

Myanmar workers apply for labour registration in Thailand

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 30 June— Myanmar immigrants on Monday started applying for labour registration in Samut Sakhon of Bangkok, Thailand, according to a report of Thai PBS (TV).

Thousand of migrant workers, mostly from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia lined up for registration at the new and full-time centre in Muang district.

Thai officials, including Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win, witnessed the registration process of migrant workers to protect them from being exploited by unscrupulous job agencies or brokers, according to the report.

The one-stop-service center opened at the provincial social office in the district and can register 2,000 migrants a day. When the doors opened in the morning, about 1,000 illegal workers already lined up for registration, officials said.

As the businesses in Samut Sakhon are relying on the bulk of migrant workers, Thai authorities reduced restrictions on im-



Migrant workers seen at one-stop-service centre in in Samut Sakhon for registration on 30 June.

PHOTO: MAHACHAI CABLE TV

migrant workers there due to the needs of local employers.

According to the Labour Ministry figures last year, an estimated 80,000 illegal labourers from three neighbouring countries are

staying in Samut Sakhon province which depends on foreign workers for its fishery industry.

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) agreed in the last week of June to issue tem-

porary work permits for illegal workers in Thailand.

NCPO appointed a policy committee on 25 June for managing problems on migrant labour issues and human trafficking.

The one-stop-service

centre will register and issue ID numbers after health checks under the procedures stipulated by the Ministry of Interior, the lead agency for the registration process.

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Employers' attempts to break up trade union activities spark more strikes: CCTU

By Myint Win Thein

YANGON, 30 June— Employers in industrial zones in Yangon are sacking trade union activists through various means, leading to even more problems, according to the Co-operation Committee of Trade Unions.

One of the incidents cited by the CCTU took place at a garment factory in Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone in May.

Ko Kyaw Thein Win and another female worker, representatives of the workers in the negotiation team which was formed in accordance with the Labour Dispute settlement Law, tried to form a trade union

at the factory by holding discussions with workers during lunch times and breaks. However, before they were able to register their trade union officially, the factory management sacked 12 workers, including the two representatives without consulting the negotiation team and township labour department. The practice to break up activities to form trade unions is common in factories, according to the CCTU.

The 12 workers were taken out of the factory by security guards and were told that they had been sacked. It was not just a violation of the agreement not to fire workers who were on strike but also sacking workers unlawfully,

according to the CCTU. Once, the two representatives successfully negotiated a pay raise for the workers who were on strike at the factory.

The unlawful sacking of the twelve workers ignited another strike, but the factory owner still refused to reemploy the sacked workers. As a result, the case was submitted to the Regional Labour Arbitration Board which decided that the workers must be given compensation. This also sparked another strike and they are still demanding to reinstall the sacked workers, according to the CCTU.

Some of the twelve sacked workers were (See page 2)



Workers from a garment factory in Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone gathering to protest the dismissal of trade union activists.—PHOTO: PROVIDED

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NAY PYI TAW, 30 June —At the invitation of General Emmanuel Trinidad Bautista, Chief of the Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines, a goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw Airport on Monday morning to pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Philippines.

The goodwill visit is the first of a Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar during the 59 years of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Philippines. During the trip, the senior general will meet with the Philippines Government and the armed forces for holding

discussions on further strengthening friendly relations and cooperation between the two armed forces and will visit significant places in Manila.

The senior general was accompanied by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Lt-Gen Soe Thein of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Tin Aung San, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Lwin Oo, Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw and senior military officers.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife leave for the Philippines on goodwill visit



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by officials.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June —The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development is implementing tasks for all inclusive rural development, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint said at a coordination meeting for undertaking eight tasks of rural development and poverty reduction at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

He stressed the need for drawing action plans to reduce the poverty rate of Myanmar to 16% in 2015 and compiling the implementation reports in respective financial years.

The union minister urged the respective committees to release the information about progress of works to the public.

All inclusive rural development undertaken under rural development strategy



Union Minister U Ohn Myint speaking at a meeting on rural development and poverty alleviation.—MNA

discussions on progress poverty alleviation. MNA

Plans to form vocational training centres

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June —The Special Task force for the Implementation of Technology and Vocation Education Sector of the Education Promotion Committee held a meeting at the Department of Technical and Vocational Education on Natmuk Street in Yangon on Sunday.

At the meeting, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein stressed the need for opening test centres for job and skill improvement to develop qualified human resources in respective

regions.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo urged officials to draft a law for creating opportunity for those who passed high school level courses of a vocational education system to join universities and make preparations for opening vocational training centres and technical teacher training.

The meeting focused on formation of technical and vocation educational training mobile team and testing centres.—MNA

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Thai military chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha said on 27 June that one-stop centres will be opened in another 22 coastal provinces on 7 July, and in the rest of country by 15 July.

Member countries of ASEAN have agreed to open up the labour market after the establishment of ASEAN Economic Community at the end of 2015, but free flow of workers will be limited to skilled and professional labourers.

Under the new scheme, migrant workers are exempt from punishment stated in three articles in the Immigration Act 2522 from 1979, which mentions unskilled labourers seeking job and work in Thailand are not allowed to enter Thailand; illegal immigrants, whose duration of stay has expired or permis-

sion to stay was revoked, will be deported; and illegal immigrants, whose duration of stay has expired or permission to stay was revoked, will be imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or receive a 20,000-Baht fine or both imprisonment and fine. Health check of migrant workers is also cut from Bt600 to Bt500; and insurance cost is Bt1,600 instead of Bt2,200 for adults; Bt365 for children, according to the statement.

The Labour Ministry has confirmed that Thailand has about 2.2 million registered migrant workers. Officials believe that this new plan will benefit an estimated two million migrant workers. The United States ranked Thailand third place for human trafficking cases, with rampant abuse of children and forced labourers.

NLM

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing discussed the Third Wave reform plans of the government here on Monday.

The government has adopted reform plans with three steps of First Wave, Second Wave and Third Wave. The first one dealt with the introduction of a multiparty democratic system and the transition from the old to a new system, while the second step put emphasis on strategies for executive, economic, political and social reforms.

The Third Wave reform is concerned with ensuring a solid foundation for a new democracy to take root and a higher living standard for people.

Union Minister said: "The reform processes of the Myanmar government have been recognized by

the international community, including the United Nations. With these three steps, Myanmar has succeeded in economic reforms and attracted a bulk of foreign investments."

He also urged the staff of his ministry to actively take part in the processes of government's reform plan.—MNA

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing addresses meeting on Third Wave reform plans of the government.

MNA



Employers' attempts to break up...

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persuaded by the factory management to accept cash for revoking their complaints to the Labour Disputes Arbitration Council.

However, Ko Kyaw Thein Win, who refused to accept the K 5 million and to revoke the complaint and other five workers, said that they had been fired

unlawfully. The case was submitted to the Labour Dispute Arbitration Council on 24 June and between 800 to 1,000 workers of the factory are still demanding reemployment of the sacked workers.—NLM

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein arrives back from China

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June—President U Thein Sein and delegation arrived back in Myanmar on Monday after a visit to China where met several high-ranking officials, including Chinese President Xi Jinping. Before his departure on Monday, he visited the White Horse Temple in Luoyang city in Henan Province of China and attended a ceremony to hoist an umbrella atop of Maha Cinapabha Shwedagon Replica Pagoda.

In the afternoon, Henan Province Governor Mr Xie Fuzhan hosted a

luncheon for the President in Luoyang.

The President and his delegation left Luoyang by air and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

The President was welcomed back by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk

Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers and officials.

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U

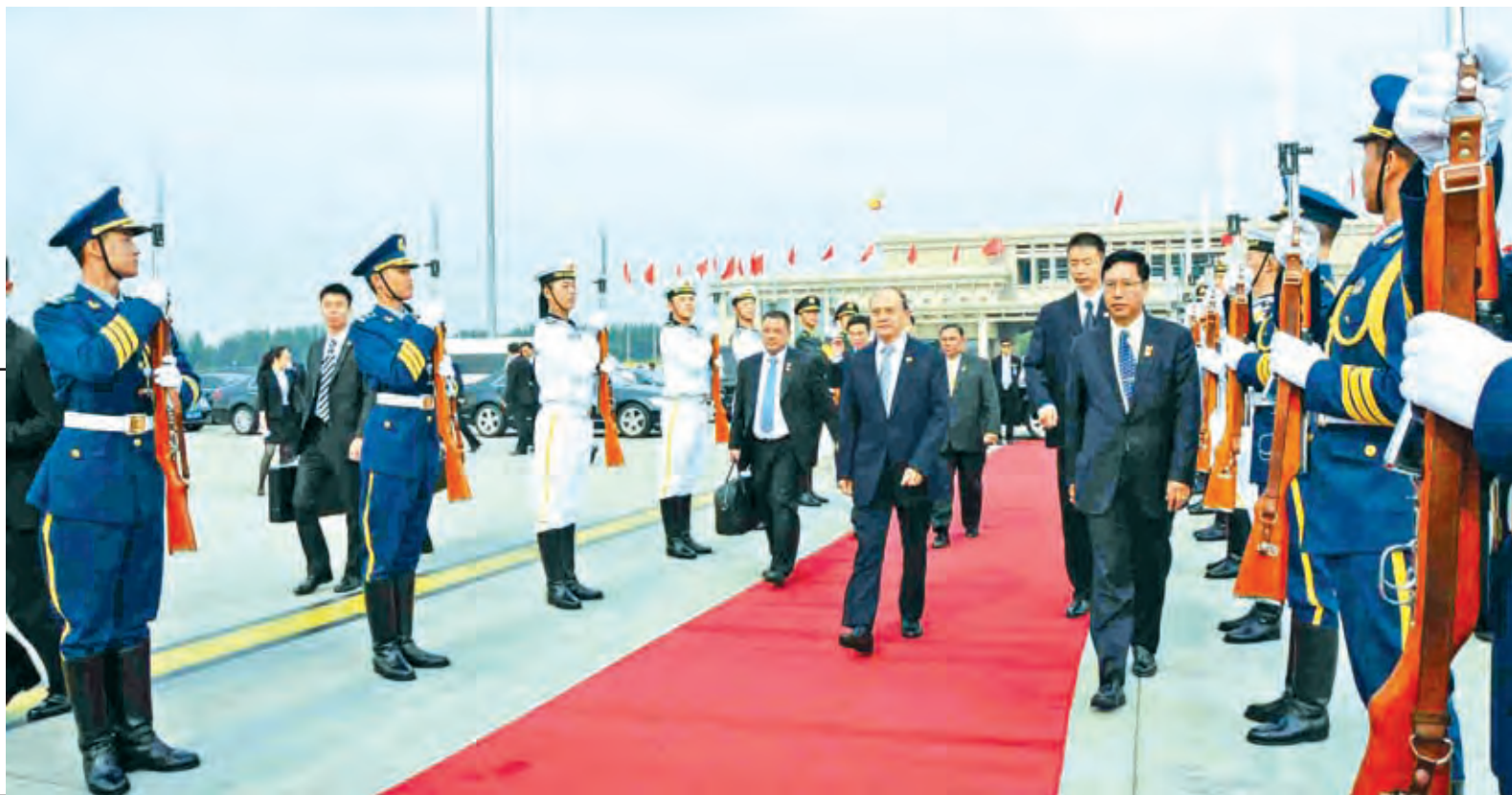
Hla Tun, U Kyaw Hsan, U Khin Maung Soe, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Myint Aung, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut, Dr Daw Thein Htay and Daw Sanda Khin and officials arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Governor-General, Prime Minister of Canada

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada and the Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of the National Day of Canada which falls on 1 July 2014.—MNA

President U Thein Sein leaves Beijing International Airport after concluding goodwill visit to China, flanked by Guard of Honour.

MNA



Lack of human resources in health sector a major problem: Vice President



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham seen in group photo together with participants of a workshop on structural reform of the health sector.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June—The overall services of the Ministry of Health have improved a lot during the term of the current

government, but the quality of some services have been declining, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a workshop on the struc-

tural reform of the health sector in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The vice president, who also chairs the National Health Committee, admitted that the lack of human resources in the health sector is enormous and this will pose a danger to the lives of the public. He urged the participants not to derail from the topics laid down by the president and to focus on recommendations that will meet the

need of the country.

At the workshop, participants also discussed health education on grass-root level, preventive measures for diseases and medical treatments for them. The workshop is the last one of five workshops to review the functions of the Ministry of Health and to improve the healthcare services and will continue on Tuesday at the Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Government to earn US\$ 1.5 million from sand export: deputy minister

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June—Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan told the Lower House on Monday that dredging the Thanlwin River is beneficial for Myanmar as sand brought up from the river will be exported and navigation in the river will be better.

He was responding to a question in the Lower House concerning the advantages and disadvantages of dredging the river.

According to the deputy minister, the Myanmar Port Authority of the Ministry of Transport and Star High Asia Pacific Pte Ltd signed a one-year contract to dredge the river down to 6.5-meter depth on 5 December 2013. Upon expiry of the contract, a survey will be conducted along the river and 1.5 million cubic meters of sand will be dredged from the river yearly, he added.

He said it is beneficial for the country as the company will pay 1 US\$ per

one cubic meter of sand exported and the government will get US\$ 1.5 million every year.

Moreover, the Ministry of Mines conducted a mineral concentration test on the sand and based on the mineral concentration in the sand, it will levy 3 percent mineral tax on the sand exported.

The deputy minister said that the government can save money for dredging the river by exporting the sand.

Other topics discussed at the Lower House session on Monday include opening rural healthcare centres in every village and a bill on emergency medical treatment for those lethally injured in traffic accidents.

At the Upper House session on Monday, representatives raised questions on assistance for cultivation of paddy in Rakhine State and honouring those who participate in the peace-making process.

MNA

Union FM felicitates Canadian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, on the occasion of the National Day of Canada which falls on 1 July 2014.—MNA

Religious associations recite Metta Sutta in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 30 June—Kyaukse Township Women's Affairs Organization held the Metta Sutta recitation at Thiri Sasana Dhammayon in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region on Saturday.

Five religious associations recited Metta Sutta systematically. In the evening, Chairman of District WAO Daw Htay Htay Maw and the chairperson of Township WAO presented K50,000 to the best recitation team and prizes to remaining teams.

Thet Maung



MCDC to build modern slaughter house in Amarapura Tsp

MANDALAY, 30 June—The Mandalay City Development Committee will build a modern slaughter house on about 12 acres of land in Natyaygan Village of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region soon.

The committee invited open tenders for supply of livestock abattoir and equipment for the slaughter house and apparatus for the laboratory as of 1 July. Those wishing to submit the tenders may take K10,000 per application form at the slaughter department of the committee on the second floor of Mingala Market in Chanayethazan Township.

The present slaughter house in Thanlyetmaw Ward in Mahaaungmye

Township is close to the public residences, causing pollution to the people. Thus, the committee will allot three acres each of land for the slaughter of buffalos and oxen, goat and sheep and pig in the new place in Amarapura Township.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Grants for land plots to be given to basic education schools

SHWEPYITHA, 30 June—Under the leadership of Shwepyitha Township Education Officer, school heads of basic education schools in the township are receiving grants for land plots for schools from the authorities.

Officials of Depart-

ment of Human Settlement and Housing Development, school officials and local authorities measured land plots of 57 basic education high, middle and primary schools in the township on Saturday.

At Basic Education Primary School No 6, Township Education Officer Daw Khin Nwe Win explained that plans are underway to issue the correct grants to 57 basic education schools of the township.

Thar Sein Daing

**Drive
Safely**

Dental surgeons, students provide free health care to patients in Indaw Township

INDAW, 30 June—A 40-member team comprising faculty members, dental house surgeons and fourth year students of University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) made field trips to six village-tracts and urban

area of Indaw Township in Sagaing Region from 23 to 29 June to provide free dental care services to patients and conduct the survey on dental diseases.

On Saturday, they gave free treatment to 70

patients at the Basic Education Primary School in Natmahok Village and conducted a gum disease survey.

They also delivered dental care to 189 patients in Mawlu, 130 in Maw-

taik, 92 in Aunggon, 110 in Meza and 160 in Manle.

On Sunday, they provided dental care services to patients in Indaw and left for Mandalay in the evening.

Maung Chit Lin



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

BEHS Branch upgraded to BEHS in Myingyan Township



MYINGYAN, 30 June—Basic education schools are being upgraded in various townships this academic year with the aim of enabling students to receive better education.

On Sunday, the Basic Education High School Branch was upgraded to a BEHS in Talok Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region, attended by Mandalay Region ministers. District Education Officer U Tin Win presented a certificate of order to upgrade

the school to Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw.

Region Minister U Aung Zan and wife Daw Than Than Myint and U Shein of Township Development Supportive Committee and wife Daw Than Myint (Seingabar) donated 10 dozens of copy books each to the headmaster.

Over 1,000 students from 10 villages in the township are learning education at the school.

*Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)*

REGIONAL

Thailand's military begins overhaul of electoral system



Thai police officers examine weapons seized during raids from 22 May to 25 June at a news conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 June, 2014.—XINHUA

BANGKOK, 30 June — Thailand's military government said on Monday it had begun an overhaul of the electoral system following an announcement by junta leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha that polls could take place by late 2015.

The military took power on 22 May in a bloodless coup following six months

of street demonstrations that contributed to the ousting of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. A court had already ordered her to step down after finding her guilty of abuse of power on 7 May. Permanent secretary for defence Surasak Kanchanarat said political party reform, decentralization of power and

"investigations and penalties for those groups that commit electoral fraud" were top on the military's agenda.

"We will talk about obstacles to an election and corruption," Surasak told reporters ahead of a meeting later on Monday with the Election Commission.

The junta, formal-

ly known as the National Council for Peace and Order, has scrapped the constitution and its leader, General Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Friday that a new, temporary charter would be ready in July. The army chief said this would allow an interim cabinet to be installed by September and a reform council would then start work on a longer-term constitution.

He also said in his weekly televised speech that a general election could be held around October 2015, the firmest date he has given until now.

The United States and European Union downgraded diplomatic ties with Thailand after the coup. Washington has called for a quick return to civilian government and a move toward "free and fair elections".

The junta's plans for sweeping electoral reforms echo demands made by the anti-government demonstrators who hounded Yingluck. They wanted reforms before a new election and

disrupted a 2 February vote that was later annulled by a court.

Yingluck's government and the Election Commission, which was accused of bias by Yingluck's supporters, failed to agree on a new election date prior to the military seizing power.

The toppling by the army of her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, in 2006 ignited a long-running struggle between the conservative middle-class and Thaksin's largely rural supporters. The military has said it wants to put an end to Thailand's often violent political cycle.

The protesters accused Thaksin, who lives in self-imposed exile abroad to avoid a corruption sentence handed down in 2008, of rampant vote-buying and said they wanted to eliminate his "toxic" political influence.

The junta has widened a purge of Thaksin-linked government officials. On Friday, it announced a reshuffle of senior civil serv-

ants, transferring 10 Thaksin allies to inactive posts, including Tarit Pengdith, chief of the Department of Special Investigation, the equivalent of the US FBI.

Anti-coup protests have largely dwindled in recent weeks and the few that dare show dissent in public have been promptly detained by police and soldiers. In its latest public-relations effort, the junta displayed more than 1,000 weapons on Sunday it said were seized from political activists, including Jakrapob Penkair, a former government minister with Thaksin links who has established a movement in exile to oppose the coup.

Reuters



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha

Giant Japanese shopping mall opens in Cambodia



AEON Mall opens in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 30 June, 2014.—XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 30 June — A giant Japanese shopping mall officially opened on Monday in Phnom Penh in the presence of Cambodia's leader and Japan's foreign minister. At the inauguration of AEON Mall Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen noted it is the first modern mall of international standard to be built in Cambodia.

"The investment by Aeon Group is a key message highlighting the economic potentials of Cambodia reflected through noticeable enhancement of living standard of Cambodians, especially the growing number of middle-class families as well as predictable investment environment in the eyes of foreign investors, especially Japanese investors wishing to invest in Cambodia," Hun Sen said. He said the mall "will showcase the progress, prosperity and peace of Cambodia, and it is definitely an indicator for other Japanese companies to come to Cambodia."

The mall houses 107 tenants of international brands, 43 tenants of popular local brands and 49 tenants of Japanese brands.

At the inauguration, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, who is making a two-day visit to Cambodia, said the multi-entertainment venue will give Cambodia a real taste of Japanese culture and services.

Kyodo News

Philippines senator Estrada refuses to enter plea in plunder case

MANILA, 30 June — A Philippine lawmaker, the son of a former president ousted in 2001 on corruption charges, refused to enter a plea on Monday on charges he plundered \$4.2 million from his congressional fund, saying the charges were politically motivated.

Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, an action movie hero-turned senator and

eldest son of former president and now Manila mayor Joseph, stood silently in the court when the charges were read out.

One of the three judges then entered a plea for opposition senator Estrada of "not guilty". Estrada faces life imprisonment if convicted for plundering more than 183 million pesos (2.47 million pounds) from his congressional funds

from 2004 to 2010.

After the court proceeding, Estrada said President Benigno Aquino was not serious about fighting graft but was persecuting the political opposition.

"The Ombudsman haphazardly filed an information before the Sandiganbayan... without strong evidence against me," said Estrada, reading a statement, referring to the

anti-graft court.

"This also further bolsters what I've been saying all along that this is politically motivated with no other intent but to persecute the members of the opposition while protecting their allies."

In 2010, President Benigno Aquino won the presidency on the platform of good governance and transparency, with plunder cases are central to his effort to shed the country's image as one of the most corrupt in Asia.

But he has failed to wipe out graft in government and has been increasingly under attack for coddling political allies accused of corruption.

Prosecutors had tried to amend the charges against Estrada to show he was "collecting" and not merely "receiving" kickbacks from a businesswoman who allegedly devised the scheme to divert congressional funds to non-existent non-government organisations implementing agricultural projects.

Reuters



Senator Jose 'Jinggoy' Estrada (C), son of former Philippine President Joseph Estrada, waves as he arrives at the graft court for his arraignment in Manila on 30 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Half Japanese voters oppose Abe's security shift



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

TOKYO, 30 June — Half of Japanese voters oppose dropping a ban that has kept the military from fighting abroad since World War Two, a survey showed on Monday, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe readied a landmark shift in security policy that would ease the constraints of the pacifist constitution on the armed forces.

A man set himself on fire at a busy Tokyo intersection on Sunday in an apparent protest against the policy change, police and witnesses said, a rare form of protest in Japan.

The change will significantly widen Japan's military options by ending the ban on exercising "collec-

tive self-defence" or aiding a friendly country under attack. It will also relax limits on activities in UN-led peacekeeping operations and "grey zone" incidents short of full-scale war, according to a draft government proposal made available to reporters last week. The change is likely to anger China, whose ties with Japan have chilled markedly due to a territorial row, mutual mistrust and the legacy of Japan's past military aggression. But it will be welcomed by Tokyo's close ally Washington and some Southeast Asia nations, also wary of an increasingly assertive Beijing. Abe's cabinet is expected to adopt as early as

Tuesday a resolution revising a long-standing interpretation of the US-drafted constitution to lift the ban, after his ruling party finalizes an agreement with its junior partner.

Fifty percent of Japanese voters oppose dropping the ban compared to 34 percent who support the change, a survey by the *Nikkei* business daily showed. The rest were undecided.

Fifty-four percent of respondents to the 27-29 June survey were against making the change by reinterpreting the pacifist charter rather than going through politically more difficult formal amendment procedures, the *Nikkei* said.

Modi pitches India's frugal space prowess at rocket launch



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 30 June — Newly elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a pitch for India to be the world's low-cost space technology supplier, minutes after witnessing the launch of a rocket carrying five satellites from France, Singapore, Germany and Canada on Monday.

The launch of the Po-

lar Satellite Launch Vehicle bolsters India's goal of capturing more of the \$304 billion annual global space market, and Modi seized the moment with an uplifting speech about India's prowess in cheap space technology.

"This fills every Indian's heart with pride and I can see it reflected

in the joy and satisfaction on your faces," said Modi, from the launch site of India's southeastern coast.

"Truly this is a global endorsement of India's space capability," he said, adding that India's current Mars mission cost less than the budget of the Hollywood science fiction film *Gravity*. — Reuters

S Korea approves scholars' visit to N Korea for joint excavation

SEOUL, 30 June — South Korea has approved a group of scholars' visit to North Korea's border town Kaesong on Tuesday to discuss with North Koreans on resuming a project to jointly excavate an ancient royal palace site there, South Korea's Unification Ministry said on Monday.

"They will hold discussions on issues regarding a joint excavation in Manwoldae," the ministry said in a statement. Manwoldae is a Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392) palace. The visitors will return home later Tuesday. Permission was issued last Friday for the request submitted 19 June.

"The government has continued to approve visits to North Korea for social and cultural contacts unrelated to political purposes,"

the statement said.

The two Koreas launched the excavation in 2007, but South Korea halted it in 2010 as part of sanctions against Pyongyang for the sinking of a South Korean naval patrol boat that was blamed on a North Korean torpedo attack, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

The upcoming visit by the South Korean scholars will be the latest approved by the South Korean government, despite heightened cross-border tensions.

Earlier this month, South Korea approved separate plans by South Korean civic activists and scholars to visit Kaesong to discuss a forest project and a project to publish a joint Korean-language dictionary. — *Kyodo News*

North Korea says to try two detained US citizens

SEOUL, 30 June — North Korea said on Monday it would put two US tourists on trial for committing crimes against the state, dimming any hopes among their families that they would soon be released.

"Their hostile acts were confirmed by evidence and their own testimonies," said the North's official KCNA news agency, referring to Jeffrey Fowle and Matthew Miller who are being held by the isolated country. It gave no details on when they would face court.

It was the latest in a flurry of events in the volatile region as Chinese President Xi Jinping visits South Korea this week, and comes a day after Pyongyang fired two short-range ballistic missiles, defying a UN ban on such tests.

The visit by the head of state of its closest ally to a country with which the North is still technically at war could raise tensions.

Japan has said it will respond to the missile test in cooperation with the United States and South Korea, but that it would not affect talks it is holding with the North this week on the fate of Japanese citizens kidnapped by the reclusive state decades ago. Jeffrey Fowle, a 56-year-old street repairs



Jeffrey Fowle is shown in this City of Moraine handout photo released on 9 June, 2014. Reuters via REUTERS

worker from Miamisburg, Ohio, was arrested after entering North Korea as a tourist in late April.

A job application uncovered by the *Dayton Daily News* in Ohio said Fowle described himself as honest, friendly, and dependable.

Earlier reports in the paper said Fowle had previously traveled to Sarajevo, Bosnia and had a fascination with the former Soviet Union which led him to look for a Russian bride, whom he later married. North Korea is one of the most isolated countries in the world, but its economic backwardness and political system is a draw for some Western visitors keen for a glimpse of life behind the last sliver of the Cold War's iron curtain.

"Jeffrey loves to travel and loves the adventure of experiencing different cultures and seeing new places," said a statement

from Fowle's family lawyer, released in early June.

"Mrs Fowle and the children miss Jeffrey very much, and are anxious for his return home," the statement said.

Little is known about fellow US citizen Matthew Miller, who was taken into custody by North Korean officials after entering the country the same month whereupon he ripped up his tourist visa and demanded asylum, according to state media.

Miller was travelling alone, said a statement from Uri Tours, the travel agency that took the 24 year-old to North Korea, published on their website. A spokesman for the New Jersey-based travel agency told *Reuters*, Miller was in "good physical condition" and his parents were aware of the situation, but have chosen not to make any statement regarding their son's arrest.

In May, the US State Department issued an advisory urging Americans not to travel to North Korea because of the "risk of arbitrary arrest and detention" even while holding valid visas.

North Korea's haphazard and inconsistent legal system makes it difficult to predict the outcome for the detained tourists.

Reuters

WORLD

Iraqi army presses Tikrit assault as lawmakers scramble to fill posts

BAGHDAD, 30 June — Iraq's army sent tanks and armoured vehicles to try to dislodge insurgents from the northern city of Tikrit on Sunday, the second day of a pushback against a Sunni militant takeover of large stretches of Iraq.

The hardline Sunni group leading the insurgency, until Sunday known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), declared itself a "caliphate" on Sunday and called on factions worldwide to pledge their allegiance — a move analysts saw as a direct challenge to al-Qaeda, which disowned ISIL in February, and to Gulf Arab rulers.

In Baghdad, which is threatened by the rebel advance, top Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish lawmakers scrambled to agree cabinet nominations before parliament meets on Tuesday to try to prevent the rebel advance jeopardizing Iraq's future as a unitary state.

They are racing against time as ISIL, which loathes Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Shi'ite-led government, consolidates its grip on the north and west. Maliki's political future after eight years in power will be the most contentious issue.

Troops backed by helicopter gunships began an assault on Tikrit, the birthplace of former President



A member of the Kurdish Peshmerga troops fire a cannon during clashes with militants of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Jalawla, Diyala Province on 29 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Saddam Hussein, on Saturday, to try to take it back from insurgents who have swept to within driving range of Baghdad.

The army sent in tanks and helicopters to battle ISIL militants near the University of Tikrit in the city's north on Sunday, security sources said. Two witnesses said they saw a helicopter gunned down

over northern Tikrit, reports not possible to immediately verify independently.

The offensive was the first major attempt by the army to retake territory after the United States sent up to 300 advisers, mostly special forces, and drones to help the government take on ISIL.

Earlier on Sunday,

Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Hussain al-Shahristani, one of Iraq's most senior politicians, faulted the US for not doing enough to bolster the country's military, just hours after Russia delivered five Sukhoi jets.

"Yes, there has been a delay from the Americans in handing over contracted arms. We told them, 'You

once did an air bridge to send arms to your ally Israel, so why don't you give us the contracted arms in time?'" he told al-Hurra television.

US officials have disputed similar statements from Iraqi officials in the past and say they have done everything possible to ensure the country is equipped with modern

weaponry.

The five Russian Sukhoi jets were delivered to Baghdad late on Saturday. State television said they "would be used in the coming days to strike ISIL terrorist groups".

A Reuters photographer saw the jets unloaded from a transport plane at a military airport in Baghdad as Russian and Iraqi soldiers stood on the tarmac. Iraq has relied largely on helicopters to counter militants and has few aircraft that can fire advanced missiles.

Iraqi army spokesman Qassim Atta told reporters in Baghdad security forces had killed 142 "terrorists" over the last 24 hours across Iraq, including 70 in Tikrit, and said the armed forces were in control of Tikrit's university. Both claims were impossible to immediately verify.

"Our security forces have taken complete control of the University of Tikrit and they have raised the Iraqi flag on top of the building," Atta said.

Iran has also supported Iraq's government against the onslaught. An Iranian general said on Sunday his country was ready to help Iraq fight the revolt using the same methods it deployed against rebels in Syria. —Reuters

Israel's Netanyahu calls for supporting Kurdish independence



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

JERUSALEM, 30 June — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced support for Kurdish statehood on Sunday, taking a position that appeared to clash with the US preference to keep sectarian war-torn Iraq united.

Israel has maintained discreet military, intelligence and business ties with the Kurds since the 1960s, seeing in the minor-

ity ethnic group a buffer against shared Arab adversaries.

The Kurds have seized on recent sectarian chaos in Iraq to expand their autonomous northern territory to include Kirkuk, which sits on vast oil deposits that could make the independent state many dream of economically viable.

But Iraqi Kurds, who have ethnic compatriots in Iran, Turkey and Syria, have hesitated to declare full independence, one reason being the feared response of neighbouring countries.

"We should ... support the Kurdish aspiration for independence," Netanyahu told Tel Aviv University's INSS think-tank, after outlining what he described as the collapse of Iraq and other Middle East regions under strife between Arab Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

Reuters

First UK poll after Juncker battle shows rising support for EU exit



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (C) talks to European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (R) during a European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 27 June, 2014. —REUTERS

LONDON, 30 June — Public support for Britain to leave the EU is growing again after falling to a multi-year low, according to the first survey published since EU leaders nominated Jean-Claude Juncker to become the next president of the European Commission.

British Prime Minis-

ter David Cameron openly campaigned to stop Juncker getting the top EU job, but last Friday lost the final vote by 26-2. He warned at the time that choosing Juncker, an old-style EU federalist, would make it harder to keep Britain in the European Union.

Under pressure from

Eurosceptic lawmakers in his own Conservative party and from the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) which won European parliamentary elections last month, Cameron has pledged to try to reshape Britain's EU ties before giving people a referendum in 2017 on whether the UK

should remain a member of the EU. He can only deliver a referendum if re-elected next year.

Many though not all opinion polls conducted this year have shown public support to leave the EU falling back.

But Sunday's poll published by the Mail on Sunday newspaper, the first since Juncker's nomination, showed 47 percent would vote for Britain to leave the bloc if there was a referendum, with 39 percent saying they would back staying in.

The polling for the Mail on Sunday by Survation, which was conducted among 1,000 adults on Friday, the same day as Cameron lost the Juncker vote, also showed that 30 percent of people felt Juncker's nomination made it more likely they would vote to leave the bloc if given the chance, while only 13 percent of Britons said they backed Juncker for the job.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 1 July, 2014

Public welfare takes a key role in peaceful coexistence model

By Aung Khin

Without public welfare in a country, the State cannot establish good internal or international relations.

The daily lives of citizens should be safe and secure to ensure a peaceful society. Sustainable peaceful coexistence will take place only when

welfare for the public is being implemented. People's power is stronger than that of policy makers. People are genuine decision makers on the future of international relations of a country.

If a certain country wants to sustain a good relationship with another country, the former needs to implement realistically more equitable political and economic order. History has been a conclusive proof. Powerful economies are trying to influence developing countries as they are militarily, economically—or both—important for them.

Evidence and results are needed to prove promises will be fulfilled. Principles should be followed by pragmatic practices. Whether an international political or economic order is fruitful can be tested not by the agreements of gov-

ernments, but by the satisfaction of the public.

Public welfares should be created on the basis of democracy and rule of law. The public need proof to believe the reality of a peaceful coexistence, and they also hope the respective governments will develop fair and mutual benefits for people by taking lessons from the past.

It is believed that the establishment of a peaceful region requires stability, justice, democratic practices which can be acquired by only participations of their citizens.

Write for us

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

More gas stations to be built in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 30 June—As more new vehicles are imported to regions and states including Mandalay City, fuel demand is higher. Thus, the Ministry of Energy issued permits to construction of new fuel stations and tanks.

In easing the restriction of the ministry's rules, the new application needs name of applicant, citizenship scrutiny card number,

company title, location and area, type of fuel, capacity, station, fuel tank design and endorsement of region or state governments.

As of June 2010, the ministry allows private entrepreneurs to fuel trading. Up to 25 June 2014, licences were issued for over 820 fuel stations.

In Mandalay Region, about 140 fuel stations have been opened for sales

and preparations are being made to open more fuel stations. The stations of the ministry also sell fuel at fair price to the customers from 6 am to 6 pm daily.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Agricultural loans disbursed to farmers in time

BAMAUK, 30 June—Manager U Kyaw Min and staff of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank Branch (Bamauk) disbursed agricultural loans to local farmers at General Administration Department in Bamauk of Sagaing Region on 27 June.

They gave K100,000 per acre of farmlands with 5% interest rate to local farmers. Township Management Committee Chairman U Pyae Phyoe Nyein and members and the bank manager presented agricultural loans to 260 farmers from eight village-tracts for 981 acres of farmlands.

Kyaw Htoo (Bamauk)



GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (30-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K675,600 per tical: Selling K676,300

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K675,600 per tical: Selling K676,300

FE RATE

USD Buying K972 - Selling K977

SGD Buying K775 - Selling K783

Euro Buying K1322 - Selling K1333

Transformer installed for village electrification



YANGON, 30 June—A transformer was installed in Letpangon Village of Twantay Township in Yangon Region for electrification of the village through K35 million fund contributed by the government and K34 million by local people.

Due to concerted ef-

forts of the village electrification committee, local people of over 170 houses of over 800 have enjoyed electricity in Letpangon Village.

The electrification committee invites application for supply of electricity to residences.—*Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)*



SIGNBOARD ERECTED: Padaung Township Women's Affairs Organization Chairperson Daw San San Yu and officials cut ribbon to unveil Myanmar Women's Day signboard in front of Padaung Township Administrator Office beside Padaung-Taungup Road in Bago Region on 27 June.
AUNG MYINT

LOCAL NEWS

Shan State Chief Minister on inspection tour of Muse District

MUSE, 30 June—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and state members attended the inauguration of new three-storey school building at No 3 Basic Education High School in Muse of northern Shan State on Saturday.

On the occasion, the chief minister unveiled the stone inscription of the new school building.

In Nankham, the chief minister met local authorities, departmental officials and social organization members. He heard reports on the implementation of regional development and poverty alleviation in the township and requirements. During the visit,



the chief minister and ministers provided K40 million each and 300 dozens each of copy books to Muse,

Namkha and Kutkai townships.

The chief minister inspected the boundary pillar

between Konhsa village of Myanmar and Kyekhun village of China.

Muse District IPRD

Development of agriculture, meat and fish, and forestry sectors discussed

KATHA, 30 June—A workshop on development of agriculture, meat and fish, and forestry sectors,

organized by Katha District Management Committee, was held on Sunday morning, attended by Sagaing

Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Saw Myint Oo, departmental officials and

local farmers about 700.

Assistant Director of Agriculture Department Daw Thin Thin Kyaw discussed production technology for groundnut, paddy and sunflower and Assistant Director Daw San San Myint techniques on crops production and replied to queries.

Assistant Director U Zaw Myo Oo of District Settlement and Land Records Department explained facts about farmland law, rules and farmland utilization.

Nyein Nyein (Katha)



Action taken against traffic rules broken vehicles in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 30 June—Under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee, combined teams of departmental officials and police-

men have been stepping up checks of vehicles and taking action against offenders at main points in Mandalay.

The combined teams said traffic rules must be enforced as the number of ac-

cidents in the city has been increasing. From 1 January to 25 June 2014, the teams took action against 2,613 undisciplined vehicles in 2,687 cases and 22,841 motorcycles in 22,994 cases

under the laws. Unlicensed vehicles were dealt with under Section 8 of Export and Import Law, said an official of No 11 Traffic Police Squad.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Social foundation honours outstanding students in Muse

MUSE, 30 June—The Myat Thadashin Foundation honoured the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2014 at the hall of Basic Education High School in Muse District of northern Shan State on Sunday.

Assistant Director Daw Aye Kyaing of Education Office explained development of education standard and higher pass rate of the examination. Medical Superintendint

Dr Tin Tun of Muse District General Hospital explained school health matters.

Officials presented certificates of honour and cash awards to distinction winner students.

The foundation provides cash assistance to poor students and outstanding students and donates cash to the fund of the aged health care services of Muse District Hospital.

Muse District IPRD



The Children Future Change group provides cash assistance, school uniforms and stationery to school children at basic education primary schools of Shwepyitha Township of Yangon yearly. On Friday, the team visited basic education primary schools in the township to observe learning of students.—THAR SEIN DAING



Jade stones seized at checkpoint in Patheingyi

PATHEINGYI, 30 June—A combined team comprising officials of Customs Department and police servicemen checked a van driven from Mandalay to PyinOoLwin by Ko Ko Oo, 42, from Shwe Mann Lwin bus line at the 16th-Mile checkpoint in Kyaukchaw of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region on Friday

evening.

The squad found jade stones on board the van together with owner Ba Hein, 57 of Nyandaw Ward in PyinOoLwin. Ohnchaw police station of Patheingyi Township opened files of lawsuit against Ko Ko Oo and Ba Hein under the Gems Law.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Ukraine's Poroshenko urges Putin to tighten borders after violence



Local residents and a pro-Russian fighter stand near the entrance to an apartment block damaged by shelling in Slaviansk in eastern Ukraine on 29 June, 2014.—REUTERS

KIEV, 30 June — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko urged President Vladimir Putin on Sunday to strengthen Russian control over its borders to prevent militants and arms entering Ukraine

after violence broke a truce there. The ceasefire, declared by Poroshenko on June 20 to allow for peace talks with the pro-Russian rebels, is due to expire on Monday, a deadline also set by EU leaders considering

new sanctions against Russia.

The statement came after a four-way telephone conversation among the Ukrainian and Russian leaders, French President Francois Hollande and

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said a statement from Poroshenko's office.

"Ukraine called on the President of Russia to strengthen control over the Russian side of the state border in order to stop the

penetration into Ukraine of militants and mercenaries and supplies of weapons and armoured vehicles," it said. The four leaders agreed to speak again on Monday, the statement added.

The European Union has threatened more penalties on Moscow beyond existing asset freezes and visa bans unless pro-Russian rebels act to ease the crisis in eastern Ukraine by Monday. Ukraine's National Guard said on Sunday rebels had used tanks and mortar shells to fire on a checkpoint near the separatist stronghold of Slaviansk, about 100 km (60 miles) from the border with Russia.

"There were no casualties among the military personnel there," its statement said. A spokesman for the operation told Channel 5 television that five soldiers had been killed in the past few days by rebel violence in violation of the truce.

Interfax news agency cited rebels as saying Ukrainian forces had shelled around Slaviansk, hitting a marketplace and an apartment building, causing injuries.—Reuters

Russian news cameraman killed in eastern Ukraine

Moscow, 30 June — A cameraman for Russia's state-owned Channel One television channel was killed overnight in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the channel said on Monday, the third Russian journalist to die in the conflict.

The channel said on its website Anatoly Klyan, 68, was shot in the stomach after his film crew came under fire when they went to film near a pro-Kiev military unit in the region.

It said the journalists were accompanying a group of soldiers' mothers who were being driven to the unit "to meet their sons and take them home".

The bus carrying the mothers and the journalists withdrew after coming under fire as it approached the base. Klyan died when a group of people came under further automatic rifle fire after leaving the bus, Channel One said.

Russia has protested against the killings of its journalists, calling on Kiev to stop operations in Donetsk and the region of Luhansk, where separatists have seized state buildings and weapons arsenals.

On 17 June, a Russian correspondent and a sound engineer for state television were killed by mortar fire in clashes near Luhansk.

Sporadic violence has continued in eastern Ukraine despite a ceasefire declared by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on 20 June to allow for peace talks with the rebels. The ceasefire is due to expire on Monday evening.

Reuters

Kidnapped Tunisian embassy workers freed in Libya — Tunisia's envoy

TUNIS, 30 June — A Tunisian diplomat and an embassy worker kidnapped earlier this year by unknown gunmen in Libya have been freed, the Tunisian ambassador to Tripoli said on Sunday. With Libya's government weak and its armed forces still in formation, armed groups have targeted foreign diplomats for abduction this year to pressure for the release of Libyan militants held in jails overseas.

The Tunisian diplo-

mat who worked as an advisor to the embassy was snatched in Tripoli in April. The other embassy official was taken separately. "The kidnapped victims have been released and they will be with their families shortly. Right now they are with us at the embassy," the ambassador, Ridha Boukadhi, told Reuters by telephone.

The Tunisian diplomat had been kidnapped just two days after gunmen also took the Jordanian ambassador after they shot and

wounded his driver in the Libyan capital.

Kidnappers freed the Jordanian envoy in May after a handover of a Libyan Islamist militant who had been serving a life sentence for a bombing plot in Jordan. Three years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi Libya is still struggling with insecurity and chaos with brigades of former rebels and militias refusing to disarm and often challenging the state with political demands.—Reuters



An exterior view of the Tunisian embassy is seen in Tripoli on 17 April, 2014.

REUTERS

Nigerian Islamists attack villages, churches near Chibok, dozens killed

MAIDUGURI, 30 June — Suspected Islamist militants killed dozens of people on Sunday in an attack on three Nigerian villages, including one targeting worshippers at a church, a few kilometres (three miles) from Chibok, the scene of an abduction of more than 200 school girls.

Violence in Nigeria's northeast has been relentless in the past year and has gained in intensity since April, when more than 200 schoolgirls were

snatched by Boko Haram rebels from Chibok. Efforts to free them, which have attracted Western support, have so far not succeeded.

In a separate assault on Friday evening insurgents killed seven soldiers in the village of Goniri, in Yobe state, a security source and witnesses said.

The attackers on Sunday made simultaneous strikes on three villages in the Chibok community, in Borno state.

Boko Haram, which is fighting for an Islamic state in largely Muslim northern Nigeria, has killed thousands since launching an uprising on 2009, and many hundreds in the past three months.

It is by far the biggest security threat to Africa's largest economy and top oil producer, and has overshadowed government efforts to project an image of Nigeria to foreign investors as a prospective economic giant.

Samuel Chibok, a survivor of the attack on Kautikiri village, about five km from where the girls were snatched, said that around 20 men in a Toyota pickup truck and motorcycles rolled into town. They sprayed it with bullets, focusing much of their fire power on panicked worshippers in a local church.

"Initially I thought they were military but when I came out, they were firing at people. I saw people fleeing and

they burned our houses," he said, adding that some people had died in the attack, including two of his relatives.

"Smoke was billowing from our town as I left."

A local pro-government vigilante, who declined to be named, said residents had now recovered 15 bodies from the village. He added that many of the deaths occurred when worshippers were locked in a church,

which was then sprayed with bullets.

Boko Haram often attacks institutions it sees as against its strict version of Sunni Islam, including churches, bars and non-religious schools that teach Western ideas like science.

Another attack on Kwada, eight km (five miles) from Chibok village, left dozens of people dead, a security source operating in the area said, although the precise toll was not yet clear.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA satellite to inventory climate-changing carbon from space



Smoke bellow from the chimneys of Belchatow Power Station, Europe's largest biggest coal-fired power plant, in this 7 May, 2009 file photo.—REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 30 June — A NASA satellite being prepared for launch early on Tuesday is expected to reveal details about where carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas tied to climate change, is being released into Earth's atmosphere on a global scale.

The two-year, \$465 million project, known as the Orbiting Carbon Observatory, or OCO, also will

be able to pinpoint where the planet's forests and ocean are reabsorbing atmospheric carbon, a cycle that is key to Earth's temperature.

More than 50 years of measurements show that about half the amount of carbon dioxide put into the atmosphere — by natural processes and human activities — end up being reabsorbed. The proportion has remained fairly

constant even as the total amount of atmospheric carbon has climbed from concentrations of 315 parts per million in the 1950s to 400 parts per million today, studies by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography show.

"What's quite remarkable is that over time half of what we've released has been absorbed by the

plants or the ocean, but it's very variable from year to year," OCO project manager Ralph Basilio, with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, told reporters during a prelaunch news conference.

"Understanding what controls that variability is really crucial. If we can do that today, it might inform us about what might happen in the future," he said.

The observatory will be positioned 438 miles (705 km) above the planet and inclined so that it passes over the same point on Earth at the same time every 16 days, giving scientists insight into how levels of carbon dioxide change over weeks, months and years. "The data we will provide will help our decision-makers at both the local and federal levels be better-equipped to understand carbon dioxide's role in climate change because (the observatory) will be measuring this greenhouse globally," Betsy Edwards, program executive at NASA Headquarters in Washington, told reporters.

Reuters

NetApp shares may climb to \$50: Barron's

NEW YORK, 30 June — US data storage specialist NetApp could return to \$50 a share in the coming year on solid cash flows and signs its revenues might grow again, Barron's said in its latest edition published on Sunday.

Its cash flow after subtracting it on its balance sheet is equivalent to 14 percent of its stock market value. That is above the free cash yield of Apple and Microsoft, both at 9 percent, the financial weekly said.

As for improved demand for NetApp's products, part of it could come from FlashRay, a new flash-based storage system set to launch in late 2014, the paper said.

NetApp has also overhauled its Data Ontap

operating system which protects and manages data at both its customers' data centers and cloud vendors such as Amazon, it said.

NetApp along with market leader EMC Corp, has been losing business to newer storage technology vendors including Nimble Storage Inc and Pure Storage.

"But profits remain rich, and there's reason to believe NetApp will soon return to revenue growth," the paper said.

With its solid cash flows, the Sunnyvale, California company could acquire other companies or become a target itself, Barron's said.

NetApp stock closed at \$35.48 on Friday, compared with more than \$50 three years earlier.

Reuters



Hon Hai buys a stake in SK C&C; shares hit multi-year highs

TAIPEI, 30 June — Hon Hai Precision, the world's biggest electronics component maker, said on Monday it had bought a 4.9 percent stake in South Korean IT services firm SK C&C for 381 billion won (\$376.59 million).

The move marks Hon Hai's second merger in less than two months as part of a broader effort to diversify away from the contract manufacturing business.

Hon Hai, the major supplier of iPhones and iPads, paid 155,500 won per share for the stake, which was for "long-term investment", according to a company statement. It did not elaborate.

SK C&C said in a separate regulatory filing that Chey Tae-won, the chairman of SK Holdings and biggest shareholder of SK C&C, was the seller.

This knocks down Chey's stake from 38 percent to 33.1 percent in SK C&C, through which he controls SK Holdings and other units including the world's second-biggest



The logo of Foxconn, the trading name of Hon Hai Precision Industry, is seen on top of the company's headquarters in Tucheng, New Taipei city, on 24 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

chipmaker, SK Hynix Inc. "Hon Hai is considering expanding its business portfolio into information communication technology-centered services, and the fact that they chose SK C&C as their partner is positive," an SK Group spokeswoman said.

She declined to comment on Chey's plans for the proceeds as it was a personal matter.

Hon Hai's parent company, Foxconn Technology Group, said late in May it would buy a stake in Taiwanese mobile telecoms

operator Asia Pacific Telecom for T\$11.6 billion (\$390 million) in a deal that would expand its presence in Taiwan's fledgling 4G telecoms market.

The news helped send Hon Hai stocks up 1.4 percent to T\$100 about one hour into Taipei trading, a multi-year highest intraday level. The main index jumped 0.8 percent.

Shares in SK C&C rose as much as 4.8 percent after the filing, beating a 0.4 percent rise in the wider market.

Reuters

Cellphones can be used as bacterial and environmental sensors

NEW DELHI, 30 June — Cellphones actually reflect the personal microbial world of their owners and may be used as bacterial and environmental sensors, scientists say.

Researchers from the University of Oregon focused on the personal microbiome — the collection of microorganisms on items regularly worn or carried by a person.

Researchers sequenced microbes from the dominant-hand index fingers and thumbs of 17 subjects and from the touchscreens of their smartphones.

The study found smartphones closely resembled the microbiome sampled from their owner's finger, with 82 percent of the most common bacteria on participants' fingers also found on their phones.

Women were found to be more closely connected, microbiologically speaking, to their phones than were men, researchers said.

Although men and women were both statistically similar to their own phones, the relationship was stronger for women than for men.

The most commonly

found bacteria were from three genera that are ubiquitous on and in humans: Streptococcus, which is commonly found in the mouth, and Staphylococcus and Corynebacterium, both common skin residents.

The analyses focused on categorising whole microbial communities rather than identifying pathogens.

The findings emerged from sequences representing more than 7,000 different types of bacteria found in the 51 samples taken from fingers and phones.

"This project was a proof-of-concept to see if our favourite and most closely held possessions microbially resemble us," said lead author James F Meadow, a postdoctoral researcher in the Biology and the Built Environment Centre at the University of Oregon. "We are ultimately interested in the possibility of using personal effects as a non-invasive way to monitor our health and our contact with the surrounding environment," he said.—PTI



Indonesia overtakes Brazil in forest losses despite moratorium

WASHINGTON/OSLO, 30 June — Indonesia has for the first time surpassed Brazil in clearing tropical forests and losses are accelerating despite a 2011 moratorium meant to protect wildlife and combat climate change, scientists said on Sunday.

Indonesia's losses of virgin forests totalled 60,000 sq kms (23,000 sq miles) — an area almost as big as Ireland — from 2000-12, partly to make way for palm oil plantations and other farms, a study said. And the pace of losses has increased.

“By 2012, annual primary forest loss in Indonesia was estimated to be higher than in Brazil,” where clearance of the Amazon basin has usually accounted for the biggest losses, the scientists wrote in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Deforestation in Indonesia in 2012 alone was 8,400 sq kms (3,200 sq miles) versus 4,600 sq kms (1,800 sq miles) in Brazil, which has managed to reduce losses in recent years, it said.

“We need to increase the law enforcement, the control in the area itself,”

said Belinda Margono, lead author of the study at the University of Maryland and who also works as an official at the Indonesian forestry ministry.

“The rainforests are the lungs of the planet. You have lungs to breathe and if you get rid of the lungs, the planet's going to suffer,” said Matthew Hansen, a co-author of the report at the University of Maryland.

Indonesia imposed a moratorium on forest clearance in 2011, partly to slow losses that are ruining habitats of orangutans, Sumatran tigers and other wildlife. Norway has also promised \$1 billion to Jakarta if it slows forest losses.

“It seems that the moratorium has not had its intended effect,” the scientists wrote.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas blamed for causing global warming, as they grow and release it when they are burnt or rot. By UN estimates, deforestation may accounts for 17 percent of all man-made greenhouse gases.

Other studies have also found large forests



A view of a waterfall in the protected forest at the Welirang mountain in Malang, East Java Province, on 10 Feb, 2010.—REUTERS

losses in Indonesia but Sunday's findings focus only on the most important virgin forests, excluding plantations that can regrow quickly.

Norway, whose \$1 billion pledge is part of a plan to slow climate change around the world, said the findings strengthened reasons for the pro-

gramme.

“The partnership constitutes a strong financial incentive,” Gunhild Oland Santos-Nedrelid, a Norwegian environment ministry spokeswoman, wrote in an e-mail.

Oslo wants conservation to be economically attractive to landowners, rather than logging.

She said forest losses in Indonesia may increase in coming months, with drought raising risks of fires. So far, Norway has paid almost \$50 million to Indonesia to help set up new institutions to reduce deforestation, she said.

Indonesia will only start to get large amounts of money if monitoring

proves a slowdown in deforestation.

Norway, rich from North Sea oil and the most generous donor for preserving tropical forests, has a similar \$1 billion project with Brazil and other smaller programmes with nations including Guyana and Tanzania.

Reuters

Emperor penguin population to slide due Antarctic climate change

OSLO, 30 June — Global warming will cut Antarctica's 600,000-strong emperor penguin population by at least a fifth by 2100 as the sea ice on which the birds breed becomes less secure, a study said on Sunday.

The report urged governments to list the birds as endangered, even though populations in 45 known colonies were likely to rise slightly by 2050 before declining. Such a listing could impose restrictions on tourism and fishing companies.

The study is the first to project the long-term outlook for Antarctica's largest penguins, which can grow 1.2 metres (four ft) tall, seeking to fill a gap in understanding climate change and wildlife in one of the remotest parts of the planet.

Overall, numbers were set to fall by at least 19 percent from current levels by 2100 as sea ice melts. And two-thirds of colonies of

the birds, which have distinctive golden head patches, would decline by more than half, it said.

“It's not happy news for the emperor penguin,” said Hal Caswell of the US Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a co-author of the study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Populations of most of 18 types of penguins are decreasing, according to

a Red List run by conservation experts. Emperors are one of three species rated stable, with around 600,000 birds. Only king, adelic and chinstrap penguins are increasing.

The impact of climate change on penguins gets less attention than the effect on polar bears, which are often portrayed by scientists as victims of man-made warming and shrink-

ing ice at the other end of the planet.

Despite rising global temperatures, sea ice around Antarctica has expanded in recent winters.

More sea ice around a continent the size of the United States and Mexico combined tends to mean more shrimp-like krill, on which penguins feed. Krill eat algae that grow under ice.—Reuters



Emperor penguins are seen in Dumont d'Urville, Antarctica on 10 April, 2012.—REUTERS

Journal Nature to retract controversial STAP cell papers soon

Tokyo, 30 June — The British science journal *Nature* is expected to soon retract two papers on so-called STAP cells following a series of misconduct allegations in connection with the research, sources close to the matter said on Monday.

When *Nature* published the papers in January, their findings were considered groundbreaking, with lead author Haruko Obokata of the government-affiliated Riken research institute claiming to have successfully produced stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency cells capable of developing into any type of tissue.

The research on STAP cells will go back to square one with the expected retraction of the papers by *Nature*.

The papers will likely continue to be displayed online, with the addition of an explanation about their retraction, the sources said.

Riken has been conducting tests to verify whether the STAP cells can be produced, with its interim report expected to be out later July or early August.

After doubts emerged about the STAP cell papers, Riken's investigation panel in its report on April 1 identified two problems regarding images in one of the papers and recommended Obokata retract it.

Obokata, a 30-year-old Japanese scientist, had opposed the withdrawal, maintaining that the STAP phenomenon exists, but she, together with Harvard University professor Charles Vacanti, a senior co-author, later agreed to withdraw the papers.

Obokata's lawyer said she reluctantly accepted the retraction to participate in Riken's verification tests. Her participation in the tests is now being considered.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

FOR RENTAL

Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee

GRAND ACE AVENUE

Apartment, Club Center, Office Buildings, Mall & Cinema

Room Types	Sqft / Sqm
• Master Bed Room with Bath & W/C	(498.64 Sqft / 46.32 Sqm)
• Bed Room (1) with Bath & W/C	(459.97 Sqft / 42.71 Sqm)
• Bed Room (2)	(232.51 Sqft / 21.60 Sqm)
• Living Room	(624.69 Sqft / 58.04 Sqm)
• Dining Room	(185.45 Sqft / 17.23 Sqm)
• Kitchen	(98.87 Sqft / 9.19 Sqm)
• Common Bath & W/C	(74.58 Sqft / 6.93 Sqm)
• Store	(31.05 Sqft / 2.88 Sqm)
• Balcony	(245.27 Sqft / 22.78 Sqm)
TOTAL AREA	(2471.00 Sqft / 229.56 Sqm)

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (381)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (381) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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LINES**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (06/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (06/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SAGAR KANTA VOY NO (11)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAGAR KANTA VOY NO (11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING
CO LTD.**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (107)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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One dead, 15 missing in SW China landslide

KUNMING, 30 June — One person died and another 15 are missing after a landslide on Monday morning in southwest China's Yunnan Province, local authorities said. The accident happened at about 9 am in Latudi Village, Shangpa Town, Fugong County, according to the county government's

publicity department.

Two people were injured in the landslide.

Search and rescue is under way.

Xinhua

Afghan police kill 14 Taleban militants in 24 hours

KABUL, 30 June — Units of Afghan police backed by the army have killed 14 Taleban militants during operations in Taleban former stronghold the

southern Helmand province over the past 24 hours, the Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Monday. The operations, according to the statement,

had been conducted in parts of Nawzad district in Helmand province during which 15 more insurgents had been injured and another captured.—Xinhua

Ek Villain mints over Rs 16 crore on opening day

NEW DELHI, 30 June — Mohit Suri's Ek Villain saw an "awesome" opening day when it hit around 2539 screens in India on Friday.

The romantic thriller that stars Sidharth Malhotra, Riteish Deshmukh and Shraddha Kapoor, has earned well on the first day.

"EkVillain Fri (Rs) 16.72 cr nett (2539 screens). India biz Second highest opener of 2014. In terms of screen average, it's HIGHEST. AWESOME!" tweeted trade analyst Taran Adarsh.

The movie has been produced by Ekta Kapoor under the banner of her production house Balaji Motion Pictures.

Celebrities like Karan Johar, Alia Bhatt, Parineeti Chopra and Genelia D'Souza also praised the movie. — PTI



A still from the movie Ek Villain

Britain's Ed Sheeran charts at No1, breaks 2014 album sales record



Singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran

LONDON, 30 June — Singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran entered the British charts at number one on Sunday after his new re-

lease "X" became the fastest-selling album of 2014, the Official Charts Company said.

Sheeran's second full-length album features the number one single "Sing" which topped the charts earlier this month. The album sold 182,000 copies since its release last Sunday, beating the previous record set by Coldplay's "Ghost Stories" by 14,000 copies.

Sam Smith's "In The Lonely Hour" rose one place to second in the album chart, while last week's number one "Ultraviolence" by Lana Del Ray dropped to third. "Ghost Stories" and "Caustic Love" by Paolo Nutini completed the top five. — Reuters

'Transformers' turns into box office behemoth with \$100 million opening

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 30 June — "Transformers: Age of Extinction," the fourth in the series of films about form-changing Autobot robots that save the planet, powered up with \$100 million (58.72 million pounds) in box office sales, jump-starting a sleepy summer with the year's biggest opening weekend.

"22 Jump Street," starring Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill, was second with \$15.4 million in its third week in theaters, according to studio estimates.

Animated film "How to Train Your Dragon 2" took the No 3 spot with sales of \$13.1 million for the Friday through Sunday period at US and Canadian theaters.

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" stars Mark Wahlberg in his first outing taking on the evil Dinobots. The series' three previous installments, starring Shia LeBeouf, generated nearly \$2.7 billion in worldwide sales, according to Box Of-

fice Mojo.

"It's just a spectacular result," said Don Harris, president of domestic theatrical distribution for Paramount.

The film took in more than \$200 million overseas, an indication of "what a beloved franchise this is worldwide," Harris added, crediting director Michael Bay who helmed all four installments.

"Transformers" added another \$10.7 million on domestic IMAX screens and \$16.6 million interna-

tionally.

Made for more than \$200 million, the film pits Optimus Prime, Bumblebee and other Autobots against new villains. It met industry projections for its opening weekend.

The nearly three-hour movie garnered mostly poor reviews, with only 17 percent of 121 critics giving it a "fresh" rating, according to the site Rotten Tomatoes, but ticket buyers gave the film an A-rating according to polling service CinemaScore. — Reuters



Actor Mark Wahlberg and wife Rhea Durham arrive for the premiere of the movie "Transformers: Age of Extinction" in New York on 25 June, 2014. — REUTERS

Will do an off-beat film if it's exciting

MUMBAI, 30 June — Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan says that though she loves doing commercial films, she would not mind being part of off-beat movies if an exciting offer comes her way.

"Commercial films have their own charm. I love doing commercial masala films. In my career commercial films like Golmaal Returns, Bodyguard, RaOne and others did well at the box office," Kareena said in an interview here.

"I think the commercial films had something for me to do in it. It is not that in these films I was just there for the heck of it. I enjoy doing commercial films. I think I am the most commercial heroine," she said.

Though the actress loves being part of commercial films, she also wants to act in parallel cinema, provided the offer is exciting.

"I will do that (parallel or off beat

cinema), but I won't do it just for the heck of it. I have been one of the initial actresses to do films like Dev, Chameli, Omkara and others," Kareena said.

"At this stage I will not do a film like that because I have done too much of that. The script has to be good as I don't have anything to prove to anyone now till then I am happy doing commercial films," she said.

Kareena did off-beat films in her career primarily because she needed to balance herself as an artist. "I come from a family where I wanted to prove myself as an actress. I was 21 when I played the role of a prostitute in Chameli and then again played it in Talaash," she said.

"My mother-in-law has played a prostitute twice in her career, in Amar Prem and Mausam, in a span of 13 years and so have I," she said.

At a time when most of the films have intimate or bold scenes,

Kareena doesn't seem to be open for it. "I don't think I can be part of a film like The Dirty Picture. I don't think I can ever do a film like this. I don't have the courage and boldness to do such films. For me it is a challenge to be part of a film like Golmaal 3 and still have a great role," Kareena said.

"It is an honour for me to be part of films like Singham Returns, that is what works for me and my career," she said. — PTI



Kareena Kapoor

GENERAL

Asleep in Jesus

TERENCE PO SAW (Terry)

Age 65 Years

Youngest son of Mr. Harry Po Saw and Mrs. Emma Po Saw passed away in Perth, Australia on the 26th of June 2014. Funeral service will take place on the 1st of July 2014 at the Holy Trinity Church, Perth, Australia.
Bereaved family of Sister Daw Khin Khin Swe @ Valerie Po Saw and U Myat Thin @ Leslie Beale.

Israel bombs Gaza after rocket attacks, Hamas gunman killed

GAZA, 30 June — Israeli forces attacked militant targets in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, killing a Hamas gunman and wounding two others after a spate of rocket launches from the Palestinian territory, officials on both sides said.

The Hamas casualties were caused by a strike that the Israeli military said targeted a group of Palestinians spotted about to fire a rocket across the border.

Palestinian medics said two other people were wounded in air strikes on at least six other Gaza targets.

The Israeli military said two rockets fired from Gaza earlier on Sunday were shot down by its Iron Dome missile interceptor defence system.

On Saturday rockets set a factory on fire in the southern Israeli town of Sderot, wounding three people, officials said.

“Over the weekend, the Israel Defence Forces

attacked multiple targets in response to firing at Israel from the Gaza Strip,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in public remarks to his cabinet on Sunday. “We are ready to expand this operation, if necessary.”

Palestinian officials said targets hit in the Israeli air strikes belonged to Hamas’s armed wing - the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades - Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees. Hamas, an Islamist movement that seized the Gaza Strip from forces loyal to Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007, signed a reconciliation deal with him in April under which a unity government was formed on 2 June.

Since the beginning of June, militants in the Gaza Strip have fired at least 62 rockets at Israel in attacks that have caused few injuries, the Israeli military said.

Reuters

Sharapova primed for Wimbledon after Williams exit



Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return to Alison Riske of the US during their women's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 28 June, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 30 June — The shock losses suffered by top two seeds Serena Williams and Li Na have left Maria Sharapova with a smooth passage and the Russian is primed to win her second Wimbledon title, 10 years after winning her first as a 17-year-old.

Sharapova has dropped just seven games in her three matches thus far and the imperious Russian will be confident of winning her sixth grand slam in the absence of her nemesis Williams.

The 27-year-old is on the wrong end of a 16-2 head-to-head record against the American with her only two triumphs coming in 2004, the first of which saw her crowned Wimbledon champion.

Williams crashed out 6-1, 3-6, 4-6 against France’s Alize Cornet in the third round on Satur-

day, her earliest exit at Wimbledon since losing in the same round in 2005.

Her defeat came a day after Chinese two-times grand slam winner Na was dumped out 6-7(5), 6-7(5) by the Czech Republic’s Barbora Zahlavova Strycova.

Their defeats have opened the door for a host of women, but the top of that list is Sharapova.

Players have long talked about the difficulty of adapting to the grass-courts of Wimbledon so soon after a long clay-court season and nobody has backed up winning the French Open with Wimbledon triumph since Williams in 2002.

Sharapova’s form, however, suggests she can match that achievement and win her sixth grand slam in the process.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(1-7-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
* Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
* News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
* People Talks
- 8:00 am**
* News/ International News
- 8:30 am**
* TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
* News/ International News
- 9:30 am**
* Documentary
- 10:00 am**
* News
- 11:45 am**
* Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 12:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 2:40 pm**
* Traditional Boxing
- 3:00 pm**
* News
- 4:30 pm**
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Botany)
- 5:00 pm**
* News
- 6:50 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**
* News
- 7:25 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 9:45 pm**
* Hit Songs of Stars
- 10:20 pm**
* FIFA World Cup 2014 (Live) (Argentina & Switzerland)

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-7-14 07:00 am~ 2-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up: Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Local News
- * People...Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith
- * Local News
- * Architecture: Treasures in the Ancient City of MraukU
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges: My Travel in This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
- * World News
- * Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist — U Lun Kywe
- * 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
- * Pa-O in the Union
- * World News
- * The Golden of the Golden abode

‘Grieving Parents’ statues wend way across Europe for war dead

BERLIN, 30 June — The German Expressionist sculptor Kaethe Kollwitz, whose work was so anti-war the Nazis banned it, laboured for 15 years to express in stone her grief at losing her 18-year-old son Peter at the start of World War One.

“Grieving Parents,” the set of statues she finally placed at his grave in Flanders in 1932, has now inspired a memorial tour from Belgium to Russia that Germany has organised to honour the dead of that conflict and the Second World War that followed it.

Berlin’s war graves commission has had replicas made of the granite father and mother and is sending them this summer from the cemetery in Vladslo in Belgium, through Germa-

ny, Poland and Belarus to a graveyard in Rzhev, 200 kilometres from Moscow.

German and Russian soldiers who died in the century’s second great war are buried there, including most likely Kollwitz’s own grandson, also named Peter.

“Through the fate of the Kollwitz family we wanted to draw a symbolic arc spanning both world wars, and between East and West,” said Markus Meckel, a former East German dissident who is now president of the German war graves commission.

“The power of the statues is that they show the terrible isolation of grief,” he said. “The parents are expressing it in two very different ways. Yet the suffering of the figures is

not just their personal suffering, it is also a universal emotion.”

The statue set shows a couple kneeling separately, the father staring ahead with arms crossed taut across his chest, the mother hunched and head bowed, clutching her cloak.

Like “Mother with her Dead Son,” her Pieta-like statue that now stands in Germany’s main memorial to all war dead in Berlin, the sadness and suffering the statues showed were the opposite of the glorification of war that Adolf Hitler promoted.

The centenary of the outbreak of World War One has been marked with major events in Britain, France, and Belgium, but today’s Germans shudder when recalling the milita-



Replicas of Kaethe Kollwitz's statues 'Grieving Parents' are displayed in front of the Berlin Cathedral in Lustgarten park in Berlin on 26 June, 2014. REUTERS

rism that plunged Imperial Germany and Hitler’s Third Reich into war.

Many prefer muted memorials such as Kollwitz’s statues, or the graveyard-like Holocaust memorial in Berlin, for their stark simplicity that speaks mov-

ingly without words.

Kollwitz’s 83-year-old grandson Arne said the power of “Grieving Parents”, which stands in the German war cemetery at Vladslo in western Belgium, also lay in the intensity of the artist and her

15 years of labour on the theme.

“She settled on these statues after many, many former attempts. And they create an immediate counterpoint to the graves of the fallen soldiers,” he said.

Reuters

Dutch, Costa Rica through after nerve-wracking drama

BRASILIA, 30 June — The World Cup served up more nerve-shredding drama with Netherlands scoring two late goals to beat shattered Mexico 2-1 and 10-man Costa Rica bouncing back from conceding a stoppage time equalizer to oust Greece on penalties on Sunday.

Dutch forward Arjen Robben was at the centre of another diving controversy after he won the injury-time penalty which Klaas-Jan Huntelaar converted to hand Mexico their sixth successive second round exit in the cruelest possible manner.

Giovani Dos Santos had given Mexico the lead early in the second half in scorching conditions in Fortaleza and they appeared set to goal through until Wesley Sneijder smashed home an equalizer two minutes from time.

Mexico's fellow CONCACAF side Costa Rica also took a second half lead through Bryan Ruiz and, despite having Oscar Duarte sent off after 66 minutes, were moments from victory before Sokratis Papastathopoulos sent

the game into extra time.

The exhausted Ticos held on for a 1-1 draw and won 5-3 on penalties, making them the first CONCACAF quarter-finalists since United States in 2002.

They now face the Dutch on Saturday in Salvador.

The weather clearly affected the Dutch match which kicked off at 1300 local time in tropical Fortaleza with the temperature at 32 Celsius and humidity at 68 percent, prompting the first official water breaks of the tournament.

Conditions were made worse because a large part of the pitch was in the baking sun for much of the game and it was so hot that swathes of seats in the sun were left unoccupied.

Mexico had the best of a snail-paced first half and deservedly went ahead after the break when Dos Santos chested the ball down 30 metres from goal before firing a low left-foot shot into the bottom corner of the net.

The goal prompted another exuberant fist-pumping celebration from coach Miguel Herrera, whose



Costa Rica's goalkeeper Keilor Navas makes a save against Greece's Theofanis Gekas (L) during the penalty shootout in their 2014 World Cup round of 16 game against Greece at the Pernambuco arena in Recife on 29 June, 2014. —REUTERS

energetic performances on the touchline have made him a cult figure.

Mexico were nearly home and dry when they failed to properly clear a corner and the unmarked Sneijder blasted home the equalizer.

Then, in stoppage time, Robben, who had

already had two penalty claims waved away, dribbled the ball into the penalty area and drew a tackle from Mexico captain Rafael Marquez that was controversially deemed a foul.

Robben offered the ball to Huntelaar who fired home to leave the balding 30-year-old dribbling specialist in the middle of another debate over fair play.

"Three times he dived, and they didn't say anything," fumed Herrera. "If the referee was fair, their second goal wouldn't exist...because Robben would have been sent off for a second yellow card.

"But if you don't book him after the first one, then the player knows he can get away with it."

Marquez said: "I felt I touched the ground but I didn't touch him, maybe he touched me." He added that Robben told him afterwards "that it wasn't a penalty, though one of the previous (tackles) was."

Cunning plan

Flamboyant Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal

said he cunningly used the second water break for a tactical switch.

"I moved to plan B and yes, I did that in the cooling break that is a clever way of benefiting from these breaks," he told reporters.

Costa Rica and Greece served up an unappetizing first half in Recife but the game came to life after Ruiz rolled a daisy-cutter into the net from 20 metres to put the Central Americans in front in the 52nd minute.

Like Mexico, the Ticos sat back on their lead and made life even more diffi-

cult for themselves when Duarte was dismissed for a second bookable offence.

Greece huffed and puffed and finally levelled in stoppage time when Theofanis Gekas unleashed a shot that Keilor Navas parried straight into the path of Papastathopoulos who gleefully rammed into an empty net.

Costa Rica looked broken but, after surviving extra time, they gave a lesson in penalty-taking as they converted all five attempts in the shootout while Navas saved Gekas's fourth shot for Greece.—Reuters



Klaas-Jan Huntelaar of the Netherlands scores a penalty goal past Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa during their 2014 World Cup round of 16 game at the Castelao arena in Fortaleza on 29 June, 2014.—REUTERS

MFF Ooredoo Cup 2014 to kick off third round matches



MFF Joint Secretary U Ko Ko Thein takes draw lots for arranging group fixtures for MFF Ooredoo Cup 2014.—SOE NYUNT



The group fixtures for the third round of the MFF Ooredoo Cup 2014

organized by the Myanmar Football Federation were arranged at the MFF office in Yangon on Monday.

According to the fixtures, Kanbawza will play against Zwegabin United at Padonma Ground and Myawady vs Magway at Salin Ground on 5 July; Chin United versus Manawmyay at Aung San Stadium, Ayeyawady vs Zeyar Shwemyay at Salin Ground and Hanthawdy vs Horizon at Padonma

Ground on 6 July; Southern vs Yadanabon at Padonma Ground on 7 July.

Yangon will meet the winner from the match between Southern and Yadanabon in the quarterfinal, while Nay Pyi Taw will compete with the winner from the match between Myawady and Magway.

Quarterfinals will be held on 19 and 20 July, the semifinals on 6 August and the final on 14 September.—Nyi Myat Thawda



Match-55



Argentina

Match-56



Belgium

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Round of 16

22:30 MST (1.7.2014)



Switzerland

2:30 MST (2.7.2014)



USA

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 51	Netherlands	2-1	Mexico
Match 52*	Costa Rica	1(5)-1(3)	Greece
	Costa Rica win on penalties (5-3)		