop was about one and a half times larger among those on the canola oil-enriched diet. Improvements in other measures of heart disease risk generally favored the test diet as well.

"The thing that really surprised us is that those who seemed to be most in need benefited the most," Jenkins said.

He said the participants who had more weight in their mid-region and those with high blood pressure had the strongest blood sugar response to the test diet.

While getting extra canola oil allowed people with type 2 diabetes to im-

prove their glycemic control, whole grains seemed to benefit blood flow, the team reports in Diabetes Care.

"This is an important incremental finding that supports previous studies which show that diet may have an effect on cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Hertzell Gerstein, an endocrinologist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, who was not involved in the new study.

He said that even though the difference was only slight, the research supports the idea that diet could be an important way of treating people with diabetes.

"The one message I always tell patients is changing your diet can help - it won't be a waste of your time," Gerstein said.

Reuters

Output in bloated steel industry continues to rise

BEIJING, 29 June — Output in China's steel industry has continued to rise and prices continue to fall, as the government struggles to reduce capacity in the sector. Crude steel production gained 2.7 percent year on year to reach 343 million tonnes in the first five months of the year, although the growth was down 5.3 percentage points from the rate during the same period last year, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in an online report.

During the January-May period, the steel price index came in at 95.09, down 0.66 from a month earlier, according to the NDRC. In the first four months, the steel industry earned 41.2 billion yuan (6.7 billion US dollars), down 16.4 percent.

The government has been at pains to digest production gluts from an investment boom spawned by generous subsidies in the past few years that saw producers in "favored" sectors, including steel, expand rapidly with little regard to real market demand. To gradually solve the problem, a ban of new projects in steel, cement, electrolytic aluminum, flat glass and shipbuilding industries before 2017, and a gradual elimination of existing substandard projects are underway.

Xinhua

American Apparel adopts shareholder rights plan



A woman walks past an American Apparel store in New York on 19 June, 2014. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 29 June — American Apparel Inc has

adopted a one-year shareholder rights plan to help

its board of directors better protect its stockholders and ensure they are treated fairly, the company said on Saturday.

The company said its action came in response to reports of rapid accumulation of American Apparel's outstanding common stock, and in the context of a Securities Exchange Commission filing in which its ousted founder and chief executive, Dov Charney, expressed an intent to increase control or influence over the company.

The move, made by a special committee of the

company's board of directors, is intended to limit the ability of any group or person, including Charney, "to seize control of the company without appropriately compensating all American Apparel stockholders." The plan, allowing a person or group to acquire up to 15 percent of common stock, is similar to other arrangements adopted by publicly held companies and is not aimed to prevent or deter takeover bids that offer fair treatment, the company said.

Initially, "the rights will be attached to all

shares of common stock" and "each right entitles the holder to purchase one ten-thousandth of a share of preferred stock at an exercise price of \$2.75," the company said in a statement.

American Apparel's board ousted the 45-year-old Charney as chairman earlier this month, citing unspecified allegations of misconduct. It suspended him as president and chief executive officer, and plans to fire him for cause, following a 30-day period stipulated in his contract

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bum parachute Mars NASA 'saucer' test flight



A high altitude balloon is released to launch a saucer-shaped test vehicle, which holds equipment for landing large payloads on Mars, at the US Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii on 28 June, 2014.— REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, 29 June — A helium balloon carrying an experimental saucer-shaped NASA spacecraft floated off a launch tower at the US Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii, on Saturday to test landing systems for future missions to Mars.

A novel inflatable

shield to burn off speed worked but the test fell apart when a massive parachute, intended to guide the saucer to a splashdown in the ocean, failed to inflate properly.

"This is an opportunity for us to take a look at the data, learn what happened and apply that to the next test," NASA engineer Dan

Coatta, with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said during an interview on NASA Television.

"That's a more valuable experience for us than if everything had gone perfectly," he said. The balloon — big enough to fill the Rose Bowl football stadium in Pasadena, Califor-

nia — lifted off at 2:40 p.m. EDT (1840 GMT) and reached its designated altitude 120,000 feet (36,576 meters) above the Pacific Ocean about 2.5 hours later. The launch, which had been delayed six times this month because of unsuitable weather, and the test were broadcast live on NASA Television.

The saucer-shaped Low Density Supersonic Decelerator, or LDSD, successfully separated from the balloon and fired up its rocket motor, reaching speeds of 3,000 mph (4,828 kph) — roughly four times the speed of sound.

That set the stage for the real point of the test — collecting engineering data on a novel doughnut-shaped structure designed to quickly unfold, inflate and slow the craft's descent. The LDSD also held a massive supersonic parachute — the largest NASA has ever tested — that was to guide the craft to a controlled re-entry into the Pacific Ocean.

The 110-foot-diameter (34-meter) parachute failed to properly inflate, however, engineers monitoring the test said.—Reuters

Nose woes: air pollutants thwart flower-seeking bugs



A pollinating moth *Manduca sexta*, this one with a wing span of about 4 inches, feeds from a Sacred Datura, or *Datura wrightii*, flower while flying through a wind tunnel at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington in this May 2014 picture provided by Kiley Riffell.— REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 29 June — You think your nose likes flowers? Well, certainly not as much as the tobacco hornworm moth. In fact, its life depends on it.

These moths, whose olfactory abilities are as good as a bloodhound's and vastly better than a human's, can fly up to 80 miles (130 km) a night searching for their favorite flowers such as the Sacred Datura.

The nectar of these fragrant white, trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom only once at night is an important food source for the moths, which pollinate the flowers. Females also go to the flowers to lay eggs. After hatching, the larvae eat the plant's leaves.

Scientists have wondered how pollinating insects such as these moths track down the flowers they need and whether competing odors — natural and manmade — can mess things up.

In a study published on Friday in the journal *Science*, researchers placed the moths in a laboratory wind tunnel and exposed them to an array of odors such as car and truck exhaust fumes and fragrances of other plants.

Human sources of pollution fouled up their ability to find flowers and changed how the flower's scent was processed by olfactory neurons in the moth's brain.

"Pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths use their sense of smell to locate flowers from long distances, but we found that scent from neighbour-

ing vegetation, and even pollutants given off from vehicle exhaust, can disrupt the moth's behavior," University of Washington biology professor Jeffrey Riffell said.

"Now for the moths that are flying long distances, they can't adequately smell the flowers and at times won't even know the flowers are there," Riffell added. "We really need to conduct more experiments to find out if these pollutants, or even certain plants, might similarly disrupt other pollinators, like honeybees, that are agriculturally important."

The tobacco hornworm moth — a large, nocturnal insect with a wingspan of about 4 inches (10 cm) — ranges from Canada to Central America, including across the United States. In the US Southwest, their favored flower is the Sacred Datura, also known as angel's trumpets.

In a wind tunnel and a computer-controlled odor-stimulus system, the moths were tested to see how well they could distinguish different intensities of Sacred Datura fragrance, as well as mixes of background odors from other plants such as the creosote bushes that often grow nearby. The researchers also piped in chemicals such as those emitted in vehicle exhaust. The researchers tracked the neuron pathways activated by placing an electrode into the moth's antennal lobe. The antennae serve as an insect's nose. The antennal lobe is the part of the brain that processes odors from the antennae.—Reuters

Google executives visit Cuba for first time to promote open Internet

MIAMI, 29 June — A team of top Google executives is visiting Cuba to promote open Internet access, according to a dissident blogger who says she met the group in Havana.

The team, led by Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, met with Cuban officials as well as independent people in the technology and digital field, according to a report on the independent news website 14ymedio.com, which was started last month by blogger Yoani Sanchez.

Google is on an official two-day visit "to promote the virtues of a free and open Internet," the report said.

Schmidt appeared to confirm the report when he retweeted a message on Twitter posted by Sanchez about the visit.

Neither Google nor the Cuban government made any official statement about the executives' presence in Cuba.

Cuba does not allow open Internet access. Only 2.6 million out of a population of 11.2 million have Internet access, almost



A Google search page is reflected in sunglasses in this photo illustration taken in Brussels on 30 May, 2014.

REUTERS

entirely limited to government-run centers, foreign companies and tourist hotels. Most of those who do have access are only been able to explore a limited, state-controlled basket of approved websites.

Schmidt, who was Google's chief executive from 2001 to 2011, is becoming more visible on issues involving technology and world affairs. His mandate as executive chairman involves government outreach, thought leadership and building partnerships and business relationships, according to the company.

Schmidt was accompa-

nied by Jared Cohen, director of Google Ideas, as well as two other staff, Sanchez said.

Google Ideas describes itself as a "a think/do tank that explores how technology can enable people to confront threats in the face of conflict, instability or repression," according to its website.

Schmidt and Cohen are the coauthors of *The New Digital Age*, published last year, and have a track record of speaking with leaders of countries that restrict free speech to advocate for a free and open Internet.

Schmidt was the first

high-profile tech executive to visit Myanmar last year in the wake of reforms that prompted Western nations to ease sanctions following decades of military dictatorship.

The Google delegation in Havana met with students and was given a tour of Havana's University of Information Sciences on Saturday, according to 14ymedio.

Sanchez started 14ymedio, Cuba's first independent online newspaper in May, although the site has been repeatedly blocked in Cuba.

The Cuban government sought to discredit Sanchez as a paid propagandist doing the bidding of the US government.

The 14ymedio.com site seeks to draw attention away from the communist-ruled country's state-controlled media and challenge the government's heavy media restrictions. Cuba has been tolerating more criticism in recent years but not yet from such a professional-looking website produced on the island.—Reuters

After years off-stage, Iraq's Sistani takes charge

NAJAF, 29 June — Najaf is far from Baghdad's palaces and the battlefields of northern Iraq. Its mud-brick houses, dirt alleys and concrete office blocks project little in the way of strength or sway. But it is here, where Iraq's most influential clerics work from modest buildings in the shadow of a golden-domed shrine, that the country's future is being shaped.

Over his past three Friday sermons, Iraq's top cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, an ascetic 83-year-old of almost mythological stature to millions of followers in Iraq and beyond, has seized his most active role in politics in a decade.

From his spartan office in the holy city of Najaf, down an alleyway protected by armed guards, Sistani has asserted his dominance over public affairs, demanding politicians choose a new government without delay and potentially hastening the end of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's eight-year tenure.

The cleric, a recluse who favours a behind-the-scenes role, kicked off his newly assertive stance on 13 June with a call for Iraqis to take up arms against

a Sunni insurgency — the first fatwa of its kind in a century, clerics familiar with Sistani's thinking say, motivated by his fear the state faced collapse.

Tens of thousands of men have heeded the call, bolstering an army that at times seemed close to implosion. Sistani's appeal for an inclusive government has further been seen as an implicit rebuke of Maliki, even by some of the premier's supporters.

On Friday he called on political blocs to choose a prime minister, president and speaker of parliament by 1 July, meaning Maliki could be replaced within days.

"Today, the roadmap is clear and there is a timetable. It's as if Sistani has put all the parties in a corner," a Shi'ite lawmaker said.

The fatwas also carry risks, both in the near and long term. Sunni leaders say Sistani's call to arms inflamed the conflict. And, more broadly, the fatwas revive an old question of what role Najaf's clerics, who traditionally keep their distance from politics, will play in affairs of state.

"He gave a fatwa the Shi'ites never had for 90



Volunteers, who have joined the Iraqi Army to fight against predominantly Sunni militants, carry weapons and a portrait of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani during a parade in the streets in Baghdad's Sadr city on 14 June, 2014.—REUTERS

years or more. He will not retreat. He wants to have a role," said a Western diplomat with strong knowledge of the clerical establishment. "It would be seen as irresponsible for him to pull back after issuing such a fatwa."

The Shi'ite lawmaker, who has good relations with the clergy, put it succinctly: "Sistani is the driver now."

Shi'ites are required to choose a senior cleric, known as a "marjaa", to emulate, usually one who has attained the top rank of

grand ayatollah after many decades of study at either of the two great seminaries, in Najaf, Iraq or Qom, Iran.

Sistani is chancellor of the thousand-year-old Najaf seminary, the most senior of its four grand ayatollahs, and the most widely emulated in Iraq. To the millions who follow him, his Islamic legal opinions, or fatwas, are beyond question. Mohammad Hussein al-Hakim, whose father is another of Najaf's four top clerics, reaches deep into history to describe the

threat Shi'ites now feel from the hardline Sunni Islamists spearheading the insurgency.

Two centuries ago, puritanical Sunnis rampaged through the holy city of Kerbala north of Najaf. Without the clerics' intervention, Hakim said, history might have repeated itself. "Now the capabilities are bigger, the destructive forces are stronger, and the destructive ideas are greater," he said at the offices of a charity for orphans financed by his father.

Reuters

Iran general says ready to help Iraq against militants

DUBAI, 29 June — Iran is ready to help Iraq fight an armed revolt using the same methods it deployed against opposition forces in Syria, an Iranian general said, suggesting Teheran is offering to take a larger role in battling Sunni militias threatening Baghdad.

Iranian leaders to date have said they would help defend Shi'ite Muslim shrines in neighbouring Iraq if necessary, but have also said Iraqis are capable of doing that job themselves.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on 22 June also said he rejected intervention in Iraq by Washington or any other outside power against Sunni militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militia.

ISIL has seized a broad swathe of territory in northern and western Iraq in recent weeks in their quest to topple the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, a Shi'ite backed by Iran, and to set up an Islamic caliphate.

Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri, deputy joint chief of staff of the armed forces and a senior Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) officer, told Iran's al Alam television that Iran's response to the militias would be "certain and serious".

Jazayeri's remarks late on Saturday did not provide details on the assistance Iran could give Baghdad, beyond saying Iran could help with what he called popular defence and intelligence.

"Iran has told Iraqi officials it is ready to provide them with our successful experiments in popular all-around defence, the same winning strategy used in Syria to put the terrorists on the defensive ... This same strategy is now taking shape in Iraq — mobilizing masses of all ethnic groups," he told the television station. "A response is certain and serious," he said.

"With Syria, too, we announced we would not allow terrorists in the hire of foreign intelligence services to rule and dictate to Syrian people. We will certainly have the same approach with Iraq."

Reuters

Syria Islamists challenge ISIL control of town on Iraq border



Kurdish Peshmerga troops travel in a tank as they secure an area in the town of Sulaiman Pek in Salahuddin Province on 21 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 29 June — Islamist rebels waged a counter-offensive in Syria's border town of Albu Kamal on Saturday, challenging the grip of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) which has seized large areas on each side of the crumbling Iraqi-Syrian frontier.

Earlier this week ISIL fighters appeared to be consolidating their hold over Albu Kamal when the local leader of the rival Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's official branch in Syria, pledged allegiance to them.

ISIL is a more radical offshoot of al-Qaeda that has its roots in Iraq and

expanded into Syria shortly after the start of the three-year insurgency against President Bashar al-Assad.

It controls much of Syria's eastern oil-producing Euphrates River region, and its lightning gains in Iraq's Sunni Muslim northern and western provinces over the last three weeks

means ISIL now commands a large cross-border expanse of territory — in which Albu Kamal forms an important link.

An Islamist website quoted Abu Yusuf al-Masri, the local Nusra Front leader who gave an oath of allegiance to ISIL on Tuesday, as saying a suicide bomber blew himself in Albu Kamal on Friday night, killing three of Masri's men and wounding 20.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, reported heavy fighting overnight and into Saturday in the town between ISIL-aligned forces and rival Islamists, who include Nusra Front fighters from outside the town who had not sided with ISIL.

The Observatory's Rami Abdul Rahman said local tribal figures were trying to broker a ceasefire across the eastern province of Deir al-Zor where Albu Kamal is located.

Albu Kamal lies across the border from the Iraqi town of al-Qaim, which was seized by ISIL fighters more than a week ago.

The town was bombed by jets on Tuesday in an attack which Iraqi and Syrian sources said was carried out by Syria's air force. State media in Damascus denied that any Syrian planes struck inside Iraq and Iraq's prime minister said the Syrian jets hit targets inside Syrian territory.

The military gains by Islamic State fighters have highlighted the extent to which the conflict in Iraq is intertwined with the civil war in Syria, where more than 160,000 people have been killed in the last three years.

On Saturday several people were killed, including at least two children, when a car bomb exploded in the Syrian town of Douma, northeast of the capital Damascus, the Observatory said.—*Reuters*

GENERAL

Hong Kong wraps up unofficial democracy poll in defiance of Beijing

HONG KONG, 29 June — More than 765,000 votes had been cast by early afternoon on Sunday, the final day of an unofficial referendum on democratic reforms in Hong Kong, part of a civil campaign that has been branded illegal by local and mainland Chinese authorities. Hong Kong, a free-wheeling, capitalist hub of more than seven million people, returned to Chinese rule in 1997 with wide-ranging autonomy under a “one country, two systems” formula, along with an undated promise of universal suffrage.

While Beijing says Hong Kong can go ahead with a vote in 2017 for the city’s top leader, Hong Kong’s mini-constitution, the Basic Law, specifies that only a nominating committee can pick leadership candidates. Democracy activists want the nomination process to be open to everyone, in line with international standards, and have



A guide leads a woman to a polling station during a civil referendum held by Occupy Central in Hong Kong on 29 June, 2014. —REUTERS

threatened to lock down the Central area of Hong Kong, home to some of Asia’s biggest companies and banks, if the city fails to adopt a strong democratic method for electing its next leader.

“I think the signal has already been sent to Beijing that Hong Kong people

are prepared to express their views on universal suffrage,” said Benny Tai, associate professor of law at the University of Hong Kong and one of the organisers of the vote.

“We hope the result of the civil referendum will be taken seriously by the SAR

(Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong) and Chinese government.”

The unofficial vote, organized by pro-democracy activists, has been conducted mainly online. Voters are required to give their identification number to prevent cheating. —Reuters

Pakistan family slits throats of young couple over love marriage

LAHORE, 29 June — A young couple in Pakistan were tied up and had their throats slit with scythes after they married for love, police said on Saturday.

The 17-year-old girl and 31-year-old man married on 18 June without the consent of their families in eastern Pakistan’s Punjabi village of Satrah, police said.

The girl’s mother and father lured the couple home late on Thursday with the promise that their marriage would receive a family blessing, said local police official Rana Zashid.

“When the couple reached there, they tied them with ropes,” he said. “He (the girl’s father) cut their throats.”

Police arrested the family, who said they had been embarrassed by the marriage of their daughter, named Muafia Hussein, to a man from a less important tribe. Cultural traditions in many areas of Pakistan

mean that killing a woman whose behaviour is seen as immodest is widely accepted. Immodest behaviour that sparked recent killings included singing, looking out of the window or talking to a man who is not a relative. For a woman to marry a man of her own choice is considered an unacceptable insult by many families.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said 869 so-called “honour killings” were reported in the media last year - several a day. But the true figure is probably much higher since many cases are never reported.

The weak Pakistani government, battling with a troubled economy and a Taliban insurgency, does not collect centralized statistics and has no strategy to combat the killings.

Pakistani law means that even if a woman’s killer is convicted, her family are able to forgive the killer.

Reuters

Building collapses kill 11 in India, lax monitoring blamed

NEW DELHI, 29 June — Two building collapses in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu states killed at least 11 people on Saturday and left dozens trapped, highlighting the need for increased monitoring of construction across India where such incidents are common.

Ten people including five children were killed in New Delhi after a 50-year-old apartment block with 14 occupants collapsed early on Saturday, a police spokesman said.

“Building collapse in Delhi brings forth need to adhere to safety requirements,” tweeted Vijay Goel, a lawmaker from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party that controls the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Numerous building accidents in In-



Rescue workers conduct a search operation for survivors at the site of a collapsed 11-storey building that was under construction on the outskirts of Chennai on 28 June, 2014. —REUTERS

dia’s large cities have killed about 100 people in the past year, according to local media reports. More than 50 people were killed when an apartment block collapsed in Mumbai last September. Deputy Commissioner of Police Madhur Verma told

reporters an investigation into the cause of Saturday’s building collapse in New Delhi had been launched.

Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called the incident a “nexus between the builder mafia and the municipal corporation”. The corporation did not answer a phone call requesting comment.

Later on Saturday, an 11-storey building under construction in southern Tamil Nadu state came down, killing one worker, said K Shanmugasundaram, a spokesman for the state police. “Some 10 workers are in hospital and one of them is in the intensive care unit,” he told Reuters. “Many more are still feared trapped.” —Reuters

Record turnout for Singapore gay rally amid religious protests

SINGAPORE, 29 June — One of the largest crowds ever recorded in Singapore for a civil society gathering turned out on Saturday at a gay rights rally, against a backdrop of noisy opposition from religious groups in the run-up to the event.

An estimated 26,000 people descended on Hong Lim Park for the “Pink Dot”, an annual event since 2009 that aims to discourage discrimination against same-sex couples.

Sex between two men is illegal in Singapore and punishable with up to two years in prison, though it is rarely enforced. The law, based on English texts from the island’s colonial peri-

od, makes no mention of lesbians. The rally, which saw people dress in pink for a picnic and concert in the park and then gather in a circle to form a “Pink Dot”, has previously taken place without much visible protest. However this year, some Muslim and Christian groups came together to call on their followers to wear white to show their opposition to the event and what they perceive as growing acceptance of homosexuality in Singapore.

“This year the extent of the negativity has saddened us quite a bit,” said Paerin Choa, one of Pink Dot’s organizers.

“What happened over

the past few weeks goes to show that discrimination is very much still alive in Singapore.”

The rally comes amid growing anger from Singaporeans over issues ranging from immigration and rising living costs to gay rights — all in a country where dissent is actively discouraged and political gatherings require a permit regardless of how many people are involved.

Some Muslims were particularly angry that the event took place on the eve of Ramadan and many posted photos of them wearing white to evening prayers to a “wearwhite” Facebook page. Some Christian groups have called on the government to take a clearer stand on the issue and reinforce the legal position that sex between two men is outlawed.

“Pink Dot’s agenda goes against our national interests,” said Lawrence Khong a senior pastor at the 10,000-strong Faith Community Baptist Church.

“If they are allowed to continue, the day will come when we will no longer recognise the Singapore that we and our founding fathers have worked so hard to build,” —Reuters



Participants dressed in pink perform cheerleading stunts before taking part in the forming of a giant pink dot at the Speakers’ Corner in Hong Lim Park in Singapore on 28 June, 2014. —REUTERS

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American pop star Kelis performs on the Pyramid stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival on 28 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Britain's Glastonbury embraces Metallica's 'heavier side'

PILTON, (England), 29 June — Metallica rocked Glastonbury on Saturday night, confounding critics who said heavy metal had no place at Britain's biggest music festival.

After opening with "Creeping Death" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls," front man James Hetfield said they were representing "the heavier side of music" at the festival held on a farm in rural southwest England.

Both fans and newcomers to metal enthusiastically welcomed songs like "One" and "Enter Sandman" in the Pyramid Stage performance.

The choice of the US group, which has sold more than 120 million records, for the prestigious Saturday headline slot had been controversial.

Some of the 135,000 festival goers complained that their music did not fit into Glastonbury's hippy ethos. Others said Hetfield's narration of a TV show about bear hunting did not fit the event's environmental culture.

Hetfield answered both counts in the one hour 40 minutes performance. He said all types of music were represented at Glastonbury, "so why not heavy rock."

And a film at the start of the performance took a humorous swipe at the hunting controversy.

It showed a traditional English fox hunt ending with the red-jacketed huntsmen being shot by bears, revealed to be the members of Metallica in costume.—Reuters

'Gravity' wins big at Saturn Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES, 29 June — 'Gravity' dominated the movie winners list of the 40th annual Saturn Awards with five wins including best sci-fi film, best director, and best actress for Sandra Bullock.

The Alfonso Cuarón-directed film was closely followed by 'Her' and 'Iron Man 3', which won three awards each, reported Ace Showbiz.

'Her' grabbed best fantasy film, best writing for Spike Jonze, and best supporting actress for Scarlett Johansson.

Meanwhile, 'Iron Man 3' got best comic-to-film motion picture, best actor for Robert Downey Jr, and best supporting actor for Ben Kingsley.

Best horror film went to 'The Conjuring', best



'Gravity' claimed five wins at the 40th annual Saturn Awards.—PTI

action/adventure film was given to 'Fast and Furious 6', best thriller was handed to 'World War Z', best animated film was taken by 'Frozen (2013)', and best indie film belonged to '12 Years a Slave'.

Special honorees included Bryan Fuller who received The Dan Curtis Legacy Award presented to him by Kristin Chenoweth.

Greg Nicotero was feted with the George Pal Memorial Award, and Marc Cushman earned the Special Recognition Award for his books, '(Star Trek) These are the Voyages: Season 1 and 2'.

The ceremony was held at Castaway Starlight Ballroom in Burbank, California.—PTI

Michael Jackson documentary triggers lawsuit

LOS ANGELES, 29 June — Craig Williams, the director of 'Michael Jackson: The Last Photo Shoot', has filed a lawsuit against the executors of the late King of Pop's estate. Williams seeks to confirm valid rights on unseen footage from Jackson's 2007



Michael Jackson

photo shoot which will be used in the documentary, reported Ace Showbiz. The footage was taken at the Brooklyn Museum of Art for *Ebony* magazine as Jackson tried make a comeback and gave his first magazine interview in a decade. Interviews with the singer's friends, photographers, and stylists will be included in the film as well. However, Jackson's estate calls the footage "private." "The makers of the documentary are at-

tempting to exploit footage and photographs of Michael Jackson, which we believe are owned by his Estate," lawyer Howard Weitzman said.

"The documentary contains footage of Michael during private moments that he never agreed could be publicly and commercially exploited without his consent and/or involvement. Michael never authorised or approved the use of this material in the film."

PTI

Emma Watson employs illegal housekeeper

LONDON, 29 June

— 'Harry Potter' star Emma Watson has allegedly been employing a woman illegally at her 2 million pounds London home.

The 24-year-old actress hired the maid to work in her New York apartment at the beginning of last year but Border Agency staff have since launched a probe following a complaint that the woman was travelling to London on and off to help Watson in her Islington home, reported *Daily Mirror*.

It is believed that the housekeeper spent a total of three months in Britain between September last year until early February and was quizzed on arrival by immigration staff about her ability to pay for her stay.

Although the home office can't comment on individual cases a source from the department said, "An allegation has been received and processed and has been allocated for further action."

Meanwhile, Watson recently graduated from the prestigious Brown University in the United States.

The 'Bling Ring' actress, who enrolled at the Ivy League school in 2009, received her English literature degree at a commencement ceremony on the main campus in Providence, Rhode Island, last month.—PTI

Johnny Depp obsessed with discount vouchers

LONDON, 29 June — 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star Johnny Depp, who is worth approximately 200 million pounds, is reportedly obsessed with discount vouchers.

The 51-year-old actor recently bought a dis-

counted barbecue grill, reported Contactmusic.

"If he can get a good price for something, he'll go for it. He just bought a new barbecue for the patio of his house in LA," his friend said.

"He also uses discount

vouchers to buy his fiancée gifts—and have invested 200 pounds on a pair of 600 pounds diamond earrings and to get money off their meals at top restaurants," the source added.

PTI



GENERAL

Serena fizzles out, Nadal and Federer march on

LONDON, 29 June — Wimbledon great Serena Williams was sent packing by a Frenchwoman who once regarded grass court tennis as a chore but Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal illuminated the Centre Court lawn with commanding victories on Saturday.

American Williams's hopes of a sixth singles title fizzled out as she sank to a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat against 25th seed Alize Cornet who celebrated by kissing the Court One turf.

The result reverberated around the All England Club on a day of dark clouds and rain and blasted a gaping hole in the women's tournament which now looks wide open with second seed Li Na having

departed a day earlier.

World number one Williams, 32, had not fallen before the fourth round at Wimbledon since 2005 and, after returning to court from a four-hour rain delay on day six, she seemed to charging towards the business end of the tournament.

Her power game began to malfunction and Cornet, sensing her moment, battled back with some attacking tennis to leave a strangely hesitant Williams reeling.

After watching the match slip away, Williams dug deep at the end to claw back two games to trail 4-5 but she bungled a volley to offer Cornet a match point and then netted a backhand.

"If somebody would

have told me a couple years ago that I would be in second week here in Wimbledon, beating Serena, I wouldn't have believed it," Cornet told reporters. "Before it was just a pain to come here in Wimbledon. But now it's the contrary," added the 24-year-old who has reached the last 16 of a major for only the second time in 34 attempts.

The result ended hopes of an eagerly anticipated last 16 match-up between Williams and fast-rising Canadian Eugenie Bouchard who comfortably beat fellow

French Open semi-finalist Andrea Petkovic 6-3, 6-4.

Williams's demise would also have been noted with more than just passing interest by fifth seed Maria Sharapova, who is chasing her second Wimbledon title, 10 years after her first, and who expected to face her nemesis in the quarter-finals.

Russian Sharapova, who has a 1-15 record against Williams since beating her in the 2004 final, took advantage of playing under the closed Centre Court roof with a 6-3, 6-0 thrashing of unseeded American Alison Riske.

Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after defeating Santiago Giraldo of Colombia during their men's singles tennis match at Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 28 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Serena Williams of the US reacts during her women's singles tennis match against Alize Cornet of France at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 28 June, 2014.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(30-6-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:40 am
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- * News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- * People Talks
- 8:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * Cartoon Series
- 10:20 am
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 11:45 am
- * Song of Yesteryears
- 12:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 2:40 pm
- * Dance Variety
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:30 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Public Policy)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 6:20 pm
- * Traditional Boxing
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:25 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 9:45 pm
- * Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 10:20 pm
- * FIFA World Cup 2014 (Live) (France & Nigeria)

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-6-14 07:00 am~ 1-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
- * World News
- * Myanmar Agarwood
- * Local News
- * Shots & Logs (Episode-1) Ko Taike
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Pe Kwe Kone Nat Festival
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: Papaya Salad
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * PaO in the Union
- * World News
- * The Golden of the Golden abode
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Handicrafts
- * World News
- * Wholesale Fish
- * Local News
- * Family of Toys
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "At Your Command"
- * Local News
- * Visiting to Mawlamyine Trip
- * World News
- * Short Cuts "Waso Charity Feast"
- * Local News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Kalayar Moe"
- * World News
- * Orphanage



A fleet of frigates conducts combat drills in East China Sea on 25 June, 2014. Soldiers fired rocket depth-charge missiles during the drills.

XINHUA

US military hospitals plagued by avoidable errors

WASHINGTON, 29 June — The US military hospital system, which cares for the 1.6 million active-duty service members and their families, is rife with chronic yet avoidable errors and is only subject to sporadic scrutiny, the *New York Times* reported on Saturday.

The paper said that it had found during a major investigation that the military hospital network, which is totally separate from the scandal-plagued Veterans Administration system, had a particularly bad track record in the areas of maternity care and surgery.

"More than 50,000 babies are born at military hospitals each year, and

they are twice as likely to be injured during delivery as newborns nationwide, the most recent statistics show," the paper said.

It said its examination concluded that "the military lags behind many civilian hospital systems in protecting patients from harm." The review is based on Pentagon studies, court records, analyses of thousands of pages of data, and interviews with current and former military health officials and workers.

"The most common errors are strikingly prosaic — the unread file, the unheeded distress call, the doctor on one floor not talking to the doctor on another," the paper said.

But it also quoted ex-

amples of "never events," so-called because they are so grave yet preventable.

"A viable fetus died after a surgeon operated on the wrong part of the mother's body," the paper said.

"A 41-year-old woman's healthy thyroid gland was removed because someone else's biopsy result had been recorded on her chart. A 54-year-old retired officer suffered acute kidney failure and permanent hearing loss after an incorrect dose of chemotherapy," it cited as other examples.

The *New York Times* quoted defense officials as saying military hospitals deliver treatment that is as good, if not better, than ci-

villian hospitals.

"We strive to be a perfect system, but we are not a perfect system, and we know it," the paper quoted Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, as saying. "We must learn from our mistakes and take corrective actions to prevent them from reoccurring."

The *Times* said records showed that mandated safety investigations often went undone, that less than half of reported unexpected deaths inquiries were forwarded to the Pentagon's patient-safety center, and that cases involving permanent harm often remained unexamined.

Reuters

Brazil edge Chile, Rodriguez rocket launches Colombia

SAO PAULO, 29 June — Brazilians rejoiced on Saturday when their nervy team edged past Chile to book a place in the World Cup quarter-finals in a nail-biting penalty shoot-out, while in the other last 16 game, James Rodriguez scored a stunning volley as Colombia downed Uruguay.

It will be Colombia's first appearance in the last eight, and two goals from Rodriguez, including a spectacular left foot strike from 20 metres, put him ahead of Lionel Messi, Thomas Mueller and Neymar as the tournament's top scorer with five.

Uruguay's exit ended a sorry week for the South Americans, who badly missed their prolific forward Luis Suarez after he was kicked out of the World Cup for biting and banned from any football activity for four months.

For the hosts, it was an afternoon of excruciating tension in Belo Horizonte, where the teams drew 1-1 after extra time before Brazil won the penalty shoot-out 3-2.

The win leaves them three games away from lifting the World Cup for a sixth time and exorcising the ghosts of defeat in the 1950 final on home soil.

"We took upon ourselves this mission that we must be champions. If you make a promise you must deliver. This is what the players are doing," said coach Luiz Felipe Scolari. "There are three more (games) to see if we can reach heaven."

The celebrations on the pitch and across the coun-



Brazil's David Luiz (2nd R) scores a goal during their 2014 World Cup round of 16 game against Chile at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte on 28 June, 2014.—REUTERS

try were more in relief than jubilation, after a pulsating match in which both sides attacked at pace but failed to convert their chances once Chile striker Alexis Sanchez had cancelled out David Luiz's opener in the 32nd minute.

Cesar vindicated four years on

Brazil's players cried for joy after Gonzalo Jara's spot kick bounced back off the upright to send them through after keeper Julio Cesar had saved two shoot-out penalties.

"Four years ago I gave an interview, very upset, very sad," said Julio Cesar, referring to Brazil's quarter-final exit to the Netherlands at the 2010 World Cup.

"I will repeat it again, but this time I am happy," added the man of the

match, struggling to keep his emotions in check.

"Only God knows, and my family, what I went through. My team mates gave me support and strength. My big dream is that Brazil have a party."

Only lifting the trophy in Rio de Janeiro on July 13 will be enough to satisfy Brazil's expectant fans, and they next face Colombia, who beat Uruguay 2-0 in another Latin American clash that underlines the region's domination of the tournament.

For Chile, the team's tears were shed in the despair of going out for a fourth time to their World Cup nemesis, especially when the margin between victory and defeat had been so narrow.

In the final minute of extra time, Chile's Mau-

ricio Pinilla rattled the crossbar with a fierce shot, but Julio Cesar saved spot-kicks from Pinilla and Alexis before Jara missed and the hosts went through.

The knowledge that they matched Brazil over 120 minutes of high-paced, if not always fluent, football will do little to ease the pain for Chile.

"We played Spain, the Netherlands and Brazil, and we were no worse than any of them," said keeper and captain Claudio Bravo.

"We feel very frustrated because we could have wrapped the match up long before. We had clear chances to wrap it. What else can we say now?"

Glorious Goal

At Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium, Colombia secured an altogether more comfortable passage to their first World Cup quarter-final by overcoming Uruguay, whose star

striker Suarez had been sent home for biting an Italian opponent.

The first goal was sublime, as Rodriguez chested a pass into the air and smashed home a volley that rattled the underside of the bar before crossing the line. His second was swept in from close range after a flowing, attacking raid.

The 22-year-old has scored in all four of Colombia's games so far and is the tournament's top scorer, and Brazil must find a way to stop him if they are to get past a gifted, confident side when the teams meet in Fortaleza on 4 July.

Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez was full of praise for one of the surprise individuals of the World Cup.

"It is not up to me to say, but I believe from what I have seen that he is the best player in the World Cup," Tabarez said. "I am not exaggerating, he is a

great striker."

Uruguay's reliance on Suarez was underlined once again when they failed to take any of their chances in the second half.

FIFA's decision to ban him for nine competitive international games and from any football activity for four months has overshadowed the World Cup in recent days, and was considered by many people to be excessive.

Before the Colombia game, Suarez posted a message on social media in his first comments since the ban was announced.

"I'm writing to say thanks for all the expressions of support and affection that I'm receiving," he said. "Both I and my family are very grateful. Thanks for being on my side."

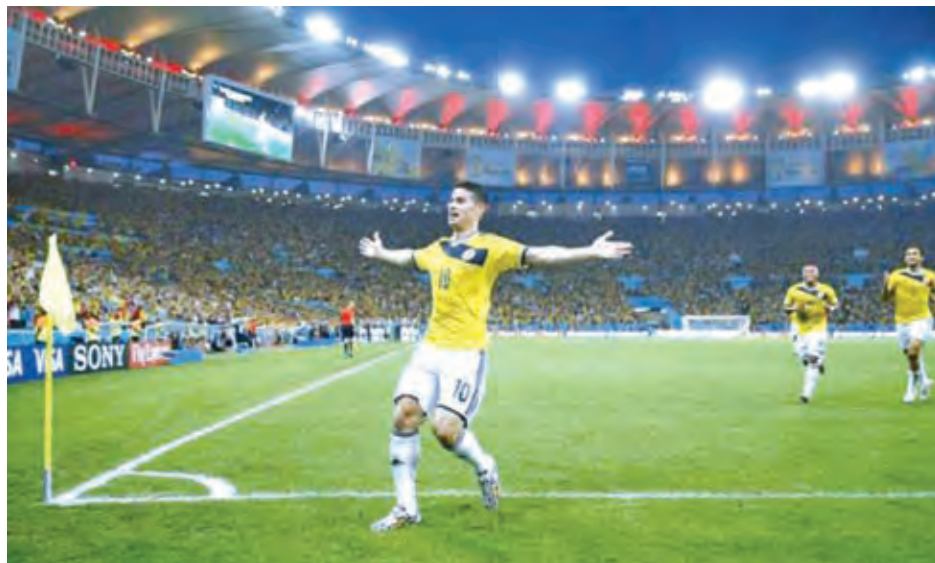
An internal FIFA document seen by Reuters on Saturday said that soccer's world governing body handed out the heavy punishment because Suarez showed no remorse for the incident and previous bans had not changed his behaviour. He had twice been banned for biting before.

The FIFA document included excerpts of Suarez's explanation of the event, in which he said his initial contact with Giorgio Chiellini caused him to lose balance and fall on the Italian.

"Then, my face hit the player, leaving me with a bruise and a lot of pain in my teeth... That is what happened and at no point did anything happen that can be described as 'biting' or trying to bite," Suarez was quoted as saying.

On Sunday, the Netherlands take on Mexico in Fortaleza while Costa Rica meet Greece in Recife.

Reuters



Colombia's James Rodriguez celebrates his goal against Uruguay during their 2014 World Cup round of 16 game at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 28 June, 2014.—REUTERS

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
Round of 16			
Match-53		22:30 MST (30.6.2014)	
	France		Nigeria
Match-54		2:30 MST (1.7.2014)	
	Germany		Algeria
World Cup 2014 Results			
Match 49	Brazil	1-1	Chile (3-2 pens)
Match 50	Colombia	2-0	Uruguay