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Myanmar eyes development of dry ports, containerization for free flow of goods

The importance of dry ports as a means of integrating regional transport networks has long been recognized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) member countries.—Credit to Railway PRO

By *Ye Myint*

Yangon, 10 July— Myanmar has been considering developing dry ports and containerization for ensuring the free flow of goods in the country and providing new opportunities for international trade before implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation held a consultation meeting with departments concerned, experts and businesspeople at Yangon Railway Station on Thursday, with a presentation of its first draft action plan for the development of dry ports and containerized rail transportation, which is set to be implemented in this fiscal year 2014-2015.

According to the presentation of Thura U Aung Myo Myint, MR's deputy general manager, Myanma Railways plans to build dry ports in Yangon and Mandalay, the upper and lower commercial hubs in Myanmar. In Yangon, three sites—Kwayt Ma, Ywathagyi and Danyingone stations— are targeted while making three others—Myoth Haung, Myitnge and Paleik stations— in Mandalay as top priorities, the deputy general manager said, citing land large enough to hold containers and road and rail networks facilitating access to industrials zones, including Thilawa Special Economic Zone as reasons for choosing the particular sites.

Regarding containerization, he elaborated on requirements to be fulfilled for running container trains from inland container depots to sea ports directly and the repair of 13 bridges on the Yangon-Mandalay railroad.

Open tenders to develop dry ports will be invited soon to start construction work within four months, he added.

In his concluding remarks at the meeting, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein called for a clear policy in implementing the project though short-, medium- and long-term planning , stressing the need to strengthen the vision of making Myanmar a major logistic hub to take advantage of being a latecomer in the region.

Development of dry ports, important nodes in the logistic chain and containerization in Myanmar will greatly help streamline the transport process, facilitate international trade and enable local businesses to have access to international market.—*NLM*

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Points of view on new policy on overage car replacement

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

Yangon, 10 July—Policymakers should make firm policy for automobile market and also invite the automobile dealers associations and organizations before adopting the policy, according to Dr Soe Tun, former executive member of Myanmar Automobile Association (Temporary), on Thursday at the first election of the association in Yangon.

He also urged the policymakers to give a transition period long enough for dealers of the automobile industry to make necessary preparations. In his point of view, U Aung Zaw Oo,

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Policy should be firmly adopted for easing import of automobiles.
Photo: Khaing Thanda Lwin

Emergency monitoring center opens in Mandalay

Mandalay, 10 July — At the wake of riots that started on 1 July, an emergency monitoring center was established in Mandalay on 10 July, according to Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department. The emergency center will coordinate with authorities concerned and carry out emergency tasks as soon as incidents take place.

"The aim is to enable the public to report incidents but public is required to provide name, address, and national registration card number. Three shifts will be assigned duty for 24 hours round. The centre is likely to be effective during the curfew, but it is impossible to say exactly when the centre expires." said an IPRD official.

The emergency centre is composed of the teams and team-1 is made up of officials information department, district general administration department and religious affairs department while team-2 is formed with the criminal investigation department, district police force and social welfare, relief and resettlement department. Team-3 consists of the bureau of special investigation, region development committee and region information, public relations department and reserved police force. Team-1 is assigned duty to Chanayethazan, Aungmyaythazan and Mahaaungmye townships while team-2 is to Chanmyathazi and Pyigyidagun townships. Team-3 carries out duty in Amarapura and Patheingyi townships. Twenty-four hours hotlines to contact the centre are 02-67162 for team-1, 02-67163 for team-2 and 02-67164 for team 3.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Letpadaungtaung project to be implemented in interests of State and people

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—Development of project region and enhancement of living standard of local people are being undertaken not only for Letpadaungtaung project area but for Sabei and Kyaysin hill regions, said Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun at the meeting of the investigation commission for implementation of the report of Letpadauntaung copper mining project at the President Office Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

He stressed the need to disseminate the information on creation of job opportunities for the local people in transparency. CSD representatives and local authorities are to solve the difficulties of the region and take action against the crime brokers under the law. The project is to be implemented in the interests of the State and the people, he added.

Union Minister U Hla Tun addresses the meeting of the investigation commission for the Letpadaungtaung Report on the implementation of the copper mining project.—MNA

Union Minister U Soe Win and Managing Director Maj-Gen Zarni Win of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd reported on progress of the copper mining project.

Deputy Ministers U Myo Aung and U Than Tun Aung and officials participated in the discussions.—*MNA*

Japanese MP's visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — A Japanese delegation headed by Mr Ichiro Aisawa, member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Chairman of the Parliamentary League for Friendship between Japan and Myanmar, paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar for two days from 9 to 10 July, sources said.

On 9 July, Dr Khin Shwe, Chairman of the Upper House League for Friendship between Myanmar-Japan, hosted a dinner to Mr Ichiro Aisawa and his delegation at Royal ACE Hotel. At the dinner, they enjoyed varieties of cultural dances.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received a call by the Japanese delegation at his office in the capital city on Thursday afternoon. At the call, they exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Mr Ichiro Aisawa meet to exchange views on bilateral relations and mutual cooperation.
MNA

Information Ministry honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — A ceremony to grant stipends to offspring of staff under the Ministry of Information was held in conjunction with the ceremony to honour outstanding students in 2013-14 matriculation examination at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi presented prizes to six distinction winner Ma Lamin May Thaw of Pakokku Basic Education High School No 1, Ma Kyi Zin Thant of Thuwunna BEHS and Ma Aye Thiri of North Okkalapa BEHS No 1.

Deputy Minister U Pike Htway and departmental heads also awarded prizes to other distinction winners.

The deputy minister presented over K17.9 million as cash assistance and over 5,160 dozens of copy books for 3,013 offspring of staff from departments and enterprises.—*MNA*

Union Minister U Aung Kyi delivers a speech at a ceremony to honour outstanding students.—MNA

Two Myanmars murdered in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — One Myanmar citizen, U Aung Khin @ Tony, aged 40, who lived in Kuala Lumpur, was murdered in Penang State, Butterworth town, Kuala Lumpur, on 7 July 2014. U Myo Paing, aged 50, who is the chairman of Free Funeral Service Society in Puchong town, Kuala Lumpur, was also murdered on 9 July 2014.

On 10 July 2014, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia called on the authorities concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia to urgently investigate the murder cases and to take legal action against the offenders.

Moreover, the Ambassador also urged the authority concerned of Malaysia to do everything possible to enhance the security of Myanmar nationals in Malaysia and to prevent the recurrence of such cases.—*MNA*

Myanmar's involvement in UN human rights treaties discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — The Regional Office for Southeast Asia under the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) helps Myanmar to exert more efforts on the protection and promotion of human rights, sources said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined OHCHR in organizing a two-day workshop in the capital city on Wednesday, aiming at Myanmar's involvement in the ratification of international human rights treaties, officials said.

According to participants, the workshop focused on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment, and the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts.

Analysts commented that the workshop will familiarize stakeholders with necessary steps and procedures to be followed in preparation for ratifications.

MNA

Points of view on new policy on ....

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central executive committee member of the association, noted the latest policy can create a better market for automobile users.

Under the new policy, the vehicles that were manufactured by the industrial zones will be replaced with new ones starting 14 July. The vehicle owners may import under USD15,000 worth vehicles, getting 20 per cent discounts of registration fees.

He added the country's automobile market sees the decrease of price as the policy changes but the market may not face serious difficulties because of the new policy.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation announced the new policy on overage car replacement programme on Tuesday.

Japan brand Toyota is a popular brand in Myanmar and customers prefer them to the China brands like Cherry Wagon. The demand for Nissan, Suzuki and Honda has also increased gradually, U Aung Zaw Oo said.

He added the country needs more international-level service centers because there are only over 20 international-level service centers in Yangon.—*NLM*

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Mongolian President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia and His Excellency Mr. Norovyn Altankhuyag, Prime Minister of Mongolia on the occasion of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2014.—*MNA*

Challenges facing youth threatens future: vice president

***Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses ceremony to mark World Population Day.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Challenges facing youths who will create the future of a country are threatening the future of the country, said vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a ceremony to mark the World Population Day held at the Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

To help overcome the challenges, "Invest in young people" was chosen as this year's theme of the world population day, the vice president added.

In addition, the vice president pointed out that as almost 30 percent of the population of Myanmar is youths, helping overcome their challenges is a sound investment for the future.

Myanmar signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 and must invest in their right to live, to grow, to be protected and to participate in the society.

In conclusion, the vice president urged all to co-operate with the government for providing safe and secure lives, knowledge, skills and job opportunities for children.

The ceremony was attended by union ministers, union deputy ministers, representatives of UN agencies, departmental officials and officials from social organizations.

After the speech of the vice president, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund Ms. Janet Jackson explained the tasks of the funds.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends donation of glass cover for lower footprint of Mann Shwesettaw pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated a glass cover for the lower footprint of the Lord Buddha at Pada Pagoda of Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, the iron fencing and teak posts and all-round renovation was held at the footprint of the pagoda in Minbu (Sagu) Township of Magway Region on Thursday.

The congregation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offered gold foils at the lower footprint of the Lord Buddha at Pada Pagoda.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Htut supplicated on donation of the glass cover for the footprint.

The glass cover for the footprint was constructed on 17 June.

The Senior General and party paid homage to the upper footprint and donated gold foils.

Myawady

Workshop on Building Resilience and Adopting Against Climate Extremes and Disasters held

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—The Plan Myanmar organized workshop on Building Resilience and Adopting Against Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The project is aimed at raising awareness of negative effects of natural disasters and disaster risk reduction process, according to an official of the group.

The official said the BRACED project will directly benefit to five million people especially children and women living in developing countries.

It will also provide national level aids to those for disaster risk reducing measures and related measures for climate change.

MNA

Investigation commission to continue its tasks for interest of farmland losers

***Representatives join Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Thursday session.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — In the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Thursday session, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said that since 8 August 2012, the investigation commission has been conducting the investigation for sufferings of the people in land confiscations. Thus, the understanding could be built between the people and the government to some extent. He urged the commission to take its responsibility for the interest of the people not to suffer loss in confiscation of farmlands until the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw releases any order for the commission.

The investigation commission submitted its report that a plan is underway to coordinate presentation of compensation to 40 persons who submitted the related ownership documents for 409.54 acres of farmlands that were included in the Punhlaing Golf Course housing project in Hlinethaya Township. Likewise, farming rights certificates were issued to 71 farmers for 645.56 acres of farmlands that were included in the forest reserve area in Gwa Township of Rakhine State.

According to the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the decisions of the Hluttaw and reports of the commission will be sent to the Union government, departments and organizations concerned.

On Thursday's Lower House session, Deputy Minister at the President Office Ministry U Aung Thein said that K660 million fund was allotted to upgrading of 12 feet wide Haka-Thantlang-Sasichauk Road to the 24 feet wide one according to the decision of the Chin State road/bridge construction coordinating meeting on 22 May. The road plays a key role in border trade between Chin State and India and the artery for Thantlang and Haka of Chin State.

Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe said that the Department of Rural Development will recruit 3,202 staff in 2014-15 fiscal year for implementation of its tasks and the department is using 89 heavy machinery in its tasks. Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Department of Rural Development provided 37 heavy machinery for the dry region rural water supply five-year project (2012-2017).

The Lower House approved the second amendment of bill amending the Union judicial law and the bill amending the limitation act.

MNA

School buildings sprayed every Monday, Wednesday, Friday in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 10 July—Six tasks for carrying out sanitation tasks inside and outside the schools are being undertaken in the municipal area of Mandalay City Development Committee, according to the first special session 1/2014 of Mandalay Region Hluttaw.

The local authorities manage sanitation at schools and wards in the MCDC area. A project is being drawn for giving health educative talks and spraying the buildings and drains for prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever, malaria, elephantiasis diseases.

Moreover, the Wash tasks are being implemented at the latrines and toilets of the basic education schools in line with the instruction of UNICEF and WHO. The trash bins and tanks are kept for throwing of systematic garbage at the schools. Officials coordinated with members of School Boards of Trustees to dredge the drains around the schools with the use of an E35 backhoe.

Furthermore, workers of Sanitation Department and Health Department of MCDC perform spraying the school buildings every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Students peacefully pursue education at basic education schools in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 10 July—Peace and stability have been restored in Mandalay as of 6 July thanks to concerted efforts of security personnel who are still discharging security duties day and night for the people.

Students are learning education at the respective basic education schools peacefully.

Due to occurrence of riots in Mandalay on 1 July, the city was placed under curfew as of 3 July.

MNA

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Locals of Dagon East Township hope for increase of power supply

YANGON, 10 July—Local people from Wards 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 45 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township get only 180 volts every afternoon. As of 8 pm every day, they can enjoy 220 volts, said sources.

However, residents from Ward 9 of Dagon Myothit (East) Township can get 100 volts of electricity in the afternoon but 200 volts at 1 am.

Local people from Ward 9 of Dagon Myothit (East) Township wish to inform the departments concerned about the daily decline of electricity and they would like to enjoy electricity at full of capacity like those from Dagon North Township.—*Nay Win Tun*

Health care services given to locals in Gangaw Township

GANGAW, 10 July—Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Township Women's Affairs Organization and Township Health Department made field trips to villages of Gangaw Township in Magway Region.

A team comprising Chairman of Township MCWA Daw Moe Moe Hlaing, Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Myint Oo and officials of Gangaw Township People's Hospital on their trips to villages gave educative talks to local people in Saingdu Village, provided health care services to nine aged and performed medical checkup at local people. They also conducted the preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever and distributed pamphlets on health knowledge to the local people.

Gangaw District IPRD

Milk fed to students at Myinmu BEPS No 2

MYINMU, 10 July—Myinmu Township Management Committee and wellwishers jointly conducted the milk feeding ceremony at No 2 Basic Education Primary School in Myinmu of Sagaing Region on 8 July. Deputy Township Administrator U Tin Aung Win, wife Daw Nang Aye Aye Swe and family fed milk to 235 students of the school. It was the second time of its kind at the school. In 2014-15 academic year, the Township Management Committee will organize the wellwishers to serve the children with milk at all basic education schools.

In 2013-14 academic year, students from the township were fed milk for 50 times.—*Aung Soe Pe (IPRD)*

India's Gandhi says Modi's government in 'witch hunt' as Congress probed on taxes

NEW DELHI, 10 July — Sonia Gandhi, president of India's ousted Congress party, on Wednesday accused the new Narendra Modi-led government of a "political witch hunt" after tax authorities began probing her party as she and her son face allegations over misusing funds.

The Gandhis are the torchbearers of a dynasty that has led India for most of its post-independence era since 1947 but that was dealt its worst ever election defeat by Modi in the general election that ended in May.

Last month an Indian court summoned Sonia and her son Rahul to answer allegations that they used $15 million of party funds to pay off debts accrued by a now defunct newspaper publishing business several years ago. The Gandhis were directed to appear in court on 7 August.

Sonia Gandhi speaks during a news conference in New Delhi on 16 May, 2014.
REUTERS

A Congress official said the party had received "notices" from India's tax authority, a communication in which the recipient is asked to explain apparent irregularities in his tax declarations.

The official said the notices pertained to income tax and were related to the court case involving Gandhi and her son, although he did not give further details.

"This kind of political witch hunt will only help us and help us to come back faster," Gandhi was quoted as saying by NDTV news channel.

The May election saw the Congress party win just 44 of the 543 seats in the lower house of parliament, compared to 206 in 2009, raising the prospect that the Gandhi family, which has given the country a long line of leaders since independence, will gradually lose its political influence.

Before becoming prime minister, Modi said he would not resort to vindictive politics, especially in reference to Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra who has been accused of corrupt land transactions, allegations he denies.

Media reports said Vadra had written to India's corporate affairs ministry about closing six of his companies. Officials at the ministry were not immediately available for comment, but the ministry website listed the firms as "under process of striking off".

"We are not into vindictive politics ... But the proceedings as per law are going on and will take its own course," BJP minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters when asked about Sonia Gandhi's comments.

The court case against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi involves Associated Journals Limited, the publisher of three newspapers, including the *National Herald*, an English daily founded and edited by Rahul's great-grandfather Nehru.

In 2008, the company shut down with an unpaid debt of about$15 million, according to allegations in a copy of the court order.

The case accuses the Gandhis of setting up a firm called the Young Indian Company to buy the debt using party funds. Associated Journals allegedly had real estate assets worth at least $335 million.

"The legal team will study the (income tax) notices and a befitting reply will be given," said the Congress party official, who did not wish to be named.

The defeated Congress party faces its first big test in the new government's maiden parliament session this week. Sonia Gandhi is pushing for Congress to be declared the leader of the opposition, as the second largest grouping in the house.

Reuters

Six killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 July — At least six people were killed when a US drone launched an attack in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of North Waziristan on Thursday morning, local media reported.

Dawn News said that the drone fired two missiles at a house and a vehicle in Datta Khel area of North Waziristan, a semi- autonomous tribal region at Pakistan-Afghan border. Details of the identities of the killed are not immediately available.

Thursday morning's US drone strike came at a time when Pakistan army is launching armed offensive against militants in North Waziristan.—*Xinhua*

Suspected leftist rebels kill two soldiers in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 10 July — Suspected members of leftist rebel group New People's Army (NPA) shot and killed two soldiers in southern Philippines on Thursday, a military official said.

Captain Ernest Carolina, spokesman of the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division, said the two soldiers were on their way back to their patrol base when they were shot at Anitapan village, Mabini town in Compostela Valley province at around 3 am local time on Thursday. "The soldiers were unarmed and in civilian clothes. The assailants, who were armed with pistols, immediately fled after the shooting," Carolina told *Xinhua* by mobile phone.

He said the attack could be the handiwork of the NPA's liquidation squad, which is believed to be active in the hinterland village.

Regional military officials have ordered intensified operations against the rebels following the escalation of violence which killed several people in southern Philippines in recent weeks. The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces.—*Xinhua*

Indonesian leader calls for restraint after presidential stand-off

JAKARTA, 10 July — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono urged the two candidates in Wednesday's disputed presidential election to keep their supporters in check during what will be an agonizing two-week wait for an official result.

Police were on alert on Thursday across the sprawling archipelago, the world's fourth-most populous nation, after both candidates claimed victory in the tightest election race in the country's history. The Election Commission is due to announce the official result on 22 July.

Yudhoyono met Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and former special forces general Prabowo Subianto separately at his home outside Jakarta late on Wednesday night, telling both to ensure their supporters kept the peace.

"(The president) asks both candidates' sides to show restraint, not to mobilize masses onto the streets to celebrate victory until the verdict of the Election Commission,' Yudhoyono tweeted late on Wednesday.

Supporters of Jakarta governor Joko ''Jokowi'' Widodo celebrate during an official vote count for the country's presidential election in Makassar, South Sulawesi on 9 July, 2014.—REUTERS

There were no reports of any major violence across the vast archipelago. Around 250,000 police officers stood on standby, authorities said.

Prabowo has criticized his rival for declaring victory based on quick counts of actual votes by private groups and which have proved accurate in past election. He countered with his own victory declaration based on other, unnamed, quick counts.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's biggest economy, was swept by violence in which hundreds of people were killed when strongman ruler Suharto was ousted in 1998 after over three decades in power. It has since made a slow transition to full democracy, with this only its third direct presidential election.

Indonesian financial markets surged on Thursday in the belief that the unassuming Jokowi, who is seen as a representative of the common man and the face of reform, had won.

Reuters

State councilor warns of China-US strategic misjudgments

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (C) speaks during the strategic dialogue of the sixth round of the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) in Beijing, capital of China, on 10 July, 2014.—Xinhua

Beijing, 10 July — A senior Chinese diplomat said on Thursday that there must be no strategic misjudgments between China and the United States.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi said that achieving the two countries' goal of establishing a new-model relationship requires them to respect and treat each other with sincerity, adopt a correct perception of each other's strategic intent and never allow strategic misjudgment to arise.

Yang made the remarks as he joined US Secretary of State John Kerry at the strategic track session under the annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue.

He pointed out that it took a lot of hardship over the past 35 years to develop the currently positive, cooperative and stable China-US relations that both sides should cherish and safeguard.

They should stick to the general direction of bilateral ties, which must not be disrupted by specific incidents, he said. Building the new-model relationship requires consistent joint efforts from the two sides.

Sino-US dialogue should be an "accelerator" of bilateral cooperation and a "buffer" in conflicts between the two countries, Yang said, adding it should play a more active role in advancing sustained, healthy and stable growth of China-US relations.

Xinhua

Australian immigration minister visits Jaffna, no talks with Tamil groups

Colombo, 10 July — Australia's immigration minister, defending Canberra's policy of turning back boats of asylum seekers, visited a focal point of Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war against Tamil separatists, but came under fire for meeting no Tamil political or civil groups.

Scott Morrison was visiting Sri Lanka to hand over two patrol boats to strengthen the island nation's surveillance against people smuggling.

His visit coincided with accusations by Sri Lankans intercepted and sent home that Australian customs officials had mistreated them. A second boat carrying 153 Sri Lankan asylum seekers remained in legal limbo as the Australian High Court considered whether their interception was legal.

Morrison and other Australian officials denied the allegations.

Most of the group returned to Sri Lanka were members of the majority Sinhalese community and not minority Tamils, who have alleged persecution by Sri Lankan authorities since the defeat of the separatists in the civil war in 2009. During a visit on Wednesday to Jaffna, the Tamil-dominated city in Sri Lanka's north, Morrison met the governor of the Northern Province, GA Chandrasiri, a presidential appointee.

Local Tamil groups said he did not meet chief minister, CV Vigneswaran, the leader of the Tamil National Alliance, the party that finished first in last year's regional election and controls a regional assembly, or any civil society groups. "He did not meet any single Tamil representative or civil society group," Tamil National Alliance spokesman Suresh Premachndran told *Reuters*. "I still don't know the intention of his brief visit. He may want to show that he visited Jaffna. But he did not speak to any Tamils."

Australia's Minister of Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison

Morrison's office did not immediately reply to emails and calls about his visit to Jaffna.

UN INQUIRY

The United Nations has launched an inquiry into war crimes allegedly committed by both Sri Lankan state forces and Tamil rebels in the final months of the conflict, saying the government has failed to investigate properly. Sri Lanka rejects such allegations as interference in its internal affairs.

While Sri Lanka says many asylum seekers are economic migrants, rights groups say Tamils seek asylum to prevent torture, rape and other violence at the hands of the military.

Reuters

UN Secretary General's Message on World Population Day

11 July, 2014

The world today has its largest generation of youth in history — 1.8 billion young people, mostly in developing countries — with enormous potential to help tackle the major challenges facing humanity. But too many are denied their rightful opportunities to get a quality education, find decent work, and participate in the political life of their societies. World Population Day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to help young people unleash progress across society.

Action is urgently needed. Too many young people lack resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. I am particularly concerned about adolescent girls who may face discrimination, sexual violence, early marriage and unwanted pregnancies. And even among those young people fortunate enough to receive university degrees, many find themselves without employment or stuck in low-wage, dead-end jobs.

The solution lies in investments in health, education, training and employment for young people as they undergo the critical transition to adulthood. This will improve prospects for their lives and our common future.

Young people themselves are speaking out. Earlier this year, more than 1,000 youth organizations endorsed a Global Youth Call, welcomed by 40 countries, which recommends youth-focused goals and targets in the post-2015 development vision.

Next year marks the deadline for reaching the Millennium Development Goals, shaping the successor agenda, and adopting a meaningful legal agreement on climate change. Youth have a major role in all these processes. The year 2015 also marks the 20th anniversary of the World Programme of Action on Youth. Its practical guidelines for national action and international support remain relevant today. In particular, to fully carry out this Programme of Action, governments must respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all youth and respond effectively to any violations.

On this World Population Day, I call on all with influence to prioritize youth in development plans, strengthen partnerships with youth-led organizations, and involve young people in all decisions that affect them. By empowering today's youth, we will lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future for generations to come.

UNIC/Ygn

Message for World Population Day

By Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director

11 July 2014

Today's 1.8 billion young people are a powerful force, individually and collectively. They are shaping social and economic realities, challenging norms and values and building the foundation of the world's future.

Governments and the international community are increasingly conscious of the importance of providing resources and opportunities for all young people to reach their full potential as individuals and citizens. They recognize that investing in young people and enabling them to exercise their human rights not only benefits young people themselves, but can also help their countries reap a demographic dividend.

We know that healthy, educated, productive and fully engaged young people can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and are more resilient in the face of individual and societal challenges. As skilled and informed citizens, they can contribute more fully to their communities and nations.

For millions of young people around the world, puberty — the biological onset of adolescence — brings not only changes to their bodies, but also new vulnerabilities to human rights abuses, particularly in the areas of sexuality, marriage and childbearing. Millions of girls are coerced into unwanted sex or marriage, increasing the risks of unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, as well as death or disability due to childbirth.

This is why young people, especially adolescent girls, are at the heart of our work at UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Working with a multitude of partners, in particular young people themselves, UNFPA is advocating policies and programmes that invest in adolescents and youth and foster a positive environment for them; promoting their access to comprehensive sexuality education as well as quality sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning; and facilitating their leadership and participation. We are doing this with an emphasis on reaching the poorest, most marginalized and underserved adolescent girls.

Through this multipronged effort, we and our partners are seeing how critical early investments in sexual and reproductive health can enhance the lives of young people and the welfare of their societies. A sustainable future depends on having resilient populations, which cannot be achieved without investments in young people. They not only form a large proportion of the world's population and deserve their fair share as a matter of equity, but are also in a critical stage of their lifecycle that will determine their future – and thus those of their families, communities, and societies.

On this World Population Day, I commit UNFPA's full support to all efforts to promote young people's aspirations and to place young people at the very heart of national and global development efforts.— *UNFPA*

Israel pursues punishing Gaza offensive for a third day

GAZA, 10 July — Israel pressed on with a punishing aerial offensive in Gaza for a third day on Thursday, killing eight members of a family including five children in a predawn strike, Palestinian officials said, while militants fired rockets at Israeli cities.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the deadliest single bombing raid since the start of the offensive on Tuesday. The attack destroyed at least two homes in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, killing the eight people, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Sixty-one Palestinians have been killed in the violence, more than 50 of them civilians, Palestinian medical officials said.

Israel says its offensive is intended to halt rocket fire at its cities from the Gaza Strip. More than 200 rockets have been fired during the campaign, striking deep into the country's heartland, it said.

The rockets have caused no serious casualties, but the barrages have paralyzed business in southern communities and sent hundreds of thousands of people scrambling for shelter as far north as the Israeli business hub of Tel Aviv and beyond. A rocket struck on the outskirts of Haifa to the north on Wednesday.

Hamas's armed wing said it fired six rockets at Israel early on Thursday. Confrontations were also reported at sea where Palestinian militants in Gaza said they fired mortars and rockets at Israeli gunboats shooting at the coastal territory.

Israeli media reported air raid sirens wailing in several southern cities. The Iron Dome missile defence system intercepted some of the rockets, while others slammed into the ground without causing any damage or casualties, they said.

Palestinians said Israel has targeted more than 70 homes in its offensive. The Israeli military said on Wednesday it had bombed 550 Hamas sites, including 60 rocket launchers and 11 homes of senior Hamas members. It described those dwellings as command centers.

Smoke is seen following what police said was an Israeli air strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 9 July, 2014. — REUTERS

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is to address the UN Security Council on Thursday over the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence since an eight day war fought in 2012. He described the situation as "troubling and volatile."

Washington backed Israel's actions in Gaza, while the European Union and UN urged restraint on both sides.

Israel said Gaza militants fired more than 105 rockets on Wednesday — at least 82 struck inside the country, and an additional 21 were intercepted.

Some were aimed at Israel's Dimona nuclear plant, 80 km (50 miles) from Gaza, but were either shot down or landed in open country.—*Reuters*

Three Ukrainian soldiers killed in further clashes in the east

An armed pro-Russian separatist from the so-called Battalion Vostok (East) stands guard at a checkpoint in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, on 8 July, 2014. REUTERS

KIEV, 10 July — Three Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and 27 wounded in clashes with pro-Russian separatist rebels in the east of the country, the military said on Thursday.

Government forces have recently gained the upper hand in the three-month conflict against separatists in the Russian-speaking eastern regions in which more than 200 government troops have been killed as well as hundreds of civilians and rebel fighters.

But though government forces pushed the rebels out of a stronghold in Slaviansk at the weekend, the heavily armed separatists have dug in in Donetsk, a city of 900,000 people, and remain active in and around Luhansk on the Russian border. The government's "anti-terrorist operation" said that one soldier was killed late on Wednesday when rebels fired machine-guns at a truck carrying soldiers at Muratova near Luhansk.

"The vehicle was ambushed. In the course of the fighting one serviceman was killed and three were wounded," it said in a statement. Separately, two soldiers were killed and six wounded when their armoured vehicle was blown up by a landmine near Chervona Zorya, near Donetsk, it said. Buoyed by the success in Slaviansk, President Petro Poroshenko is pressing forward with a military offensive against the rebels who are appealing, apparently in vain, for help from Russia, though they say they are recruiting new fighters from among the local population.

Reuters

Merkel, Hollande, Ukraine's Poroshenko hold call on talks for ceasefire

BERLIN, 10 July — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande spoke by phone with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Wednesday, with the aim of restarting talks with separatists on a ceasefire, Merkel's spokesman said.

"The Chancellor expressed her hope that talks of the contact group will finally commence again with participation from the separatists in order to discuss a mutual ceasefire and the implementation of the peace plan," Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement. Seibert added that Merkel and Hollande had called on Russia to use its influence over the pro-Russian separatists to stop weapons and fighters flowing into Ukraine from Russia.—*Reuters*

Anger mounts as Germany unearths second US spy suspect

BERLIN, 10 July — German politicians reacted angrily on Wednesday to news of a suspected US spy in the defence ministry, which came days after the arrest of a German foreign intelligence agency worker as a suspected CIA informant.

After the federal prosecutors said authorities had conducted searches in connection with a second spying case, Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition partners said Washington should remove any US embassy staff involved and cease spying on its ally.

Security sources told *Reuters* the latest suspect to face investigation was from the military and worked in the Defence Ministry in Berlin, but no arrest appeared to have been made. Other sources close to the investigation said the suspect was a German Foreign Ministry official on assignment at the Defence Ministry.

The Defence Ministry confirmed its premises had been searched but gave no other details.

"It is not yet clear what is behind this," Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen told the *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper, in an excerpt of Thursday's edition.

Merkel has already said the arrest last week of a low-level official of Germany's foreign intelligence agency, known as the BND, for spying for the United States would, if confirmed, be a "serious case". But she also says it will not affect transatlantic free trade talks.

The chancellor faces political fallout for not criticizing President Barack Obama sufficiently for alleged surveillance in Germany by the US National Security Agency, which targeted her mobile phone for eavesdropping. The new cases put further pressure on Merkel to react.

Yasmin Fahimi, general secretary of the Social Democrats (SPD) who share power with Merkel's conservatives, urged the "immediate removal of embassy staff involved and the immediate cessation of all other espionage in our country". Von der Leyen, who is from Merkel's party, said the NSA case had "shaken confidence" in the United States and it had to be made clear to the intelligence community that "not everything that is possible is politically acceptable".

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 11 July, 2014

Importance of investing in children in Myanmar

By *Myint Win Thein*

Youths make up about 30 percent of the population of Myanmar and Myanmar has the largest number of children in all Southeast Asia. Therefore, investment in children is of great importance for Myanmar.

However, Myanmar has the least investment in children in all Southeast Asia, according to the statement of the UNICEF. The coverage of early childhood care in Myanmar stands at only 22.9 percent while that of other Southeast Asian countries reaches 57 percent, according to the UNICEF.

Many children in Myanmar still face poverty, disease, malnutrition, the threat of HIV/AIDS, a lack of access to clean drinking water and low primary school completion rates, all of which impede their opportunities for growth and development.

As challenges for children are wide and far, all the people in Myanmar are required to help the children overcome the challenges. As early childhood development contributes much to the development of a country, Myanmar needs to invest more in children, who will create the future of the country.

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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.

Fullmoon of Waso, Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta Day

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Fullmoon of Waso, the Dhammacakkapavattana Day falls on 11th July, 2014. The Fullmoon Day of Waso associates with the four great noble and significant events related to the precious life of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha. On that holy day, the Buddha-to-be (the Gotama Buddha) took pregnancy in the womb of Queen Maya, wife of His Majesty King Suddhodana of Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that holy day at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached His first great sermon, Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, on the Fullmoon Day of Waso. All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha.

And also, on the Fullmoon Day of Waso, the Omniscient Buddha performed the great miracle called the Twin Miracle. The reason for this was to dispel the wrong views of heretics and to prove that He possessed the attributes of a Buddha. It is the miracle of water and fire.

The Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta Day

Over 2558 years ago, the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha preached His first great Sermon, the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta to His five disciples (Kondanna and other four) in the Deer Park, now known as Saranath, India, on the Fullmoon Day of Waso. In commemoration of this significant and holy event associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples across the Buddhist world celebrate the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta Day on this Fullmoon Day of Waso by observing precepts delivered by members of the Sangha and respectfully listening to the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta recited by members of the Sangha.

And also, the generous Buddhist peoples perform meritorious deeds such as offering Waso robes, alms and other offertories to the members of Sangha on the Fullmoon Day of Waso, the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta Day.

Rains-retreat period, Vassavasa

Observing the rains-retreat period; confining oneself to a specific monastic dwelling for the three-month rainy period.

During the three months of monsoon rains, Bhikhus go into retreat at a monastery designated beforehand at the start of the rainy season. This practice was introduced during the life time of the Buddha. Before the Buddha decreed the rains-retreat period, Bhikhu walked across fields under cultivation. People started to criticize them as some people believed that plants and even drops of water were living beings. Why is it that the disciples of the Buddha go on travels all the year round and trample young plants and insects into oblivion while even members of other sects do not go on journeys during the rains? Even birds and animals have the good sense to stay in their nests or dens during the rains, people complained. To put an end to this controversy, the Buddha decreed that the rains-retreat period be observed. Rains-retreat period can be observed by taking up the designated residence during one of the two periods:-

(1) Earlier rains-retreat period (purimavassavasa), commencing from the day after the Fullmoon of Waso (roughly corresponding to July) and ending on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (roughly corresponding to October):

(2) Later rains-retreat period (pacchimavassavasa), commencing from the day after the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon (roughly corresponding to November).

Merits shared for successful completion of Kywewataung Pagoda in Kyaukpadaung

KYAUKPADAUNG, 10 July—A ceremony to consecrate the three feet high bronze Buddha image to be kept in the Dhammayon and share merits gained for offering of gold foils was held at Kywewataung Pagoda in Kywewataung Village of Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

The donation ceremony was contributed by theatrical performers and wellwishers.

Members of the Sangha concreted the Buddha image.

The pagoda was built by King Badon, queen Thidadevi and Supreme Commander Thiha Thura Min Khaung in 1173 Myanmar Era. The history of the pagoda was described on No 867 stone plaque in the wall of Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Staff of Myanma Agricultural Bank deliver agricultural loans for the second time to farmers from four village-tracts in Myanaung Township of Ayeyawady Region on 8 July.—NAY WIN ZAW (MYANAUNG)

Agricultural loans disbursed to cooperative members in Yamethin Tsp

YAMETHIN, 10 July—Yamethin Township Cooperative Department held a ceremony to provide cash assistance for cultivation of monsoon crops at the Dhammayon of Bawdigon Village in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region on Wednesday.

Staff Officer U Zaw Lin of the department explained plans to disburse the loans with K1.5 interest rate for agriculture. Loans for fertilizers will be disbursed and it must be paid back to the department within five months. Officials presented K24.32 million to 256 members of basic cooperative societies in Ohntheegwe village-tract and K43.51 million to 458 members of Kadin village-tract.

Yamethin Township Cooperative Department will deliver K2,136.93 million to 22,494 members of 203 basic cooperative societies for the second time.

Zaw Min Aung (Yamethin)

Local farmers in NyaungU Township get loans

NYAUNGU, 10 July—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank branch in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region delivered agricultural loans to local farmers for cultivation of monsoon paddy as of the second week of June.

Bank branch manager U Su explained that the government disburses loans to the farmers with soft interest rates. The farmers wishing to take out the loans must have the farming rights certificates. The bank gives loans to the farmers for 10 acres of farmlands in maximum. The local farmers need to pay back the loans to the bank on time after harvesting paddy and crops.

The bank has disbursed K852.02 million to 5,092 farmers from 46 village-tracts. A plan is underway to deliver more loans to the remaining farmers from 27 village-tracts.

Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)

Cash donated to delivery of 300 newspapers copies to villages

NGAZUN, 10 July — A ceremony to donate cash for delivery of Myanma Alin and Kyemon daily to villages in Ngazun Township of Mandalay Region was held at MMID Company Ltd in Myotha Industrial City in Myingyan on Wednesday.

Wellwisher, Chairman of Mandalay-Myotha Industrial Development company Ltd donated K5.4 million for 150 copies each of two dailies to U Soe Nyunt of Nawarat Village.

Thanks to the donations, 300 copies of newspapers will be delivered to 25 villages in Ngazun Township and five from Myingyan Township daily. The newspapers will be distributed to village administrative offices, village libraries, monasteries, basic education schools, social organizations, rural clinics and public places.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

University of Computer Studies (Thaton) holds football tournament

THATON, 10 July—The Inter-Major Football Tournament, organized by University of Computer Studies (Thaton), kicked off at the Thaton District Sports Ground in Thaton of Mon State on Wednesday, aiming at ensuring friendly relations among the students.

The principal of the university launched the football tournament in which the first year team and the second year team played in the debut match.

A total of six football teams from all majors participate in the tournament.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

Meeting to maintain restoration of peace and stability in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 10 July—The Mandalay Region government held a meeting with officials of the Interfaith Friendship Organization at its hall in Mandalay Region on Wednesday evening.

Chief Minister of the region U Ye Myint explained present situations of the city and recent incidents. He made clarifications on peace and stability of the people, endeavours of the region government and cooperation among the region government and the organization not to occur similar incidents in the city. Responsible persons from the organization reported on its cooperation with local authorities for restoring peace and stability in the city and future tasks.

The region chief minister stressed the need for ensuring prevalence of law and order in the region.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Myeik District constitutes District Interfaith Friendship Organization

MYEIK, 10 July—All faiths of local people held a meeting to form the Myeik District Interfaith Friendship Organization at the hall of District General Administration Department in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on Wednesday.

Patron of the organization U Ba Myint and Chairman U Tun Kyi explained formation of the District Interfaith Friendship Organization and peaceful co-existence among the religions.

Taninthayi Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Win Swe made a speech. The formation of the organization followed. Wellwishers donated K4 million to the fund of the organization.

Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)

MRCCI to meet Chinese (Taipei) entrepreneurs

MANDALAY, 10 July—Executives of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its brother organizations will hold a talk with entrepreneurs from China (Taipei) at Yadanabon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 15 July. The Chinese (Taipei) team will comprise 32 entrepreneurs from 24 companies.

The talk will focus on production of motorbike spare parts, canned fish production, monetary affairs management, ornament trading, travel bag production, architectural works, eye health care products, spots gears, plastic industries, sun glasses production and leather and shoes industries.

Any interested entrepreneurs may attend the talk.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Madaya Township champions in five-township football tournament

MANDALAY, 10 July—The Madaya Zone of Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup U-20 Football Tournament kicked off at the township sports ground in Madaya of Mandalay Region on 3 July.

In the final match of the zone on Tuesday, Madaya team emerged champion with a 2-0 win over PyinOoLwin team.

Officials presented cash award and the second prize to PyinOoLwin Township and best player award to Tun Lin Aung of Madaya Township team.

Madaya Township Administrator U Aung Swe Myint presented K100,000 to first prize winning Madaya Township team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Construction and Housing Development Bank branch ready to disburse loans to customers in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 10 July — A ceremony to inaugurate the Construction and Housing Development Bank branch was held at No 218 on 27th street between 82nd and 83rd streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Tuesday.

Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Chairman of the bank U Min Htein explained the purpose of opening the bank branch and Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw work procedures of the bank.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Construction, the bank was established with K10,000 billion capital amount under the Myanmar Monetary Affairs Organizations Law. It accepted the banking service permit from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Those wishing to buy the single buildings and apartments from condominium, build the high-rise buildings and single buildings, construction entrepreneurs and construction companies may contact the Mandalay branch of the bank for taking out loans, dialing 02-86664.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Dutch special forces in Mali tackle changing threat: minister

DAKAR, 10 July — Dutch troops have joined a UN peacekeeping mission in Mali to meet a growing security threat from the region to the Netherlands, and Europe as a whole that "softer" approaches can no longer contain, the Dutch foreign minister said.

The Netherlands has deployed some 450 Special Forces troops, intelligence operatives and attack helicopters to a UN force rolling out across northern Mali, where al Qaeda-linked Islamists occupied swathes of the country before being driven back last year by French troops.

Although Dutch forces do not have an offensive mandate, the deployment marks a shift towards security issues in Africa for the Netherlands and their task — gathering intelligence — is new to UN peacekeeping missions that have traditionally avoided the art of spying.

Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans said there was a growing sense of urgency that radical groups operating from the Atlantic through to the Persian Gulf were not just posing a threat to weak governments in the region but also targeting Europe.

"Sooner or later, that will be a direct threat to our security," he told Reuters late on Tuesday in Dakar after visiting troops based in the northern Malian town of Gao.

"Being active in Mali in the security field is also serving your own security interests very directly," he added.

About 8,000 of the 12,000 strong UN force has been deployed and so far the main contributors are African nations. UN peacekeepers operate separately from French troops focusing on counter-terrorism missions in Mali.

Dutch involvement in UN peacekeeping missions has been a sensitive issue since the Srebrenica massacre in 1995, when Dutch troops failed to halt the killing of thousands of Bosnian men and boys.

Timmermans said that no Dutch citizens had been identified in rebel ranks in the Mali conflict, but at least 130 have traveled to fight in Iraq and Syria.

Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans

Conflicts in the region, he said, were "all interconnected in some way or form". He said a few dozen fighters had since returned home. "It is a development we follow with a lot of concern."

France dispatched thousands of troops to Mali to halt an advance by Islamists last year. Faced with this firepower, the fighters scattered across the Sahara's mountains and sand dunes.

However, Islamists have carried out a string of attacks on UN troops in the north this year and Mali's army suffered a major defeat in May when it tried to attack the separatist rebels Bamako is meant to be holding peace talks with.

Timmermans said over 40 years of Dutch development work in the region, especially Mali, laid the foundations for a healthy relationship with local governments. But he said Europe needed to look at the region "with different eyes".

"It is no longer just about development, containment or whatever you want to call it. This is about the struggle to convince people that our way of life is better than the fundamentalist way of life," he said.

"This is not something we are going to solve in a few years," he added.

UN forces have traditionally not been given the mandate by member states to gather intelligence so the Dutch are breaking new ground by providing human and electronic intelligence alongside air surveillance to blue helmets stationed across the vast desert that is awash with fighters drifting between groups.

"This level of intelligence gathering and analysis is something the UN has never done before," Timmermans said.

Mali's implosion was prompted by a number of factors ranging from the flow of fighters and weapons out of Libya during the uprising in 2011 to corruption in Mali's political class and Bamako's de facto ceding of the north to a local elite heavily involved in smuggling and kidnapping foreigners for ransoms.

However, analysts say West Africa's moderate form of Islam has increasingly come under threat from a more fundamentalist version exported by groups from cash-rich Gulf states. "This is a subject we need to debate intensively with our friends in the Gulf," Timmermans said.

Timmermans said Dutch soldiers used to the NATO environment were finding operating in a UN mission "not particularly easy" and bureaucracy was slowing decision making.

Reuters

US blacklists UAE firm for flouting sanctions on Syria

WASHINGTON, 10 July — The United States on Wednesday slapped sanctions on a United Arab Emirates company for supplying specialty petroleum products to the Syrian government, and blacklisted two additional Syrian companies. Pangates, based in Sharjah in the UAE, supplied petroleum products to Syria — including aviation fuel — from 2012 to April this year that were likely used for military purposes, the US Treasury Department said. Pangates could not be immediately reached for comment.

The Treasury also imposed sanctions on two front companies based in Damascus, Expert Partners and Megatrade, for helping Syria to procure or develop ballistic missiles or weapons, including chemical and biological warfare. The United States has placed sanctions on nearly 200 people and companies since the start of the Syrian civil war, which has killed more than 150,000 and displaced millions of others.—*Reuters*

Kurds threaten legal action against Iraq oil buyers

ARBIL, (Iraq), 10 July — Iraqi Kurdistan threatened on Wednesday to take legal action against buyers of the country's oil unless the autonomous region is paid its share of revenue from any sales. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) said buyers of Iraqi oil were complicit in violating the constitution because the Baghdad central government has cut the region's 17 percent entitlement of the national budget.

It is unclear whether the threat will influence major buyers of Iraqi crude, but it nevertheless illustrates the KRG's increasingly assertive stance in a long-running dispute with Baghdad over control of its natural resources. Baghdad has slashed the KRG's budget since January as punishment for the region's moves to export and sell oil directly on international markets, also threatening legal action against buyers of Kurdish crude.

"The KRG has the right, in circumstances where the Iraqi federal government is not sharing revenues in accordance with the Iraqi constitution, to take such action as the KRG considers appropriate to obtain all entitlements the Iraqi federal government is required to pay to the KRG under the Iraqi constitution," said a statement from the region's Ministry of Natural Resources in Arbil.

"Buyers who fail to make such payments to the KRG will be facilitating the Iraqi federal government's breach of the KRG's rights and passing to the Iraqi federal government monies that rightfully belong to the KRG." Last week, the Kurds threatened to counter-sue the federal government for trying to block its sales in a strongly worded letter that reflects growing confidence as Baghdad struggles to counter insurgents that have overrun swathes of the country.—*Reuters*

South Sudan president urges rebel leader to resume talks

JUBA/ADDIS ABABA, 10 July — South Sudan President Salva Kiir on Wednesday called on rebels to resume peace talks as the country marked its third birthday with celebrations overshadowed by fighting that has killed thousands and brought it to the verge of famine.

In a swift response, rebel leader Riek Machar told Reuters in Ethiopia that he was ready to resume dialogue but warned his troops would target South Sudan's oil installations if fighting resumed and the government used oil revenues to buy arms.

Clashes erupted in the capital Juba in December pitting the government forces of Kiir against supporters of Machar, his former deputy and long-time rival. The conflict has reopened deep ethnic tensions in the world's youngest country, which only won independence from Sudan in 2011.

"Put down your guns and come home," Kiir said

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir stands in front of the late Sudanese liberation hero John Garang's mausoleum at the 31st anniversary of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Juba on 16 May, 2014.
REUTERS

in Juba during a ceremony marking the anniversary of independence. "I still renew my call upon him (Machar) to accept the logic of peaceful resolution to the conflict so that we resolve this issue."

Peace talks between Kiir and Machar produced few results and stalled after they last met in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa in May and agreed on a ceasefire. "On our side, we are ready to continue negotiations," Machar told *Reuters* in Addis Ababa, adding that he has also called for the talks to be resumed soon.

"Time is ticking ... We don't want to be blamed."

The mood in Juba was markedly more muted than in 2011 when joyous revellers sheathed in South Sudan flags thronged the streets and danced through the night.

Three years on, a much smaller and more reticent crowd listened as the president gave an independence day address. An ongoing curfew enforced by the army every day at 6 pm local time was expected to further curtail any celebrations.

More than 10,000 people have been killed since clashes broke out in December and violence spread to oil-producing regions, slashing output by a third and crippling South Sudan's oil-dependent economy.

The United Nations has warned the east African country faces a catastrophic famine, with humanitarian agencies unable to supply food or medicine to many remote northern regions due to insecurity.

Diplomats from Western powers that helped South Sudan gain independence say neither Machar nor Kiir seem fully committed to the peace talks, with both sides accusing the other of violating previous agreements.

Reuters

China June trade data misses forecasts, doubts over economy linger

BEIJING, 10 July — China's trade performance improved in June but still missed market forecasts, reinforcing expectations that Beijing will have to unveil more stimulus measures to stabilise the economy and meet its 2014 growth target.

Exports rose 7.2 percent in June from a year earlier, the best pace in five months, but well below a median forecast in a *Reuters* poll for a rise of 10.6 percent.

Imports also missed expectations, growing by 5.5 percent versus forecasts of 5.8 percent, although they returned to positive territory after a small drop in May.

China's combined exports and imports edged up just 1.2 percent in first six months of the year, data showed on Thursday.

"For the economy to rebound in the second half of this year, we believe more policy support is necessary due to the unsteady recovery base," said Wang Jun, economist at the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, a think-tank in Beijing.

Premier Li Keqiang said on Monday that economic growth quickened in the second quarter from the previous three months, but added that further modest government support measures will still be needed. Beijing has set an annual growth target of around 7.5 percent.

Since April, China has steadily loosened policy by reducing the amount of cash that some banks have to hold as reserves, instructing regional governments to quicken their spending, and hastening the construction of railways and public housing.

Evidence has mounted in recent weeks that those measures are beginning to have some effect, arresting a cooldown in activity which saw growth slide to an 18-month low of 7.4 percent in the first quarter.

The latest *Reuters* poll showed the economy probably steadied in the second quarter, with annual growth holding firm at 7.4 percent as the policy measures kicked in.

But economists say the recovery still appears patchy, and more stimulus may be needed to offset the downdraft from a cooling property market on the broader economy.

Trucks drive past piles of shipping containers at the Qingdao port in Qingdao, Shandong Province on 8 June, 2014. — REUTERS

Data on Wednesday showed consumer inflation cooled slightly more than expected in June while producers' prices fell for the 28th straight month, signalling domestic demand remained lukewarm.

Second-quarter GDP along with June retail sales, industrial output and investment data will be released on 16 July.

The customs office expects exports to pick up in the second half of the year in line with improving global demand, but spokesperson Zheng Yuesheng said China will need to "invest arduous efforts" if it wants to meet its 7.5 percent trade growth target.

Analysts think it may already be too late.

"We think China could miss its target ...We expect combined exports and imports to rise 5 percent in 2014 from a year ago," said Li Huiyong, an economist at Shenyin & Wanguo Securities in Shanghai.

Reuters

Emerging market fund managers ignore borders, chase profits

BOSTON, 10 July — US emerging market fund managers are paying less attention to where a company is located or listed than to whether it's making money, either as an advanced world company doing business in the developing world, or the other way around.

A top holding in the $710 million Ivy Emerging Markets Equity Fund, the best performing diversified emerging market fund over the last five years, is Las Vegas Sands Corp, the US-based casino operator that generates most of its revenue in Macao.

The No 2 holding in the $2.8 billion GMO Emerging Domestic Opportunities Fund is Colgate-Palmolive Co, based in New York but the maker of the best-selling toothpaste in India. And the $25 billion American Funds New World Fund is betting on a US housing recovery by investing in Hong Kong-based Techtronic Industries Co Ltd, which sells power tools through Home Depot Inc, its largest customer.

A trader walks inside the trading hall during afternoon trading at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on 10 April, 2014. —REUTERS

"It's a new geography," said Rob Lovelace, a portfolio manager for the American Funds New World Fund, part of the No 3 US mutual fund family with $1.15 trillion in assets. "Investing based on where a company is domiciled doesn't really work. We have a better proxy because companies are disclosing more in their revenue breakdowns."

Betting on multinational companies that generate a meaningful amount of revenue from emerging markets allows fund managers to sidestep the political and currency risk that comes with investing directly in an emerging market, while also expanding their universe of potential investments.

A revenue-focused strategy allows portfolio managers to take advantage of an emerging market's strengths, such as cheaper labor costs, lower taxes and rising standards of living. Emerging market operations at multinational companies have delivered almost double the revenue and more than twice the profit growth of their parent companies, according to a Bain & Co analysis of results between 2005 and 2010.

To underscore the importance of this developing investment strategy, American Funds will provide investors with regional revenue breakdowns later this year at four funds.

Some portfolio managers using this approach are trouncing their peers, according to Morningstar Inc.

The New World Fund's three-year annual total return of 5.10 percent is beating 94 percent of rival diversified emerging market funds, according to Morningstar.

Reuters

Australians drink, smoke less but getting fatter and worry more

SYDNEY, 10 July — Australians are smoking and drinking less but are getting fatter and more anxious, according to a new study released on Wednesday.

The study by Roy Morgan Research blames unemployment rates for Australia's high anxiety.

Roy Morgan chief executive Michele Levine told the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) there has been a marked reduction in smoking and alcohol consumption. "It's to do with the fact there's been a very strong anti- smoking campaign and anti-smoking lobby with increased taxes and a focus on plain labels," she said.

"The reduction in alcohol consumption ... I think we've actually seen, again, a fairly strong anti-drink-driving campaign. And there's been enough information to get people to curb their drinking. The only one form of alcohol that's actually increasing is cider."

But three in five Australian adults are overweight, with a body mass index (BMI) over 25.

"And it's interesting because we've actually become a nation of weight watchers," Levine said.

"We worry about our weight. We think about our weight. We say that we're monitoring the calories we eat and yet our weight continues to increase.

"We've got to monitor in a study like this fairly consistent levels of good eating and exercise and activity. "Our forms of activity are actually ... we're doing quite well. We've stopped doing so much organised sport but our level of engagement in physical activity like doing exercises and going for walks and going to the gym, that's actually taken off.

"Some of the clues in all of this data I suppose remain to be uncovered, but things like being overweight, it's largely an older person's issue."—*Xinhua*

Strong typhoon traverses Japan's southwestern Kyushu region

Damaged cars and buildings are seen after a landslide caused by heavy rains due to Typhoon Neoguri in Nagiso town, Nagano prefecture, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 10 July, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 10 July — A powerful typhoon moved through Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu on Thursday morning after lashing the islands of Okinawa, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The season's eighth typhoon, Neoguri, made landfall near the city of Akune, Kagoshima Prefecture in southern Kyushu, shortly before 7 am, the weather agency said.

The typhoon brought heavy rains to western Japan. In Seiyo, Ehime Prefecture on the smallest main island of Shikoku, a 77-year-old man was confirmed dead after being found collapsed in a waterway.

The death brought the number of typhoon-linked fatalities to three. Among them was a 12-year-old junior high school boy who was hit by a mudflow in Nagiso, Nagano Prefecture, on Wednesday.

Agency officials said the typhoon is expected to head for eastern Japan, centering on Tokyo, after traversing Kyushu and approaching Shikoku.

Heavy rains hit many areas in central and western Japan, wit hourly rainfall reaching 71.0 millimetres in Sukumo, Kochi Prefecture in the southern Shikoku region — a record for July, agency officials said. Hourly rainfall reached 59.5 mm in Minami, Tokushima Prefecture in the eastern Shikoku region and 53.0 mm in Motosu, Gifu Prefecture, in central Japan.

As of 11 am Thursday, the typhoon, with its atmospheric pressure at 985 hectopascals near its centre, is located at a point some 70 kilometres west-southwest of Cape Ashizuri in Kochi Prefecture. It is moving to the east at a speed of 35 km per hour, the agency said.

Its maximum wind velocity is 90 kph with gusts of 126 kph.

Due to heavy rains, airlines canceled many flights linking Kyushu and Shikoku with other parts of Japan.

Japan's two major airlines, Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co cancelled 47 and 31 flights, respectively. Japan Air Commuter Co, which is affiliated with JAL, canceled 86 flights linking remote islands with the country's main islands.

Kyushu Railway Co, known as JR Kyushu, partially suspended the operation of the Kyushu Shinkansen bullet train service linking Hakata Station in Kyushu's biggest city of Fukuoka with Kagoshima-Chuo Station in the city of Kagoshima.

JR Kyushu said it resumed operations of bullet trains between Kumamoto and Kagoshima-Chuo stations in the morning after confirming the safety of railway tracks.

Kyodo News

Ukrainian-born John K, investigated for Nazi crimes, dies aged 93

John Kalymon on 31 Aug, 2009. —REUTERS

BERLIN, 10 July — A Ukrainian-born man investigated for murder as a part of a Nazi police force has died in the United States aged 93, Munich prosecutors said on Wednesday, ending their inquiry into the man's alleged crimes in 1942.

Munich prosecutors, following the German practice in such cases, identified the man only as 93-year old John K. US media have identified him as John Kalymon of Troy, Michigan. The prosecutors had been investigating him since early 2010 on suspicion of murder and complicity in murder in at least 40,000 cases and issued an arrest warrant in February, they said in a statement.

The man, who took US citizenship after World War Two, was suspected of having been part of the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police that was involved in a 1942 round-up and deportation of Jews from Lviv to a death camp.

US authorities had planned to deport him to Germany in April for a trial but told the prosecutors in March that he could not travel because he was severely ill. They then informed Munich on Tuesday that he had died. Munich prosecutors said the man had denied any involvement in war crimes during his hearings with US authorities.—*Reuters*

US author, Spaniard gored in Spain's San Fermin bull run

PAMPLONA (Spain), 10 July — An American who co-wrote a book called "Fiesta: How To Survive The Bulls Of Pamplona" was badly gored on Wednesday in the morning bull run at Pamplona's San Fermin festival.

A Spanish man was also gored in the "encierro", when runners in red scarves and white outfits dash through the Spanish town's streets pursued by the huge animals.

Chicago resident Bill Hillmann, 32, tripped and fell when a bull gored him in his right thigh, according to festival website sanfermin.com.

The Spaniard, a 35-year-old man from Valencia, was gored in the chest and taken to hospital in a semi-conscious state, officials said. The two men are in a serious condition, the regional government said.

A further three, all Spanish, were taken to hospital with lesser injuries from the chaotic stampede through the narrow streets of Pamplona's old town, authorities said. All the injured were men. Few women take part in the run. Authorities did not give the names of the injured men.

Wednesday's run was the third in the week-long San Fermin festival, depicted in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises".

The daily bull run starts at 8 am (0600 GMT) and usually lasts around 3 to 5 minutes. It ends at the bull-ring, where the bulls are corralled before reappearing in the evening bullfight, when they are killed.

San Fermin has become a global tourist attraction, with tens of thousands of Spaniards and foreigners pouring into the Navarran capital. Many participants drink and dance all night.

Hemingway aficionado Hillmann travels to Pamplona every year to take part in the festival.

The black bull that gored him was the heaviest of the morning's six bulls from the Victoriano del Rio ranch, weighing around 600 kilos.

A 27-year-old man from Madrid was the last person to be killed during the bull run after being gored in the neck in 2009. There have been 14 fatalities over the past century at the fiesta, which dates to the 13th century.

Reuters

A runner gored in the leg by a Victoriano del Río fighting bull, falls at the entrance to the bullring during the third running of the bulls of the San Fermin festival in Pamplona on 9 July, 2014.
REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(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

Photo taken on 9 July, 2014 shows Chinese navy's destroyer Haikou leaving Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the United States. The Chinese fleet participating in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) multinational naval exercises left Pearl Harbour for the exercise area on Wednesday.
XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THIGAYU VOY NO (06/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (06/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Mexican train derails, stranding 1,300 migrants headed toward US

MEXICO CITY, 10 July — A cargo train used by Mexicans and Central Americans to travel toward the US border derailed in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca on Wednesday, stranding about 1,300 migrants, emergency services said.

Many of the migrants aboard were young people and nobody was injured when the train nicknamed "the Beast" came off the tracks, a spokesman for local emergency services said.

Since last October, more than 50,000 unaccompanied minors, most from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, have been caught illegally crossing the southwest border of the United States. Children say that they are fleeing violence at home and hope that they will be able to stay in the United States.

Several days of heavy rain in southern Mexico may have caused the train to derail, authorities said.

Reuters

Japan sees lower chance of El Nino this summer, high chance in autumn

TOKYO, 10 July— Japan's weather bureau said on Thursday that the possibility of an El Nino pattern forming this summer is lower than previously forecast, but it sees a high chance in autumn. The Japan Meteorological Agency, which said last month that the El Nino phenomenon could emerge this summer and last at least until autumn, now expects one could only emerge sometime between September and November.

The El Nino — a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific — can trigger drought in Southeast Asia and Australia and floods in South America, hitting production of key foods such as rice, wheat and sugar.

The weather bureau lowered its forecast for sea surface temperatures in the monitoring area for summer as it expected the temperatures in July and August would be closer to average, Ikuo Yoshikawa, weather forecaster at the Japan Meteorological Agency said by phone. Last month, the US weather forecaster gave its strongest forecast that an El Nino weather phenomenon will strike during the Northern Hemisphere summer, pegging the likelihood at 70 percent in its monthly outlook.—*Reuters*

Chinese hackers pursue key data on US workers

NEW YORK, 10 July — Chinese hackers broke into the computer networks of the United States government agency that keeps the personal information of all federal employees in March, the *New York Times* reported, citing senior US officials.

The hackers appeared to be targeting files on tens of thousands of employees who have applied for top-secret security clearances, the newspaper said.

The hackers gained access to some of the databases of the Office of Personnel Management before federal authorities detected the threat and blocked them from the network, the newspaper said. It was not yet clear how far the hackers penetrated the agency's systems, in which applicants for security clearances list their foreign contacts, previous jobs and personal information like past drug use.— *Reuters*

Six killed, including four children, in Houston-area shooting

HOUSTON, 10 July — A gunman shot six people to death, four of them children, in a Houston suburb on Wednesday, then surrendered to police after a lengthy standoff in a mass slaying that authorities say was sparked by a domestic dispute, a constable said.

The victims ranged from 4 to 40 years of age, and preliminary information indicated two of the dead were children adopted by the gunman and his estranged wife, Harris County Constable Ron Hickman told reporters after the suspect's arrest.

Hickman added that the violence stemmed from "obviously a domestic situation that went south, probably a divorce or separation."

A 15-year-old girl who also was shot but survived provided police with the name of the suspect and where he was believed to be going after he fled the scene, enabling officers to head him off before he arrived at the home of another family where he intended to shoot more relatives, police said.

Journalists work near the shooting area in Houston, the United States,on 9 July, 2014. A man involved in a domestic dispute opened fire at a suburban Houston home Wednesday evening, killing six people, four of them children, authorities said.
XINHUA

The gunman then led police on a nearly half-hour pursuitcapped by a standoff in a residential cul-de-sac a few miles from the scene of the slayings.

Streaming video footage from local television station KTRK showed the suspect's car sandwiched between two trucks where the chase ended, with more than a dozen police vehicles nearby.

After a four-hour interlude in which the suspect was seen placing a gun to his head, he walked out of the vehicle with his hands raised, then laid down on the ground to be taken into custody. Five of the victims were found dead on the scene, the Harris County Sheriff's Office said. Two others were flown by helicopter to an area hospital, but one, a child, later died while the other was listed in critical condition, the sheriff's office said.

The names of the suspect and the victims were not immediately released.—*Reuters*

Justin Bieber gets two years probation for egg pelting

Los Angeles, 10 July — Pop star Justin Bieber pleaded no contest to misdemeanor vandalism on Wednesday for pelting a neighbour's home with eggs and was sentenced to two years probation, the Los Angeles County District Attorney said.

The 20-year-old Bieber, who was not present in Los Angeles Superior Court for his arraignment, was also ordered to pay $80,900 in restitution, serve five days community service and complete an anger management programme in what the district attorney called a negotiated settlement.

"Justin is glad to get this matter resolved and behind him," Bieber's representatives said in a statement. "He will continue to move forward focusing on his career and his music."

The singer, whose hit songs include "Boyfriend," was accused of throwing eggs at a neighbour's home in an upscale Calabasas, California, neighbourhood during a dispute in January.

Investigators searched Bieber's home following the incident and arrested a friend, aspiring rapper Lil Za, for drug possession at the house.

Reuters

Trey Songz's 'Trigga' debuts at No 1 on US Billboard chart

Los Angeles, 10 July — R&B singer Trey Songz on Wednesday scored his second No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 chart, with "Trigga" selling 105,000 copies in its debut week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran's "x" dropped to second place after he secured his first No 1 album last week, with sales falling to 53,000 copies from 210,000 in its debut week.

Another British singer-songwriter, Sam Smith, dropped one spot to No. 3, with "In the Lonely Hour" selling 45,000 copies.

Rounding out the top five were South African metal band Seether debuting "Isolate & Medicate" in the No 4 position, and animated Disney film "Frozen," which held firm at No 5 for its 29th consecutive week in the top five.

Sam Smith's song "Stay with Me" topped the digital songs chart with 185,000 downloads, narrowly beating out for the second straight week "Rude" from Canadian reggae fusion band Magic!, which had 180,000 downloads. Total album sales for the week ended July 6 were 4.3 million, a 12 percent decline from the same week last year, Billboard said. Overall year-to-date album sales are 125.1 million, a 15 percent decrease from the same period last year.

Reuters

Actor John Wayne's heirs sue university to use 'Duke' nickname

Winston-Salem NC, 10 July — Heirs of film star John Wayne have sued Duke University over their right to use the late Academy Award winner's nickname, "Duke," to market a line of bourbon, describing the school's protests over such branding efforts as "ludicrous."

John Wayne Enterprises said it fears being sued by the private university in Durham, North Carolina, for trademark infringement unless a US court intervenes. The school has challenged the heirs' plans to use the name in connection with restaurant services and alcoholic beverages.

"Duke University seems to think it owns the word 'Duke' for all purposes and applications," Wayne's heirs said in a federal complaint filed on 3 July in the Central District of California.

The Wayne family business said it was "ludicrous" for the school to argue that inclusion of the nickname on commercial products would cause confusion, dilute the university's brand or falsely suggest a connection between the school and the goods.

An exhibit attached to the suit shows a bottle of bourbon with the "Duke" name featured prominently on the label along with Wayne's image and signature.

Duke University spokesman Michael Schoenfeld said on Wednesday the school would continue its fight to protect its trademarks.— *Reuters*

Rebecca Ferguson to play female lead in 'MI 5'

Los Angeles, 10 July — Swedish newcomer Rebecca Ferguson has been tapped to star opposite Tom Cruise in 'Mission: Impossible V' after Jessica Chastain passed the part.

Ferguson made a name out of herself when she starred in the titular role of BBC's 'The White Queen', reported Deadline. She was nominated for a Golden Globe this year for her first English-language role. She can next be seen in Brett Ratner's 'Hercules', to be released on 25 July.

Actor Alec Baldwin is in talks to join the fifth installment of the action franchise as the head of the CIA. Plot is still kept under wraps but reports say he will be a high-ranking CIA officer who oversees Cruise's division, very much like Laurence Fishburne's role in 'Mission: Impossible 31.

Chris McQuarrie will direct the film from the script penned by Drew Pearce. Paramount has slated it for release on 25 December, 2015.

Tom Cruise will reprise his role as Ethan Hunt. Jeremy Renner and Simon Pegg also return to the franchise.

PTI

Selena Gomez to be honoured at Italian Film Festival

London, 10 July — Singer-actress Selena Gomez will be named a Kids Global Icon at a film festival on the Italian island of Ischia. Organizers of the festival have chosen the 'Come & Get It' singer as a recipient of the prize, which celebrates young artists in Hollywood, reported Contactmusic.

The male recipient of the Kids Global Icon award will be given to 16-year-old Leo Howard, who stars in Disney TV programme 'Kickin' It'. Festival boss Pascal Vicedomini praised Gomez as a "stylistic model and a true artist" in a statement.

Jessica Chastain, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Sylvester Stallone have previously been announced as winners of acting awards at the festival, which runs from 12-20 July.—*PTI*

GENERAL

China to take measures to promote judicial independence

Policemen stand guard outside the Beijing No 1 Intermediate People's Court, where Xu Zhiyong's trial is held, in Beijing on 26 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

BEIJING, 10 July — China will act to promote judicial independence over the next five years with measures including specialized tribunals for environment and intellectual property cases, state media reported on Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping's administration has sought to weed out corruption in courts, but critics say the ruling Communist Party pays only lip service to independence of judicial organs because courts ultimately answer to Party authorities.

The official *Xinhua* news agency, quoting a plan released by the Supreme People's Court, said superior courts will henceforth be able to set up circuit courts to handle complex cases as well as tribunals specializing in environmental or intellectual property issues. Current handling of specialized cases is often marred by lack of subject-matter expertise among judges.

The Supreme People's Court appointed a senior judge to head a newly formed tribunal in charge of environment and resources cases last month.

"The reform will be focused on efforts to remove some deep-rooted problems affecting the capability and fairness of the country's judicial system," *Xinhua* said, quoting the court document it said was issued at a Press conference on Wednesday.

At present local officials can often influence court decisions in their jurisdictions. Miscarriages of justice caused by abuses of official power have stoked public discontent.

Xinhua said that trial judges' right to issue rulings independently would now be "further guaranteed". It provided no specifics, although it said judgments would no longer need to be signed by courts' chief justices.

Local courts' finances will be managed separately from money and goods they collect as litigation fees, fines and forfeitures, *Xinhua* added.

The high court document also addresses courts' budgets as well as selection of personnel. Special committees to choose justices will be set up at province-level courts, *Xinhua* said.—*Reuters*

S Korea coach resigns for World Cup failure

SEOUL, 10 July — South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo resigned on Thursday for his team's disappointing performance at the World Cup.

South Korea was out of the World Cup for finishing last in Group H. Its record included a 1-0 loss to Belgium, a 4-2 defeat by Algeria and a 1-1 draw with Russia.

Hong told a televised news conference that he was "deeply sorry" for the results.

Hong, captain of the South Korean team that reached the 2002 World Cup semifinals, coached the country's under-23 team to the bronze medal at the 2012 Olympics.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR TV

(11-7-2014, Friday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi

7:20 am
* Fullmoon Day Of Waso

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* TV Drama Series

9:30 am
* The Nine Precept

10:00 am
* News

11:20 am
* Documentary

12:00 pm
* News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm
* Myanmar Movie

2:25 pm
* Dhamma Sakyar (Question & Answer)

3:00 pm
* News

3:30 pm
* Mahar Wontha Myat Buddha

4:15 pm
* Songs In Honour of The Month (Waso)

4:30 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Years (Philosophy)

5:15 pm
* Documentary

6:20 pm
* Amazing World

7:00 pm
* News

8:45 pm
* People Talks

9:00 pm
* News
* Documentary
* Hyper Sports
* Ultimate Jewel of Mitzima

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-7-14 07:00 am~ 12-7-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* …. Shan Novices to be
* World News
* Waso on the Buddhist Lent
* Local News
* Adventure Abroad: Walking Along Orchard Road
* World News
* Inlay Lake: The Challenges
* Local News
* Martial Arts: Moving Meditation: Aikido
* World News
* Traditional Snacks
* Local News
* Instruments: Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
* World News
* A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
* 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
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* World News
* In The Studio: L Co
* Local News
* Instruments..Oboist and His Life
* World News
* Scented Buddha Images

US Open prize money upped 11.7 pct for 2014

WASHINGTON, 10 July — The prize money pool for this year's US Open has been increased by 11.7 percent to a record $38.3 million, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) announced on Wednesday.

The men's and women's singles champions will earn $3 million, a record payout at the year's final grand slam, while winners of each round of the singles competition will be awarded a double-digit percentage increase over last year.

"Last year to recognize the importance of the players and the key role they have in building our sport, the USTA shared our vision to reach $50 million in prize money at the US Open by 2017," USTA chairman Dave Haggerty said in a statement.

"This year's prize money increase continues the commitment to make the US Open one of the most lucrative purses in all of sports."

The total purse for the US Open's singles, doubles and mixed doubles competitions — which exceeds those at two of the other three grand slam tournaments — has been increased by 12.5 percent over last year.

This year, Wimbledon had a total prize pool of 25 million pounds ($41.98 million) while the Australian Open had an overall purse of $33 million and the French Open paid out a total of $34.54 million. In the last three years, prize money for the main draw at the US Open has been increased by 64.6 percent.

This year's qualifying tournament will offer more than $1.5 million in prize money for the first time, a rise of 11 percent over 2013. The 2014 US Open will be held from 25 August to 8 September in New York.—*Reuters*

A ball boy holds balls behind his back as Laura Robson of Britain plays Caroline Garcia of France at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 28 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

The New Light of Myanmar

Argentina beat Dutch in shootout to set up Germany final

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 July — Argentina reached their first World Cup final in 24 years on Wednesday, beating the Netherlands 4-2 on penalties after the first scoreless semi in the tournament's history, with old foes Germany awaiting them in Sunday's showpiece. The match will be a repeat of the 1986 and 1990 World Cup finals, the first of which was won by Argentina before the then West Germany gained revenge four years later.

Argentina's win compounded the misery for hosts Brazil who were humiliated 7-1 by Germany on Tuesday before seeing their worst fears realised when their South American neighbours booked their place at the Maracana on Sunday.

Midfielder Maxi Rodriguez scored the decisive penalty for Argentina after their goalkeeper Sergio Romero had saved spot kicks from Ron Vlaar and Wesley Sneijder, triggering wild celebrations among Lionel Messi's triumphant team.

"I'm proud to be a part of this group," Messi said in a statement posted on his social media pages.

"They are all phenomenons, what a match they played.

"What madness. We are in the final. Let's enjoy it, it is just a little step more."

Brazil may have won the World Cup more than any other country, but the one they wanted most of all will now be played between two of their greatest rivals.

For Brazilians, it is unpalatable prospect for the mourning samba nation but for football fans, it is a dream showdown between a German team that has wowed everyone at the tournament and Messi, the four-time World Player of the year who has won every honour except the World Cup.

Wednesday's second semi-final in Sao Paulo could not have been more different than Tuesday's goalfest in Belo Horizonte but the sheer tension of the occasion had fans on the edge of their seats.

"I'm very happy because we reached the final and now we will see what we can do," said Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella. "We will give everything as usual, with humility, work and 100 percent effort."

Neither Argentina or the Netherlands created many chances in a dour game that was dominated by defence but ultimately came down to a battle of nerves when they finished deadlocked at 0-0 after extra time.

Argentina's goalkeeper Sergio Romero saves the third penalty shot from Wesley Sneijder of the Netherlands during a penalty shootout in their 2014 World Cup semi-finals at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 9 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Van Gaal slams 3rd-4th place playoff as pointless

SAO PAULO, 10 July — The Netherlands will face Brazil in Saturday's third-fourth place play-off but it is not a match the Dutch want to play, with coach Louis van Gaal saying it was a pointless exercise that "has nothing to do with sports."

"I think this match should never be played and I've been saying this for 10 years," Van Gaal said after his team were knocked out by Argentina on penalties.

"It is unfair we have one day less to recover than our opponent so that is not fair play either," he added.

"But the worst thing is I believe that chances are that you lose twice in a row. And a tournament in which you've played so marvelously well you would go home as a loser just because you could possibly have lost the last two matches and this has got nothing to do with sports in my view."

"So, in a football tournament particularly not at the last stage you shouldn't have players playing match for third-fourth place. Because there is only one award that counts and that is becoming world champion." The Netherlands will face host nation Brazil, who were hammered 7-1 by Germany in the other semi on Tuesday. The match will take place in the capital Brasilia.—*Reuters*

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal (R) consoles goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen after their 2014 World Cup semi-finals against Argentina at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 9 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Argentina's Lionel Messi (2nd R) vies with Netherlands' Jordy Clasie (1st R) and Robin van Persie (2nd L) during a semifinal match between Netherlands and Argentina of 2014 FIFA World Cup at the Arena de Sao Paulo Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 9 July, 2014.—XINHUA

For players and fans, the tension was almost unbearable and it was the Dutch, who have played in three World Cup finals, including the last one in Johannesburg four years ago, but never won one, who fluffed their lines in the shootout.

It was also a second semi-final defeat on penalties for the Netherlands who suffered the same fate against Brazil in 1998.

"I didn't have the feeling in the second half that we would lose," said Netherlands manager Louis van Gaal.

"And when it comes to penalties you know it's a lottery. The boys did fantastically (well). Nobody had expected this."

The Dutch will play Brazil in the third-place playoff in Brasilia on Saturday as the recriminations into the host nation's limp exit gather pace.

ETERNAL SHAME

Brazilian media savaged the team's performance with newspapers describing the Germany defeat as an "historic disgrace", "national humiliation", "eternal shame" and a "fiasco".

A lot of the blame was directed at Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, whose future is now the source of wide speculation with Tite, Muricy Ramalho and Vanderlei Luxemburgo looming as his possible successor.

Brazil President Dilma Rousseff took to social media to express her disappointment to a country reeling from the loss after spending more than $11 billion (6.41 billion pounds) on hosting the tournament.

"I'm immensely sorry for all of us, our fans and players," she tweeted. "But let's not let ourselves give up. Brazil, get up, dust yourself off and bounce back."

Riot police, who had been deployed at fan sites around the country to handle any violent outbreaks, had a quiet night with most fans too traumatised by the manner of defeat to revolt.

An Argentine journalist was killed in Sao Paulo early on Wednesday morning when his taxi was hit by a stolen car fleeing police. He was the second Argentine reporter to die in a car wreck while covering the World Cup.

The mood in Germany could not have been more different with more than 32 million people watching their country's victory on television, a record rating which accounted for an audience market share of almost 88 percent.

Hundreds of thousands of Germans watched the match from the avenue leading to the Brandenburg Gate and German Chancellor Angela Merkel is expected to attend the final.

Off the field, FIFA suspended the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) because of government interference.

A regional court in Nigeria last week ordered the sacking of the existing NFF executive after the team's performance at the World Cup, where they were eliminated by France in the second round.

The court appointed a new administrator to run the game in the populous west African nation but FIFA warned Nigeria they would be banned from competing internationally unless the old leadership was restored to power.

"The suspension will be lifted once the court actions have been withdrawn and the properly elected NFF Executive Committee, the NFF general assembly and the NFF administration are able to work without any interference in their affairs," FIFA said.—*Reuters*

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Semi-final Result

Match-62	Netherlands	0(2)-0(4)	Argentina

Argentina win on penalties (2 - 4)

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