

All political forces and every single citizen to make their goal to ensure stability during transitional period before general elections

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—The following is the full text of the monthly radio address delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.



My Fellow citizens,

As I have done previously, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

Since my government took office, we have steadily implemented political and socio-economic reforms, and peace building efforts towards national reconciliation. These three areas of reforms are interrelated and inter-dependent.

Our government has put serious effort into the peace process, and initial agreement has been reached on a draft nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA). Soon, the ethnic armed groups will hold their summit in Lawkheelar, Kayin State to discuss approval of the NCA. Once the NCA

is finalized, political dialogue will take place as pledged in the agreement. The objective of the dialogue is to work together in unity to build a Union based on the principles of democracy and federalism that all the nation's ethnic groups desire. Only then, can we achieve a sustainable peace that benefits this and future generations.

As we systematically develop the socio-economic conditions of the country, we must also undertake political reforms that are in harmony with these conditions. These reforms in particular must be carried out step by step to nurture democratic practices in the whole society as well as in the government, and to improve public services.

When my government took office over four years ago, we embarked on liberalization and reforms starting from the prevailing political situation at that time. We encountered delays and difficulties because transitioning from one system to another means that certain practices of the old system will be incompatible in the new system. No matter the obstacles, we will continue to implement necessary reforms.

In particular, we introduced power sharing between the Union government, and regional and state governments that are the essence of the Constitution's Union Legislative List (Schedule 1) and Region or State Legislative List (Schedule 2). Our first task was to implement the rights granted by the Constitution. Next, adjustments and amendments were made. Tatmadaw representatives in parliament introduced amendments to Schedule 1 and 2 with the support of members of parliament. Political parties have also made suggestions.

The right conditions must exist for the emergence of a federal-based Union. Therefore, the priority is to amend

provisions of Schedules 1 and 2 that benefit residents of the states and regions, and provides for fair revenue sharing. Based on four years of practical experiences, trials, consultations, and advice, draft amendments to Schedules 1 and 2 will be submitted to parliament later this month.

Of importance to governance and other sectors, the 2014 Population and Household Census results were officially released on May 29th. The main benefits of the census, the first in many years, are that accurate numbers are now available for the delivery of public services and policy-making. Voter lists for the upcoming general elections will also rely on these census results.

I would now like to give some information about the establishment of minimum wage. After collecting feedback from labor organizations' consultations with factory workers, a national-level committee meeting on setting a minimum wage will be held. Once these preparations are complete, decisions on the minimum wage will be made by the end of July.

National reconciliation is of great importance to our nation. Our country has suffered because in the past various political forces and political leaders were unable to reach broad consensus among each other. All of you are aware that taking lessons from this history, I have held meetings of different formats with political leaders. On May 18th, I met with leaders and representatives of political parties to discuss cooperation to ensure the continued success of the peace process, successful holding of the 2015 general elections, and stability in the period before the elections.

(See page 3)

Law Khee Lar ethnic armed organizations summit begins

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 2 June—A conference of ethnic armed organizations began Tuesday in Law Khee Lar, Kayin State, to seek final approval on a draft peace deal between the groups and the Myanmar government.

The Ethnic Armed Organizations Summit from 2-6 June will discuss the draft National Ceasefire Accord approved in late March by the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, representing 16 ethnic armed groups, and the government's Union

Peace-making Work Committee in Yangon.

Leaders of all ethnic armed groups—including NCCT members and non-members—have been invited to the Law Khee Lar Summit.

According to sources, observers from the Unit-

ed Nations, including Mr Vijay Nambiar, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar, the People's Republic of China and Nippon Foundation's Myanmar Liaison Office were present on the first day of the summit.

GNLM

Bangkok Bank becomes first Thai lender to open Myanmar branch

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 2 June—Bangkok Bank opened its first Myanmar branch Tuesday in Yangon, becoming the fourth foreign lender to open an outlet in the country.

Bangkok Bank is the only Thai lender among nine foreign firms awarded commercial banking licenses by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Mr. Chaayarit Anuchit-

worawong, head of Bangkok Bank's International Branch Division, said the lender will primarily focus on business with foreign companies in Myanmar.

"We are also working hand in hand with local banks," he said.

The branch will offer a full range of services for foreign-invested companies and domestic banks in Myanmar in both foreign currencies and Myanmar kyat.

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Ethnic Armed Organizations Summit which is set for five days takes places in Law Khee Lar, Kayin State, on Tuesday.

PHOTO:
CREDIT TO
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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Harvard Kennedy School Myanmar specialist

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Vice-Senior General Soe Win hosts dinner to Russian army chief

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Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry seeks approval for loans from Myanma Economic Bank, CBM

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than on Tuesday explained agricultural loans for fiscal 2015-2016 at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The ministry requested K 1,352.76 billion for agricultural loans to the union government and the leading committee for promotion and protection of farmers' interests, and was allowed to take out loans for K800 billion from Myanma Economic Bank and K400 billion from the Central Bank of Myanmar, according to the deputy minister.

However, the central bank of Myanmar law and the law for promotion and protection of farmers' interests require the government to seek approval of the Hluttaw for the central bank loan

and the president asked the Hluttaw to approve the loan from the central bank. Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung also promised to issue agricultural loans in accordance with the central bank law. The Hluttaw session also discussed the findings of the bill for rights of the disabled and the bill for the Myanmar account council. MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

MP urges completion of Dawei deep seaport



Deputy Minister U Thant Shin.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Development of the Dawei deep seaport in southern Myanmar is behind schedule, while the government should be doing more to promote the mega-project, MP U Myint Soe from Pyawbwe Township constituency told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Tuesday.

In reply, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein told the Lower House



Deputy Minister U Han Sein.—MNA

that Myanmar and Thailand made a joint announcement on the project during 21st ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in November 2012.

He also said tripartite discussions among Myanmar, Thailand and Japan are under way to be able to sign a memorandum of intent.

In connection with the education sector, MP

U Myint Shwe from Wall Township constituency complained that classes were no longer being taught two or three months ahead of the matriculation exam in previous academic years in some schools.

Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin said basic education school children need 75 percent attendances from June to 18 February for each academic year, but the ministry did not issue any order to stop teaching in the remaining period before the exam.

U Mya Thein, MP for Bogale Township constituency, called for a suitable teacher-student ratio to ensure effective teaching.

U Thant Shin replied that the ministry is certifying more teachers for understaffed schools in both states and regions. MNA

Festival set to mark 100 years of cartooning in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 2 June—A festival to mark the centenary of cartoon publishing in Myanmar will take place later this year in Yangon, an organizer of the event said recently.

The organizing committee of the Myanmar Cartoon 100th Anniversary has submitted an application to stage the event at the National Theatre of Yangon, most likely in November or December, according to the

information officer for the festival, cartoonist U Moe Htet Moe.

"We will fix the exact date only after getting the green light from the authorities," U Moe Htet Moe told The Global New Light of Myanmar. "We propose to hold it in Myanmar Event Park if we do not get the permit."

Myanmar cartoonists from home and abroad will showcase two or three car-

toons each at the five-day event. Works may cover a wide range of subjects, but the committee has asked artists not to create satirical cartoons.

Works of bygone cartoonists and comic writers, including late U Ba Gyan, will also be displayed at the festival.

A book fair, public readings and a drama performance by cartoonists will also be held during the event. The organizing body expects the fair to draw visitors from around

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw focus on loans from Myanma Economic Bank.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

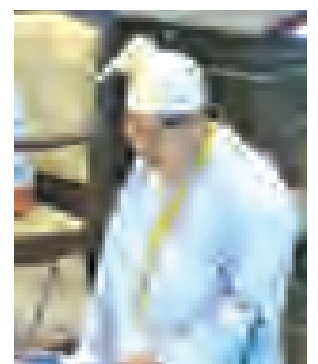
Amyotha Hluttaw forms Belarus-Myanmar inter-parliamentary group

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June —The Amyotha Hluttaw on Tuesday approved the creation of an inter-parliamentary body aimed at fostering dialogue between elected officials in Myanmar and Belarus.

The Upper House gave the green light to formation of the Belarus-Myanmar Inter Parliamentary Friendship Group and received the list of its membership during the session. Concerning the plantation of perennial plants and trees along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint told the Upper House trees will be cultivated in the rainy season of June, July and August. The house also approved the second amendment of laws on electoral systems of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, as well as state and regional Hluttaw. U Myo Myint, MP of Man-

dalay Region constituency 6, urged the Union government to draft a master plan for river water conveyance to address the problems of drought in hot season and floods in rainy season in central and southeastern parts of the country. The Amyotha Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposal.

U Hla Swe, MP of Magway Region constituency 12, then called for the Union government to take decisive action on boat people. He asserted that boat people should not be regarded as refugees or asylum seekers as they were moving to other countries for better livelihoods, and that a fixed



Deputy Minister U Soe Tint.—MNA

term of two weeks or one month should be set for their repatriation to address the concerns of Myanmar people. The house also agreed to discuss the proposal MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Press Release Team

Press Release (7/2015)

2 June, 2015

1st Waning Day of Nayon, 1377 ME

Press release on dissociation with the National Progressive Party of Dr Nay Zin Latt

1. Dr Nay Zin Latt, who has established the National Progressive Party and was formerly a member of the Political Advisory Board of the president, was allowed to retire from the post under Order (34/2015) of the Union Government Office dated 30-4-2015 so that he is no longer associated with the president or the Union Government.
2. The Union Government led by the president abides by provisions of Section 64 of the Constitution.
3. Therefore, it is announced that the National Progressive Party established by Patron of the party Dr Nay Zin Latt, former member of the Political Advisory Board of the president, is neither associated with the president nor with the Union Government.

Press Release Team

the country.

Cartoons have been published in Myanmar since 1915. U Shwe Talay, otherwise known as U Ba Galay, is recognised as the first local cartoonist. At present, the country has more than 200 professionals in the cartoon industry, including only a handful of women.

The emergence of privately owned daily newspapers in the wake of sweeping government reforms has provided new opportunities for cartoonists in Myanmar to publish their work and earn an income. GNLM

NATIONAL

All political forces and every single citizen to make...

(from page 1)

If we look ahead to the general elections, I believe the elected representatives will genuinely reflect the desire of the electorate. The election of these members of parliament represents a new political energy – one that will build on the reforms initiated by this government to successfully complete the democratic transition. Therefore, political forces should be prepared for the long-term tasks of nation building, national unity, and peace building. They will need to further develop the culture of negotiations introduced by my government to ensure the emergence of an open, free, and developed nation.

To ensure that the 2015 general elections are free and

fair, the government will fully cooperate with the Union Election Commission and other relevant organizations. All levels of the government will diligently, correctly, and transparently implement all election laws, regulations and procedures. I have also been informed that the Union Election Commission is working to ensure accurate voter lists so that all legally eligible voters are able to vote, election results are transparently and accurately reported, and international observers are able to do their work as permitted by law.

Myanmar is responding in a responsible manner to the boat migrants adrift in the Andaman Sea. Although Myanmar must protect its citizens and its sovereignty, our country is also a responsible member of the global community. Therefore, we are working with other countries to offer humanitarian assistance to the boat migrants, and return them to their homes. The root causes of human trafficking and

illegal migration are lack of jobs and poverty. Therefore, we are prioritizing poverty alleviation and improving livelihoods for the people living in Rakhine State.

Finally, I would like to urge all political forces and every single citizen to make it their goal to ensure stability during this transitional period before the general elections. As long-term goals, I urge all of you to focus on putting in place the foundation for building a future New Myanmar. In so doing, we must avoid extreme views and passing on the bitter legacy of political and armed conflict to future generations. Instead, it is important that we build upon history's lessons to create goals that are laudable and constructive.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my commitment to achieving peace, promoting economic development and building a better future for future generations.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Harvard Kennedy School Myanmar specialist

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Thomas J Valley of the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Present were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief

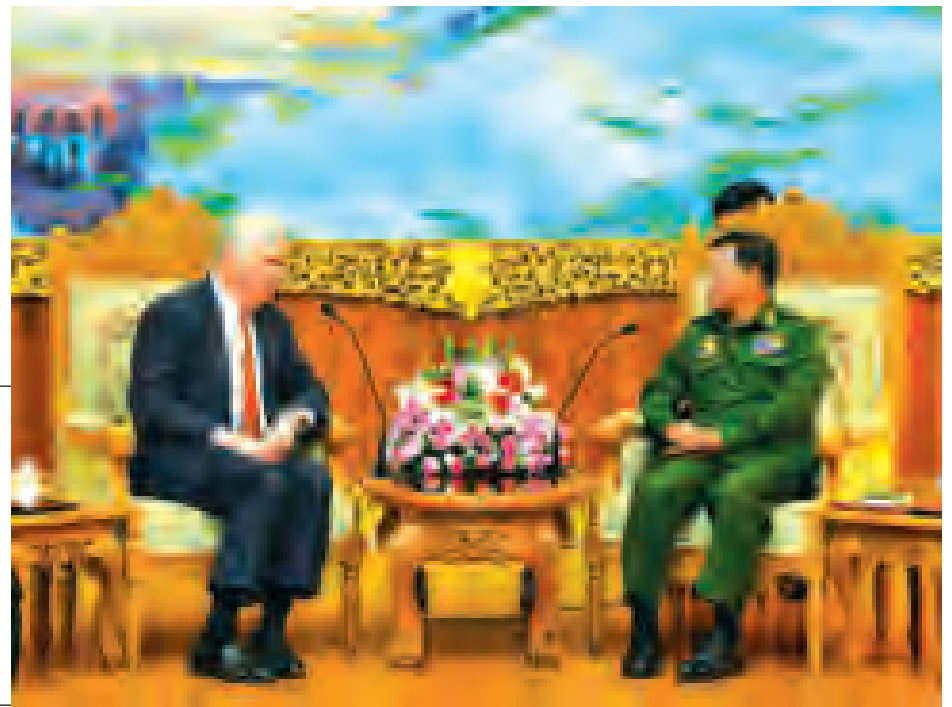
(Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr Valley, who works in the Myanmar department at the school, which is part of Harvard University in Massachusetts, discussed the findings of Proximity Designs, a research team focusing on political and economic affairs of Myanmar. The senior general explained the historical

background and experience of the Tatmadaw and its national duties.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Thomas J Valley of the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.
MYAWADY



Vice-Senior General Soe Win hosts dinner to Russian army chief

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win hosted a dinner to

Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces of Russian Federation Colonel Oleg L Salyukov and wife Irina V Salyukov and delegation at the Shwe Nandaw Hotel in Nay Pyi

Taw on Monday.

Present were the wife of the vice-senior general, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife, senior officers

from the office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, members of the Russian delegation and the Russian military attaché to Myanmar.—Myawady

Industry minister invites Japanese investment in rail, ICT

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Union ministers and high-ranking officials mingled with Japanese industrialists Tuesday at a gala dinner hosted by Hitachi at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The dinner was part of a social innovation forum organized by the Japanese multinational conglomerate and followed a meeting the previous day between its president Mr Toshiaki Higashihara and President U Thein Sein.

Speaking at the dinner, Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint said power transmission, distribution, railways and ICT systems are necessities for

the development of Myanmar.

Myanmar needs modern railway networks to develop its transportation sector, the minister said, calling on Japanese investment in these sectors as part of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Investment in transportation, as well as information and communications technology, can help achieve equitable economic development in the country, he said.

The meeting was also attended by Myanmar officials, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Hitachi President Mr Higashihara and man-

agement of the Japanese company.

In 1958, the Hitachi constructed the second hydropower plant in Bal-

uchaung, Kayah State, in eastern Myanmar, generating 40 percent electricity consumption in the country.—MNA



Officials cut ribbons to open Bangkok Bank's first Myanmar branch in Yangon on Tuesday.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Myanmar-Japan Association donates uniforms, stationery to basic education schools in Phugyi Station

YANGON, 2 June—Myanmar-Japan Association donated school uniforms and stationery to Phugyi Station in Yangon North District on Tuesday.

Chairman of the association U Saw Hla Min presented 750 school uniforms, 750 notebooks, 500 compass boxes, 2,400 pieces of pencils, 1,000 pieces of ball-pens, 500 rulers and erasers to heads of two basic education primary schools in the station

and Shwemyaya monastic education middle school. The association received K10 million proceeds from the Friendly Myanmar Photo gallery held in Yangon in October 2014. The association donated K5 million from the proceeds to the monastic education middle school in Monpinse village in Meiktila Township and remaining K5 million to schools in Phugyi Station.

MNA

Bangkok Bank becomes first...

(from page 1)

"We will be offering remittance service both domestically in the country and also overseas," Mr Chaiyarit Anuchitworawong said.

The bank plans to have roughly US \$200 million in capital in Myanmar, he said.

Bangkok Bank has

had a presence in Myanmar since 1995, serving customers seeking to invest and do business in Myanmar. The new branch with 12 local staff will connect customers in Myanmar with the bank's international network.

Two Japanese banks and one Singaporean bank have launched branches since the opening of the sector to foreign lenders in April. —GNLM

Volunteers try to keep Myingyan plastic-free area

MYINGYAN, 2 June—Volunteers recently collected plastic and polyethylene bags around Lethit Village at the entrance to Myingyan-TadaU Road in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

Staff of the district and township General Administration Department, police, Development Affairs Committee workers, fire-fighters, Red Cross members and students took part

in the cleanup.

Myingyan District's deputy commissioner U Myint Thein Aung spoke about the scourge of plastic bags and urged the volunteers to keep the entrance to Myingyan clean.

District and township authorities provided four garbage vans for the volunteer teams to gather the plastic bags.

*Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)*

Female police officers undertake on-the-job training



MANDALAY, 2 June—Mandalay Region Police Force opened a female police officers on-the-job training course on 1 June.

The course aims to increase the job skills of female sub-inspector police officers.

A total of 42 female

SIPs are studying investigation and surveillance subjects in the course until 26 June.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Japan white sesame gets lower price than last year

MANDALAY, 2 June—A drop in demand from Chinese merchants has led to falling market prices for Japanese white sesame in Mandalay, according to brokers.

Chinese merchants paid K145,000 per bag of white sesame last year,

compared with K120,000 per bag this year, the brokers said.

"Myanmar and Vietnam are the main exporters of white sesame to China. Depending on import volume from Vietnam, Chinese merchants offer sesame from Myanmar," brokerage

owner U Soe Win Myint from Mandalay said.

At present, white sesame from Kyaukse, Yes-aygo, Magway, Natmauk, Taungdwingyi and Aunglan flows into the Mandalay market.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Sports ground upgrade nears completion



MOHNYIN, 2 June—Work to upgrade the Mohnyin Township sports ground is nearing completion, with the project

scheduled to finish in the second week of June.

Two 1,700-seat concrete stands are currently under construction.

A gymnasium will also be built in fiscal 2015-16, according to U Soe Win Than of Mohnyin Town-

ship Sports and Physical Education Department.

"According to the township sports development programme, the sports ground will accept various sports competitions including football events as of 15 June," he said.

GNLM-001

MPPE, foreign companies to open 40 fuel stations

MANDALAY, 2 June—Myanma Petroleum Product Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy has announced it will open 40 fuel stations across the nation in cooperation with

foreign companies.

An MPPE official said the fuel stations will be opened in fiscal 2015-16 to compete with privately run stations and reduce fuel prices.

"We will penetrate the market with 40 fuel stations in the nation. We plan to reduce the prices of fuel and supply fuel to the private sector," the official said. The fuel stations of the enterprise

will sell petroleum, diesel, octane and engine oil.

At present, the MPPE runs 13 fuel stations while private entrepreneurs operate 101 stations in Mandalay.—*Aung Ye Thwin*



School uniforms in high demand in Mandalay market

MANDALAY, 2 June—With basic education schools opening across the nation on 1 June for the 2015-16 academic year, school uniforms for boys and girls are in high demand at Mandalay Zaygyo and Yadanabon Market.

Retailers from Sagaing, Monywa, Myinmu, Kawlin, Wuntho, Mohnyin, Mogaung, Kyaukse, Yamethin, Thazi and NyaungU townships purchase the uniforms from wholesale shops from the two major markets in Mandalay.

School uniforms for students at primary and middle levels are sold from K2,500 to K3,000 at the market.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Philippine pres begins state visit to Japan amid S China Sea feud

TOKYO, 2 June — Philippine President Benigno Aquino began a four-day state visit to Japan on Tuesday, a trip being touted as an opportunity for the two countries to highlight their stronger defence and security ties to counter China's rapid and massive land reclamation work in contested waters in the South China Sea.

At a time when territorial rows in that sea are taking centre stage, Aquino will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday, during which the two leaders are expected to boost their countries' ties as "strategic partners" and reaffirm their cooperation in peacefully resolving the South China Sea disputes under the rule of law, Japanese officials said.

Although details of the kind of cooperation on defence equipment are being worked out, Japanese government sources said Aquino and Abe are likely to agree on the start of talks to sign an accord over the transfer of defence equipment and share their concerns about Beijing's attempts to change the status quo.

The Abe-Aquino talks will come days after China was recently put in the hot seat during Asia's biggest security forum, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore, with the United States taking aim at Beijing's recent reclamation work and Japan joining the United States to reiterate their opposition to such actions.

Abe's meeting with Aquino in the Japanese cap-

ital is also the latest in a series of visits to Japan made by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in recent months. Last month, Abe and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak met and agreed to launch negotiations for cooperation on the transfer of defence equipment and technology. In March, Abe also met Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

The easing of its strict rules on arms exports in April last year now allows Japan to export defence equipment and technology to other countries.

Tokyo and Manila are looking at P-3C patrol aircraft and radar-related equipment as potential export items, according to the Japanese government sources.

A Japanese official said Aquino's state visit amid China's muscle-flexing in the East China and South China seas demonstrates how "important" the Philippines is to Japan and how it is a "good opportunity" to show to the international community how Japan values its relations with the Philippines.

Ahead of his departure to Tokyo, Aquino said to reporters in Manila that Japan has extended much support to the Philippines, especially when it was struck by a powerful typhoon in 2013.

"They are also with us in our stand that the rule of law should prevail to achieve fair and just resolution of territorial issues," he said.

Foreign dignitaries' visits to Japan are usual-

ly designated as state visits only up to twice a fiscal year. Aquino's case is the first for this year and the first for himself.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, which is a vital shipping lane and touted as having rich fishing grounds. China's rival claimants are notably the Philippines and Vietnam, as well as Malaysia, Brunei and Taipei.

Japan, for its part, has tensions with China in the East China Sea where Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed islands lie — known as the Senkakus in Japan and called the Diaoyu by Beijing.

On top of their defence equipment-linked cooperation, Japan is also expected to reiterate its support for

strengthening the Philippine Coast Guard, the officials said. Tokyo has promised Manila 10 patrol ships but the ships have yet to be handed over.

As part of efforts to bolster economic ties, the two leaders are also set to unveil a road map for better transport infrastructure in Manila to make it easier for Japanese businesses, a Japanese official said. The ministry estimates there are about 1,200 firms in the Southeast Asian country whose yearly economic growth has stayed at around 6 percent to 7 percent.

Aquino's itinerary will include giving a speech to parliament, meeting Japanese businessmen and meeting with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Kyodo News

Japan's defence intelligence chief to visit S Korea in mid-June

SEOUL, 2 June — Japan's defence intelligence chief will make a three-day visit to South Korea from 15 June for talks with his South Korean counterpart on matters of bilateral interest, South Korea's Defence Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

"(Their talks) will be focused on North Korea and Northeast Asia," Kim Min Seok said during a

press briefing, confirming local news reports on the visit of Tadashi Miyagawa, chief of the intelligence bureau at the Japanese Defence Ministry.

He declined to provide further details on the Japanese intelligence officer's itinerary.

The talks on the military intelligence level had been held every year from 1971 to two years ago for a total of 61 times. Such talks could not be held last year, he added.

The upcoming talks will come at a time of heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula after North Korea announced last month that it had successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine.

North Korea also claimed that it already has the capability of miniaturizing nuclear warheads.

In a related development, Japanese and South Korean defence ministers on Saturday held their

first bilateral talks in four years on the sidelines of a regional security forum in Singapore and agreed to continue dialogue to improve strained relations.

Relations between South Korea and Japan have deteriorated to their lowest level in recent years due to conflicting views on their bitter shared history and a territorial dispute.

Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula from 1910-1945.

Kyodo News

Cambodia defends controversial draft NGO bill

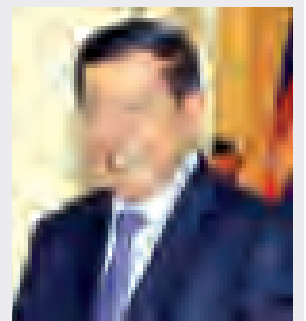
PHNOM PENH, 2 June — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday defended the controversial draft law on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations, saying that the bill aims to protect and support the activities of NGOs and associations in Cambodia.

"It is necessary for Cambodia to make the law on NGOs and associations," he said during the inauguration ceremony of a national road in Kampong Speu Province.

The law does not prevent the activities of NGOs and associations, but it aims to fight against terrorism financing, money laundering, and creation of illegal armed forces, he said.

"NGOs and associations should not worry about this law. It will protect you, support you, and open up to your activities," he said, adding that the government will soon approve this draft law and send it to the National Assembly.

The draft law will require NGOs and associations to register their nationalities with the Cambodian government in order to have legal standing and they are required to file reports on their activities and finances each



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

year to the government.

According to the figures of the Ministry of Interior, currently, there are 2,672 NGOs and 1,706 associations operating in Cambodia.

Speaking during a meeting with visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Scott Busby on Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said the draft NGO law is not targeted to prevent or limit the activities of NGOs, but to see those NGOs operate in a transparent manner.

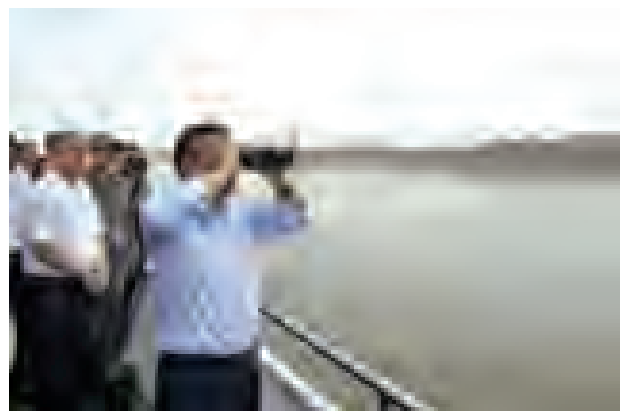
"At present, Cambodia is enforcing the rule of law, and the government has done everything transparently, so NGOs and associations should be transparent too. There should be nothing to hide," he told reporters after the meeting.

Xinhua

Prioritize saving lives, premier tells Yangtze rescuers

JIANLI, (Hubei), 2 June — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has called for "all-

out efforts" to save lives following the sinking of a passenger ship with 458



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (front) gives instructions on search and rescue work on a ship at the site of overturned ship in the Jianli section of the Yangtze River in central China's Hubei Province, on 2 June, 2015. The ship, named Dongfangzhixing, or Eastern Star, sank at around 9:28 pm (1328 GMT) on Monday after being caught in a cyclone in the Jianli section of the Yangtze River. Carrying 405 passengers, five travel agency workers and 47 crew members, the ship was heading from Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, for southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.—XINHUA

people onboard in the Hubei section of the Yangtze River on Monday night.

The ship, named *Dongfangzhixing*, or *Eastern Star*, sank at around 9:28 pm after being caught in a cyclone in the Jianli section of the river, according to the Yangtze River navigation administration.

So far, a total of 15 people have been rescued from the capsized ship, and another five were confirmed dead. Rescuers said there could be more survivors.

Chairing a meeting to direct the rescue and emergency response work as he took a plane to the site, Li said saving lives should be the top priority.

He instructed a State Council work team to rush to the site to guide search and rescue work. He urged

all rescuers to "carry out search and rescue work at all costs and properly handle the aftermath".

The Ministry of Transport, the China National Tourism Administration and other departments have been ordered to mobilize all resources available to speed up the search and rescue work and help treat rescued people.

Li called for regular and transparent updates on the rescue and investigation, and said authorities must ensure adequate funding and personnel to conduct rescue work. The ship was carrying 406 passengers, five travel agency workers and 47 crew members. It was heading from Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, to southwest China's Chongqing city.

Xinhua

Japan UN officer working for children in Central African Republic



Ryoko Ogawa

TOKYO, 2 June— A UNICEF child protection officer from Japan is helping child soldiers in the Central African Republic return to society and lead normal lives as children.

“We hope that they will return to being normal children and be allowed to play and laugh freely,” Ry-

oko Ogawa, 35, said during an interview in Tokyo.

The African nation has been mired in conflict between Muslim and Christian armed groups until recently, with about 10,000 children under 18 forced to serve as soldiers and others falling victim to abduction. But in a hopeful development, the two sides reached a cease-fire in early May and agreed to release their child soldiers.

“Many of the children at first show no emotion but start displaying lively expressions several months later,” Ogawa said in describing the most rewarding aspects of her job at the UN Children’s Fund.

Children were forced to fight in the front line and also had to transport

goods or engage in spying, she said. Girls sometimes became victims of sexual assaults.

“We are trying to make them feel they can relax through sports, dancing and drawing,” she said.

After having worked for a travel agency and the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Tokyo-native Ogawa moved to the Central African Republic as a UNICEF child protection specialist in February 2014.

Her first experience of the country was being stranded at the airport after arrival as a gunfight raged nearby. “It felt like I had received a baptism of fire,” Ogawa said.

She decided on a career in humanitarian assistance for children during a

visit as a university student to Croatia, where she met street children. Some were smoking while others were begging for money at a station at midnight. The East European country was still reeling at the time from effects of the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s.

“In Japan, I went to school and got a good education,” she said. “The same educational opportunities should be offered to children (in the Central African Republic) for the future of the country.”

Ogawa said she has got used to life in Africa but is still frightened by indigenous worms. For a change, she enjoys watching at home DVDs of comedy shows she brought from Japan.—Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (3rd from R) enters the room for a Cabinet meeting in Tokyo on 2 June, 2015. All participants of the meeting wore “kariyushi,” — a summer shirt, similar to a Hawaiian shirt, from Okinawa — as the government began its annual “Super Cool Biz” campaign a day earlier.—KYODO NEWS

China, Pakistan pledge to strengthen military cooperation

BEIJING, 2 June— Senior military officials from China and Pakistan met on Tuesday in Beijing, pledging to strengthen practical cooperation in such areas as training, military equipment, and anti-terrorism.

In his meeting with visiting Pakistan Air Force Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, Fan Changlong, Vice Chairman of China’s Central Military Commission, said the Chinese military is willing to work with the Pakistan counterpart to maintain the growth momentum of military-to-military exchanges and beef up pragmatic cooperation in training, equipment and anti-terrorism.

“China and Pakistan have become ‘iron friends’, always trusting and supporting each other,” Fan said.

He expressed his hope the two countries’ military cooperation will contribute to regional peace and stability.

Pakistan has always placed the two country’s bilateral relationship as a top priority, Sohail said. Pakistan is willing to join hands with China to strengthen all-round military-to-military exchanges and cooperation, particularly in the air force.

Sohail hoped the two countries’ military cooperation will provide a safe and secure environment for China-Pakistan economic corridor and deepen their all-weather friendship and all-dimensional cooperation.—Xinhua

US tightens airport security after screeners fail undercover tests

WASHINGTON, 2 June — Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said on Monday he had ordered improved security at US airports after media reports that checkpoint screeners failed to detect mock explosives and weapons in 95 percent of tests carried out by undercover agents.

Airport screeners, who are employees of the Transportation Security Administration, did not detect banned weapons in 67 of 70 tests at dozens of airports, ABC News said, citing officials briefed on a report by Homeland Security’s inspector general.

Johnson, whose department oversees the TSA, was briefed last week on the trials, which were completed recently, ABC News said.

In one test, the network said an undercover agent was stopped when he set off an alarm at a checkpoint but that TSA screeners then failed to find a fake explosive device taped to his back when they patted him down.

Johnson issued a statement on Monday saying the results of the security checks were classified but that he had directed the TSA to revise screening procedures “to address specific vulnerabilities identified” in the undercover operation. He also ordered training for all TSA officers and supervisors across the country and testing of airports’ screening equipment.

Johnson said there would be more random covert testing at checkpoints.

“The numbers in these reports never look good out of context but they are a critical element in the continual evolution of our aviation security,” Johnson said. “We take these findings very seriously in our continued effort to test, measure and enhance our capabilities and techniques as threats evolve.”—Reuters

Solar plane on round-world trip lands in Japan to avoid bad weather

TOKYO, 2 June — A solar-powered plane currently attempting the first-ever around-the-world flight without the use of fossil fuel made an unscheduled landing on Monday night at an airport in central Japan to avoid poor weather around Hawaii.

The Solar Impulse 2 had been scheduled to fly for five to six days from China’s Nanjing to Hawaii in what was to be the longest leg of the global trip — but was forced to land at Nagoya airport, according to the Swiss organization that runs the flight.

At a Press conference early Monday morning after landing, Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg expressed



The Solar Impulse 2, a solar-powered plane currently attempting the first-ever around-the-world flight without the use of fossil fuel, makes an unscheduled landing at Nagoya airport in central Japan on 1 June, 2015, to avoid poor weather around Hawaii.

KYODO NEWS

his intention to continue the trip to Hawaii with the single-seat plane after waiting out the adverse weather.

Saying “thank you” in Japanese at the outset of the conference, Borschberg expressed gratitude to Jap-

anese aviation and government authorities for having swiftly accommodated the flight. He said the trip was interrupted by deteriorating weather toward Hawaii and not by mechanical problems.

The aircraft, operated by two pilots alternatively, began its journey from the United Arab Emirates capital of Abu Dhabi in March and landed in countries, such as India and Myanmar, before arriving in Nanjing on April 21.

The plane left Nanjing early Sunday morning and flew over the Sea of Japan before the decision was made Monday to stop over in Japan, the organization said.—Kyodo News

Malaysia Airlines CEO says carrier “technically bankrupt”, set to cut jobs, routes

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — The newly appointed chief executive of loss-making Malaysia Airlines said on Monday the carrier is “technically bankrupt”, underlining the case for a restructuring to cut a third of jobs, scrap some international routes and review its long-haul fleet.

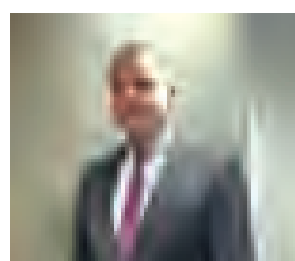
“We are technically bankrupt...the decline of performance started long before the tragic events of 2014,” Christoph Mueller said, speaking at a news conference. Already squeezed into years of losses by stiff regional competition, the

carrier was seriously affected last year by two separate jet disasters.

Mueller was making his first public appearance as CEO since being hired last month by the carrier’s owner, Malaysian state fund Khazanah, to lead the restructuring. Khazanah, previously the majority owner, took the airline private last year as part of a 6 billion Malaysian ringgit (\$1.63 billion) plan aimed at returning it to profit within three years.

The carrier on Monday said its new legal entity is Malaysia Airlines Bhd (MAB), replacing the

previous Malaysian Airline System Bhd (MAS), with Mueller promising to unveil a full corporate rebranding in future. The carrier also confirmed previously disclosed plans to cut 6,000 jobs, shrinking its workforce to 14,000, are now being implemented. “We will remain a full service international carrier connecting continents,” Mueller said, adding that while some international routes will go there were no plans to turn it into a regional carrier. He also said there would be no cutbacks in domestic network. Capacity measures would include



Malaysia Airlines’ new CEO Christophe Mueller poses for a photograph in Kuala Lumpur on 25 May, 2015. —REUTERS

“reducing aircraft size on certain routes, reducing frequency on certain routes, and certain cases abandoning the route altogether,” he said.—Reuters

The Hollande-Sarkozy re-match France doesn't want

PARIS, 2 June— Nicolas Sarkozy vs Francois Hollande: the re-match. With both having tightened their grips on their parties in recent days, a 2017 repeat of France's 2012 presidential election now looks like the most likely scenario.

The snag is that three quarters of the French do not want either the current president or his predecessor to run again, polls show — a fact that could boost the protest vote for the far-right National Front while making for a low turnout that would give any mainstream victor a weak mandate for reforms.

"In Britain, party lead-

ers resigned and quit politics after their defeat, even though they're only in their 40s," Gael Sliman of pollster Odoxa said, referring to the Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders who stepped down after being beaten by incumbent David Cameron in last month's election.

"Here the system provides for little renewal and promotes the old or very old ... and failure. That is not inspiring (for voters)," he said. Both Sarkozy and Hollande are 60.

A divisive figure who briefly retired after his 2012 defeat to Hollande, Sarkozy returned to the helm of the

conservative UMP party late last year and has sought to sideline his main rival for its ticket, former prime minister Alain Juppe, who will be 71 years old by the time of the election.

Sarkozy consolidated that comeback at a week-end convention, with grassroots members chanting "Nicolas! Nicolas!" after he won more than 80 percent approval for his plan to re-name the party "The Republicans". Two months earlier, he steered the party to victory in mid-term local elections.

A few days earlier, Hollande — the most unpopular French president on

record and challenged within his Socialist party just a few months ago — saw party members overwhelmingly back his policies in a vote before a 5-7 June party congress.

Even critics on the left of the party acknowledged that a rebellion against his increasingly centrist line had run out of steam, combined with signs that the stagnant economy has started to turn around.

"It's time to move on ... grassroots supporters have made clear they don't support the backbenchers," said Karine Berger, a Socialist lawmaker associated with the party's left wing.



Nicolas Sarkozy, former French president and head of the newly-named The Republicans political party, delivers a speech during a rally in Paris, France, on 30 May, 2015.—REUTERS

She and others in the party now say there is little point in holding a primary for the 2017 ticket — giving Hollande as the incumbent right of first refusal if he chooses to stand. Reuters

Mexican president changes asset declaration in wake of report on land deal

MEXICO CITY, 2 June — Under pressure to detail his personal wealth, Mexico's president has made changes to his declaration of assets following a Reuters report that cast doubt on how he acquired one of his properties near Mexico City.

President Enrique Pena Nieto released the annual update to his declaration of assets late on Sunday, days after a Reuters report showed he purchased a 1,000 square meter plot of land in the town of Valle de Bravo that he has declared as a donation from his late father.

Opposition lawmakers from left and right have demanded that Pena Nieto make a full declaration of his assets, which total at least \$3 million. The new declaration added notes explaining why Pena Nieto had described the purchased property, as well as another 24,000 square meter plot of land, as donations from his father. "The price was paid by my father, Enrique Pena del Mazo, who determined that the properties would be in my name, and it is for that reason that the same are declared as donations," the note said.

A public registry document that Reuters obtained shows that Pena Nieto purchased the property. There is no reference to his father in the document.

Lawyers consulted by Reuters said the incorrect asset declaration constitutes a false statement to authorities.

Asked about that interpretation and the discrepancy, presidential spokesman Eduardo Sanchez told Reu-

Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto gestures during an investment announcement from brewer Grupo Modelo in Merida in Yucatan state, at Los Pinos Presidential house in Mexico City, on 29 May, 2015.

REUTERS



ters that there is no discrepancy.

"In 1988, his father covered the purchase price, and put the property in his son's name," Sanchez said. "It is a common practice within the legal framework in Mexico for a parent or tutor to buy a property and register it under the name of their descendent. That's why it is not on the public deed."

Lawyers said that, under Mexican law, even if his father gave him the money to purchase the property, he could not declare it as a donation, pointing to articles 7610 and 7620 of the Civil Code of the State of Mexico, the region where Valle de Bravo lies.

In all, Pena Nieto has disclosed six real estate assets which he lists as gifts from his parents. Sanchez said he was unable to provide documents proving the six properties were donated by his parents, saying that public registry documents "don't necessarily record" that. Pena Nieto, 48, has been under pressure in recent months over conflict-of-interest scandals centered on properties that he, his wife Angelica Rivera and Finance Minister Luis Videgaray acquired from

government contractors.

The latest declaration also changed references to the values of three properties Pena Nieto acquired in the 1980s. In his prior statement of assets, the properties were incorrectly valued in so-called old pesos, which undervalued them by a factor of 1,000. The amended declaration values the holdings in new pesos. Mexico revalued the peso in 1993, which lopped three zeroes off the currency.

The declaration made no reference to the exchange rate at the time of the acquisitions, nor inflation since, making it hard to specify their real current worth. The three-page document does not state where the president's properties are located. Asked to confirm the address of the property in Valle de Bravo, and the location of the other five donated properties, Sanchez said the president had given the information required of him, and that such additional information was "not subject to public scrutiny".

Asked to give Reuters the president's asset declarations from 2000 through 2012, Sanchez said he could not as he did not have access to the information.

Reuters

Kerry arrives back in US after breaking his leg

WASHINGTON, 2 June — US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived back in the United States on Monday aboard a special military flight from Europe after breaking his leg in a cycling accident.

After landing at Boston's Logan airport at 8:50 p.m. EDT (0050 GMT Tuesday), Kerry headed to Massachusetts General Hospital in that city for further treatment, State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.

Kerry, 71, broke his right femur on Sunday while cycling a portion of the Tour de France route in the Haute Savoie region. He spent the night in a Geneva hospital under observation while his return to the United States was planned.

Kerry had been in Geneva for negotiations on Saturday with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and after the accident has had to cancel

planned visits to Madrid and Paris.

The C-17 military aircraft, brought from the US military base in Ramstein, Germany, departed Geneva's Cointrin airport shortly before 1600 GMT, Reuters witnesses said, bound for Kerry's home city of Boston.

"Headed back to Boston. Look fwd to getting leg set & getting back to @StateDept! Meantime, work goes on. Big thanks for well-wishes," Kerry tweeted minutes after departure. Earlier, Kerry told French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius he would participate by telephone in a summit on Tuesday in Paris bringing together some two dozen countries to discuss the US-led coalition's strategy against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

Kirby later said Kerry would undergo surgery on Tuesday to set his broken leg after calling in to the

Paris meeting.

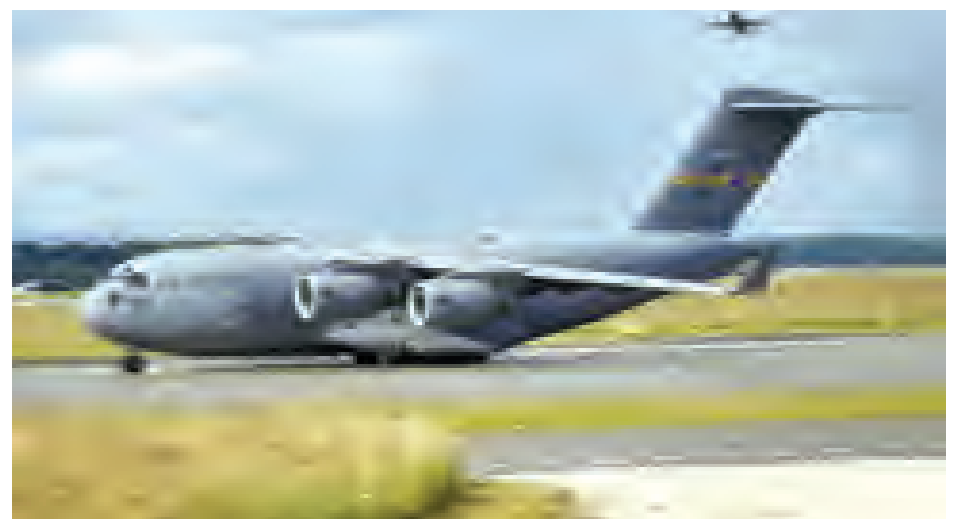
Kerry also assured Fabius he would return to cycle again in France, French officials said.

The secretary had been due to travel to Spain on Sunday to sign a bilateral defence agreement that would allow the United States to have permanent use of Moron air base near Seville. The US diplomatic mission in Geneva said Dennis Burke, a doctor from Massachusetts General Hospital, was accompanying Kerry on the flight back to Boston.

Burke, who previously performed hip surgery on Kerry, flew to Geneva on Monday to evaluate the secretary's femur.

Kerry was brought to Geneva hospital by helicopter on Sunday morning and had initially been expected to return to the United States that evening but stayed on as a "precaution," officials said.

Reuters



A US military C-17 aircraft from a base in Ramstein, Germany taxi at Geneva airport to repatriate US Secretary of State John Kerry in Geneva, Switzerland on 1 June, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 3 June, 2015

Action against illegal immigration necessary

By Aung Khin

Every nation has laws regulating the movement of people across its borders. Migration may be considered illegal if people enter a country without first gaining the permission of authorities.

People move to other countries in pursuit of better opportunities. Some do so illegally, by land or sea, sometimes with the help of organized groups. These human trafficking rings fre-

quently have connections to corrupt officials, in both origin and destination countries.

The flow of illegal migrants from poor countries to richer nations has recently been on the rise. Not all illegal migrants are among the poorest people in their home countries. Some are people with knowledge, education and motivation aspiring to a better life in a different country.

They are willing to risk dangers in hope of improved income and living conditions, as well as future residential permits.

Many countries prioritize the fight against illegal migration, combating human trafficking with border surveillance and resettlement policies.

Destination countries must focus on enforcement policies aimed at identifying unauthorized immigrants for repatriation by coordinating

worksite enforcement, employment verification, jail-house screening, as well as state and local law enforcement activity.

Illegal migration often fuels racism and discrimination in destination countries, while also impacting housing, health, education and other services. Therefore, action needs to be taken against illegal migrations into the country.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Inclusive growth key for peace in Myanmar

U Soe Thane,
Union Minister at the President Office

Over the past few days, the world has been increasingly concerned with the plight of thousands of men, women and children attempting to cross the Bay of Bengal. I empathize with their plight and share these concerns.

The search for and rescue of people at sea is an international responsibility, and the Myanmar Navy will provide assistance to anyone in its territorial waters in need of help. Urgent humanitarian action must now take precedence, but we must also consider medium- and longer-term strategies.

The crisis caused by human trafficking and

smuggling will not go away soon. Nor will the crippling poverty and hopelessness that drive individuals to embrace extreme risks on the road for a chance at a better life.

Open to advice

Myanmar has been on the road from military dictatorship to democracy for four years. This is never an easy journey, and we know that around the world transitions from authoritarian to civilian rule can fail. We are determined not to fail, and in order to succeed, we have had to balance interests with the pace of change and connect our aspirations to political realities on the ground. In four years, we

have had to address issues related to political liberalization and reconciliation, economic development after decades of stagnation, normalization of relations with the rest of the world and the ending of over a dozen different ethnic-based armed conflicts.

In all this, we have been open to advice from anyone. We welcome discussion and constructive criticism. We ask, though, that our friends outside add not fuel, but bring water to the fires that we have to put out as we open up our country and our society after so many years of authoritarian rule. We ask not for finger-pointing, but for help from anyone who will join hands in actually tackling, in a realistic and sustainable way, the myriad problems we face.

In Rakhine State in 2012 we faced terrible communal violence that left hundreds dead and displaced tens of thousands from both Muslim and Buddhist communities. We faced a situation where feelings were high and a single incident could reignite violence.

That situation has changed. We have managed not only to prevent any new violence, but also to begin to address the roots of violent feeling. We ask anyone concerned to come and see conditions for themselves and learn firsthand what is happening. In Rakhine State, over 20 different international

aid organizations are present. As the United Nations and other bodies know well, we are taking the first steps toward reintegration. Anyone who has worked to normalize life after violent intercommunal conflict knows how difficult and sensitive this is.

While we address the emergency needs of the individuals stranded at sea in the immediate term, in the medium term we must crack down on those smugglers and traffickers who prey on the vulnerabilities of migrants. I believe that the issues of human trafficking and smuggling can only be addressed through regional and international coordination and cooperation.

End the blame game

Rather than seeing the current migrant crisis as simply an extension of the situation in Rakhine State and blaming Myanmar alone, it would be far better if the rest of the world could help in finding a practical way forward. What we are seeing now touches on the much broader issue of economic migrants and their plight. This is a regional problem that requires bilateral and regional solutions with much international support.

And in thinking of practical ways forward, we need to be mindful of history and of the current dynamics in all their aspects, as well as of our aspirations to develop holistic



U Soe Thane, Union Minister at the Office of President of Myanmar.

strategies that are tested against on-the-ground realities. Myanmar is at an incredibly sensitive and pivotal moment in its history, involving not just Rakhine State or one people in Rakhine State, but all 53 million of its people.

There is reason to hope, but only if the rest of the world is genuinely interested in finding solutions and not just apportioning blame. For the longer term, it is imperative that we invest in our people and the development of their surroundings.

Rakhine State has tremendous economic potential. It has abundant land and water, and now, thanks to very recent efforts, a good supply of electricity. We can now improve livelihoods, generate income, and create better opportunities for everyone, regardless of race or religion. If we do this, the pull of migration and especially illegal migration will disappear.

But for this we need investment in manufacturing, fishing, farming and the many other sectors that

could easily grow. A billion dollars in investment would be transformational. To those who are today blaming Myanmar for the boat crisis, we ask that you instead help us craft and implement an inclusive development strategy -- based not on aid but on investment -- that will improve the lives of everyone in Rakhine State.

The world is rightly focused on urgent humanitarian needs. Next we need to quickly look at practical strategies, including the inclusive and sustainable development of Rakhine State.

U Soe Thane is minister of the Office of the President of Myanmar and a key economic adviser to the government.

<http://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/International-Relations/Inclusive-development-of-Rakhine-state-is-the-answer>

(This article appeared in Nikkei Asian Review magazine on 1 June and has been reprinted with the permission of the author.)



LOCAL NEWS

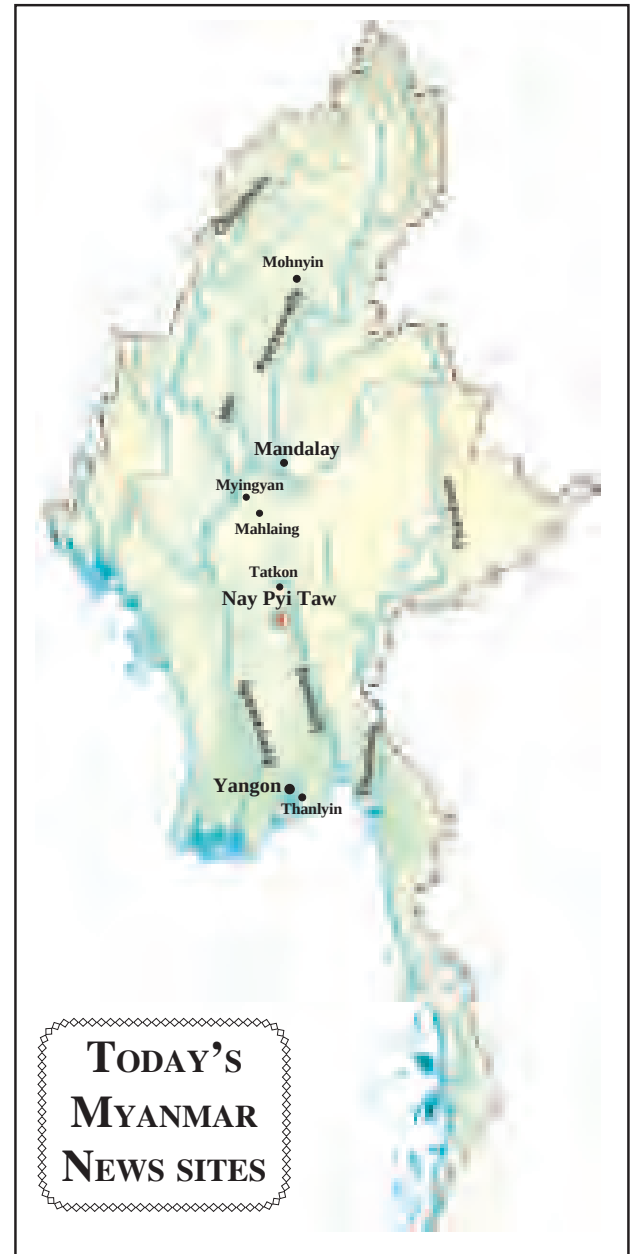
Students take part in art competitions to mark anti-drug campaign



MOHNYIN, 2 June—Students from Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant townships recently took part in art competitions to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Mohnyin Degree College in Mohnyin, Kachin State.

A total of 326 basic education students showed off their skills in the painting, cartoon, poster and computer arts competitions under supervision of Mohnyin District's deputy commissioner U Aung Soe Moe, principal of the college Dr Aung Min Win, Commander of District Police Force Lt-Col Tun Tun Wai and departmental officials.

GNLM-001



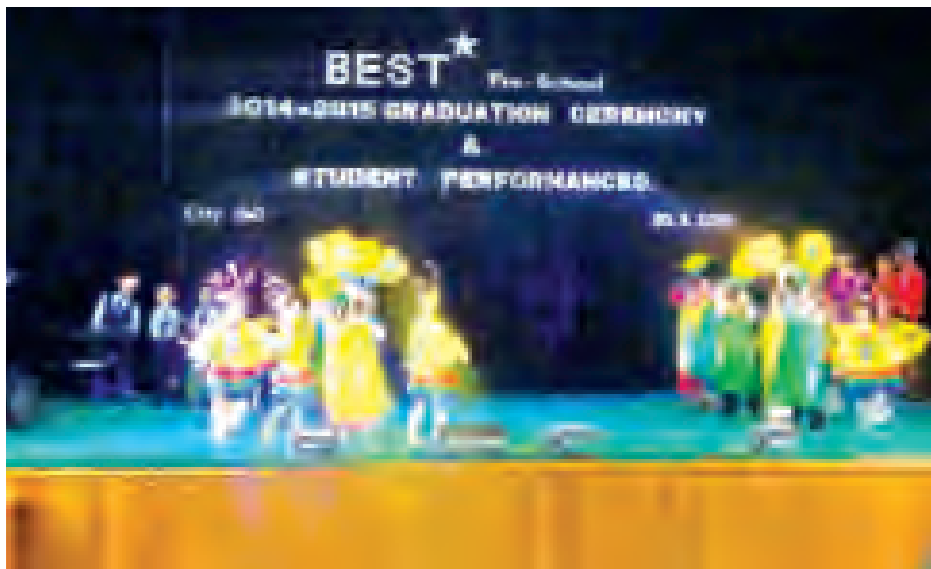
Pre-school presents certificates to children

MANDALAY, 2 June—The privately run Best Pre-School held a concluding ceremony of students for the 2014-15 academic year at Mandalay City Hall on 30 May.

Founder of the school U Soe Lwin and Daw Nang Thin Thin spoke on the occasion and presented completion certificates to 250 students who will attend the primary level.

Pre-primary students performed songs and dances at the ceremony.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Maintenance of Kinta Dam to improve irrigation facilities

MAHLAING, 2 June—Myittha Township Irrigation Department carried out upgrading of Kinta Dam in the township, Mandalay Region, on 1 June.

Staff Officer U Soe Moe said the department maintained lamp-posts, a spillway and drains at the dam.

“Depending on funding in fiscal 2015-16, the department will continue maintenance of the dam,” he said.

The dam can store 194,556 acre feet of water and supply 600 acre feet of water to local people daily.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)



Tourists, pilgrims drive lacquer ware sales in NyaungU Tsp



MAHLAING, 2 June — Tourists and religious pilgrims are the major buyers of traditional Myanmar lacquer wares around Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, according to shopkeepers.

“We sell large and small lacquer wares ranging from K3,000 to K100,000. Most of customers are tourists who buy Myanmar products as souvenirs of their trips,” a shop owner said.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Reclamation project creates new farmland in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 2 June — A land reclamation project in Yayaye and Nyaungdon-aiing villages in Tatkon Township has created 287 acres of advanced farmland as of the second week of May.

The authorities in the

Nay Pyi Taw Council area have so far reclaimed about 10,000 acres of new farmland. They plan to reclaim 8,000 more acres of farmland in two villages of Tatkon Township.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Iraq's Abadi bemoans lacks of international support



File photo of Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi (L) as he shakes hands with a Sunni tribesman at Camp Habbaniyah, in the eastern city of Ramadi on 8 April, 2015.

REUTERS

PARIS, 2 June — Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Abadi complained on Tuesday of a lack of support from international coalition allies in the fight against Islamic State insurgents.

Speaking at a confer-

ence in Paris, Abadi said coalition partners were not providing Iraqi forces with sufficient air intelligence to stem Islamic State advances, while support for ground operations was also lacking.

"Air support is not enough. There is too little surveillance. Daech (Islamic State) is mobile and move in very small groups. It's not enough," Abadi told reporters at the talks.

Reuters

US delivers 2,000 rockets for Iraq but holds half for now

WASHINGTON, 2 June — The United States has delivered 2,000 AT-4 anti-tank weapons destined for Iraq, sending 1,000 directly to the government in Baghdad, with the US-led coalition holding the other half in the region for training Iraqis and for future contingencies, a US defence official told Reuters on Monday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the delivery took place over the past several days. The official did not provide further details.

The Pentagon has said the delivery of the weapons would help Iraq defend against approaching suicide bombers driving vehicles packed with explosives. Islamic State

milicians used that type of attack last month to help them seize Ramadi from Iraqi forces.

The Islamic State's capture of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province, was the Baghdad government's most significant setback in a year and exposed the limitations of Iraq's army and US-led air strikes against the group.—Reuters



US Marine Lance Cpl Gary R Nichols fires an AT-4 light anti-armor weapon at an old tank during a training exercise at Camp Bucca near the southern Iraq port of Umm Qasr, in this military handout photo taken July 18 and released on 30 July, 2005.—REUTERS

Militants kill nine Afghan aid workers in night time attack

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, (Afghanistan), 2 June — Unidentified militants shot and killed nine Afghan employees of a foreign-backed aid group in an attack early on Tuesday in Afghanistan's northern Balkh province, government officials said.

Aid workers have faced increasing attacks in Afghanistan as foreign

troops have withdrawn and security has deteriorated, making the country one of the most dangerous for aid groups.

Officials identified the group as a Czech organization called People in Need, and blamed the Taliban for the attack, about 50 miles (80 km) south of the provincial capital.

"They shot dead nine people, including a woman," said Mohammad Daud Naemi, a spokesman for the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

Five employees, two drivers and two guards were killed in the attack that started shortly after 1 am, he added.

People in Need

could not immediately be reached for comment.

The office of the provincial governor also blamed the Taliban and said it was investigating the incident.

The Taliban said it was looking into details of the attack and could not immediately comment.

The militant Islamist group has been fighting to

topple the internationally backed government after being ousted from power by a US led invasion in 2001.

As many as 57 aid workers were killed last year, the United Nations says. Most have been Afghan staff members, who work in the field and face a greater risk of kidnappings and killing.

In 19 April, Afghan de-miners were freed two days after being abducted by militants while doing a survey in the eastern region. They were luckier than five aid workers of Save the Children, who were abducted in March, and found dead more than a month later in central Uruzgan Province.

Reuters

Yemen tribesmen kill 18 Houthi fighters in ambush

SANAA, 2 June — Armed tribesmen killed 18 Houthi fighters in an ambush in Yemen's central province of Ibb on Tuesday, residents said, in one of the deadliest ground attacks in over two months of war.

The attack hit a convoy of militiamen and allied army troops in the town of Qaeda while they were en route to the city of Taiz, a flashpoint of clashes between Yemen's dominant Houthis and armed backers of exiled president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

A coalition of Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia, seeking to restore Hadi to power, has carried

out over nine weeks of air strikes on Houthi fighters who have seized large parts of Yemen.

The Houthis, hailing from Yemen's far north, seized the capital in September and fanned out southward, triggering the Arab military intervention.

They describe their spread as a revolution and a victory against corruption, but Sunni Muslim Gulf Arab states worry that they are a proxy for the influence of their regional Shi'ite rival Iran.

Saudi-led air strikes hit Houthi positions along Yemen's far northern border with the kingdom and struck military bases



Smoke billows from Noqum mountain after it was hit by an air strike in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 1 June, 2015.—REUTERS

aligned with the group in the capital Sanaa on Tuesday.

Neighbouring Oman, a neutral power, is mediating talks between Houthi and American officials in the capital Muscat aimed at ending Yemen's conflict.

The dialogue also led Yemeni authorities to release to Oman on Monday a detained American freelance journalist.

Yemeni politicians say the discussions are narrowing ground between Yemen's exiled government and the Houthis and may soon pave the way for more formal United Nations-backed negotiations.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Dollar stands tall, Asian shares slip

TOKYO, 2 June — The dollar ascended to a new 12-1/2-year peak against the yen on Tuesday, while Asian shares fell for a second day as the stronger greenback pressured commodity prices.

The dollar rose as high as 125.07 yen JPY=, its loftiest peak since late 2002, before retracing to stand at 124.67 yen, down about 0.1 percent on the day, after a spate of mostly upbeat US data reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates this year.

"The rise in the dollar against the yen has been steep but sentiment favours testing new highs rather than consolidating," said Kyosuke Suzuki, director of forex at Societe Generale in Tokyo.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was down about 0.9 percent, falling for the second day and touching its lowest intraday level since April 3, while Japan's Nikkei stock

A pedestrian holding an umbrella walks past an electronic board showing the graph of the recent fluctuations of Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, on 20 May, 2015.

REUTERS



index .N225 erased earlier gains and slipped 0.1 percent.

Australian shares .AXJO skidded about 1.1 percent, pressured by weaker commodities.

The Reserve Bank of Australia kept rates on hold at a record low of 2.0 percent at its latest policy meeting on Tuesday as expected.

On Wall Street on Monday, US stocks began the month with modest gains after the data. Consumer spending remained flat in April, but construc-

tion spending and manufacturing gained momentum, backing the view that the US central bank is on track to begin to hike rates later this year.

The economic reports helped US Treasury yields rise to one-week highs, giving the greenback a lift.

In Asian trading on Tuesday, the yield on benchmark 10-year notes US10YT=RR stood at 2.188 percent, not far from the US close of 2.192 percent on Monday.

Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren, who is

not a voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, said on Monday he would like to begin raising rates as soon as possible, but also noted risks from the slowdown in China and Europe and the fact that US growth is still not strong enough.

Market participants awaited Friday's US non-farm payrolls report for a further gauge of the strength of employment conditions. The report is expected to show 225,000 jobs created in May, according to a Reuters poll of

economists.

Uncertainty about the outcome of Greece's financial negotiations continued to weigh on the euro, which was nearly flat on the day at \$1.0928 EUR=.

An index tracking the dollar against a basket of six rival currencies .DXY was also close to flat on the day, at 97.402.

The leaders of Germany, France, the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission agreed at a meeting late on Monday to stay in close contact in the coming days to work on Greek debt negotiations, as Athens and its lenders struggled to reach deal that would prevent the country from defaulting on its debt.

Greece is due to make a 300-million-euro (\$327.93 million) repayment to the IMF on Friday.

The common currency was also pressured by business surveys that showed European manufacturing activity remained even more sluggish than its plod-

ding global counterparts.

The Australian dollar AUD=D4 gained after the Reserve Bank of Australia's policy statement did not give the explicit easing bias that the market was looking for.

The Aussie rose to \$0.7650, from \$0.7625 before the data to show a gain of around half a cent on the day. It touched a seven-week trough just below 76 cents on Monday.

The bleak global factory outlook combined with the firmer dollar to hit prices of dollar-denominated commodities.

Copper CMCU3 slipped 0.1 percent to \$6,016 a tonne, not far from a six-week low of \$5,985 hit on Monday.

US crude oil futures CLc1 plunged more than 1 percent at one point on Monday but pared their losses ahead of the close, and were steady on the day in Asian trading at \$60.20 a barrel. Brent crude futures LCOc1 edged down about 0.1 percent to \$64.79.

Reuters

Breastfeeding may reduce risk of childhood leukemia

WASHINGTON, 2 June — Children who are breastfed have a lower risk of developing childhood leukemia, a new analysis of 18 studies suggested on Monday.

Leukemia is the most common childhood cancer, accounting for about 30 percent of all childhood cancers, but little is known about its cause, according to the research published online in the US journal *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Efrat Amitay and Lital Keinan-Boker of the University of Haifa, Israel, reviewed the evidence in 18 studies researching the association between breastfeeding and childhood leukemia. These studies, published between 1960 and 2014, provided a total of 10,292 leukemia cases and 17,517 control individuals.

The results showed that breastfeeding for six months or longer was associated with a 19 percent lower risk compared with no breastfeeding or breastfeeding for a shorter period of time.

A separate analysis of

15 studies found that ever being breastfed compared with never being breastfed was associated with an 11 percent lower risk of childhood leukemia.

Several biological mechanisms of breast milk may explain the relationship, including that breast milk contains many immunologically active components and anti-inflammatory defence mechanisms that influence the development of an infant's immune system, the researchers said.

"Based on the current meta-analysis, 14 percent to 19 percent of all childhood leukemia cases may be prevented by breastfeeding for 6 months or more, a highly accessible and low-cost public health measure," Amitay and Keinan-Boker wrote in their paper.

"Because the primary goal of public health is prevention of morbidity, health care professionals should be taught the potential health benefits of breastfeeding and given tools to assist mothers with breastfeeding." —Xinhua

S Korea reports 1st deaths linked to MERS virus

SEOUL, 2 June — South Korea's Health and Welfare Ministry on Tuesday reported two deaths from Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, the first fatalities linked to the deadly virus disease in the country.

The ministry also reported six new cases of the infectious disease, raising the total number of South Korean MERS patients to 25.

In another sign of growing infection, the total includes two people who contracted the virus from a secondary source patient who came in close contact with the country's first patient, a 68-year-old man who had returned from a trip to the Middle East in April-May and was confirmed positive on 20 May.

The two people who died Monday from the disease — a 58-year-old woman and a 71-year-old man — had been at the same hospital ward as the first patient around 15-17 May.

The South Korean government has come under fire for what critics saw as a slow response to



A health worker with protective suits sitting with people (R) who came into close contact with the Korean Mers patient arrive at Lady MacLehose Holiday Village in Sai Kung, where they will spend two weeks in quarantine, in Hong Kong, China on 30 May, 2015.—REUTERS

contain the virus since the first case was confirmed.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of top-ranking officials from related agencies was held on Tuesday to discuss measures to contain the spread of the virus.

"The government will spare no efforts in easing public anxiety and concerns because the case is directly related to people's life and

safety," Acting Prime Minister Choi Kyung Hwan said after the meeting.

More than 680 people have been quarantined.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 1,172 cases of the virus have been reported by health authorities worldwide, including 479 related deaths, between its emergence in 2012 and Satur-

day.

The MERS coronavirus, which can cause symptoms ranging from influenza-like aches and pains to pneumonia, is related to SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, the deadly illness that killed over 770 people worldwide following a 2003 outbreak in southern China.

Kyodo News

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA DREAM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA DREAM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV VINE-2 VOY NO (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VINE-2 VOY NO (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIPPING AG**

Phone No: 2301186



Participants arrive on Chichijima Island in the Pacific on 2 June, 2015, for the first Japan Coast Guard-Metropolitan Police Department joint training drill to prevent illegal landing and fishing by foreign nationals. The drill follows an increase in Chinese vessels spotted poaching red coral since September 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Japanese envoy at UN stresses need for Tokyo to join Security Council

NEW YORK, 2 June — Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Motohide Yoshikawa has underscored the need for Japan to be part of the Security Council as a permanent member, calling it a “duty” for a leading member, as the country once again calls for revamping the global organization's most powerful body along with other countries.

“Japan is a country that provides the second largest support to the United Na-

tions,” Yoshikawa said in an interview with *Kyodo News* last week, referring to its budgetary contributions. “It's only logical (for Japan) to fulfill its duty by taking up a place in the most important organ called the Security Council and constantly taking part in decision-making processes.”

Japan puts up 10.83 percent of the UN budget, making it the second largest contributor only after the United States. Intergov-

ernmental negotiations are under way on the issue of Security Council reforms at the current UN General Assembly session.

Japan has teamed up with Germany, Brazil and India — in the so-called Group of Four — in advocating increases in the quotas of both permanent and nonpermanent members to expand the council to 25-26 countries, up from five permanent and ten nonpermanent members now.

The G-4 also introduced a resolution to the UN General Assembly calling for enlarging the council in 2005 but it did not go through in the face of opposition from the United States and China.

Japan, for its part, made its ambition to join the Security Council known for the first time at the General Assembly in 1994 in a speech given by then Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.

Yoshikawa noted that

joining the council is not a goal Japan is “desperately wishing” to achieve as suggested in some quarters but it will come with responsibility that one has to assume once that weighty task is given.

“If we join the Security Council, we would be forced to make difficult decisions every day,” he said, possibly referring to such motions as invoking sanctions against a country. “That's not an easy task but it is a responsibility

for a country commensurate with its clout in such a position.” Yoshikawa stressed Tokyo was elected a non-permanent member with a two-year term ten times in the past after joining the United Nations in 1956, 11 years after the inception of the organization right after World War II, in which Japan was defeated. The multiple election record is shared by Brazil, which works together with Japan in the G-4.—*Kyodo News*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(9/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-015(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipes (6) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-016(15-16)	Mud Pump Valve Seat Puller and Spares (4) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-017(15-16)	HT 400 Pump Spares and Cementing Accessories (22) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-018(15-16)	Spares for 3 NB 1300 C Rig Pump Ex ZJ 50 D Drilling Rigs (25) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-019(15-16)	Wash Pipe and Packing, for N 69 and N 815 Swivel (2) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-020(15-16)	Ferrochrome Lignosulphonate (Spersene) (200) Tons	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 29-6-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st June, 2015 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO
(103N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (103N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF264R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF264R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER
REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3rd June, 2015:
 Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Kayin States, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES—Individual Consultant)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project

Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: International Financial Management Consultant

Reference No.: MEPE-CS-7

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months; possibly starting in August 2015.

The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The minimum qualifications requirements are:

- At least a bachelor degree in accounting, finance or relevant field with an IFAC recognized accounting professional qualification;
- At least 10 years of professional experience in accounting and/or other relevant field;
- Previous experience in conducting similar engagement within the region or other regions;
- Experience in FM capacity development and training;
- Experience working with the World Bank financed projects or other major donors is an advantage;
- Good PC/systems literacy, including strong Excel skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and result oriented features;
- Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competence and good team spirit;
- Willing and able to travel within Myanmar when required.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested applicants may send an email to the address given below seeking the TOR for this position.

Further information can be obtained from the address below during 10:00 to 15:00 hours on working days.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 16:00 hours of **June 23rd, 2015.** (*This date will be determined after obtaining WB clearance.*)

Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than
 The General Manager
 Finance Department
 Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)
 Office Building No.27
 Nay Pyi Taw
 Myanmar
 Email: mepefin@moep.gov.mm

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Man dies after 700-kg giant kite crashes into crowd in western Japan

Orsu, (Japan), 2 June — A 73-year-old man died on Tuesday after sustaining severe injuries when a 700-kilogram giant kite crashed into a crowd of

spectators during a kite festival two days before in Shiga Prefecture, western Japan, local police said.

Aside from the man, Junichi Yoshii, three other

people were injured when the kite, measuring 13 meters by 12 meters, fell into a park in Higashiomi from a height of 200 meters, according to local authorities.

Police are investigating the case on suspicion of professional negligence.

The kite could have lost balance due to repairs that were made to its framework

before it was flown, a person close to festival organizers said.

Another related person said the area where the kite crashed was initially a re-

stricted one, but that spectators had been allowed to enter. Higashiomi is known for its large kites, and the festival is held every year.

Kyodo News

Man convicted of stalking Mila Kunis escapes from California facility



Cast member Mila Kunis poses at the premiere of 'Jupiter Ascending' at the TCL Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California 2 Feb, 2015. The movie opens in the US on 6 February.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 2 June — A man convicted of stalking actress Mila Kunis has escaped from a Los Angeles-area mental health facility by breaking out of a bathroom window, authorities said on Monday.

Stuart Lynn Dunn, 30, left the locked Olive Vista Behavioural Health Centre in Pomona, a community less than 30 miles (48 km) east of Los Angeles, on Saturday evening, said Los Angeles County Deputy Chief

Probation Officer Reaver Bingham.

Dunn was supposed to be taking a shower when he broke out of the facility, Bingham said. Police dogs were used to search for his scent in an unsuccessful attempt to catch him quickly after his escape.

"Any time you have a case like this where someone is obsessed with a particular individual we don't know what they are capable of, so we are treating it as if he is dangerous," Bingham said.

Kunis has been notified, and Los Angeles County probation officers were working with multiple law enforcement agencies in an effort to catch Dunn, Bingham said.

Dunn was convicted in January 2013 of stalking

Kunis and was later placed on probation, but after he violated his probation he was sentenced to three years in state prison, Bingham said.

In late April, Dunn was released early from prison with work and good behaviour credits and was transferred to the Pomona mental health facility, he said.

Kunis, who gained fame in the late 1990s on sitcom "That '70s Show" and had supporting roles in the dramatic films "Black Swan" and "The Book of Eli," is romantically involved with her former "That '70s Show" co-star Ashton Kutcher and the couple have a baby together.

A spokeswoman for the actress did not return a call or email seeking comment.—Reuters

Clooney says interested in having children after all: Bild



Cast member George Clooney arrives with his wife Amal at the premiere of "Tomorrowland" at AMC theatres in Downtown Disney in Anaheim, California on 9 May, 2015. The movie opens in the US on 22 May. REUTERS

BERLIN, 2 June — George Clooney and his wife Amal Alamuddin do want to have children, the US actor was quoted on Monday as saying, after he caused a stir last month by saying parenthood was not high on his priority list.

Asked by German newspaper *Bild* whether he and Alamuddin, a human rights lawyer, were interested in having kids, the two-time Oscar winner said: "Yes, but we're taking our time."

Clooney told US network CBS late last month he had not really thought about having children, adding it "hasn't been high on my list". Clooney said he had been asked about that

a lot lately because of his recent marriage and his latest film "Tomorrowland", which has children in it.

Clooney, 54, told *Bild* he had dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player when he was younger and had later wanted to become a journalist. He ended up selling insurance and cutting tobacco for a whilst.

"I always wanted to be a baseball player — not enough talent," he said. "I wanted to be a journalist like my father — not smart enough. Now I am what I am — and very happy."

Clooney, once dubbed the world's most eligible bachelor, married Alamuddin last September in Venice.—Reuters

Men are intimidated by me: Sharon Stone

LONDON, 2 June — Veteran actress Sharon Stone rues the fact that most men are intimidated by her reputation as a confident and sexy woman.

Stone, 57, who became one of the most desirable women in Hollywood with her performances in erotic thrillers 'Basic Instinct' and 'Sliver' in the 90s and subsequent stellar big screen career, said she wants men to ask her out but they run away from her.

"I wish more guys

would throw themselves at me. But not really. I think people believe the story that I'm sexy, and now people are afraid of me.

"I think people so buy into whatever you tell them that they bought the myth, they bought the story. I think in reality I'm much more like the girl with the big clothes and the bag of books but people bought the story that I'm a sex symbol. So guys don't throw themselves at me, they run away from me," she said.—PTI

Sharon Stone



Prince Jackson graduates high school



Prince Jackson's younger sister Paris, in particular, seemed "very proud" of him.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 2 June — King of Pop Michael Jackson's son Prince graduated from Buckley High School in Sherman Oaks, California.

Prince, 18, was joined by his grandmother Katherine Jackson, sister Paris Jackson, and several other relatives, reported *Us* magazine. "When they announced his name, the whole Jackson family stood

up and cheered and whistled. Prince was ecstatic as he crossed the stage and picked up his diploma," an eyewitness said.

The onlooker added that Prince's family sat in the front row for the ceremony and the graduate posed for photos with his loved ones at the reception.

His younger sister Paris, in particular, seemed "very proud" of him.—PTI

I was apprehensive about Marilyn Monroe role: Kelli Garner

LOS ANGELES, 2 June — Actress Kelli Garner almost turned down the chance to play Marilyn Monroe in a new TV miniseries.

The "Aviator" star plays the late legend in "The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe", which is based on J Randy Taraborrelli's book of the same name, re-

ported *Us* magazine.

"I was extremely apprehensive; it's Marilyn Monroe. Those are really, really big shoes and I wasn't sure if I could pull it off," she said.

Garner, 31, explains she eventually agreed to take on the part because the TV series examines Monroe's struggles with mental

illness, a subject matter the actress was fascinated by because of her own experiences in therapy.

"I knew it would, if anything, make me a better actress. It was a challenge and a study of myself as a performer.

"One of the most favourite things is this (scene) that we used to tell a story

and it starts with her sitting down with this fictional therapist and I found that fascinating. I think it's important to talk about mental health and I've been in therapy myself and be able to play such an icon in such intimate sounding board moments of trying to figure out what's going on was really fascinating to me."—PTI

Enrique Iglesias undergoes hand surgery

LONDON, 2 June — Spanish superstar Enrique Iglesias is undergoing a

reconstructive hand surgery after slicing his fingers in a drone mishap at

his weekend concert.

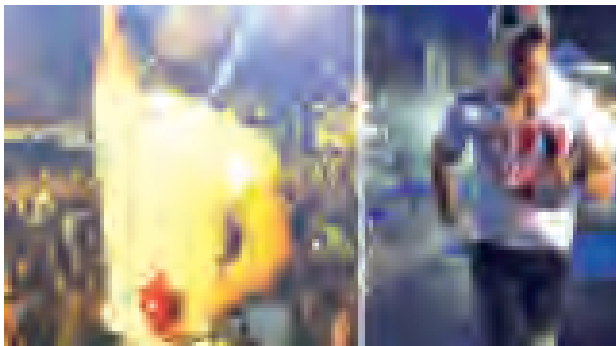
The "Hero" hitmaker was onstage in Tijuana, Mexico when he reached out to catch a drone, which he uses to capture video footage at his shows, but the stunt went wrong as the device slashed his fingers, reported Contactmusic.

Iglesias, 40, subsequently flew to Los Angeles to see a specialist and he was booked in for the

surgery.

"Thank you to all your concern and good wishes. Enrique is currently undergoing reconstructive hand surgery today... We appreciate your thoughts and prayers," a statement read.

The singer will have some time to recover from the injury as his next Sex and Love Tour date is not until 3 July in Mexico City.—PTI



GENERAL

Survivors Hamburg keep Bundesliga record with “crazy” win



Hamburg SV's Nicolai Mueller celebrates after he scored a goal against Karlsruhe during their German Bundesliga second leg relegation playoff soccer match in Karlsruhe, Germany on 1 June, 2015.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 2 June — Hamburg SV clung on to their time-honoured place in the Bundesliga once again after beating second-tier Karlsruhe 2-1 — and 3-2 on aggregate — after moments of extraordinary late drama in the second leg of their playoff on Monday.

The three-times German champions, the only club never to have been re-

gated since the Bundesliga's creation in 1963, were 1-0 down and on their way out with 90 minutes played at Karlsruhe until Chilean international Marcelo Diaz curled home a last-minute freekick to take the tie to extra time.

Then, with a penalty shoot out looming with just four minutes of the extra period remaining, Nicolai

Mueller scored for the visitors, ensuring that Karlsruhe would need to score twice to gain promotion.

Finally, Hamburg keeper Rene Adler sealed victory by saving a Rouwen Hennings penalty, awarded for handball, two minutes into stoppage time.

The late dramas ensured the former European champions narrowly maintained their proud record of being the only Bundesliga club never to have been relegated after 52 years in the top flight as they survived for the second straight year after another dismal season.

“No one gave up,” declared Mueller, whose tap in secured the victory. “We did it. We’re still in the Bundesliga. We were carrying a lot of baggage all season and it feels great to unload that all in a few seconds now.”

Adler smiled: “I feel like I aged three years tonight. It’s incredible what we did in the last six weeks.

A triumph of team spirit.

“It was a crazy match and anything could have happened in a match like this. I was already thinking at the end of regulation time that we’d end up in the second division but caught myself and said ‘Stop, no that’s not going to happen’.”

Reinhold Yabo had brought them to the brink by volleying Karlsruhe ahead in the 78th minute.

Hamburg, 16th in the 18-team Bundesliga the last two seasons, also needed a relegation playoff to stay up last season thanks to an away goal in a 1-1 draw at Greuther Fuerth in the second leg of the playoff after a goalless first leg in Hamburg.

Paderborn and Freiburg were relegated to the second division at the end of the season last week while Ingolstadt and Darmstadt 98 secured promotion to the Bundesliga.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

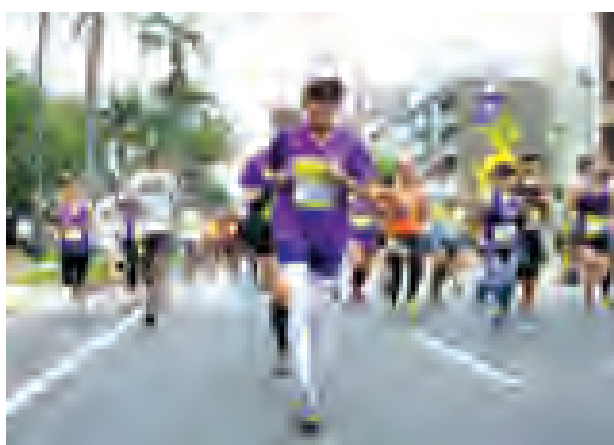
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* News	Sphinx of Egypt And
* History And Mystery Behind The Caves	The Manousiha of Myanmar
* Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater	* Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
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* To The Land of Countless Temples — Bagan Trip (Ep-2)	* Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung
* Today Myanmar “Rubber Export”	Thamar Di Gold Shop
* News	* Egg Shell
* Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The	

San Diego sees 92-year-old woman become world’s oldest female marathoner

SAN DIEGO, 2 June—A 92-year-old grandmother from North Carolina who is a two-time cancer survivor has become the oldest woman in the world to complete a marathon after finishing a 26.2-mile race in San Diego, organizers of the event said.

Harriette Thompson of Charlotte, North Carolina, finished the San Diego Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon on Sunday in seven hours, 24 minutes and 36 seconds, said Dan Cruz, a spokesman for the race. The race gave Thompson, who is 92 years and more than 60 days old, the distinction of becoming the oldest woman to complete a marathon, Cruz said.



Harriette Thompson, 92, runs in the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon in San Diego, California, in this 31 May, 2015 handout photo. —REUTERS

In 2010, Gladys Burrill who was then 92 years and 19 days old, completed the Honolulu marathon, according to Guinness World

Records, which said it has not received an official application from Thompson for entry into the record books. Thompson, a two-

time cancer survivor who began running marathons at age 76, has not ruled out competing again, Cruz said. She runs to raise money to fight leukemia and lymphoma.

“I always write to my friends and I say, ‘I think this is my last year,’ and then I do another one, so this is my 16th (marathon) and I’m real pleased that I could get through it,” Thompson told local television station KNSD, an NBC affiliate. The oldest man to complete a marathon was Greek runner Dimitrion Yordanidis, who ran in Athens in 1976 at age 98, according to Guinness World Records.—Reuters

Pele happy to see Cosmos match play role in US-Cuba detente



Cuba’s soccer player Yenier Marquez (L), former Brazilian soccer star Pele (C) and New York Cosmos player Raul Gonzalez (R) join hands after a news conference in Havana on 1 June, 2015. —REUTERS

HAVANA, 2 June—Brazilian football great Pele said he was pleased Tuesday’s friendly between the Cuban national team and his former club the New York Cosmos might help foster better relations between the United States and Cuba, which have embarked on detente.

The Cosmos have scheduled the first match of an American professional sports team in Cuba since the two countries announced in December they would seek to end half a century of animosity. “It makes me happy that once again football is helping with peace, between United States and Cuba,” Pele told a news conference on Monday to promote the match at Havana’s 28,000-seat Pedro Marrero Stadium.

“We see unhappily that there are a lot of political

problems everywhere. But football brings people together. For me it’s a big responsibility,” said Pele, 74, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento.

US-Cuban relations have been hostile, particularly in the early 1960s when the United States organised an invasion of Cuba by a force of Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs, and when Washington and Moscow nearly came to nuclear war over Soviet missiles stationed in Cuba.

Relations remained sour even after the fall of the Soviet Union until last December, when US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced separately and simultaneously they would seek to improve ties.

Reuters

Yaskawa Electric sets up “robot village” in southwestern Japan

KITAKYUSHU, 2 June — Japanese industrial machinery maker Yaskawa Electric Corp. unveiled Monday what it calls a “robot village” that shows off advanced manufacturing technology and allows visitors to experience using it.

Yaskawa showed the 77,000-square-meter complex to the media, which is made up of its headquarters, plants and a facility for visitors in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture. It will be open to the public from Tuesday to

mark the centennial of the company’s business. The company will put on display around 50 pieces of electrical equipment, including a robot to be used in medical research, and will also allow visitors to control robot arms among other attractions.

Yaskawa is expecting 20,000 visitors a year, with President Junji Tsuda telling reporters that he hopes the facility will become a basis for establishing “industrial tourism.”—Kyodo News

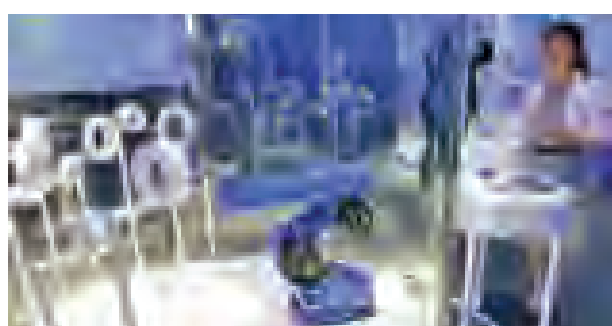


Photo taken 1 June, 2015, shows a robot arm on display at a “robot village” unveiled the same day by Japanese industrial machinery maker Yaskawa Electric Corp. in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture.

KYODO NEWS

SEA Games: Myanmar too good for Indonesia in football

SINGAPORE, 2 June — Myanmar's Under-23 football team began their SEA Games campaign by beating Indonesia 4-2 at the Jalan Besar Stadium on Tuesday night.

Playing in red, Myanmar opened the scoring

through Shine Thura on 20 minutes, who fired home from close range with his left boot.

Si Thu Aung doubled the lead 18 minutes later with a header, before Indonesia pulled one back through Abduh Lestaluhu,

whose cross crept in at the far post on the stroke of half-time. Myanmar continued to dominate after the break, and scored a third through Si Thu Aung again.

Substitute Kyaw Zin Lwin made it 4-1, before Ahmad Nufiandani reduced

the deficit to two goals with a powerful finish from close range.

Myanmar take on hosts Singapore next on Thursday, while Indonesia play regional minnows Cambodia on Saturday.—*straitstimes.com*



Ukraine hit Myanmar for six



Nanda Kyaw of Myanmar competes with Mykyta Tatarkov of Ukraine during the FIFA U-20 World Cup Group A match between Myanmar and the Ukraine at the Northland Events Centre on 2 June, 2015 in Whangarei, New Zealand.—FIFA

WHANGAREI, 2 June — A Valerii Luchkevych and Viktor Kovalenko-inspired Ukraine stormed to a 6-0 win over Myanmar, scoring all of their goals in the second-half to put one foot in the FIFA U-20 World Cup last 16.

After a drab first 45 minutes the Europeans found their rhythm as Luchkevych became the catalyst for an avalanche

of goals, with Kovalenko leaving the field with a brace and two assists to his name.

It was rare that the game flowed in the opening stages, though Ukraine were certainly in command of the early passages of play. But their first sight of goal would largely characterise the half. Artem Biesiedin was slid through inside five minutes, but he

dallied and his lack of composure allowed keeper Myo Min Latt to smother.

Myanmar grew into the game, but an absence of cutting edge was regularly evident as Ukraine spurned a hatful of chances. There was one moment to get the Myanmar fans off their seat, who have been turning out in their droves for the Asian underdogs, as a mazy run from halfway by Aung Thu — skipping past three men in blue — deserved more than the corner his deflected shot earned.

That will have felt a long time ago 12 minutes into the second half, largely thanks to the introduction of Luchkevych. He

only played a small part in the opener, where Yevhan Chumak's cross picked out Roman Yaremchuk to head home, but he was instrumental from there on.

Well found by Viktor Kovalenko — who was domineering in the centre of middle — in acres of space on the right flank, he delightfully chipped the keeper from the edge of the box. Another fine run saw him create the second, as Min Latt saved his shot only for Kovalenko to slot in the rebound, completing a nightmare six minutes for the Asian debutants.

Another Kovalenko pass picked out full-back Eduard Sobol to make it four, before Luchkevych was at it again as his neat turn in the box allowed him to set-up Biesiedin for an easy finish. The Dnipro midfielder, absent from the first game because of his involvement in UEFA Europa League final, should have had a second, but Thih Htet Aung's handball on the line saw the defender sent off.

Pavlo Polehenko missed the resultant spot-kick, but great work by Biesiedin down the right allowed Kovalenko to double his tally for the afternoon with a simple finish.

FIFA

Coaches remarks

Gerd Zeise, Myanmar coach

Obviously we only had the power for one match. The European teams play in another league and we cannot follow. We are too blind and we do not have the experience, that's absolutely clear. It was a disaster and this tournament has come too early for us. We cannot follow these teams, no chance. My team was too poor. It was just like the USA game, in the first 15-20 minutes of the second-half we gave the game away. We must be realists, the party is over. I must apologize to the Myanmar fans, I am responsible for this disaster, but I can't turn a cyclist into a racing driver.

Oleksandr Petrakov, Ukraine coach

I'm very pleased with the game and the result. I had planned to bring [Valerii] Luchkevych at half-time ahead of the game, as we were lacking speed. We had agreed that he would start the second half and he really improved our game. Like in the New Zealand game, we struggled to score our chances in the first half, but this clearly changed after the break. That's why we play football, to make people happy.

Americans outclass hosts to advance

AUCKLAND, 2 June — USA are through to the last 16 of the FIFA U-20 World Cup with a game to spare after a comprehensive 4-0 win over hosts New Zealand at Auckland's North Harbour Stadium. The margin of victory in no way flattered Tab Ramos's impressive side, who became the first side to advance to the knockout phase thanks to a brace from Rubio Rubin either side of goals from Emerson Hyndman and Paul Arriola.

The Americans were the more accomplished side from the very start and the warning signs were there for New Zealand when Arriola forced Oli Sail into an fine save inside five minutes. From the resultant corner, the deadlock was broken, with Rubin converting from a matter of centimetres after Bradford Jamieson IV had turned a Matthew Miazga header towards goal.

The Junior All Whites looked vulnerable every time the US attacked and had Sail to thank for keeping them in contention when he pulled off a tremendous save to tip away Cameron Carter-Vickers' curling effort. But the Kiwi keeper soon went from hero to villain. With 12 minutes until half-time, he spilled a seemingly routine through ball under pressure from Rubin,

allowing Hyndman to gleefully take advantage with a low shot into the now-partially guarded net.

Sail went some way to atoning for his error two minutes into the second period when he denied the lively Rubin, but USA's pressure was unrelenting and it was no surprise when they moved out of sight. The goal that made sure of the points was a thing of beauty too, with Paul Arriola racing through on to a fine pass from Gedion Zelalem and drilling home an inch-perfect right-foot shot off the inside of the right-hand post.

New Zealand did carve out some late chances to claim a consolation, the best of which was headed wide by captain Bill Tuiloma. But their night of misery was rounded off with six minutes left to play when Rubin capitalised on defensive confusion to sneak in between Jesse Edge and Adam Mitchell and convert from close range.

The hosts will now hope for a big win in their final Group A match against Myanmar to keep alive their hopes of advancing, while USA can enjoy their encounter with Ukraine safe in the knowledge that their place is assured.—FIFA



Emerson Hyndman of USA celebrates after scoring the second goal during the FIFA U-20 World Cup Group A match between New Zealand and USA at the North Harbour Stadium on 2 June, 2015 in Auckland, New Zealand.—FIFA

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 2 June, 2015

Group A	Myanmar	0-6	Ukraine
	New Zealand	0-4	USA
Group B	Austria	2-1	Panama
	Argentina	2-3	Ghana

Match Schedules for 3 June 2015 (all times local)

Group C	Qatar	-	Portugal	10:30
	Senegal	-	Colombia	13:30
Group D	Mexico	-	Uruguay	10:30
	Serbia	-	Mali	13:30