

Myanmar, Japan to step up acceleration of cooperation in postal sector

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 9 July—The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar and Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications are implementing a memorandum of cooperation in the postal sector, by dispatching Japanese experts to Myanmar to give further training to Myanmar staff, with training already underway.

"So far two training courses have been conducted in May and June for staff in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw", Mr. Masatoshi Kawano, Director of the International Affairs Office at MIC's Postal Services Policy Department told The New Light of Myanmar on Wednesday.

Following the signing of MoC between the two ministries in April, Japan's MIC started providing technical support to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, with implementation of the scope of cooperation



Yangon General Post Office erected in 1908 provides postal services, including domestic express mail services, with deliveries of postal items and parcels available for 26 townships in the country.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

that includes preparatory study for formulation of a master plan, improvement of the postal transportation

network and operation, training of the staff and/or operators, introduction of the new businesses and

new services and sale promotion activities.

Despite setting the MoC to last for one year,

further agreement by both sides can extend the MoC, said the director, pointing (See page 2)

ILO, UMFCCI sign MoU on project for developing capacity of employers' organizations in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 9 July—An MoU signing ceremony between the International Labour Organization and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI took place on Wednesday at the UMFCCI office in Yangon.

During the ceremony, ILO ACT/EMP Director Ms. Deborah France-Massin and UMFCCI President U Win Aung signed a MoU on the project for developing the capacity of the employers' organization in Myanmar to promote work principles and sustainable enterprises.

According to the MoU, the project will be implemented up to 30 April, 2016

and is aimed at solving disputes between employers and employees and promoting skills of labourers.

During the project, ILO and UMFCCI will conduct business trainings and workshops to the employers and also give necessary services between employers and employees to create harmonious relations by the Chief Technical Adviser of ILO and two national officers of the federation, according to a press release of UMFCCI.

During the workshop on strengthening Myanmar employers' organizations, officials from ILO discussed global trends in employers' organizations (See page 9)

KHAMTI, 9 July — Youths from the remote Naga hill region in upper Myanmar will play a key role in helping to protect their forests and environment. Starting in mid-July, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will organize a series of training workshops for youths from three townships in Upper Sagaing Region being identified as volunteers to participate in a UNDP project.

The youth volunteers will help establish and facilitate community based groups in 45 villages across three townships—Layshi, Lahe and Khamti. These groups will become catalysts in implementing environmental conservation activities.

The forestry sector plays a key role in the economy of Myanmar.

However, the forest cover has declined from 61% to 48% of the country area from 1975 to date. To effectively halt deforestation

and protect forests, in 2011 Myanmar became a member of UN-REDD, a global initiative to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation

and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The UNDP project is meant to support the government in preparing (See page 2)

Ethnic youths in Myanmar's Naga Hills Engaged in Protecting Forests



Forests of the Naga Hills under conservation with help of local ethnic youths.—FLICKR

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Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw joins Asia-Europe Forum



Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara attends the Asia-Europe Forum on intercultural and interreligious dialogue.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara attended the Asia-Europe Forum on an intercultural and interreligious dialogue held at the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library at St. Petersburg in Russia Federation on 3 and 4 July.

The forum organized by the Ministry of Culture of Russia highlighted ‘Har-

mony between civilizations as a prerequisite for sustainable development’.

The event started on 3 July and was attended by ministers from 35 countries, as well as 200 persons of religious leaders, ambassadors and experts, with the reading of 50 papers and discussions.

Sitagu Sayadaw also made agreements with

ministers and religious leaders of foreign countries before presenting the paper titled ‘Religion For Peace’.

On 4 July, ministers and religious leaders of other countries paid obeisance to Dr Nyanissara, and discussed religious affairs.

During the closing ceremony of the forum, Konstantin Shuvalov, Am-

bassador — at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation read the conclusion reached at the forum.

He also invited Sitagu Sayadaw to the Republic of Kalmykia, the only Buddhist region in Europe, and appreciated the propagation of Buddhism in Myanmar.

Dr Nyanissara was also requested by the delegations of South Korea to attend the ‘World Alliance of Religions for Peace Summit 2014’, which will be held in September with the theme of “Inter-Faith Dialogue & International Political Discussion towards World Peace”.

During his trip to Russia, Sitagu Sayadaw was also offered by Professor Paul R.Vogt, president of the Council of Euro-Asia Heart Foundation to work together for free healthcare services in Myanmar.

MNA

Ethnic youths in Myanmar’s Naga Hills Engaged ...

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for the REDD+ programme in Myanmar. It also aims to improve the quality of the life of ethnic minorities in the Naga hill region with youth participation.

The youth volunteers and community youth groups will be trained on mobilization and group management, climate change and REDD+, establishing nurseries, treatment and raising seedlings, and conservation of natural forests. In addition, they will learn rights of indigenous people, forest carbon measurement, forest resources mapping, monitoring and evaluation process, environment and social impact assessments, and managing benefit distribution system.

“In order to be able to participate in the REDD+ programme there is a requirement stipulating that the capacity of youth groups and indigenous people be enhanced. Through this initiative, community youth volunteers will be trained and as a first step they will help establish a network of local civil society organizations and community based organizations with the aim to linking them with the national REDD+ network,” said Daw Khin Hnin Myint, UNDP Project Manager for REDD+.

To help reduce corruption and poverty through REDD+ programme, the youth volunteers and community youth groups will also be

introduced with anti-corruption measures to reduce the risk of corruption on REDD+ benefit distribution.

The trained youth groups will then raise awareness of respective communities on forest conservation and management, climate change and their rights. They will also work together with their respective communities to formulate village resources development plans for further work once funding for development is available.

“Youths nowadays are active in social and development activities. We have our youth network and I believe this initiative will help us understand more on environmental conservation measures and how sustainable development works,” said Yan Kho Baw, a youth from a village, 40 miles away from Layshi town.

As the project will also introduce youth groups to resource mobilization and link them with donor organizations. Yan Kho Baw believes they will also be able to gradually initiate local development activities on their own.

With US\$300,000 funding from UNDP, the 2-year “Improvement of the Quality of Life of Ethnic Minorities in the Naga Area in Myanmar through Youth Participation in REDD+” project will be implemented until August 2015.—UNDP

Myanmar, Japan to promote bilateral relations



Speaker of Upper House U Khin Aung Myint together with Mr Eiichiro Arisawa, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship League.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Speaker of the Upper House U Khin Aung Myint re-

ceived Mr Eiichiro Arisawa from the Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamen-

tarian Friendship League at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

They focused on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—MNA

Media Invited to Myanmar’s 2014 FIFA World Cup Party

**By Kyaw The-ein
(MNA-External)**

YANGON, 9 July—Coca-Cola Myanmar has invited the media to join its 2014 FIFA World Cup party to be held on 13 July in front of Dagon Center-2, Myenigon Ward, Sangyoung Township, from 1p.m. to 5p.m. The party will add to the excitement around the final match of the world’s most popular football tournament and is a follow-up to the brand’s oth-

er 2014 FIFA World Cup themed activities held over the past weeks which have engaged thousands of people in Myanmar, Coca-Cola officials said.

Participants have been promised an action-packed afternoon with music performances by Eaint Chit and Mi Sandy, football games and contests as well as opportunities for people to win exclusive Coca-Cola FIFA World Cup prizes after performing their best rendition of the Coca-Co-

la “Brrrr” as seen in the Coca-Cola “Brrrr” television commercial.

Visitors can experience Brazilian culture at the event, with a dance performance by a Capoeira Dance Group and samba music played in between the various activities.

There will be photo opportunities at the event and interviews can be facilitated upon request with Mr Rommel P. Fuentesbela, Marketing Director of Coca-Cola Myanmar.

Myanmar, Japan to step up acceleration ...

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out that it is difficult to get work done in the scope of cooperation within one year only as the development of Myanmar’s postal services is going to be a long project.

During his seventh visit to Myanmar, he was in detailed discussions with Myanmar officials, sharing views of accelerating postal cooperation and calling for reaching technological know-how to those concerned in engaging postal services.

On the present situation of Myanmar postal serv-

es, he appeared impressed with postal services, especially Domestic Express Mail Service (DEMS), saying that a survey conducted independently during the period from January to March of sending 5,000 mails to various addresses in three targeted cities—Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw—got work done. It is wrong that postal items got lost and take long time to get delivered, the MIC official asserted.

Expressing his view on the cooperation process for modernization and improvement of Myanmar

postal services, he said the MPT is willing to turn itself into a quality and reliable service.

On possible investments of Japanese firms in Myanmar, where market potential is huge for postal businesses, he said it is up to the decision of the Myanmar government.

Through three rounds of high-level meetings, Myanmar and Japan realized the MoC to bring positive results on cooperation in the sector of postal services, with the start of projects that include sending Japanese experts to help improve Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

NLM

NATIONAL

Union government donates Waso robes, alms to monks

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—The Union government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda on Wednesday.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offered flowers, water and fruits to the Buddha Image at the Beikman in dedication to the Lord Buddha and offered Waso robes to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamaw Sayadw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint also offered Waso robes and alms to the monks.

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Dw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife and union ministers presented Waso robes and provisions to the monks.

After the ceremony, President U Thein Sein and wife and party donated meals to the leading monks.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Waso robes to Chairman of SSMNC Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon present Waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint donate Waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Myanmar receives largest amount of assistance from Japan in second half of 2013-2014 fiscal year

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Foreign governments and INGOs offered assistance for various sectors of the Myanmar economy in the second half of 2013-2014 fiscal year, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday.

Japan provided the largest amount of assistance

which amounted to US \$199.04 million for Myanmar during the period. The Japanese assistance covered a wide range of sectors, including the ICT development in the central bank, improvement of medical equipment in Yangon General Hospital, upgrading the Loikaw General Hospital, machinery for construction and maintenance of roads and

bridges in Rakhine State, installation of equipment for food safety, scholarships for human resources development, development of a national single window and custom modernization, introduction of an auto cargo clearance system, monitoring system for natural disasters and improvement of broadcasting equipment at MRTV, according to the deputy minister.

The second largest amount of assistance, US\$ 16.6 million, came from international non-governmental organizations which aimed to improving Myanmar's capacity for disaster response and reduction, rural development, child/youth development, occupational rehabilitation, research on Myanmar elephants, construction and maintenance

of Myainghaywun elephant camp and conservation of biodiversity in Taninthayi Region.

South Korea's assistance to Myanmar during the period, which totalled US\$ 4.3 million, focused on capacity enhancement in forest management and response to climate change

New Zealand offered the fourth largest amount of assistance, US\$ 4.25 million to Myanmar during the same period for development of dairy industry in Myanmar.

During the second half of the financial year, other countries and financial institutions offered assistance to Myanmar including Italy (US\$ 1.9 million for tourism development), China (US\$ 1.6 million for vehicles and office equipment for government departments), ADB (US\$ 0.85 million for drafting the electricity law, rules and regulations) and Thailand (US\$ 0.06 million for conservation of forests in watershed areas).

MNA

Preparations for Martyrs' Day in Myawady begin



A file photo shows the ceremony to mark the 2013 Martyrs' Day at the monument in Myawady.

MYAWADY, 9 July—Preparations are being made for holding a ceremony to mark Martyrs' Day at the Monument Ground in Myawady of Kayin State. The monument ground for the martyrs is the second largest in the nation

apart from the mausoleum in Yangon.

The ceremony to mark Martyrs' Day resumed in Myanmar in 2013. The celebration could not be held for two decades due to various reasons, said a local.

An official of Myawady Township Development Affairs Committee said, "Martyrs' Day will be observed on a grand scale like last year's ceremony. At present, necessary preparations are being made for the ceremony." Among other activities, tribute to General Aung San and fallen martyrs will be paid. The Martyrs Monument is one of the most significant places in Myawady, including Myawady Mingyi U Sa Park.—Soe Win (MLA)



Drain dredged to irrigate farmlands in Kyaukhtu

KYAUKHTU, 9 July—The embankment of the drain will be 40 feet high. The Minletaw Dam is located at Yaw Creek near Pansan Village of Kyaukhtu Sub-Township in Magway Region.

The dam irrigates monsoon and summer paddy plantations in the farmlands of Thayetchin, Pansan, Ngalun, Kyaukma and Akyi villages of the sub-township.

A drain, 1,500 feet long and nine feet wide, is being dredged for supply of water from the dam to farmlands in Nathoe Vil-

lage. Locals from Nathoe and Akyi Panpalun villages contributed K3.4 million to dredging the drain. Now, the drain is 90 percent complete.

Upon completion, the drain will benefit over 350 acres of farmlands in Nathoe village to cultivate monsoon and summer paddy in addition to various crops through mixed cropping pattern.

Kyaw Than Swe

Katha Township to combat TB disease under plan



KATHA, 9 July—The Katha Township Health Department of Sagaing Region will give treatment to TB patients who cannot reach hospitals and clinics by implementing the public-centred TB combating plan.

The Myanmar Health Assistants Association held a clarification on a TB

control project at the hall of Katha District General Hospital on Tuesday.

Project officer U Aung Myo Khaing explained the procedure for the



project.

"In implementing the project, we will select 23 volunteers in Katha Township to search for TB patients from all corners of the township so as to transfer them to the People's General Hospital," said project officer U Aung Myo Khaing.

Mon Mon (IPRD)

Gravel road under construction to link Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road



Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt inspected progress of construction of the gravel road in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township on 6 July.

The gravel road will link the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—The Nay Pyi Taw Council plans to spend over K1.512 billion from its budget on development of social and economic sectors of rural people in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in 2014-15 fiscal year.

the Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road. The authorities will spend K31.6 million on construction of the road.

District IPRD



LOCAL NEWS

Werawsana Jade Pagoda under construction in Amarapura Township

MANDALAY, 9 July—Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung and his delegation visited the construction site of Werawsana Jade Pagoda in Myinhmu Village of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

At the briefing hall, wellwisher U Soe Naing and superintending engineer U Thein Win reported to the speaker on construction of the jade pagoda and progress of works.

After viewing round the construction site, they paid homage to the Jade Buddha image at the pagoda.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



MPF presents stipends, cash assistance to offspring of servicemen

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—The Myanmar Police Force gave cash assistance to servicemen who are parents of four distinction winning students in the region to enable their offspring to access higher education at suitable universities, said sources.

The MPF is providing stipends and cash assistance to the offspring of servicemen to become outstanding students. This year, the force is giving priority to awarding outstanding students of staff as part of efforts to uplift their education standard.

On 6 July, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win awarded K50,000 each per distinction. At the ceremony, he gave K1.1 million to the distinction winners and K11.897 million cash assistance to the students.

Six six-distinction winning students, nine five-distinction winners and 30 four-distinction winners emerged from the offspring of MPF servicemen this year.—MPF

Products Show attracts visitors in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 9 July—The International High Quality Products Show and Automobile Sales 2014 kicked off at the city hall in Mandalay on Wednesday, opened by Mandalay Mayor and Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun, Managing Director U Thein Zaw Htwe of Thein Brother Service Co., Ltd and Managing Director Mr Wu of Tahan Food In-

dustrial Co., Ltd.

Booths at the show and sales showcase local and foreign-made foodstuffs, cosmetics, medicines, kitchen utensils, home decorations, textiles, fashion equipment, instant foods, black boxes of automobiles, engine oil, small oil mills, water purifiers and vehicles. The show will be held from 9 to 12 July, with several stage shows.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

THANDWE, 9 July—A coordination meeting to step up the Third Wave process was held at the hall of Thandwe District General Administration Department in Thandwe of Rakhine State on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Hla Myo explained instructions given by the union government for implementation of the Third Wave process in the district. Commander of

District Police Force Police Lt-Col Kan Win discussed responsibility and accountability, and the district law officer, good governance and clean government. Departmental officials also participated in discussions on electrification, supply of drinking water, agricultural sector, creation of job opportunities, tourism sector, monetary affairs, education and health matters.

Thandwe District IPRD

District officials discuss implementation of Third Wave process



YCDC urges construction contractors to legalize buildings

YANGON, 9 July—Construction contractors are constructing many buildings in the municipal areas of Yangon City Development Committee without any permission.

At present, preparations are being made to submit the draft rule for the construction to the Yangon Region Hluttaw. An official of YCDC warned the contractors on Monday that after the region Hluttaw approved the construction

rules, the YCDC will abolish the illegal buildings in its area. Even though the YCDC has eased the rules and regulations for construction of the buildings, some contractors continue construction of illegal buildings. That is why they will have to abolish the buildings and prosecution over their constructions, according to the YCDC. At a press conference, the YCDC officials said that land and house owners need

to construct their buildings with construction contractor holders so as to legalize their buildings.

The YCDC law 2013 was enacted to take action against the buildings without permissions by abolishing them. There are 2,021 cases prosecuted over illegal construction of buildings in Yangon Region and over 800 cases in Yangon North and East Districts, according to officials of YCDC.—NLM



VILLAGE ROAD CONSTRUCTED: Villagers of Thegon Village in Paung Township of Mon State participated in construction of a 2,100-feet long and 15-feet wide concrete road that began in May 2014 and was completed in the second week of July. A photo shows local people working on the concrete road.—KHIN MAUNG WAI

Jokowi leads at 52% in Indonesia presidential election

JAKARTA, 9 July — Former President Megawati Sukarnoputri declared victory for Joko “Jokowi” Widodo in Indonesia’s presidential election on Wednesday as one exit poll showed the popular Jakarta governor taking 52.12 per cent of the votes cast.

According to the quick count conducted by the major *Kompas* daily, former army general Prabowo Subianto received 47.88 percent of the votes.

Other exit polls showed similar results.

Megawati, chairwoman of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, the leader of a coalition of parties supporting Jokowi’s candidacy, was seen crying upon hearing the quick count results.

“This is a monumental phenomenon. After becoming an opposition for 10 years, God’s willing, in October we are entering a transitional period during which the elected president will be sworn in,” Megawati told a Press conference at her residence in South Jakarta in declaring Jokowi’s victory.

Voters cast ballots at 478,685 polling stations set up across the sprawling archipelago of some



Indonesian presidential candidate Joko “Jokowi” Widodo and his wife Iriana pose for pictures as they cast their vote in Jakarta on 9 July, 2014. —REUTERS

17,000 islands.

More than 190 million people of the country’s total population of 245 million were eligible to vote.

The Election Commission is expected to confirm the final result by 22 July.

“We see people excitedly cast their ballots,” Jokowi told reporters after casting his ballot at a polling station erected at a public park near his official residence in Central Jakarta.

“I hope this excitement

will not be tainted by bad things,” he added, apparently referring to electoral fraud.

The park was packed by people who mostly came to see Jokowi. They clapped hands as he arrived and left the polling station. Some sang Jokowi’s campaigning song “Salam Dua Jari”, or “Two-Finger Salute,” named after his candidacy number, while others tried to take his picture or shouted “Jokowi! Jokowi!”

About 55 kilometres to the south, in the town of Bogor in West Java Province, Prabowo cast his ballot near his residence, accompanied by his son Didiet Hadiprasetyo Prabowo.

Prabowo, 62, is a former son-in-law of the deposed dictator Suharto and a former head of the army’s Strategic Reserves Command who was fired for alleged involvement in the kidnapping of several activists in 1998 when he

was commander of the army’s special forces unit, or KOPASSUS.

Jokowi gained popularity as Jakarta governor by regularly visiting local communities, particularly in poor areas, and spending time talking to residents about the city’s problems such as floods, transportation and housing.

Until several months ago, Jokowi’s path to victory looked assured, but negative campaigning against him, including the spreading of rumors that he is Christian and Chinese, appears to have narrowed the gap with his rival.

Racial and religious issues remain extremely divisive in the fledgling democracy, which is the world’s third largest.

Indonesia’s movement toward democracy has been tentative since the collapse of the military-backed Suharto government in 1998.

Voters have tended to support strong leaders seen as capable of effectively ruling the multiethnic country, which has been rocked by separatist movements and burdened with rampant corruption and religious extremism.

Kyodo News

Singapore voices concern over SE Asians joining Syrian conflict

SINGAPORE, 9 July — Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean expressed concern on Wednesday over radicalized Muslims in the region fighting in the Syrian conflict, saying it could pose a security threat to the city-state. “Of more direct concern is if there are foreign fighters in Syria who have come from our region,” Teo, who is also coordinating minister for national security, told parliament. “The presence of former foreign fighters in our region, whether they originate from Southeast Asia or elsewhere, is a security threat to us,” he said.

Citing Indonesian authorities and press reports, Teo said 56 Indonesians and up to 100 Malaysians have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq. He said a “handful” of Singaporeans have gone to Syria to take part in the conflict while “several” others were stopped and detained before they could leave.

Kyodo News

Laos appoints new deputy PMs

VIENTIANE, 9 July — Head of the Administrative Office of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party Bounpone Bouttanavong and Minister of Education and Sports Phankham Viphanh have been appointed as deputy prime ministers, official Lao news agency *KPL* reported on Wednesday. Appointment of the new deputy prime ministers, who are both members of the politburo, was made at the ongoing 7th ordinary session of the National Assembly’s (NA) 7th legislature here in the capital.

With the new appointment, Phankham will be both deputy prime minister and minister of education and sports.

The high profile re-

shuffles were approved by NA President Pany Yathoutou following a vote of 108 in favour, 9 against, 3 abstaining.

The appointments were made in the presence of Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong who said the officials have grasped strong political ideology with high levels of knowledge, competence and experience, and have demonstrated themselves as good role models.

“These leading officials have been tested through real work situations,” the prime minister said according to state-run daily *Vientiane Times*.

Acting Minister of National Defence and member of the Party’s Central Com-

mittee’s secretariat Major General Sengnouan Xayalath was endorsed as minister of national defence.

Sengnouan previously served as the deputy minister of national defence and will replace his predecessor Lieutenant General Douangchay Phichit who lost his life in a plane crash in Xieng Khuang Province in May. Governor of Champassak province Sonexay Siphandone was appointed as minister to the Government Office and head of the Government Office. Sonexay will replace Sinlavong Khouthaythoune who will take the position of Vientiane Mayor. Both Sonexay and Sinlavong are members of the Party Central Committee.—*Xinhua*

N Korea’s nuclear developer Jon Pyong Ho dies at 88



Jon Pyong Ho

BEIJING, 9 July— Jon Pyong Ho, a senior North Korean official who had played a major role in developing the country’s nuclear and missile programmes, died of acute myocardial infarction on

Monday, the official media said on Wednesday. He was 88.

North Korea has set up a committee led by Kim Jong Un to prepare for Jon’s state funeral, the country’s *Korean Central News Agency* said. The funeral is likely to be held on Thursday.

North Korea announced his death after it launched two short-range ballistic missiles early Wednesday morning into the sea off its east coast.

Jon, born into a poor peasant’s family in Jagang Province on 20 March, 1926, had numerous senior titles for a long time,

such as a member of the country’s most powerful National Defence Commission, after working first as an engineer at a munitions factory from between 1952 and 1970, *KCNA* said in an obituary.

Jon was general of the Korean People’s Army. *KCNA* extolled his achievements in turning the KPA into a “powerful elite revolutionary army equipped with modern offensive and defensive means” and converting the country into “a satellite producer and launcher and a nuclear weapons state.”

Kyodo News

Brunei Int’l Airport reopens after 31-hour shutdown

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9 July —Operations resumed at the Brunei International Airport at 23:00 local time on Tuesday following a 31-hour shutdown that left thousands of passengers stranded after AirAsia flight AK278 skidded off

the runway upon landing on Monday afternoon, which subsequently forced the only commercial airport in the country to close, *Borneo Bulletin* reported on Wednesday.

The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) of

the Ministry of Communications issued a Press statement late last night announcing the resumption of airport operations, adding that works to remove the grounded AirAsia A320 aircraft are still underway. The newspaper said many

stranded passengers were left in limbo with only little information and confirmation of their flight status during the shutdown on Tuesday, as airline officials were not able to give passengers an exact time frame of flight schedules due to

the airport closure. The airport was initially scheduled to resume operations on Tuesday morning, however, difficulties in removing the AirAsia A320 aircraft from the runway caused prolonged delays. The AirAsia flight AK278 with 102 pas-

sengers and seven crew on board from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei skidded off the runway at the Brunei International Airport on Monday afternoon while it was trying to land during a heavy rain. Nobody was injured in the accident.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

China, US say committed to managing differences

BEIJING, 9 July — China and the United States need to manage their differences, the leaders of both countries said on Wednesday at the start of annual talks expected to focus on cyber-security, maritime disputes, the Chinese currency and an investment treaty.

The two-day talks in Beijing, called the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, will be an opportunity for the world's two biggest economies to dial down tensions after months of bickering over a host of issues, experts have said.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew chair the US delegation, with Vice Premier Wang Yang and top diplomat Yang Jiechi leading the Chinese side.

President Xi Jinping said Sino-US cooperation was of vital importance to the global community. "China-US confrontation, to the two countries and the world, would definitely be a disaster," he told the opening ceremony at a government guesthouse in the west of the city.

"We should mutually respect and treat each other



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) talks with China's President Xi Jinping after the Joint Opening Session of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue known as the "S&ED" at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on 9 July, 2014. —REUTERS

er equally, and respect the others sovereignty and territorial integrity and respect each others choice on the path of development."

Escalating tensions between China and some countries in the South Chi-

na Sea and with Japan in the East China Sea as well as US charges over hacking and Internet spying have provoked ire on both sides of the Pacific in recent months.

In a statement released

as the discussions began, US President Barack Obama said the United States was committed to building a "new model" of relations with China that is defined by cooperation and the constructive management of

differences.

"The United States welcomes the emergence of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous China," Obama said. "We remain determined to ensure that cooperation defines the overall

relationship."

Despite deeply interconnected business ties and two-way trade worth more than half a trillion dollars a year, Beijing and Washington have deep differences over everything from human rights to the value of the Chinese currency, the yuan.

The annual talks, now in their fifth year, have yielded few substantive agreements, in part because relations have grown more complex with China's increasing military, diplomatic and economic clout. Still, US officials have underscored the importance of the discussions to help ensure the relationship doesn't drift towards confrontation.

Xi said both countries should strengthen cooperation in fighting terror and speed up talks on a bilateral investment treaty to reach an agreement at an early date.

The United States hopes the treaty will loosen Chinese restrictions to allow for a more level playing field for US companies in China. Chinese officials say they hope it will help drive China's own domestic reforms.—Reuters

N Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles toward sea

SEOUL / TOKYO, 9 July — North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan early Wednesday, and the projectiles, thought to be versions of the Scud missile, flew about 500 kilometres, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

While no damage to aircraft or ships has been reported, Japan immediately

lodged a protest with North Korea via its embassy in Beijing.

"The latest missile launches are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a regular press conference. "They fired missiles again despite our repeated protests."

One of the missiles

was launched from the southwest of the country at around 4 am and the other roughly 20 minutes later, and both flew in a northeasterly direction, according to the South Korean military.

Asked if the latest missile firing may affect Japan-North Korea talks on bilateral issues centering on Pyongyang's abductions of Japanese nationals, Suga

said Japan "will closely watch North Korea's ongoing investigation" into the whereabouts of abductees.

Suga added that Japan is still trying to discover whether North Korea fired two missiles or three.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is in the South Pacific this week for a tour of New Zealand, Australia and Papua New Guinea, instructed government offices to collect and analyze intelligence in coordination with the United States and South Korea, and provide relevant information to the public.

Defence Minister Itsumori Onodera criticized North Korea for firing the missiles, saying he has trouble understanding the country's intentions. "This won't be in the interests of North Korea," he told reporters during a visit to Texas.

North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles, also believed to be Scuds, off its east coast toward the Sea of Japan on 29 June.

Kyodo News

Japan MSDF officer to work at key naval unit of Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 9 July — An officer of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force is set to work in a core US naval unit at the Defence Department on a regular basis from August, Japanese and US government sources said on Tuesday.

The plan was revealed after Japan's Cabinet last week reinterpreted the war-renouncing Constitution to allow the country to exercise the right to collective self-defence, a move that could pave the way for the US Navy and the MSDF to expand cooperation in unprecedented fields.

The planned assignment is aimed at enhancing the operational integration between the US Navy and the Japanese MSDF in the face of the growing maritime presence of China, as well as nuclear and ballistic missile development by North Korea, the sources said. The Japanese officer whose rank will be lieutenant commander will work at the strategic section of a Pentagon office that helps Adm. Jonathan Greenert,

the top naval officer in uniform who serves as chief of naval operations, they said.

It will be the first appointment of a Japanese Self-Defence Forces officer to the office of the chief of naval operations, which has already accepted ranking military officers from Britain and Australia.

The MSDF decided on the assignment after being sounded out by the US Navy in 2012 regarding the dispatch of an officer to the office of the chief of naval operations.

The Japanese Air Self-Defence Force has assigned a colonel as a liaison officer to the Air Staff of the US Air Force since August last year in a similar bid to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and boost information sharing.

The Japanese SDF has said sending officers to core sections of the US Navy and Air Force will help build a closer alliance with the US military in such occasions as a possible contingency in East Asia and disaster relief.

Kyodo News



File photo taken in July 2013 shows a Scud short-range ballistic missile in a military parade at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square.—KYODO NEWS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 10 July, 2014

What lessons Brazil gave us

By Aung Khin

Not from the view of a sports analyst, but from the perspective of an ordinary journalist, the failure of the Brazil team being defeated by Germany has ended the dream to lift the world cup, leaving many lessons.

Political instability, lacking a golden generation and missing their star player Neymar have turned out to be the perfect recipe for a historical thrashing defeat of the South American World cup hosts.

The cost of the tournament is estimated to be the highest in the history of the FIFA World Cup.

Brazilians complained of corruption and

overspending and billions of dollars spent on stadiums and other tournament infrastructure, while the country is in dire need of better health-care, education and public transportation. When public dissatisfaction was ignored, street protests flared up in the country with some Brazilians even turning their support to other teams as a mark of protest. Some of them joined the demonstrations wearing Argentina shirts, unheard of before.

On the eve of the tournament, the Brazilian governments bill stood at US\$14 billion — the expenditure has largely been on stadium works and infrastructure projects, together with an estimated expenditure of FIFA \$4 billion on staging the final tournament.

About one million people joined some demonstrations, protesting the high taxes, corruption, poor public services and tax hikes. The protests spread across the country.

The most imminent reason for the humiliating defeat was the absence of injured striker Neymar Jr. , and central defender Thiago Silva, the captain of the team, who was ruled out for the

semi-final against Germany after receiving two yellow cards in the match with Columbia.

As the national team could not develop skillful players, their coach Luiz Felipe Scolari did not have worthy players for the places of these two key footballers. The team seemed to suffer more than the missing players should merit, showing a total collapse and capitulation manifesting itself with 5 German goals scored within a 22-minute period in the first half, the Germans took clinical advantage, the match was over before the second half.

A sport team to win a game fairly and righteously will surely need genuine support of public and a long-term plan to maintain its success by turning out many excellent players.

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.

MYINGYAN, 9 July—The Interfaith Friendship Organization held a meeting at Hsandawpyae Dhammayon in Min Monastery in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on 6 July.

At the meeting, Deputy Commissioner of Myingyan District U Myint Thin Aung called for unity and amity among the people of various faiths.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung urged the participants to join hands among them to prevent any instigation. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aye Myint stressed the need to inform the police force of emergency cases.

Leader of four major religions discussed peaceful co-existence of the people in the township.

Responsible persons of political parties made pledges to give necessary assistance.

Those present at the meeting contributed K600,000 to the fund of the organization.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Venerable Sayadaws meet leaders of interfaith friendship organization of Myingyan Township to discuss peaceful co-existence among various religions.

Interfaith friendship organization in Myingyan urges for peaceful co-existence



GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (9-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K676,300
per tical:
Selling K677,300

Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K676,200
per tical:
Selling K677,200

FE RATE
USD Buying K970
- Selling K974.5
SGD Buying K775
- Selling K782
Euro Buying K1310
- Selling K1325

It's in our hands to put an end to bloodshed



By Shimon Peres, Reuven Rivlin,

Exclusive: Israel's outgoing president and president-elect call on Jews and Arabs to end violence and incitement, and have faith in ability to live together.

"Cursed is he who says: Revenge!" wrote poet Hayim Nahman Bialik. Cursed is the ruining, destroying revenge, which is painful for the sake of pain and harms innocent people.

A national struggle does not justify acts of ter-

ror. Acts of terror do not justify revenge. Revenge does not justify destruction, plunder and desolation. Even in the face of the rage and frustration, the violence and the pain, things can be done differently. Things must be done differently.

Jewish and Arab leaders must work to stop the journeys of revenge before the fire of hatred spreads and eats away at every good spot.

At the sound of the now silent cries of Shelly, Naftali, Gil-Ad, Eyal and Mohammed — our children — no one should remain silent here. They cried out, and we will cry out on their behalf.

In the State of Israel there is no difference between blood and blood. The democratic State of Israel

sanctifies the moral right to life and the equal right each person has to be different. The murder of a boy or a girl, Jewish or Arab, is an unacceptable act.

Murderers' traces will not be blurred, there will be no cover-up and things will not be swept under the rug. The criminals who murder and take human life will be caught and punished with the full severity of the law.

We have the choice to give in to the destructive world view that the racists and extremists are placing in front of us, or to fight it to the point of total elimination; to give in to wild and brutal Muslim or Jewish terror — or to put an end to it in every way possible.

We are allowed to argue. We even have to argue. We, all of us, have all

the ways to express our pain, our opinion and our world view. But incitement is not the way. Collective accusation is not a solution.

It is our duty to stop the journey of incitement. We must understand that we have no other way but to live together. The bloodshed will only stop when we all realize that we have not been sentenced to live together, but destined to live together. Any hesitation or compromise on this issue will lead to deterioration which could be disastrous not just to our life together, but to our actual life.

The history of our people has taught us that words can kill. We are now turning to each and every citizen in our country: Respect the law and watch what you say. At this time we must not get dragged into incitement which will lead us to a slope of hatred and ani-

mosity—that is not our way.

We aspire to live in peace between us and to allow our neighbors to live in peace. We must be a nation united in its restraint and style.

These days, of the month of Ramadan and ahead of the three-week BeinHametzarim period, should be days of tolerance and construction, not days of destruction. We call on each and every one of us —whether Arab or Jewish — to stop.

This is the time to choose the joint way. This is the time to find what unites us and not what divides us. This is the time to believe in our ability to live here together, on this land.

We have no other option, we have no other land. It's time to prevent the next bloodshed.

It's in our hands.

NATIONAL

Lower House Speaker meets chairman of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship League

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Lower House Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann accepted a call by Mr Ichiro AISAWA, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship League and party on Wednesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the call were chairmen and officials from the Lower House Committees and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi.

MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr Ichiro AISAWA, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship League.—MNA

Union Minister receives country director of ADB

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo received Country Director Dr Winfried Wicklein of Myanmar Resident Mission, ADB, at his ministry on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on training and assistance programmes for preparing youths to enter the job market and they exchanged

views on requirements for technology and occupational development in Myanmar.

The director-general of the Technical and Occupational Education Department, officials and ADB expert for the socioeconomic sector Dr. Chris Spohr attended the meeting.

MNA

ILO, UMFCCI sign MoU on project for developing capacity of employers' organizations in Myanmar

(from page 1) and the need for efficient member representation, and the role of the private sector in Myanmar's economic, social and democratic development.

They also discussed presentation of the project, strengthening the Myanmar Employer Organization and how it will support the development of

the UMFCCI and business member organizations.

In his point of view, U Thein Chi, Vice Chairman of South Dagon Industries Association said Myanmar has not enough skilled workers compared to other countries and the workers need more technical knowledge and other supports.

NLM



ILO ACT/EMP Director Ms Deborah France-Massin and UMFCCI President U Win Aung signed a MoU on developing capacity for employers' organizations in Myanmar on Wednesday at the UMFCCI Office in Yangon.—KHAING THANDA LWIN

Union FM, UNODC Myanmar country manager discuss mutual cooperation in combating illicit drugs

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin held talks with Mr Jason Eligh, the outgoing Country Manager for Myanmar

of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC, on Wednesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss mutual cooperation in combating illicit drugs.—MNA

Dawei SEZ implementation committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—The second day of the ninth meeting of the Work Committee for the Implementation of the Dawei Special Economic Zone and related projects was

held at the Ministry of Rail Transportation in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Roland Berger Company, consultant firm for preliminary works of the SEZ, reported on selection of companies to implement respective projects.

On the first day of the meeting, Ernst & Young Company submitted the final draft report on compensation for works done by the Italian-Thai Company.

Those present at the meeting were Chairman of Special Work Committee for Implementation of the SEZ Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint, Union Deputy Minister for Transportation U Han Sein, Union Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein, Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and the board of directors. —MNA by the State.

After President Professor Dr Tha Hla Shwe delivered a speech, the conference followed.

MNA



Union Minister U Aye Myint at the ninth meeting of the Work Committee for the Implementation of the Dawei SEZ and related projects.—MNA

Red Cross members urged to take part in social welfare tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—The President honoured not only scouts and outstanding youths but outstanding Red Cross members, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at the 73rd Central Council Meeting and the 11th national conference of Myanmar Red

Cross Society at MRCS Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

In his address, the Union Minister stressed the need for Red Cross members to serve the interests of the State and the society.

CEO & Founder of Intermediate Group of Britain calls on Hluttaw committee chairmen

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Chairman of Lower House National Races Affairs, Rural Development and Local Peace-making Committee U Thein Zaw and Chairman of Bill Committee U T Khun Myat received Mr Jonathan Powell, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Intermediate Group of Britain at the Lower House Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday, discussing progress of peace-making process in Myanmar.

MNA

He urged them to actively take part in social welfare tasks of the nation for further development.

The Union minister read out the 10 Central Council members assigned

Myanmar to take part in Asian Games 2014 in ROK

YANGON, 9 July—The Myanmar National Taekwondo team led by General Secretary U Zaw Win of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation left Yangon on Tuesday night for the Republic of Korea to take part in the international Taek-

wondo tournaments.

The team comprised four team officials and seven players. The players of Myanmar team will undergo a joint training in the Republic of Korea and take part in the 17th Asian Games 2014.—NLM



Myanmar Taekwondo team at Yangon International Airport before their departure for South Korea where they will train with pros.—NLM

Iran's supreme leader calls for more nuclear enrichment capacity

DUBAI / VIENNA, 9 July — Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran would need to significantly increase its uranium enrichment capacity, highlighting a gap in positions between Teheran and world powers as they hold talks aimed at clinching a nuclear accord.

Iran and six major powers — the United States, Russia, France, Germany, China and Britain — have less than two weeks to bridge wide differences on the future scope of Iran's enrichment programme and other issues if they are to meet a self-imposed July 20 deadline for a deal.

They resumed talks in Vienna last week and their negotiators continued meetings in the Austrian capital on Tuesday, but there was no immediate sign of any substantive progress. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said in Paris that none of the major outstanding issues had been agreed and that the United

States wanted foreign ministers to join the negotiations. Iran's capacity to refine uranium lies at the centre of the nuclear stalemate and is seen as the hardest issue to resolve.

Iran insists it needs to expand its capacity to refine uranium to fuel a planned network of atomic energy plants. The powers say Teheran must sharply reduce that capacity to prevent the country being able to quickly produce a nuclear bomb using uranium enriched to a far higher degree.

"Their aim is that we accept a capacity of 10,000 separative work units (SWUs), which is equivalent to 10,000 centrifuges of the older type that we already have. Our officials say we need 190,000 SWU. Perhaps this is not a need this year or in two years or five years, but this is the country's absolute need," Khamenei said in a statement published late on Monday.—Reuters

Japanese opposition lawmakers leave for Pyongyang



Antonio Inoki, a House of Councillors member, answers reporters' questions at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on 9 July, 2014, before leaving for Pyongyang along with five other opposition lawmakers. — KYODO NEWS

Tokyo, 9 July — Six Japanese opposition lawmakers, including House of Councillors member Antonio Inoki, left Wednesday for Pyongyang to visit sports facilities and hold talks with senior officials of the Workers' Party of

Korea. The group is expected to arrive in Pyongyang on Thursday afternoon via Beijing and return to Japan on Monday, according to the office of Inoki, a former professional wrestling star.

Ahead of their departure, North Korea fired

two short-range ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan early on Wednesday. "The more we have such an issue, the more we need to open up to (Pyongyang) by visiting North Korea," Inoki told reporters at Tokyo's Haneda Airport.

The lawmakers plan to visit an office in Pyongyang of Inoki's non-profit organization seeking peace through sports, as well as a gymnasium and a stadium. They are also scheduled to visit an industrial zone in Kaesong city, where an industrial complex has been jointly developed with South Korea.

The other five lawmakers are House of Representatives members Kenta Matsunami, Takashi Ishizeki, Naoto Sakaguchi, and upper house members Takayuki Shimizu and Taro Yamada.

Yamada is a member of Your Party while all the others including Inoki are members of the Japan Restoration Party. The six lawmakers originally planned to visit Pyongyang during a series of holidays from late April, but could not get Diet approval and decided to make the trip after the end of a regular Diet session that ended late June.

Kyodo News

Hamas rockets land deep in Israel as it bombards Gaza Strip



Smoke and flames are seen following what police said was an Israeli air strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 8 July, 2014.—REUTERS

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 9 July — At least 23 people were killed across Gaza, Palestinian officials said on Wednesday, by a bombardment Israel said may be just the start of a lengthy offensive against Islamist militants whose rockets struck deeper than ever before into Israel.

Israelis ran for cover late on Tuesday as air-raid

sirens sounded in the business capital Tel Aviv and the holy city of Jerusalem, both of which were hit in the Gaza war of November 2012. Hamas said it also fired a rocket at the major northern city of Haifa, 140 km (88 miles) away, and though this was not confirmed, Israel said a rocket had landed in Hadera, 100 km (60 miles) from Gaza,

further than had previously been reached.

While the Israelis reported no casualties, the long-range salvo was celebrated by the outgunned Palestinians as proof of their resolve in hostilities that flared three weeks ago after the abduction and murder of three Jewish seminary students.

The rocket strikes

could lead to an Israeli ground invasion, something officials have said is a possible option.

In the densely populated Gaza Strip, explosions echoed day and night, shaking buildings and sending up plumes of smoke. At least 17 civilians, including five children, were among the 23 dead, Palestinian officials said. On the Israel-

li side, at least two people were wounded, medics said. Israel assassinated a senior local leader of the Islamic Jihad militant group in the northern Gaza Strip early on Wednesday, neighbours and hospital officials said, and five others including family members were killed. An Israeli military spokeswoman said she had no initial details on the strike.

The militant, Hafez Hamad, two brothers and his parents were killed when his house was bombed in an air strike in the town of Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, Hamas media and Gaza interior ministry said. An unidentified woman in the house was also killed. Another Hamas militant was targeted in another air strike in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, Hamas officials said.

Since Israel launched its offensive on Tuesday, five Hamas gunmen, an Islamic Jihad leader and 17 civilians, including seven children, have been killed.

On Tuesday afternoon, Israel's Iron Dome interceptor shot down a rocket fired at Tel Aviv by Gaza faction Islamic Jihad.

"We will not tolerate rocket fire against our cities and townships, and there-

fore I ordered a significant broadening of IDF (Israel Defence Force) operations against the terrorists of Hamas and other terror groups in the Gaza Strip," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

He called on Israelis to rally together and "show resilience because this operation could take time".

Israel has threatened to invade Gaza if the rockets persist. In a bold infiltration, gunmen from Hamas landed on the shore near Zikim adjacent to the Gaza border, where a kibbutz and a military base are located. Four gunmen were killed.

Rockets fired at Tel Aviv intercepted

At least two rockets fired from the Gaza Strip at Tel Aviv on Wednesday were shot down mid-air by Israel's Iron Dome defence system, the Israeli military said. "Initial indications suggest two rockets were intercepted above the Tel Aviv area", a military spokeswoman said after air raid sirens were heard in Tel Aviv and across central Israel. Israel says that Hamas Islamists in Gaza have dozens of long-range rockets capable of striking deeper into Israel than ever before.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Fossil of world's smallest hedgehog unearthed in Canada



An artist's rendering shows *Silvacola acares*, an ancient relative of modern tapirs known as *Heptodon* which resembles a small rhino with no horn and a short trunk, in this image released by the Canadian Museum of Nature on 8 July, 2014.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 9 July — You've heard of Sonic the Hedgehog, the video game character. But how about the half-pint hedgehog, the tiniest one that ever lived?

Scientists on Tuesday described fossils from Canada of a hedgehog the size of a shrew about 2 inches (5 cm) long - that lived 52 million years ago in a rainforest in northern British Columbia during an especially warm time on Earth.

The creature, *Silvacola acares*, lived roughly 13 million years after an asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs and left the mammals as

the dominant land animals. About the length of a person's thumb, it ate insects, plants and maybe seeds, the researchers said.

"We were surprised by its tiny size, and frankly it threw me for a while and made it difficult to identify," said University of Colorado paleontologist Jaelyn Eberle, one of the researchers in the study published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Its scientific name means "tiny forest dweller." "Today's hedgehogs, and especially the ones that are kept as pets, are consid-

erably larger. The smallest living hedgehogs are about 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) long, not including the tail, Eberle said, "but the moonrats (close cousins) can actually be upwards of 18 inches long (46 cm) and weigh a few pounds."

Hedgehogs are known for the quills they use to protect themselves. The fossils were not complete enough to show whether or not *Silvacola* possessed quills. Eberle said primitive hedgehogs that lived in Europe around the same time had bristly hair, so *Silvacola* may have had it as well.

Today's hedgehogs also can curl up into a ball for protection.

Instead of being removed from the surrounding rock, the delicate upper jaw was examined with a high-resolution CT scanner at Penn State University to avoid damaging the tiny cheek teeth.

The earliest known member of the family that includes hedgehogs and moonrats lived about 58 million years ago. Today's hedgehogs and their relatives live in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The researchers described another interesting mammal called *Heptodon* found at the same site, Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park. It was a tapir-like creature about as big as a medium-sized dog. It was a herbivore about half the size of today's tapirs but lacking the short trunk usually seen in these mammals. The half-pint hedgehog and trunk-less tapir lived in a rainforest along the edges of a lake, but it was not tropical, the researchers said. Rather it was a cooler, upland rainforest, more akin to today's climate in Portland, Oregon in the US Pacific Northwest, about 700 miles (1,100 km) south of this location.

Reuters

Apple loses China patent case, separate suit against Apple continues

BEIJING, 9 July — A Beijing court has ruled against Apple Inc (AAPL.O) by upholding the validity of a patent held by a Chinese company, clearing the way for the Chinese company to continue its own case against Apple for infringing intellectual property rights.

Apple had taken Shanghai-based Zhizhen Internet Technology and China's State Intellectual Property Office to court to seek a ruling that Zhizhen's patent rights to a speech recognition technology were invalid.

But the Beijing First Intermediate Court on Tuesday decided in

Zhizhen's favor, the *People's Daily* state newspaper reported on Wednesday.

After the verdict, Apple said it intended to take the case to the Beijing Higher People's Court, according to the *People's Daily*. "Unfortunately, we were not aware of Zhizhen's patent before we introduced Siri (speech recognition technology) and we do not believe we are using this patent," said a Beijing-based Apple spokeswoman in an emailed statement to *Reuters*. "While a separate court considers this question, we remain open to reasonable discussions with Zhizhen," the spokeswoman said. — *Reuters*.



A man walks past the logo at an Apple store in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, neighbouring Hong Kong on 9 Sept, 2013. — REUTERS

Car service Uber, New York AG reach deal on emergency pricing



An Uber app is seen on an iPhone in Beverly Hills, California, on 9 Dec 19, 2013. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 9 July — Uber Technologies Inc, a car service that allows users to summon a ride on their smartphone, has agreed to cap prices during emergencies and natural disasters in New York state to prevent price gouging, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced on Tuesday.

The company also agreed to announce a national policy to limit pricing in emergencies, Schneiderman said in a news

release.

The three-year agreement calls on Uber to limit pricing during "abnormal disruptions of the market," to abide by a New York price-gouging law passed in the late 1970s amid escalating heating oil prices, according to the news release. The agreement takes effect immediately.

Uber, whose rates rise and fall with demand, will cap prices during such disruptions to the normal range of prices charged in the preceding 60 days, Schneiderman's office said.

Schneiderman said Uber might have "run afoul" the state's price-gouging laws in an April Op-Ed in *The New York Times* in which he called on the company to address the problem.

Reuters

Amazon rainforest grew after climate change 2,000 years ago



An aerial view shows a tract of Amazon rainforest which has been cleared by loggers and farmers for agriculture near the city of Santarem, Para State, on 20 April, 2013. — REUTERS

OSLO, 9 July — Swathes of the Amazon may have been grassland until a natural shift to a wetter climate about 2,000 years ago let the rainforests form, according to a study that challenges common belief that the world's biggest tropical forest is far older.

The arrival of European diseases after Columbus crossed the Atlantic in 1492 may also have hastened the growth of forests by killing indigenous people farming the region, the scientists wrote in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*.

"The dominant ecosystem was more like a savannah than the rainforest we see today," John Carson, lead author at the University of Reading in England, said of the findings about the southern Amazon.

The scientists said that a shift toward wetter conditions, perhaps caused by natural shifts in the Earth's orbit around the sun, led to growth of more trees starting about 2,000 years ago.

The scientists studied man-made earthworks, uncovered by recent logging in Bolivia, that included ditches up to about a kilometre (1,100 yards) long and up to 3 meters deep and 4 metres wide.

They found large amounts of grass pollen in ancient sediments of nearby lakes, suggesting the region had been covered by savannah. They also found evidence of plantings of maize, pointing to farming.

The Amazon has traditionally been seen as a pristine, dense rainforest, populated by hunter-gatherers. In recent years, however, archaeologists have found hints that indigenous peoples lived in the thick forest, but managed to clear tracts of land for farming.

The *PNAS* study suggests a new idea — that the forest simply did not exist in some regions. The "findings suggest that rather than being rainforest hunter-gatherers, or large-scale forest clearers, the people of the Amazon from 2,500 to 500 years ago were farmers," the University of Reading said in a statement.

Reuters

Australian PM says he won't bow to 'moral blackmail' over asylum seekers

SYDNEY, 9 July — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Wednesday vowed not to bow to “moral blackmail” following reports of suicide bids by female asylum seekers at a detention centre on Christmas Island.

Opposition Greens lawmaker Sarah Hanson-Young, whose party is

one of the strongest critics of the government's “Operation Sovereign Borders” immigration policy, said she had spoken to people inside the center who reported that almost ten mothers were on suicide watch this week.

Fairfax media reported the women had tried to kill themselves after deciding their children would have a

better chance of making it to Australia without them.

Abbott said he had not seen the reports but called them “harrowing”, and added that the government would not back down from its tough asylum policy.

“I don't believe any thinking Australian would want us to capitulate to moral blackmail,” Abbott told the Channel 9 television network.

“This is not going to be a government which has our policy driven by people who are attempting to hold us over a moral barrel — we won't be driven by that.”

Government minister Eric Abetz later told parliament there had been a small number of “minor self-harm incidents” at the facility on Australia's Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island but declined to provide

any further detail, citing the detainees' rights to privacy.

“Those involved are receiving proper and appropriate medical and other support,” Abetz said. “Women and children in immigration detention are provided professional healthcare in line with Australian community standards.”

Australia's asylum seeker policies face growing international scrutiny.

A group of 103 Sri Lankan asylum seekers remain stranded in legal limbo on the high seas as Australia's High Court considers the legality of the interception of their boat.

Another 41 asylum seekers picked up from a separate boat were handed over by Australia to Sri Lanka in a secret operation over the weekend.

Reuters

Japan may buy additional F-35 fighters if prices fall

FORT WORTH, 9 July — Japan may purchase additional F-35 joint strike fighters if their procurement costs fall, Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Tuesday after visiting a Lockheed Martin Corp. fighter jet production plant in Fort Worth, Texas.

“If the unit price falls, it may be important to reconsider the number of fighters (Japan will buy),” Onodera told reporters. He held talks with senior officials from Lockheed Martin at the factory.

As the successor to the aging F-4 Phantom combat fighter of Japan's Air Self-Defence Force, the F-35 has advanced stealth capabilities and can escape radar detec-

tion. Currently, the ASDF plans to introduce a total of 42 F-35s.

The Defence Ministry and the ASDF also need to replace about half of some 200 F-15 fighter jets due to aging, and Onodera's remarks suggest that the F-35 could be the alternative. Japan's five-year defense programme through fiscal 2018 says that it will “consider replacing its F-15s that are not subject to remodeling with more advanced fighters.”

Last Thursday, the US Department of Defence said it will ground the entire fleet of F-35 fighter jets until engine inspections are complete after a runway fire incident in Florida in late June.

Kyodo News



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott speaks in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on 12 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Syrian opposition coalition elects new president

BEIRUT, 9 July — Syria's Western-backed opposition National Coalition elected Hadi al-Bahra, chief negotiator at the Geneva peace talks, as its new president following a three-day meeting in Istanbul, the coalition said on Wednesday.

Bahra, a US-trained industrial engineer, will replace Ahmad Jarba, who has served the maximum two six-month terms. Like Jarba, Bahra has close ties to Saudi Arabia and has lived there.

“Hadi al-Bahra wins coalition presidency by 62 votes,” a post on the Coalition's Facebook page said on Wednesday.

While designated as the main body represent-

ing the opposition by the United States and other key powers, the National Coalition has little power inside Syria where disparate militant groups outside its control hold ground.

Infighting within the opposition coalition has also undermined rebel efforts to take on forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, playing into the hands of rival, more hard-line Islamist outfits that include foreign militants.

US- and Russian-sponsored talks to end the three-year-old civil war stalled after two rounds in January and February, when the coalition and Assad's representatives failed to make substantive progress.

Reuters



Chief Syrian Opposition Coalition negotiator Hadi al-Bahra (L) awaits his turn to address dozens of protestors gathered to mark the third anniversary of the Syrian revolution in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, in Washington, on 15 March, 2014. REUTERS

Somali presidential compound attacked, president safe

MOGADISHU, 9 July — Islamist militants attacked Somalia's presidential compound on Tuesday with a car bomb and gunmen broke through a perimeter wall but were repulsed by security forces, and the president was not there at the time, the interior ministry said.

Up to five members of the al Shabaab Islamist group, which claimed responsibility, were killed, Interior Minister Abdullahi Godah Barre told Reuters. Three militants were confirmed dead, and one or two more were believed to have

died in the car blast.

The assault was the most dramatic in a string of attacks in the capital Mogadishu by al Shabaab since it launched a campaign during the current Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

But President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was not there at the time as he was at another location attending an iftar, the meal to break the Ramadan fast after sunset.

“I can assure you the president is not hurt and as a matter of fact he was not in the palace,” the minister said, adding the gunmen

were repulsed in the car park near the prime minister's offices and had not made it to the presidential quarters.

It was the second time since February that al Shabaab had attacked the sprawling compound, which includes the presidential buildings and other government offices. Officials said security had been tightened since then, including adding stronger gates.

Officials said the attackers were quickly defeated by Somali security forces and members of the African Union peacekeeping force,

which remains the backbone for Somali state security.

However, al Shabaab said fighting still raged after officials said it was finished. “Let them enter the palace and meet us if the fighting is over,” Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, spokesman for al Shabaab's military operations, told Reuters.

He said their fighters had killed 14 soldiers in the raid, while the minister said there had been no such casualties. The minister also said details of the attack were still not clear and greater clarity would come

in the morning.

Police said earlier there was also fighting near a cell holding al Shabaab militants.

“I understand there is fighting going on around the underground cell where militants are jailed — just outside the palace,” Colonel Abdullahi Aden, a senior police officer, told Reuters.

Residents said they could still hear sporadic gunfire into the night.

African Union forces along with the Somali army launched a new offensive this year against al Shabaab, which is fighting to impose

its strict interpretation of Islam on Somalia.

Several towns have been wrested back from the group but officials say the Islamists still control tracts of countryside and some settlements, from where they have been able to continue their guerrilla-style campaign.

The militants, who seek to impose their own harsh version of Islamic law, have also staged attacks outside the Horn of Africa state, including a raid on a Kenyan shopping mall in September that killed at least 67 people.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Invitation to Tender
Thanlyin Refinery Joint Venture Project (TRJVP)
Tender No. (1-TRJVP/2014-2015)

The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), a State-owned Enterprise of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, operating under the Ministry of Energy, announces an Invitation to Tender for the Thanlyin Refinery Joint Venture Project (TRJVP). The purpose of the TRJVP, which will be licensed under the Foreign Investment law, is to operate and carry out the rehabilitation of No. 1 Refinery (Thanlyin) to improve its production capacity. In addition, the TRJVP will undertake the importation, distribution and storage of a wide range of petroleum products.

All interested eligible parties are cordially invited to lodge a submission in accordance with the tender documents.

1. The documentation related to the TRJVP ("the Tender Documents" as further detailed below) can be purchased by any interested parties starting 14th July 2014 upon submission of evidence of payment of a non-refundable fee of 3,000,000 Kyats (Three Millions Kyats) to MPE. The detailed payment information is available in the Ministry of Energy's website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>).

Any question in relation to the payment of the non-refundable fee can be sent to email address below.

2. The Tender Documents comprise the following:

- a) General Rules and Requirements
- b) Invitation to Tender
- c) Proposed Joint Venture Agreement
- d) Proposed Land Lease Agreement
- e) Information Memorandum including selected detailed financial/operating/importing information with respect to No. 1 Refinery (Thanlyin)

3. Eligibility information is also available on the website of the Ministry of Energy.

4. Eligible applicants shall submit the proposal in response to the tender and in accordance with the specifications set forth in the tender documents to the following address no later than **13th October 2014 at 12:00 noon;**

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise,
 Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

5. There will be opportunity for applicants to perform due diligence and seek written clarification in relation to the TRJVP from 14th July until 12th September 2014.

6. For more information, please contact the following address;

Managing Director
 Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
 Ministry of Energy
 Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
 TRJV.Project@gmail.com
 Fax: +95 67 411124, +95 67 411126

7. Late inquiries or inquiries via telephone will not be answered.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(15/2014)

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

<u>Sr.No</u>	<u>Tender No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remark</u>
(1)	IFB -067(14-15)	Portable Welding Machine with Complete Accessories (300 AMP, Diesel Engine Driven (4) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB -068(14-15)	Data Processing Center and Interpretation Work Station (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB -069(14-15)	High Pressure Rubber Hoses for ZJ 70L Drilling Rig (2) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -070(14-15)	Spares for HDD Rigs (12) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -071(14-15)	Spares for CAT G 398 Gas Engine and Worthington 5 SU 3 Compressor (46) Items	US\$
(6)	DMP/L -012(14-15)	Spares for Komatsu Dozers (23) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L -013(14-15)	Fuel Bowser (3200 Gal Capacity) (2) Units (13) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-8-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 8th July, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
 Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
 Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Tender Invitation

1. The Management of Prime Hill Business Square (PHBS) invites all interested applicants to submit tender for a Coffee Shop and a Convenience Store in PHBS.
2. Tender applicant shall submit the close tender from 9th July, 2014 to 25th July, 2014 and submission time is between 8:30 and 16:00 at the following address by hand.
3. Tender applicant shall pay refundable tender deposit Kyats 100,000 together with tender documents when the applicant submits the tender.
4. Tender instruction and application shall be requested by e-mail to phyowaimin@cpw.com.mm
Chiyoda & Public Works Co.Ltd
Prime Hill Business Square, Room 201~206
No. 60, Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon
Phone: 01 382710)

New Zealand

**navy seeking new
 tanker to support
 Pacific defence
 operations**

WELLINGTON, 9 July —

The New Zealand navy is to buy a new tanker vessel that will enable the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to expand the scope of its operations in the South Pacific, Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said on Wednesday.

The new vessel would replace the navy's current tanker, HMNZS Endeavour, which would reach the end of its service life in 2018 and would fail to comply with new international maritime regulations, Coleman said in a statement. "To operate effectively the NZDF needs to provide fuel and logistical support to its deployed ships, helicopters and vehicles," said Coleman.

"This capability is crucial given New Zealand's vast maritime area, and our security and disaster relief responsibilities in the South Pacific. Without it NZDF operations would be limited in duration or dependent on our partners," he said.

"The new tanker will be a significant enhancement in capability. It will increase the NZDF's ability to support and sustain navy, army and air force operations at home and further afield." The tanker would be able to store a large amount of fuel, including aviation fuel, supplies and ammunition, and accommodate an NH90 or Seasprite helicopter.

The capability was needed as the NZDF had more ships that could embark new helicopters, and it was crucial that the tanker could support the NZDF's Joint Task Force.—Xinhua

Weakened typhoon leaves two dead, heads north from Okinawa to main Japan islands

TOKYO, 9 July — Torrential rains battered Japan's Okinawa islands on Wednesday as a weakened but still dangerous typhoon, leaving two dead and threatening widespread flooding as it headed for the nation's main islands.

Typhoon Neoguri, a super typhoon as it bore down on Okinawa this week, had winds gusting up to 162 kph (100 mph) on Wednesday, but weather forecasters said the major concern now was rain, especially as parts of the westernmost main island of Kyushu have already been hit by heavy rain over the last week.

Authorities warned of



Waves crash as Typhoon Neoguri approaches the village in Seogwipo on Jeju Island on 9 July, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

record rainfall in Okinawa as rivers in some areas overflowed. More than 200,000 residents were told to leave their homes, down from over 500,000 on Tuesday.

"Given the situation, there is still potential for some serious damage," an official from the Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) told a news conference.

Some 30 people were injured, mainly from falls, but none of the injuries was life-threatening. Television footage showed a collapsed building and flooded streets in Okinawa.

Neoguri was moving north across the East China Sea at 20 kph as of 9 am (0100 BST), with sustained winds of 126 kph. It was expected to draw near Kyushu on Thursday morning before moving east along the main island of Honshu.

"This typhoon has very active rain clouds and this will continue as it moves east over areas that have already been hit by downpours as part of the rainy season," said a JMA

official.

"Given how soaked the ground is in some parts of Kyushu already, there is a high danger of landslides and floods, even though the typhoon's strength is diminishing."

There are two nuclear plants on Kyushu and another on nearby Shikoku island.

All of Japan's 48 nuclear reactors are shut down three years after the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, which was wrecked by an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The stricken plant is on the other side of the country.

Reuters

Mel Gibson has put his scandalous past behind



UN Women names actress Emma Watson goodwill ambassador

UNITED NATIONS, 9 July — The United Nations' gender equality body UN Women on Tuesday appointed British actress Emma Watson, best known for her role as Hermione in the "Harry Potter" film series, as a goodwill ambassador to advocate for the empowerment of young women.

"Being asked to serve as UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador is truly humbling," Watson, 24, said in a statement.

"Women's rights are something so inextricably linked with who I am, so deeply personal and rooted in my life, that I can't imagine an opportunity more exciting," she said.

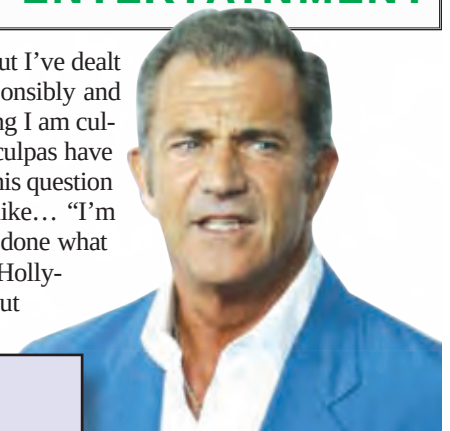
Watson's films have grossed more than \$5.4 billion (3.15 billion pounds) worldwide over the past decade, according to the Internet Movie Database. She graduated from Brown University in May with a bachelor's degree in English literature.

Other UN Women goodwill ambassadors include Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman and Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol.—Reuters

LOS ANGELES, 9 July — Actor-director Mel Gibson does not want to talk about his past troubles as he feels he has come a long way since then. The actor, who hit the headlines for his anti-Semitic rants during his drunk driving arrest in 2006, says the incident is behind him. The actor was in news again after Gary Oldman defended him in a controversial interview, only to apologise later.

"It's behind me; it's an 8-year-old story.

It keeps coming up like a rerun, but I've dealt with it and I've dealt with it responsibly and I've worked on myself for anything I am culpable for. All the necessary mea culpas have been made copious times, so for this question to keep coming up, it's kind of like... "I'm sorry they feel that way, but I've done what I need to do," Gibson told The Hollywood Reporter when asked about Oldman.—PTI



Mel Gibson will next be seen in 'Expendables 3'.

Lana Del Rey finds confidence in happiness

LONDON, 9 July — Singer Lana Del Rey feels more positive about her abilities when she is happy. The 28-year-old singer says she feels confident when things go on in her busy life smoothly, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"I think for me, what makes me confident changes every day ... But generally I would say confidence for me just

comes from being really happy. "And that could be anything down to my environment or being lucky enough to have my muse with me or (hearing) an amazing melody for the first time," she said. Meanwhile, the 'Summertime Sadness' star, whose real name is Elizabeth Woolridge Grant, believes people should grab every opportunity they can and find the strength within to explore different paths in life. "I would feel at any point in my life that it was never too late to just sort of switch into any different lane or any different vein, you know, just to kind of be free enough to sort of explore things.—PTI

Taylor Swift wants to have a love affair with fans

LOS ANGELES, 9 July — Taylor Swift feels an artist should have a romantic relationship with his or her fans.

The 24-year-old star said couples can stay in love forever if they just continue to surprise each other and a similar bond can be formed between fans and artistes, reported *Us* magazine.

"I think forming a bond with fans in the future will come in the form of constantly providing them with the element of surprise. I believe couples can stay in love for decades if they just continue to surprise each other, so why can't this love affair exist between an artist and their fans?" she said.—PTI



Lloyd Webber to revive 'Cats' in London, hints at movie



LONDON, 9 July — Andrew Lloyd Webber is about to find out if felines have more than one life — and possibly a cinematic one as well — as he prepares to bring his 1980s hit musical "Cats" back to London's West End for a limited

run. The creator of hit musicals including "Evita" and "Jesus Christ Superstar", announced plans this week to revive "Cats", his 1981 show based on poet TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats", for a 12-week run begin-

ning on 6 December. "I think it's just a great opportunity for us to get a second edition ... with this show I think it would be great just to have a go at it again and give it a bit of a rethink," he said at a launch event held in a London the-

atre on Monday.

Lloyd Webber said he would also consider bringing back some of his other hits, such as "Phantom of the Opera" and "Starlight Express", and that movie versions were a possibility.

Singers and dancers perform in 'Cats' during a photo opportunity in Vienna, on 2 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

"Yes I think it's very possible that I might have a look at one or two of my shows," Lloyd Webber said.—Reuters

GENERAL

Forbidden City explores culture market success



The Palace Museum

BEIJING, 9 July — The curator of Beijing's Palace Museum said at a forum in Hubei Province that the landmark palace grosses 160 million yuan (US\$25.61 million) a year.

Shan Jixiang, curator of the Palace Museum, known to most as the Forbidden City, said there are 1,807,558 cultural relics in the museum. About 93 percent of these are considered "precious" cultural relics. Shan said it will take 100 years to display all of these items based on the current areas available for exhibition in the palace

buildings.

He also said compared with other famous foreign museums, China's tourism merchandise lacks good development. He said in recent years, the Palace Museum has been trying to help visitors "bring Palace Museum culture home," by producing more than 6,000 souvenirs representative of the Forbidden City.

"People love them," he said. "We made 160 million yuan income from them." In 2020, the Forbidden City will celebrate its 600th birthday.

Shan said he hopes the

palace will be around for the next 600 years.

The Forbidden City was the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming Dynasty to the end of the Qing Dynasty. It is located in the center of Beijing. According to latest updates from a Monday press conference, the Forbidden City will test a new policy from 12 - 14 September.

Visitors can enjoy half price tickets after 2 pm. if they buy the tickets online. This policy is meant to alleviate huge crowds. Peak hours are usually 10 am - 13 pm. The Forbid-

den City faces problems in peak season and in the off-season.

In summer, more than 70,000 people enter the palace. This number once reached 182,000. However, in the off-season, there are only 20,000 visitors each day.

In order to balance these numbers, Shan said they will allow specific groups like teachers, medical workers, police officers and students enter the palace for free the first Wednesday of each month from November to April.

Xinhua

For Brazilian fans, a debacle even worse than in 1950

SAO PAULO, 9 July — For many Brazilians, Tuesday's humiliating 7-1 loss to Germany accomplished the unthinkable — a disaster even worse than the last time the country hosted the World Cup, in 1950.

Back then, it was a 2-1 loss to tiny Uruguay in the final, a massive upset that still brings tears to the eyes of older Brazilians.

This defeat may have been even more scarring, some fans said, because the final result was not even close. Brazil's team was torn to shreds.

Anger and disappointment was so intense that it threatened to darken the national mood for some time to come, with possible consequences for President Dilma Rousseff as she seeks a

second term in October.

"This is worse than 1950. It's one thing to lose a game where you suffered and fought hard, and it's another to be completely humiliated," said Fernando Hazzan, 28, in Sao Paulo. "This game is going down in history, too," he said.

Many Brazilians at the stadium in Belo Horizonte sobbed, while others began streaming out before the first half was over. Those at bars and restaurants around the country cried or screamed at the television, or drowned their sorrows in beer.

The inability to win a championship on home turf will remain a black spot for a country that has one of soccer's proudest traditions - with five World Cup

championships, more than any other team. The losing Brazilian team from 1950 suffered fallout for years, even decades.

Zizinho, a midfielder, took the phone off the hook every year on the anniversary of the game because people would call asking why the team lost. Barbosa, the goalkeeper, famously complained that he suffered for more than 30 years, equal to the maximum criminal sentence in Brazil.

The psychological pressure of trying to reverse that curse took its toll on the 2014 team, and may have explained the defensive breakdowns that led to Germany scoring five goals within the first 30 minutes of the match on Tuesday.

Reuters



A Brazil fan (C) clutches a replica of the World Cup trophy as a Germany fan (R) celebrates after their 2014 World Cup semi-finals at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte on 8 July, 2014.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(10-7-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am

* People Talks

8:00 am

* News/ International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:30 am

* Shwe Yin Khone Than

10:00 am

* News

11:10 am

* Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Mahar Wontha Myat Buddah

1:30 pm

* Teleplay (Traffic)

2:05 pm

* Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

3:00 pm

* News

4:40 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Years (Myanmar)

6:25 pm

* Apporching Sience Discovery World

7:00 pm

* News

8:45 pm

* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

* News
* Documentary
* Clever
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-7-14 07:00 am~ 11-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Performance Art
- * World News
- * Orphanage
- * Local News
- * Adventure Abroad... Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations-Gem Stone Painting
- * World News
- * In The Studio: L Co
- * Local News
- * Instruments..Oboist and His Life
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Charity in Myanmar: School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * Adventure Abroad.. Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Waso or the Buddhist Lent
- * Local News
- * Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
- * World News
- * Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
- * Local News
- * Traditional Instruments....Sagaing: Guitars
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds



Germany's Thomas Müller (2nd R) shoots the ball during a semifinal match between Brazil and Germany of 2014 FIFA World Cup at the Estadio Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on 8 July, 2014. Germany won 7-1 over Brazil and qualified for the final on Tuesday. —XINHUA

Ruthless Germany leaves Brazil heart-broken

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 July — The nation whose attacking soccer has thrilled the world for generations was left heart-broken on Tuesday after Brazil's humiliating 7-1 loss to Germany in the World Cup semi-finals.

Brazil has hosted one of the most memorable World Cups ever but the country's dream of winning on home soil was not the only thing shattered by a ruthless Germany in an extraordinary match in Belo Horizonte.

The South American country's pride took a battering as the carnival atmosphere that had swept over the samba nation gave way to a state of shock and disbelief following Brazil's heaviest ever international defeat.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari issued a heart-felt apology to a country that had spent more than \$11 billion to host the World Cup and invested its heart and soul in making the tournament a success.

"My message for the Brazilian people is this. Please excuse us for this performance," he said.

"I'm sorry that we weren't able to get to the final and we're going to try to win the third place match. We still have something to play for."

Germany played superbly but were aided by a woeful Brazilian defense, which conceded five goals in a devastating 18-minute burst in the first half.

An unmarked Thomas Mueller got the first from a corner after 11 minutes before Miroslav Klose struck to become the World Cup's all-time leading scorer with 16 goals.

Toni Kroos grabbed two in three minutes before Sami Khedira added a fifth in the 29th minute as boos rang out around the Mineirao stadium and young children in the crowd started to cry.

German substitute Andre Schuerle struck twice more late in the second half before Oscar scored a last-minute goal that was of little consolation to the five-times world champions, who had waited 64 years to try to bury the ghost of their 1950 final home defeat by Uruguay.

"I just wanted to make my people happy," said a sobbing Brazil defender David Luiz.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't. I'm sorry, I'm sorry to all Brazilians, I just wanted to see them smile, everyone knows how important it was."

FANS TRAUMATISED

Germany have the chance to win the World Cup for

the fourth time when they play the winners of Wednesday's semi-final between Argentina and the Netherlands in Sunday's final in Rio de Janeiro.

Many fans at Copacabana Beach, who had been happily singing and dancing with excitement before the game, left the planned party before halftime.

In Germany, the celebrations were in full swing, with hundreds of thousands of people flocking to the avenue stretching from the Brandenburg Gate to the golden statue-topped Victory Column in Berlin.

Organizers extended the fan zone to 1.3 kilometres in anticipation of the massive crowd who roared with excitement as each goal was banged into the Brazilian net.

"Five goals in 18 minutes. It's clear that they were shocked and didn't know what to do," Germany coach Joachim Loew said.

"We played well in the first half obviously. But it continues. We need to be humble. We don't want to over-value this."

Germany's win came exactly 24 years to the day since their last World Cup triumph in 1990, when they beat Argentina in the final.

They lost to Brazil in the 2002 final and were knocked out in the semi-finals when they hosted the tournament in 2006.

"We had great hopes in 2006 too and you can feel the pressure that the hosts have in a match like this," Loew said.

"All 200 million people here want you to get to the final. That can cause your players to tighten up. I feel sorry for him (Scolari). I think I know how he feels." —Reuters



Jarrod Lyle of Australia tees off on the second hole during the final round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, on 19 Feb, 2012. —REUTERS

Two times cancer survivor Lyle ready for PGA Tour bid

MELBOURNE, 9 July — Golf, as Mark Twain quipped, may spoil a good walk, but Australian Jarrod Lyle thinks a tough round beats chemotherapy any day of the week.

The affable 32-year-old was diagnosed in March 2012 with a recurrence of leukemia he first developed at the age of 17 and was forced to seek treatment before he returned to the course late last year in Australia.

"There's plenty of worse things that can hap-

pen than shooting 80 at a golf tournament or shooting 79 or missing a cut," Lyle told reporters on a conference call from Florida.

"There was times where I thought I was dead and thought I'd never get back out on the golf course, and there was times where I thought I don't want to play golf anymore.

"(So) if I make a triple bogey on a par four or whatever ... it's better than having a day's worth of chemo."

Lyle will begin his push for a return to the PGA Tour on the secondary Web.com Tour in Kansas City in two weeks time.

Having spent about a year recovering from the disease as a 17-year-old, Lyle was told the leukemia had returned shortly before the birth of his first child, a daughter named Lusi.

The diagnosis came when he was playing at his most consistent on the lucrative PGA Tour.

Reuters

			
World Cup 2014 Brazil			
Semi-final Result			
Match-61	Brazil	1-7	Germany