

Vice President U Nyan Tun to attend opening ceremony of 28th SEA Games in Singapore



SINGAPORE, 4 June—Vice President U Nyan Tun left Yangon International Airport on Thursday morning to attend the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games in Singapore.

On arrival at Changi International Airport in Singapore, the vice president was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador U Htay Aung, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Singaporean sports contingent and Myanmar embassy officials.

In the afternoon, the vice president met with staff of the Myanmar embassy and military attaché office and family members at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore.

The first SEA Games were held in Bangkok in 1959. The games are held once every two years in ASEAN member countries in rotation, with Timor-Leste recently joining the competition.

Myanmar hosted the 27th SEA Games from 11 to 22 December 2013.

Some sports events of the 28th SEA Games started in Singapore as of 29 May. The Games, incorporating Olympic and traditional sports events, will run until 16 June.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun arrives at Changi International Airport in Singapore to attend the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games.

MNA

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Tatmadaw discharges another 51 minors from military service

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 June —The Myanmar Armed Forces discharged 51 children and young people from military service Thursday, bringing the annual total to 93, UNICEF Myanmar said in a press release.

UNICEF Myanmar said the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on Grave Violations against Children commended the Myanmar government on its latest progress, saying that it continues to work in partnership with the government to completely end the involvement of children in armed conflict.

A total of 646 minors have returned to civilian life since the signing of a Joint Action Plan between the government and the United Nations in 2012, UNICEF Myanmar said.

Ms Renata Lok-Des-

sallien, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, said that “recruitment and use of underage children is against both international and Myanmar standards.”

“We welcome the official discharge of the children, including those who were accused of desertion - and for not punishing them - as we formally recognize through today’s discharge that they should not have been in the army in the first place,” said Ms Lok-Dessallien, who is also co-chair of the CTFMR.

Mr Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Myanmar’s chief representative and also co-chair of the CTFMR, stressed the need for long-term efforts and continued funding for the reintegration programme for the minors discharged from the military.

(See page 2)

Myanmar yoga enthusiasts set to join international celebrations

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 June — More than 500 yoga enthusiasts will take part in public demonstrations of the discipline in Yangon and Mandalay on 21 June to coincide with the UN-designated International Yoga Day, the Indian Embassy said Thursday.

The Indian embas-

sy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports, is holding the public events on Sunday morning at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon and Mandal Thiri Football Stadium in Mandalay, the embassy said.

A yoga competition, as a run-up to the main event, will be held at the embassy on 16 June with

the participation of yoga centres and clubs from around Myanmar, it added.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya said celebrations will take place in 177 countries, promoting physical, mental and spiritual health through yoga.

Yoga is one of the foundations of India’s

civilization, said the ambassador, adding that the practice can bring about an overall sense of happiness.

The United Nations designated 21 June each year as the International Day of Yoga through a resolution in December, 2014.

There are roughly 20 yoga clubs and centres in Yangon. — GNLM



International Yoga Day celebrations are set to take place in Myanmar on 21 June with a Yoga demonstration of more than 500 practitioners and enthusiasts in Yangon and Mandalay, says Embassy of India in Yangon.—PHOTO: CREDIT TO IDAYOFYOGA.COM

MPs discuss plan to borrow K400 billion as agricultural loan from CBM

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday put the trip of President U Thein Sein and party to Asia Africa Summit from 21 to 24 April 2015 in Indonesia and the trip to ASEAN Summit in Malaysia from 26 to 28 April 2015 on record.

Member of Joint Bill Committee U Aung Mya Than sought the approval from the Hluttaw for the bill on rights of peo-

ple with disabilities sent back by the President with amendments.

Joint Bill Committee member U Khin Maung Shwe also sought the approval from the Hluttaw for the Myanmar Accountancy Council bill.

MP U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No 2, MP U Sein Win of Maubin Constituency, MP U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency

and MP U Myint Oo of Thanatpin Constituency discussed a plan sent by the president for borrowing K400 billion as agricultural loans from Central Bank of Myanmar for 2015-16 FY.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than and Deputy Finance Minister Dr Lin Aung explained plans to deliver the loans to farmers. Deputy Minister Daw



MPs focus on borrowing of K400 billion agricultural loans from Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

Win Maw Tun reviewed the discussions of MPs over the report of the em-

ployees and employers rights assessment joint commission and progress

of setting the minimum wage sent by the president. **MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister U Han Sein.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Thant Shin.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session covers teacher vacancies, ferry service

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Pyithu Hluttaw MPs raised queries on waterway transport, mini hydropower projects and hiring of teachers Thursday during the 58th day session of the Lower House.

U Saw Htut Khaung Lwin from Kyainn-Seikkyi Township constituency in Kayin State asked the Ministry of Transport about progress on repairs on a ferry boat crossing the Athtayan River.

Deputy Minister for

Transport U Han Sein said the vessel is being repaired at Thanlwin shipyard and is expected to return to the river in July.

Daw Sandar Min, MP from Zabuthiri constituency, asked for construction of a mini hydropower project on Nant Salain creek in fiscal 2016-2017.

Deputy Minister U

Maw Tha Htwe said the creek has no steep slope and is suitable for a reservoir rather than a hydropower plant. The deputy minister, however, said a hydropower plant would be constructed on Honehnyi creek, which has a potential capacity of 5 megawatts in rainy season, and could be a site for two plants.

MP U Tin Htay Aung of Yesagyo Township urged the government to fill vacancies of teachers immediately in some villages of his constituency as the school season has started.

Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin said the ministry has appointed new teachers in schools, and the required teachers will be appointed on a daily payment basis under the management of the state government.—MNA

Myanmar, New Zealand in U-20 match, opening of SEA Games to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Myanmar U-20 team will play against host New Zealand in the (A) group match in the FIFA U-20 World Cup at 1.30 pm Myanmar standard time on 5 June.

MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast the football match live at 1.30 pm and after the 9 pm news programme.

Moreover, MRTV

News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games held in Singapore at 6.30 pm Myanmar standard time on 5 June.—MNA



Senior military officers explain purpose of discharging child soldiers.—MNA

Lawwaw National Unity and Development Party applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registrations as a political party. Lawwaw National Unity and Development Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on Thursday.—MNA

Tatmadaw discharges . . .

(from page 1)

“UNICEF and its partners support the Myanmar government’s commitment to ensuring its children are protected and have access to their basic rights,” he added.

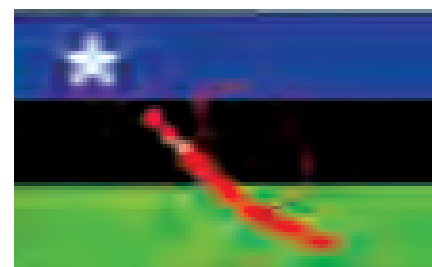
In 2007, the armed forces, known as the Tatmadaw, as well as seven non-state armed groups in Myanmar, were named on the UN Secretary-General’s list of parties to conflict who recruit and use children.—GNLM

Information for Public Remonstrance

1. Lawwaw National Unity and Development Party, headquartered at No 81, Ward 2, Waingmaw, Kachin State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 4 June 2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party’s name, flag and emblem.

2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of Lawwaw National Unity and Development Party



Emblem of Lawwaw National Unity and Development Party



Union Election Commission

Country's 2nd-largest bronze bell installed at Shwetaungsa Pagoda in Dawei



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla sprinkle scent water on the bronze bell.
MYAWADY

Correction

Please read H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations instead of H.E. Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Security Council, in the first column of the letter sent by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann to the UN Secretary-General and the Chairman of UN Security Council on page 3 in this daily issued on 4-6-2015.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Union FM meets diplomats, UN agency officials at new briefing

YANGON, 4 June—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin gave a briefing to the Yangon-based diplomatic corps and the UN agencies on the current developments in Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon, on Thursday.

Deputy Ministers and responsible personnel from respective ministries were also present on the occasion.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs briefed the current developments

related to the political, economic, administrative and private sector development reform process being undertaken in Myanmar, signing of the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement with ethnic armed groups and progress being made in preparation of the upcoming 2015 general elections, Myanmar's successful chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and Myanmar's continue active cooperation in the future works of ASEAN, and on the provision of humanitarian assistance and temporary shelters to



the victims of human trafficking as well as on the progress of repatriation of victims rescued by Myanmar Navy on 21 May and 29 May to their country of

origin.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and the respective officials answered the questions from the attendees.—MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin clarifies current developments in Myanmar.—MNA

Myanmar businesses invited to take part in Thailand lighting exhibition

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 June — The Thailand-based organizers of an international lighting industry exhibition on Thursday invited Myanmar businesses to take part in the upcoming event.

The Thailand Lighting Fair 2015 will take place at Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre from 19 to 21 August.

Officials of the Provincial Electricity Authority of Thailand (PEA) and The Exhibiz Co., Ltd held a press conference in Yangon

prior to a seminar on promotion of electrical energy efficiency for businesses at the office of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The fair will enable sellers and buyers to view, source or promote lighting-related products and technologies, said Pakwan Jiamjiroj, general manager of The Exhibiz.

The organizers said the fair will feature products relating to commercial, industrial and residential lighting, including displays by more

than 250 international lighting companies.

Mr. Niwat Chayakul, assistant governor of the PEA, invited Myanmar businesses to visit the fair to discover new ideas in electrical energy efficiency and lighting solutions.

"As Myanmar is gradually liberalizing its economic sector, it is necessary for local enterprises to adjust and try to raise their productivity and competitiveness in order to thrive in the era of the ASEAN Economic Community," he said.

GNLM



Officials from Provincial Electricity Authority of Thailand (PEA) and The Exhibiz Co., Ltd present a briefing on the Thailand Lighting Fair 2015, scheduled to be held on 19-21 August in Bangkok. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

Students view construction of new Meiktila Lake bridge



MEIKTILA, 4 June — The Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction is building a new 48-foot-wide bridge across Meiktila Lake to ease traffic congestion.

Students of Meiktila Technological University visited the site to view construction of the bridge, which can withstand a 60-ton load.

Upon its completion, the four-lane bridge will be flanked by two six-foot pedestrian walkways on either side.

*Thein Myint Kyaw
(Meiktila)*

Hawnan Building reopens to visitors

HSIPAW, 4 June—The historic Hawnan building in Hsipaw, Shan State, has reopened to visitors after a closure of more than three months.

Built in 1924 by the 87th successor Hsipaw chieftain Sao Ohn Kyar, the building was home to Hsipaw chieftain Sao Kya Seng, wife Mahadevi Thu Sandi and daughters Mayari and Keinnayi from 1948 to 1962. It is now

in the care of Sao Oo Kya and wife Daw Sao Sam Phone. Daw Sao Sam Phone explains the history of the building to visitors in English, Myanmar and Shan. The building was temporarily closed as of February 2015 so she could receive medical treatment.

The building is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 pm to 6 pm daily.

Hsipaw Ko Latt



Bronze statue of king to be erected for Sagaing anniversary

SAGAING, 4 June — Sagaing city officials recently inspected work on a bronze statue of King Athinkhaya Saw Yun being made for the city's upcoming 700th anniversary celebration.

The 14-foot-tall statue will weigh roughly one ton and cost K35 million to make, according to bronze caster U Hla Myint of Pyae Wa Myanmar handicraft workshop in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.

The statue of the king, who founded Sagaing city in Myanmar Era 677, will be placed at Ohbo roundabout at the entrance to the city.

Official celebrations for the 700th anniversary will run from 9 to 11 July.

*Htwe Myint Naing
(Sagaing)*



Wall magazine, photo show depict anti-drug campaign

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Dekkhina District Information and Public Relations Department held the wall magazine, photo show and educative talks at No 19 Basic Education High School in Ywama Village in Dekkhinathiri Township on Wednesday.

Staff Officer of the district IPRD Daw Thida Aye spoke about purpose of the

educative talks, Police Major Win Thein and officials, dangers of narcotic drugs, activities of anti-drug campaign in Myanmar, and Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Departmental personnel and students viewed round the wall magazines and photos on anti-narcotic activities.

Tun Tun Win (IPRD)



Anti-drug art competition held in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Pyinmana Township held an art competition at Basic Education High School No 1 on 3 June ahead of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Myint Aung Than, Commander of Nay

Pyi Taw Police Force Police Col Ko Ko Aung and members of the organizing committee supervised the competition.

Altogether 80 students from basic education schools in eight townships of two districts in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area took part.—Ko Gyi Kyaw
(Pyinmana)



REGIONAL

Japan, Philippines agree to launch talks on defence equipment transfer

TOKYO, 4 June — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippine President Benigno Aquino agreed on Thursday to start negotiations on an accord for the transfer of defence equipment and technology, as the two nations aim to bolster security ties amid China's increasing assertiveness at sea.

Meeting in Tokyo during Aquino's state visit to Japan, the two leaders also shared their deep concerns over unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the South China Sea, according to a joint statement they issued after the meeting, apparently with China's recent rapid and massive reclamation work in mind.

At a time when such actions by Beijing have stoked tensions in and beyond Asia, the statement said Abe and Aquino underscored the importance of resolving maritime disputes based on international law and called for restraint in taking unilateral actions at sea.

Japan, the Philippines,

the United States and European nations have voiced their concerns over the pace and extent of Beijing's reclamation work in contested waters in the South China Sea, where China has overlapping territorial claims.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, which is a vital shipping lane and touted as having rich fishing grounds. Rival claimants in the dispute are the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taipei.

The Philippines has been vocal in opposing Beijing's growing maritime assertiveness, having taken its dispute with China over the South China Sea to a UN tribunal based in The Hague. In the statement, Japan expressed its support for Manila's move.

Beijing has defended its reclamation work as not just meeting its defence needs but also providing an "international public service" for maritime safety. China also says it prefers resolving territorial feuds through



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Philippine President Benigno Aquino shake hands at the State Guest House in Tokyo on 4 June, 2015, prior to their talks.—KYODO NEWS

bilateral negotiations, not multilaterally.

While Japan is not involved in the South China Sea spat, it has its own tensions with Beijing in the East China Sea, where Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed islands lie. These islands are known as the Senkakus in Japan and Diaoyus in China.

To ensure regional peace and stability, Abe and Aquino agreed to bolster their security cooperation

through expanded joint and multilateral exercises.

Japanese government sources have said P-3C patrol aircraft and radar-related equipment are among potential export items under the envisioned transfer of defence equipment.

Holding talks for the sixth time, Abe and Aquino welcomed the signing of an accord the same day to pave the way for the provision of patrol boats to the Philippines, with Abe promising

Japan's continued support for capacity-building of the Philippine Coast Guard, the statement said.

Tokyo has promised 10 patrol boats to the Philippine Coast Guard to help Manila beef up its maritime patrol activities.

Tapping into the potential of the Southeast Asian country, whose annual growth has stayed at around 6 percent to 7 percent, the two leaders unveiled a road map for better transport infrastructure in Manila to make it easier to conduct business in the capital, known for its traffic congestion.

In this context, Japan pledged to launch a railway project worth about 300 billion yen (\$2.4 billion), according to the statement.

Aquino, whose country has strategic partnerships with Japan and the United States, praised Japan's post-war path as a peace-loving nation, the document said, noting Japan-Philippine ties as an example of countries overcoming issues of the

past.

Despite being one of the sites of fierce battles during World War II, the Philippines has developed close economic, political and cultural ties with Japan over the years. Next year, the two countries will mark the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties.

Speaking at an investment forum earlier in the day, Aquino said Japanese firms have "made their mark on the Philippine electronics, shipbuilding and automotive industries, among others — to the point where their work and their products are already irreplaceable in the lives of Filipinos."

He urged more companies to follow suit, saying, "Today, I tell you, there is no better time to set up shop in the country."

Some 1,200 Japanese firms currently operate in the Philippines, and Japan was the Philippines' largest trading partner in 2014 as well as the largest source of official development assistance.

Kyodo News

CPC leaders order "all possible measures" in Yangtze rescue

BEIJING, 4 June — Chinese President Xi Jinping and other senior Communist Party of China (CPC) leaders have called on rescuers to "take all possible measures" to save lives from the cruiser ship that capsized on the Yangtze River on Monday night.

They have also demanded serious investigation into the cause of the tragedy, in which 65 people have been confirmed dead and more than 370 are still missing. Only 14 survivors have been found.

The Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee met on Thursday morning to discuss the

rescue and how to handle the tragedy's aftermath.

Xi gave a speech and presided over the meeting, with CPC leaders also listening to a report from a State Council work team on the matter.

A statement issued after the meeting stressed how arduous the rescue had been and that authorities should mobilize all possible forces and take all possible measures to race against the clock in the hope of pulling survivors from the vessel.

The document said the search for missing passengers and treatment of the injured should be continued though saving lives is the top priority.

Local government authorities and military units were ordered to make sure divers' underwater searches were coordinated, so that every room of the ship is checked.

Rescue work should be carried out in a scientific manner with due attention paid to the safety of the rescue ships and workers themselves, according to the statement.

Pledging to send more medical experts and resources, the leaders also noted the importance of caring for passengers' families and promised timely, accurate and transparent releases of information from the investigation.—Xinhua

Osprey arrives in Tokyo for 1st time since crash in Hawaii



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a US military's MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft landing at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo on 4 June, 2015. It was the first flight of the aircraft outside Japan's southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa since one of the same type crashed in Hawaii in May. The aircraft is expected to be involved a training session in Shizuoka Prefecture, west of Tokyo.—KYODO NEWS

822 schools in S Korea suspend classes for MERS fears

SEOUL, 4 June — More than 800 schools in South Korea have decided to suspend classes as of Thursday for fears of student contagion from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Schools, which decided to temporarily stop classes, totaled 822 nationwide at 11 am (0200 GMT), according to the Education Ministry.

Those included 309 kindergartens, 417 elementary schools, 66 middle schools, 12 high schools, five colleges and

13 special- education schools.

About 70 percent of the total came from Gyeonggi Province where many infected cases were allegedly found. In capital Seoul, 24 kindergartens, 13 primary schools and two junior high schools decided to halt classes.

As of Thursday, the number of MERS infection cases in the country surged to 35 since the first case was found on 20 May.

The 35 infectees were composed of 10 in their 40s, seven in their 50s and 70s each, five in their 60s, four in their 30s and two

in their 20s. No infection case of minors has been reported yet.

The MERS is a respiratory illness caused by a new type of corona-virus that is similar to the one causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease, with its fatality rate reaching 40.7 percent.

The first case was spotted in Saudi Arabia in 2012. The World Health Organization has reported more than 1,000 cases of MERS globally and more than 400 deaths.—Xinhua

US, India agree to boost defence cooperation

NEW DELHI, 4 June — The United States and India have agreed to boost bilateral defence cooperation, including launching joint research in the area of security, according to officials.

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar signed an agreement describing the framework of defence cooperation in the coming 10 years following their talks in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The move to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries is believed aimed

at keeping China, which has been strengthening its influence in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, in check.

The joint research, whose expenditures are planned to total about \$2 million, will involve the development of solar power generation for navy use and of protective clothing against chemical and biological weapons for use by the army. The United States and India also agreed to accelerate discussions over cooperation in the areas of designing and building jet engines and airplane carriers.

Kyodo News

Alarm spreads as South Korea reports more MERS cases

SEOUL, 4 June — Alarm over an outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in South Korea spread on Thursday with North Korea calling for border checks while hundreds more schools closed in the South and authorities reported five new cases.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye has demanded that everything be done to halt the outbreak which began two weeks ago, brought into the country by a South Korean man returning from a business trip to the Middle East.

Two people have died in South Korea. With 35 cases, South Korea has the most infections outside the Middle East where the disease first appeared in 2012, and where most of the 440 fatalities have been. About



Chinese tourists wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) use their mobile phones in central Seoul, South Korea on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

1,600 people have been quarantined in South Korea, most of them at home but some in medical institutions, a health ministry official said.

Soldiers have been con-

finned to base in areas near hospitals where outbreaks have occurred, while parents from those areas may not visit their children in the armed forces, a defence ministry official said.

Among the five new South Korean cases were two more health workers who treated infected patients. “We are in a war,” said an official at a health centre in Seoul’s wealthy

Gangnam district, where panic spread early on Thursday when medical workers in protection suits were spotted near a hotel.

The official said a Middle Eastern guest at the hotel fell ill and was later quarantined at a hospital.

MERS infection is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that caused SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which emerged in 2002-2003 and killed around 800 people worldwide. MERS has a much higher death rate - 38 percent, according to WHO figures — but also spreads far less swiftly than SARS from person to person, making it less of a threat for now.

North Korea had asked the South to provide heat-detecting cameras to monitor temperatures of South Korean workers travelling to the inter-Korean Kaesong Industrial Complex, just north of the border, a South Korean government official said.

South Korea lent North Korea three cameras to use at the complex during the recent scare over Ebola, the official said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has not recommended travel restrictions but about 7,000 people from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan had cancelled trips to South Korea as of 2 June, a spokesman for the Korea Tourism Or-

ganisation said.

Japan said it was looking into possible quarantine measures for people arriving from South Korea.

China last week reported its first case, that of a South Korean man who tested positive after breaking a voluntary house quarantine and travelling to Hong Kong and on to mainland China.

Authorities have been criticised for being slow to respond to the initial spread of MERS.

It took several days for the 68-year-old man returning from the Middle East to be diagnosed and in the meantime, he infected people at health facilities where he went for treatment of a fever and cough.

All of South Korea’s cases have been traced to the man who visited Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the countries with the most MERS cases.

More than 800 schools in South Korea were closed or had classes cancelled as of Thursday, the Ministry of Education said.

While there has been no sustained human-to-human transmission, the virus could change and spread rapidly. South Korea’s new cases bring the total number globally to about 1,180, based on World Health Organization (WHO) data, with at least 442 related deaths.—Reuters

N Korea asks South for MERS detection device in joint industrial zone

SEOUL, 4 June — North Korea has asked South Korea to provide devices to detect Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus infection at the joint industrial zone in the North’s border town of Kaesong, a South Korean Unification Ministry spokeswoman said on Thursday.

“The North has requested thermal scanners to screen South Korean workers for possible in-

fection with MERS,” Park Soo Jin said.

On a daily average, about 300 to 400 South Korean workers commute to the industrial zone where more than 120 South Korean firms employ around 52,000 North Korean workers.

The North’s request has been made after the number of patients diagnosed with the potentially fatal virus rose to 35 as of Thursday since a South

Korean man who returned from the Middle East was confirmed positive on 20 May.

Pyongyang’s official Korean Central News Agency reported the two fatalities of the virus on Wednesday, citing South Korean media. North Korea is also known to have sent workers to the Middle East to earn foreign currency. South Korea has temporarily placed three thermal scanners at the industrial

zone at the request of North Korea to combat the Ebola epidemic last year.

The industrial zone, launched in 2004 with a combination of the North’s cheap labor and the South’s capital and technology, is a key source of revenue for North Korea. Last October, North Korea sealed its borders to almost all foreigners out of concerns that the Ebola epidemic might wreak havoc in the country.

Kyodo News

Australia slaps sanctions on alleged Islamic State recruiter, seizes funds

SYDNEY, 4 June — Australia on Thursday unveiled fresh financial sanctions against one of its citizens alleged to be a top recruiter for the Islamic State militant group, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said, stepping up a crackdown on militant activity.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalised Muslims or by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East, having raised its threat level to “high” and unleashed a series of high-profile raids in major cities.

Melbourne-born Neil Prakash is the third Australian citizen to have his assets frozen by the government because of membership in the radical Sunni group, which has seized wide swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria.

Prakash, who is believed to have relocated to Syria last year, joins two

Australian Islamic State fighters on the list, Mohamed Elomar and Khaled Sharrouf, who appeared in images last year holding the severed heads of Syrian soldiers.

“Prakash has sought to commission violent terrorist acts, including in Australia,” Bishop said in a statement.

“He has exploited social media to spread violent extremism and to recruit others, including young women and girls, to travel to Syria and Iraq to join Daesh,” she added, using an Arabic acronym for the group.

“Listing Prakash ... sends a strong message to anyone who recruits for, or travels overseas to join, a terrorist organization that the Australian government will do everything within its power to combat the threat of terrorism on all fronts.”

Reuters

Lower house OKs bill to lower voting age to 18 next year

TOKYO, 4 June — Japan’s lower house unanimously approved on Thursday a bill to lower the voting age for national elections to 18 from the current 20, in a step towards first such amendment to the electoral law in 70 years.

The legislation, passed in the House of Representatives plenary session, is expected to be enacted as early as 17 June with approval from the House of Councillors.

If enacted, 18- and 19-year-olds can vote starting from next year’s House of Councillors election, unless the House of Representatives is dissolved before. Some 2.4 million people aged 18 and 19 are expected to join the electorate next year.

The voting age was last changed in 1945, when it was lowered from 25 to 20.

The move comes after a revision to the national referendum law came into



Photo shows the plenary session of Japan’s House of Representatives, which approved on 4 June, 2015, a bill to lower the voting age to 18 from the current 20. The bill will be enacted possibly on 17 June following deliberations at the House of Councillors.—KYODO NEWS

effect in June 2014, which means the voting age for plebiscites on constitutional changes will be lowered to 18 from the current 20 in four years’ time.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe aims to amend Japan’s pacifist Constitution to enable the Self-Defence Forces to play a greater security role. The bill on voting age also includes a provision to

send minors to public prosecutors in cases of serious crimes against electoral laws that compromise the fairness of elections.

In line with the law change, the minimum age for appointment to electoral management committees, which oversee elections, will also be lowered to 18 from 20.

Lay judges and mem-

bers of prosecution inquest committees are selected from citizens of voting age, but the minimum age for these duties remains at 20. The bill was submitted by six parties, including the ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito party, and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Ex-German foreign minister Fischer warns Cameron over EU reform

LONDON, 4 June — Prime Minister David Cameron should not get carried away with apparent German support for his bid to reform the European Union, former German foreign minister Joschka Fischer warned on Thursday.

After winning a national election last month, Cameron plans to renegotiate Britain's ties with the EU before holding a referendum on the country's membership of the bloc by the end of 2017.

His diplomatic bid to win support for reforms started last week with a tour of European capitals. The headline leg of that trip was a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin, in which she said she would work with Cameron to strike a deal.

Her support was wel-



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron during a European Union leaders summit in Brussels in this 23 April, 2015 file photo.— REUTERS

comed by British officials.

But, Fischer, who also served as Germany's vice chancellor before leaving front line politics in 2005, sought to temper that optimism.

"Don't lose yourself in wishful thinking," he told the BBC. "Angela Merkel

will do nothing which will endanger the basic principles of the common market, of the EU."

He added that finding a solution to Greece's financial problems within the eurozone would be Merkel's top priority.

Reuters

US heeding A-bombed cities' voice over Manhattan Project park plan

WASHINGTON, 4 June — US officials involved in commemorating the country's atomic bomb programme in the 1940s indicated on Wednesday that when designing a national park on the issue, they will be mindful of critical voices from Japanese cities that suffered US bombing.

The officials from the Energy Department and the National Park Service told an event in Washington that they will try to strike a balance between promoting scientific advancement and the tragic events behind the Manhattan Project in exhibits in the planned park.

While many in the United States see the 1945 attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in a positive light, in the belief that they quickened the end of World War II, those cities have expressed concern the planned

Manhattan Project National Historic Park could lead to justifying the nuclear bombing that killed and injured many civilians.

Jaime Shimek, deputy assistant secretary of the department, told the event marking the 70th anniversary of the Manhattan Project that the US government recognizes that "there are many aspects and this is a complicated story."

Not only is it about the rapid advances in science that have changed the world but it is also "a story about the world's first use of nuclear weapons, and the tragic stories of death and the destruction that was caused by those weapons as well," Shimek said.

Patrick Gregerson, chief of planning for the park service, suggested that the organization will be mindful of various opinions

from outside the United States before releasing an outline of the park design, possibly this summer.

"We do not look at where they are from to decide whether we look at their comments or not. And so we accept all comments," Gregerson said.

The three-site park will consist of facilities and land in Oak Ridge in Tennessee, Los Alamos in New Mexico and Hanford in Washington State, according to the park service.

The Los Alamos complex was the centre of scientific efforts to develop an atomic bomb during the war. Enriched uranium that was used for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was produced in Oak Ridge and plutonium that was used for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki was produced in Hanford.—*Kyodo News*

Italian police arrest 44 over migrant centre corruption

ROME, 4 June — Italian police said they arrested 44 people on Thursday suspected of being part of a network of corrupt politicians and business people in Rome accused of rigging public contracts to manage migrant reception centres.

The arrests follow the discovery of a vast system of corruption in the Rome city government last year — a case dubbed "Mafia Capital" which prompted the city hall to ask the national anti-corruption authority to investigate a list of suspect public contracts.

Rome police said search warrants were also issued against another 21 peo-

ple in the area around Rome, L'Aquila in central Italy and Catania and Enna in Sicily.

They said the investigation had uncovered a widespread system designed to allow a cartel of companies to win lucrative public contracts to manage migrant reception centres.

The centres, often run on contract by cooperative social organizations, have proved a rich source of income for unscrupulous operators as the Mediterranean migrant boat crisis has intensified, leaving authorities struggling to deal with the tens of thousands of arrivals. "We need to stop the boat departures and stop the

public tenders immediately," Matteo Salvini, head of the anti-immigrant Northern League party said following the latest arrests.

The case has underlined the persistent problem of political corruption in Italy, which ranked 69 out of 177 countries in the latest index by Transparency International, the global anti-corruption group.

Police said "Mafia Capital" was based around a network running back over many years in Rome involving local politicians, business people and criminals linked to violent neo-fascist groups active in the 1970s and 1980s.—*Reuters*

Russia says Kiev's actions threaten truce in east Ukraine



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov speaks during a session of Foreign Ministers Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Moscow on 3 June, 2015. —REUTERS

Moscow, 4 June — Russia accused Kiev on Thursday of endangering a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine after the heaviest fighting in months between government forces and pro-Russian separatists.

"The February Minsk (ceasefire) agreements are constantly under threat because of the actions of the Kiev authorities, trying to walk away from their obligations to foster direct dialogue with Donbass," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a security meeting, referring to a rebel-held region in east Ukraine.—*Reuters*

Ukraine says 5 servicemen killed in fighting, tensions still high

KIEV, 4 May — Five Ukrainian servicemen were killed in the worst upsurge of fighting in the east of the country in months and the situation remains tense, Ukrainian officials said on Thursday, as pro-Russian rebels also updated their own death toll.

Presidential aide Yuri Biryukov reported the Ukrainian deaths on his Facebook page and said 39 servicemen had also been injured in battles near the town of Maryinka, which Kiev says the pro-Russian rebels had tried in vain on Wednesday to seize.

The fighting, in which

both sides used heavy weapons, went far beyond regular low-level skirmishing and severely tested a ceasefire brokered in February by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France. The rebels have blamed Kiev's forces for the clashes and on Thursday revised their own estimate of casualties in the past day to 19, comprising 15 civilians and four fighters. On Wednesday they had said 15 people in total had been killed.

Russia said on Thursday Kiev was reneging on its ceasefire obligations, while the US State Depart-



ment pointed a finger at Moscow, saying it had a responsibility to lean on the rebels to halt the fighting.

Concerns over the military escalation in Ukraine caused Russia's rouble to weaken 1.2 percent against

the dollar in early trade on Thursday following a 3 percent fall on Wednesday.

A Ukrainian military

A firefighter works to extinguish a fire at a local market, which was recently damaged by shelling, in Donetsk, Ukraine on 3 June, 2015. REUTERS

spokesman said the situation near Maryinka remained "tense but stable" on Thursday morning.

"On three occasions the (separatist) fighters shelled our positions during the night. At the moment there is an operation going on to find sabotage and diversionary groups," he said. Separately, the Ukrainian military said rebels had fired overnight at government troop positions outside the south-eastern port city of Mariupol, as well as on villages near Luhansk city in the northern part of rebel-controlled territory.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 5 June, 2015

Investing in education the smartest choice

By Kyaw Thura

IT is undeniable that investing in education is the smartest thing a poor country can do to help itself out of poverty and into prosperity. This is because education provides people with the skills they need to survive and then thrive.

It is not hard to see that most poor people lack proper education rather than good luck. In similar fashion, a country that lacks educated

human resources is incapable of lifting itself out of least-developed status. In fact, education is a one-size-fits-all answer for continuous and rapid growth on all fronts.

For example, education can pave the way for peace and stability in social and political contexts. It is through literacy that people can learn about their own rights and acquire knowledge and skills they need throughout their lives.

When it comes to health, educated people are better prepared to prevent diseases and immunize their children than people with little or no schooling.

As an agricultural country, Myanmar depends on its farmers who account for nearly two thirds of the entire population. There is no doubt that increased education among farmers will lead

to a more productive agricultural sector.

Now is the time for Myanmar to invest in its future by spending more on education and health than anything else. If the country is to make genuine progress, investing in education is not just the smart choice, it is the only choice.

Write for us

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

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.

Foundation helps improve rural lives through small loan enterprises

HtayAung
(The Mirror)

A foundation providing financial support for small and medium enterprises is winning accolades for its efforts to improve the lives of rural people in Myanmar.

The Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation carries out philanthropic tasks that include issuing small loans, education, health and transportation programmes, as well as supplying clean drinking water.

Chairwoman Daw Nang Lang Kham said her foundation has established small loan enterprises in Hlegu and Taikkyi townships for development of small and medium enterprises since August 2013 in order to reduce poverty and promote development. The small loan enterprises have 6,683 members, with profits spent on regional development and philanthropic works, according to the chairwoman.

In addition, the foundation is working together



Daw Nang Lang Kham.

with Project Smile to educate young children in Twantay and Belin, and has helped build a clinic and hospital in Ayethaya in Taunggyi and Bawsai, the chairperson added.

The foundation spent over K24 billion to supply clean water to 6,771 families in Shan State and has actively participated in women's affairs. Daw Nang Liang Kham discussed wider participation of women in the economy of Myanmar on 23 Sep-

tember last year and held discussions with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

In recognition of the foundation's work, the government presented it with an excellence award in social affairs on 15 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Nang Lang Kham said she was proud of the award and promised to continue philanthropic works including assistance to victims of conflicts and natural disasters.

The foundation helped repatriate around 3,000 Myanmar refugees in Malaysia, 270 Myanmar fishery workers in India in 2013 and 2014 and recent-



ly actively participated in repatriation of 500 Myanmar fishery workers in In-

donesia.

The foundation has donated some K 64 billion

for the people and the country.

(Trs: MWT)

Yangon Region marks School Enrolment Day

YANGON, 4 June—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the School Enrolment Day for 2015-16 academic year of Yangon Region at the hall of No 4 Basic Education High School in Ahlon Township Thursday.

The chief minister accepted K5 million donated by Forever Group Co Ltd and K2 million by Mother Trading Co Ltd.

Patron of Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay and officials provided stationery to students from four districts of the region.

On behalf of the well-wishers, the region minister for Electricity and Industry and minister for Social Affairs presented cash donations to district

education officers.

At the ceremony, officials and well-wishers donated K528.4 million to

four district education officers while Yangon Region WAO presented 10 kinds of stationery worth

K35.32 million to 4,000 students from four districts.

MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wun-na Maung Lwin being welcomed by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Thanh Dung at the reception to mark 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Vietnam at Chatrium Hotel on 4 June.

MNA



I bought a keypad phone, but I'm no fool! It says "Unlock" in Myanmar, so please bring me the key

My goodness!



Hla Htut Oo

LOCAL NEWS

Chinlone clubs demonstrate skills in contest



MANDALAY, 4 June — The 87th Waso Chinlone Contest kicked off at the gymnasium near Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay on 3 June.

U Kyaw Thein, chairman of the Maha Muni Buddha Image board of trustees, as well as secre-

tary of the contest organizing committee, and officials formally opened the contest.

Six women demonstrated their skills as a special event at the opening ceremony.

A total of 1,800 Chinlone clubs will participate

in the contest from 4 a.m. to midnight from 3 June to 1 August.

A ceremony to pay respect to senior Chinlone players will be held at the gymnasium on 31 July morning.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mandalay Region government concentrates on financial development

MANDALAY, 4 June — A coordination meeting to set up the Mandalay Region financial development supporting committee was held at the hall of the region government, here, on Wednesday.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu extended greetings while head of Region Internal Revenue Department U Soe Naing spoke about tax-

ation matters and formation of the supporting committees for financial development.

The supporting committee was formed with heads of the Internal Revenue Department Township Development Affairs Committee, Township Police Force, Township General Administration Department and Township Development Supporting Committee. The

committee was assigned to explain taxation to business owners and submit reports to take action against those who fail to pay tax.

Member of Mandalay City Development Committee, the commander of Region Police Force and departmental officials participated in discussions. The region minister reviewed their discussions.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*



MU Chemistry Dept provides assistance to ailing faculty members

MANDALAY, 4 June — The Chemistry Department of Mandalay University held a meeting Wednesday to provide health care services for retired faculty members.

A committee was formed with faculty members and past students. They presented K50,000 each to eight ailing faculty

members. Attendees to the meeting donated K6.7 million to the committee.

Well-wishers may donate cash to the committee by calling Dr Mi Mi Thin on 09-2021726, Dr Tha Zin on 02-72623 and Dr Thanda Aye on 09-256438761.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



The meeting to provide assistance for faculty members of Chemistry Department of Mandalay University in progress.

Well-wisher donates stationery to basic education students



MANDALAY, 4 June — Well-wisher Ko Aung Naing Tun, wife Daw Than Than Aye and daughter Ma Thun Poe Ein donated 120 dozens of notebooks and stationery to basic education students on 9th street in East Htani Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, on 2 June.

The well-wisher family has successively donated stationery to the basic education students for five years.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Cyclists plan ride for World Environment Day

YANGON, 4 June — Cycling enthusiasts will ride from Yangon to Letkkhokon Beach to mark World Environment Day on 5 June, according to U Nyi of Bikers Networks Myanmar.

The association invites all enthusiasts to join its 12th long-distance group ride. Riders will gather at Pansodan Jetty at 5:30 a.m. on 5 June and cycle 35 miles from Dala to Letkkhonkon.

“We urge all bikers to check their bicycles and take spare parts with them,” U Nyi said. “On



arrival at Letkkhokon, we will have lunch and spend an hour before departure.”

The group has previously organized rides to destinations including

Hmawby, Ngahsutaung and Bago.—*Htet Khaing (Sangyoung)*

Amnesty says Nigerian military responsible for deaths of 8,000 prisoners



Soldiers are seen on a truck along a road in Maiduguri in Borno State, Nigeria on 14 May, 2015. REUTERS

ABUJA, 4 June — More than 8,000 people have died while being detained by Nigeria's armed forces during the campaign against militant Islamist group Boko Haram, Amnesty International said on Wednesday, allegations that the military denied.

The group said many of the prisoners were executed and others died due to starvation, overcrowding, torture and denial of medical assistance.

Boko Haram's six-year insurgency has killed thousands and left 1.5 million people displaced. The group wants to establish an Islamic caliphate in the

northeast of Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy and top oil exporter.

Muhammadu Buhari, the new president, has vowed to defeat Boko Haram and was holding talks on Wednesday with his counterparts in neighbouring Niger and Chad on how best to tackle the insurgency.

The militants controlled a swathe of territory around the size of Belgium at the start of the year but have lost most of it in recent months due to the combined efforts of troops from Nigeria and Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Amnesty said Niger-

ian troops had rounded up thousands of men and boys, some as young as 9, in Boko Haram strongholds. Many of those held were executed or died in custody if their families were unable to pay a bribe.

More than 1,200 people were extrajudicially executed and more than 7,000 starved or died of disease in severely overcrowded cells, Amnesty said.

Many of the people executed were shot dead inside detention facilities, despite presenting no danger, in violation of international humanitarian laws, Amnesty said.

Reuters

Saudi names suspects in mosque bombings, offers \$1 million bounty

DUBAI, 4 June — Saudi Arabia offered a cash reward of 5 million riyals (\$1.3 million) for information leading to the arrest of sixteen people it said were involved in two deadly mosque bombings claimed by Islamic State, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

The ministry also offered a 7 million riyal reward for tips that would thwart any future attacks, according to a statement published by state news agency SPA.

"Anyone dealing with the wanted men will be held accountable," the ministry warned. A suicide bomber

disguised as a woman blew himself up on Friday outside a Shi'ite Muslim mosque in the city of Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia, killing himself and four other people.

The interior ministry identified the bomber as a Saudi citizen, 20-year old Khalid al-Wahbi al-Shem-mari.

A week earlier, another suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shi'ite mosque in the nearby village of al-Qadeeh, killing 22 people.

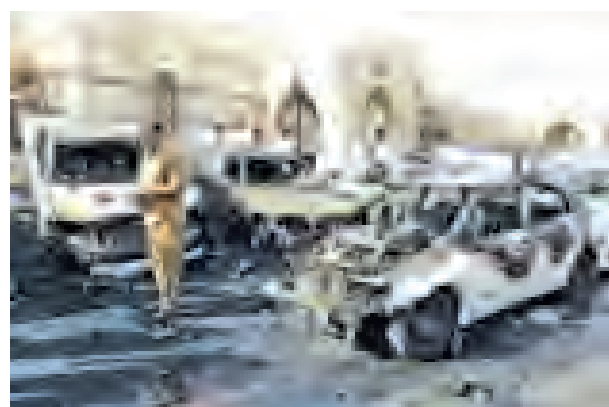
The ministry published a list of sixteen men and their photographs on state TV,

saying they were involved in the two attacks.

Islamic State, a hardline Sunni militant group based in Iraq and Syria, claimed responsibility for both attacks. The group has said it wants to drive out all Shi'ites from the Arabian Peninsula and urged young men in the kingdom to join its cause.

The bombings in Saudi Arabia come as wars with sectarian overtones ravage Iraq, Syria and Yemen — stoking tensions between Sunnis and Shi'ites throughout the region.

Some clerics in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam and mainstay of its Sunni denomination, are deeply hostile towards Shi'ites, whom they regard as apostates. The Kingdom is also part of an international coalition bombing Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria, and the organization has threatened to launch revenge attacks. Saudi and Gulf governments fear that the wars in the region, in which their Sunni allies are fighting groups close to Shi'ite archrival Iran, will radicalize their citizens and undermine their security.—Reuters



A policeman carries out an inspection after a car exploded near the Shi'ite al-Anoud mosque in Saudi Arabia's Dammam on 29 May, 2015. REUTERS

Al-Qaeda's Syria wing sees no peace with Islamic State soon

BEIRUT, 4 June — The head of al-Qaeda's Syria wing Nusra Front said he saw no solution soon to a conflict with the rival Islamic State group in Syria that has killed hundreds of fighters, according to an interview with Al Jazeera aired on Wednesday.

Nusra Front, loyal to the successors of Osama bin Laden, and Islamic State are the two most powerful forces fighting government forces in Syria. The groups have fought each other since a split in 2013 largely due to a power struggle between leaders.

"There is no solution between us and them in the meantime, or in the foreseeable future. We hope they repent to God and return

to their senses...if not then there is nothing but fighting between us," Abu Mohamad al-Golani told the channel. It was not clear where or when the rare interview took place.

It was the second of a two-part interview and included footage of a Nusra training camp, weaponry, a lesson inside a classroom as well as images of a prison and a food packing operation inside Nusra-held territory.

The group has made gains in northwestern Syria alongside other insurgent groups in recent weeks, seizing the city of Idlib, the town of Jisr al-Shughour and bringing armed groups closer to government-held coastal areas north of the capital.

Golani said his Sunni Muslim militant group had

around 30 percent foreign fighters including "a small number" of Americans. The foreign contingent also included Europeans and many Asians, Russians and



Members of al-Qaeda's Nusra Front ride on a pick-up truck mounted with an anti-aircraft weapon in the town of the northwestern city of Ariha, after a coalition of insurgent groups seized the area in Idlib Province on 29 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Chechens, he said.

The two-part interview on the Qatari-financed channel appeared to be an attempt by Nusra Front to cast itself to an Arab audience as

a Syrian national movement.

This has triggered debate among Western diplomats following Syria's conflict who still see it as a dangerous, hardline group that is not clearly distinguishable from Islamic State.

In last week's installment Golani had made clear he took orders from al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, who had told him to focus Nusra's fight on Syria. This week he evaded a question about whether Nusra was thinking of splitting from al-Qaeda.

Nusra follows al-Qaeda's hardline interpretation of Islam and sees Shi'ite Muslim power Iran as a major foe. Golani said Iran, which backs Syrian Presi-

dent Bashar al-Assad, was using only militias to fight jihadists in Syria.

He said Teheran had also sent military experts but not its national troops to Syria and said Nusra was determined to fight Iranian-backed groups.

"We will cut off the arms of Iran in our region, and as for Iran, it will be handled by those (inside it)," he said, alluding to possible revolt by minority Sunnis and Kurds.

Syria's United Nations envoy said last week the interview violated UN counterterrorism resolutions and was an attempt by Qatar to whitewash the group's image. The channel has not responded to requests for comment.—Reuters

Israeli war jets strike Gaza in response to rockets' firing

GAZA, 4 June — Israeli war jets struck with air-to-ground missiles early Thursday military facilities in the Gaza Strip in response to earlier rockets firing from the enclave into Israel, witnesses and security officials said.

The war jets had first intensively hovered over Gaza before firing a missile,

where a huge explosion was heard in the northwest part of Gaza city, said residents in the area.

Witnesses said that the war jets kept hovering over the Gaza Strip, where several explosions were heard in its northern, central and southern areas. Firefighting and ambulances rushed to the targeted areas.

Paramedics said no injuries were reported, while police and security forces evacuated buildings and security headquarters all over Gaza in fear of being targeted by Israel. Security officials said that at least one missile was fired at a training facility that belongs to the Islamic Hamas movement' armed wing, known as al-Qassam

Brigades. Huge explosion was heard in the area and no injuries were reported.

The Israeli airstrike was a response to an earlier rockets' attack on Israel carried out from northern Gaza city. Israel said three rockets were fired into Israel, but caused no damages or injuries.

However, Palestinian sources, speaking on condi-

tion of anonymity, said that a radical Islamic Salafist group, affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) organization was responsible for firing the rockets into Israel.

The Israeli media had earlier reported that the Salafists fired rockets into Israel due to deep differences with Hamas movement following Hamas crackdown

on the group and the killing of one of its members on Tuesday.

It is the second time in one week that this group fired rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Last week, Israeli war jets carried out six airstrikes on Hamas and Islamic Jihad military facilities in response to rockets firing.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Reforms at risk as China eyes 2020 growth goal

BEIJING, 4 June — China looks likely to target annual growth of about 7 percent in its next five-year plan so it can hit ambitious 2020 goals, raising concerns that politics could trump a commitment to disruptive reforms entailing slower but more sustainable growth. Many economists already think 2015 growth will miss that mark — the IMF expects 6.8 percent followed by 6.25 percent in 2016 — but Beijing needs average growth of close to 7 percent to hit a previously declared aim of doubling gross domestic product and per capita income by 2020 from 2010.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top planning agency, has been soliciting recommendations from think-tanks and policy advisers, which are divided into those advocating a lower growth



New properties are seen in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China on 12 May, 2015.—REUTERS

goal of 6.5 percent for the five-year period and those recommending 7 percent.

"The goal of doubling GDP will be a hard constraint, which will make it difficult for the government to set a lower target," said a

researcher with the NDRC.

The leadership will discuss the country's 13th five-year plan — a blueprint for economic and social development between 2016 and 2020 — at a party meeting in the autumn,

according to sources involved in the internal policy discussions.

"A 7 percent target could be accepted by all sides," said a senior economist at a top government think-tank.

"It's more of a political issue than an economic issue," the economist said.

There have already been some signs that Beijing is open to flexing its push for reforms where they threatened growth; it put pressure on banks to help out when its preferred market solution for local government borrowing looked likely to lead to a funding crunch. It rowed back on a clampdown on opaque local government financing vehicles for the same reason and relaxed rules on phasing out some market-distorting tax breaks when their immediate withdrawal might have led to lower investment.

"Growth cannot be too low," said an influential economist who advises the government. "Changes in the economic model and structural adjustment require a sound economic environment."—Reuters

Toyota's Aqua best-selling car in Japan in May for 2nd month

TOKYO, 4 June — Toyota Motor Corp's Aqua hybrid was the best-selling car in Japan in May, maintaining the top spot for the second straight month, industry bodies said on Thursday.

Aqua marked an 18.9 percent jump in sales from a year earlier to 14,428 vehicles, suggesting the negative impact of the consumption tax hike in April last year has petered out.

Minivehicles secured seven slots in the top 10 sales ranking, according to data released by the Japan Automobile Dealers Association and the Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association.

But sales of minicars, which have an engine displacement of up to 660 cc, were sluggish in May, as April's auto tax increase on minivehicles continued to drag down demand for such cars.

Honda Motor Co's N-Box ranked second, with sales up 0.8 percent to 10,398 units. Nissan Motor Co's Dayz was third as sales plunged 23.8 percent to 9,452 vehicles. Toyota's Corolla and Prius hybrid ranked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Kyodo News

Bank of France sees French growth picking up

PARIS, 4 June — The Bank of France forecast on Thursday that growth in the euro zone's second largest economy would start to pick up from this year onwards after three years of virtual stagnation.

The central bank predicted that growth would hit 1.2 percent this year before accelerating to 1.8 percent next year and 1.9 percent in 2017 — slightly higher than the government's own projections. Inflation would likewise rise from 0.3 percent this year to 1.4 percent next and 1.7

percent in 2017.

Driving the improvement were external factors, notably cheap oil and a favourable euro rate, combined with low euro zone interest rates and domestic factors including a recovery in French corporate margins.

"On a domestic level, the measures introduced to cut labour costs should also start to support activity via gains in cost competitiveness which will in turn boost exports, job creations and business investment," it said of reforms including

tax credits to companies and cuts to employer social contributions.

"Profit margins have already begun to recover, and this, combined with a persistently low cost of debt and projected increases in the capacity utilization rate, should help to stimulate business investment," it said.

The prospect of job creation will be welcome to President Francois Hollande's government after data earlier this week showed France's jobless total rose 0.7 percent to a



A Swiss one Franc Coin sits on top of a one Euro Coin in this illustration picture taken in Manchester, northern England on 16 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

fresh record high of 3.54 million people in April.

Hollande, already facing low popularity levels,

has said he would not stand for a second term in 2017 if unemployment is not falling by then.—Reuters

Facebook addiction linked to depression

WASHINGTON, 4 June — In a small study of Facebook users in Poland, depression was one predictor of greater vulnerability to becoming dependent on using the social media site.

So-called Facebook intrusion is similar to an addiction, but the emphasis is on the way a person's relationships with others are affected. Being young, male and spending a lot of time online also predicted a greater likelihood of unhealthy dependence on Facebook.

"We know a little bit already about Facebook usage and personality," said Dr Robert Cloninger, a psychi-

atrist with the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis who wasn't involved in the study.

Cloninger told Reuters Health that he is concerned the study didn't properly take personality traits into consideration.

"If you are introverted and socially shy, then your social skills may not be very good," he said. "So using your intelligence to navigate the Internet allows you to create an image that may not be very accurate, but that gets you social contacts — it's like you can kind of live a lie or a fantasy on the Internet."

For the study published

in European Psychiatry, Agata Blachnio, a researcher at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and her colleagues recruited Polish Facebook users to answer questionnaires, including mental health tests. The main goal, Blachnio's team writes, was to examine "potential associations" between Internet use in general, Facebook in particular and depression.

"A large body of research . . . shows that Internet addiction often co-occurs with other disorders, such as depression, loneliness, sexual dysfunction, or other addictions," the study team writes. "The main aim

of our study was to answer the question of whether depression and daily Internet use time was related to Facebook intrusion."

They define Facebook intrusion as "excessive involvement in Facebook, disrupting day-to-day activities and interpersonal relationships."

Blachnio and her colleagues enrolled 672 native Polish-speaking participants between the ages of 15 and 75. The average age of the participants was about 28, and almost two thirds were women.

Each participant answered two questionnaires. One was designed to meas-

ure levels of Facebook intrusion, and the other to detect depression.

The study team found that the amount of time spent on the Internet daily was positively associated with levels of Facebook intrusion, and that Facebook intrusion was linked with higher depression scores. But time spent on the Internet every day was not linked to depression.

Cloninger said that people likely to become addicted to Facebook are those who are low in self directness and high at novelty seeking.

These people use social media sites like Facebook

as a substitute for meeting people face to face and keep other people at a distance, he added.

"That just doesn't give you real intimacy; it doesn't build your capacity for trust and confidential relationships that are really deep and honest," he said.

Cloninger thinks a lot of people using Facebook in this manner are also vulnerable to being shamed and rejected.

"The people who try to use it are the ones who are going to be the most vulnerable to being shamed and attacked and rejected and not being able to handle crisis well," he said.—Reuters

CONGRATULATIONS !

We are warmly congratulate to Bangkok Bank on the successful opening in the golden land of Myanmar.
Wishing your bank with success and prosperity.
Your presence be beneficial to our golden land.



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR KYIMYINDINE RAILWAY
STATION COMPLEX
INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM
DEVELOPERS

1. In line with the National Development Plan, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been identifying the economic potentials to contribute to the country's economic development. As our endeavors for national development, Myanma Railways is committed to develop Kyimyindine Railway Station area as a Rail Concerned Business and also to be the essential part of Greater Yangon city development, which will include multi-storied commercial and office complexes, hotels and serviced apartments in the planned area of 2.625 ha (6.486 acres) and will be implemented according to international tender process.

2. Myanma Railways now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputable local, international or joint venture developers/investors to undertake design, build and operate works for Kyimyindine Railway Station area comprehensive development.

3. The EOI document could be obtained from Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Developers must submit EOI in original, a duplicate copy and electronic copy in CD ROM not later than (14:00) hours 5th August 2015. No submission by email shall be entertained.

4. EOI Document and Background information of the proposed Kyimyindine-Railway Station Development could be obtained from the above address. Enquiries can be made by calling telephones +95 1 291985; 291994 or 642449.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Ministry of Rail Transportation



Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest for Design and Building Construction Work

Myanmar Japan Rice Industry Company Ltd (MJRI), which is a joint venture between Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd., (MAPCO) and Mitsui & Co., Ltd (MITSUI), hereby invites Expressions of interest (EOI) from competent construction companies to undertake both the design and construction of buildings for Integrated Rice Complex Project (IRCP), in Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

Interested companies can submit Expression of Interest Letter (EOIL) addressed to Managing Director, Myanmar Japan Rice Industry Company Ltd (MJRI), by email (to md@mapco-ygn.com) or by sending to MJRI office, MAPCO Building, No.100, Warden Street and Kan Nar Street, Beside the Concrete Express Way, Warden Port Area, Seik Kan (Port) Tsp, Yangon, not later than **Friday, 11th June 2015 at 5:00PM**. MJRI reserves the right to select the pre-qualified bidders from the list of companies which submit EOI.

Any enquiries can be made by phone to MJRI Office, 01-2301652, 01-2301653, 01-2301826 (or) by email to md@mapco-ygn.com

FBI extends FIFA scrutiny to World Cup host bids of Russia, Qatar

NEW YORK/ZURICH, 4 June — The FBI's investigation of bribery and corruption at FIFA includes scrutiny of how football's governing body awarded World Cup hosting rights to Russia and Qatar, a US law enforcement official said.

Russia and Qatar have denied wrongdoing in the conduct of their bids for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, which were not the subject of charges announced by US prosecutors a week ago against FIFA officials that stunned world football.

The US law enforcement official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the review of the bids would be part of a probe that goes beyond the indictments. Among issues the FBI is examining

is the stewardship of FIFA by longtime president Sepp Blatter, who unexpectedly announced on Tuesday he was resigning shortly before it emerged that he too was under investigation by US law enforcement.

Authorities said last week they were investigating a case of \$150 million (98 million pounds) paid in bribes over two decades, while Swiss prosecutors announced their own criminal inquiry into the 2018 and 2022 bids.

On Wednesday, the partially blacked out transcript of the November 2013 guilty plea of Chuck Blazer, a US citizen and FIFA executive committee member from 1997 to 2013, showed he and others in FIFA agreed to accept bribes in bidding for the 1998 and 2010 World Cups

and other tournaments.

"Among other things, I agreed with other persons in or around 1992 to facilitate the acceptance of a bribe in conjunction with the selection of the host nation for the 1998 World Cup," Blazer told a federal judge in New York, according to the transcript.

The tournament was hosted by France, but separate court documents contain the prosecutors' allegation that bidding nation Morocco paid a bribe to another FIFA executive, Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago, and that Blazer acted as intermediary. Warner has denied this and other charges against him, and late on Wednesday aired a paid political statement saying he feared for his life, but would tell investigators all he knows

about corruption at FIFA.

Blazer went on to say in his plea hearing that from 2004 and through 2011 "I and others on the FIFA executive committee agreed to accept bribes in conjunction with the selection of South Africa as the host nation for the 2010 World Cup."

Blazer's lawyer declined to comment on Wednesday.

Many of the details were previously revealed in charging documents released by prosecutors when they announced indictments for 14 people, including nine FIFA officials.

Football power Brazil hosted the World Cup in 2014 but in the case of Qatar, there was some surprise that the tournament was



FIFA President Sepp Blatter (R) shakes hand with Domenico Scala, Chairman of the FIFA's Audit and Compliance Committee, after his statement during a news conference at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland on 2 June, 2015.—REUTERS

awarded to a small desert country with no real football tradition and where daytime summer temperatures can top 40 degrees Celsius (104F).—Reuters

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (408N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (408N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (125W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (125W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2015 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (073W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MVE.R TURKU VOY NO (073W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2015 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**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

**WEATHER
REPORT**

BAY INFERENCE:
Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and East Central Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th June, 2015:
Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin State and scattered in remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**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

ASDF chopper in Naha near-collision incident took off against order

NAHA, (Japan), 4 June — An Air Self-Defence Force helicopter involved in a near-collision incident on Wednesday at Naha Airport in Okinawa, southern Japan, had taken off against an order by the air traffic controllers to wait, transport ministry sources said on Thursday.

The behaviour of the CH-47 helicopter, which took off because the pilot mistakenly believed the

controllers' takeoff clearance directed to a different aircraft was meant for himself, may constitute a possible violation of air traffic control orders, the sources said.

As the helicopter suddenly crossed in front of a Boeing 737, operated by All Nippon Airways and with 83 passengers and crew members aboard, the ANA plane was forced to abort its takeoff.

The air traffic controllers then instructed an approaching Japan Trans-Ocean Air Boeing 737 to retry its landing, but the flight with 44 people aboard proceeded to land before the ANA plane had moved, posing the danger of collision. The distance between the two planes narrowed to about 400 to 500 metres.

The incident took place at about 1:25 pm

Wednesday at the airport, which has a 3,000-metre runway used by both civilian and Self-Defence Force aircraft.

The Japan Transport Safety Board is investigating the case as a near accident, sending three of its investigators to the airport office in Naha on Thursday. One of the investigators said, "We will analyze what has happened."

Kyodo News



Three investigators of the Japan Transport Safety Board are ready to start investigations on 4 June, 2015, over an alleged severe breach of runway safety involving three aircraft, including an Air Self-Defence Force helicopter, at Naha Airport in the southernmost Japanese prefecture of Okinawa the previous day.—KYODO NEWS

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Japanese cartoon Doraemon film purrs to top of China's box office

BEIJING, 4 June — A movie featuring Japanese popular robotic cat Doraemon claimed the No 1 spot at China's box office in its first week of release, amid a thaw in relations between the two countries.

"Stand By Me Doraemon," a 3-D animated film about the friendship between the chubby cat and its human schoolboy companion Nobita, raked in 237 million yuan (about \$38 million) in the week ended Sunday, according to data from the China Film Distribution and Exhibition Association.

The film arrived in Chinese theaters on 28 May. It is the first Japanese movie to go on general release in China since July 2012.

China strictly controls which foreign films are screened in the country's theaters.

Since Japan put most of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea under state control in September 2012, its relations with China had severely deteriorated.

China continues to assert its sovereignty over the uninhabited islands that have been administered by Japan for decades.

But two face-to-face meetings between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping in five



Citizens walk by an advertisement board for "Stand by Me Doraemon" at a theater in Beijing on 27 May, 2015, the day before the release of the Japanese animation movie across China featuring the eponymous robot cat.—KYODO NEWS

months, most recently in April, have helped ease tensions heightened also by disagreements over wartime issues.

Despite diplomatic disputes, not just the Doraemon cartoon figure, but Japan's popular culture has long been well-received in China.

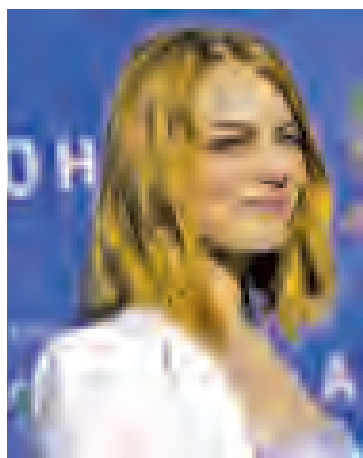
The Doraemon film hit Chinese screens several days after Xi showed up unannounced at an event aimed at promoting closer bilateral ties, telling more than

3,000 Japanese people, including lawmakers from Tokyo, that people-to-people and cultural exchanges are vital.

The data showed that Chinese ticket sales for the Doraemon film were more than double those for the superhero blockbuster "Avengers: Age of Ultron," which ranked second in the charts and took in 105 million yuan in ticket sales in the week.

Kyodo News

Director Cameron Crowe defends Emma Stone in Hawaiian 'Aloha' role



Cast member Emma Stone poses at a special screening of "Aloha" in West Hollywood, California on 27 May, 2015. The movie opens in the US on 29 May.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 June — Director Cameron Crowe defended his decision to cast Caucasian actress Emma Stone as a part-Asian woman in his film "Aloha," but apologized for offending viewers who said the role should have gone to an actor of Asian-Pacific heritage.

Crowe acknowledged the critiques in a statement posted on his website on Tuesday, saying he offered "a heart-felt apology to all who felt this was an odd or misguided casting choice."

Many critics questioned the decision. Entertainment Weekly's Chris Lee wrote: "Accepting Emma Stone as an Asian-American in 'Aloha' requires a certain suspension of disbelief."

Crowe had defended his casting choices for the Hawaii-based movie well before its 29 May release after it came under fire for its Caucasian-led cast, particularly Stone's role as an Air Force fighter pilot who is one quarter Hawaiian and has a half-Chinese father.

But Crowe said he purposefully chose the green-eyed, strawberry-blonde actress to match the character of Allison Ng, who was based on a red-headed Hawaiian native.

"Captain Allison Ng was written to be a super-proud one-quarter Hawaiian who was frustrated that, by all outward appearances, she looked nothing like one," Crowe wrote. "Extremely proud of her unlikely heritage, she feels personally compelled to over-explain every chance she gets."

The film has stumbled at the box office, having earned just over \$10.5 million dollars in North America, according to Box Office Mojo. It has garnered a low 18 percent approval rating on

film review site RottenTomatoes.com. Still, Crowe said he appreciates the opportunity to spark dialogue about diversity in Hollywood.

"Many of us are hungry for storeys with more racial diversity, more truth in representation, and I am anxious to help tell those storeys in the future," he said.

Reuters

One Direction have only five years left: Noel Gallagher

LOS ANGELES, 4 June — Former 'Oasis' rocker Noel Gallagher recently predicted that the "One Direction" are only left with few years.

During a chat with James Corden on "Late, Late Show," the 48-year-old musician blasted Zayn Malik for leaving the band.

He could not understand the young singer's decision because "they've only got, at most, five years left", reported Ace Showbiz. Gallagher, who was known for his "rock and roll lifestyle", thinks that Malik should've stayed with the band although he wouldn't be doing anything.



Former 'Oasis' rocker Noel Gallagher & One Direction

"He should just stand at the back, smoke weed, get laid, just pick the check up and go home. But he should get himself a good accountant."

The rocker — who served as the lead guitarist, co-lead vocalist and principal songwriter of the rock band Oasis — recalled the

for many selfies as he met fans.

Depp's Australian visit has been marked by several odd incidents, from breaking his wrist in a go-kart accident and being threatened with a jail term for smuggling his two small terriers into Australia against quarantine laws.

But Wednesday's charm offensive won him much affection among fans. His dogs have returned to the United States.

Xinhua

Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp charms Australian fans

SYDNEY, 4 June — Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp has returned to Australia where he has been embroiled in a controversy over his illegally imported pet dogs Pistol and Boo.

On Wednesday he met more than 1000 fans on Queensland's Gold Coast where his latest movie the Pirates of the Caribbean 5 is being filmed.

He was dressed as his character Jack Sparrow and posed

Big commercial hit and small, creative musical lead Tony Awards

NEW YORK, 4 June — Broadway is preparing for its biggest night on Sunday with the 2015 Tony Awards, US theatre's highest honours, following a record-breaking season with a commercial hit vying with an edgy musical for the top prize.

Tony winners Alan Cumming and Kristin Chenoweth, who is also a nominee, will co-host the show that will be broadcast live on CBS television from Radio City Music Hall.

The best musical prize has turned into a race with "An American in Paris," with a score by George and Ira Gershwin, and the lesbian coming-out storey "Fun Home" in the lead.

"An American in Paris" had a slight edge among a poll of 14 theatre experts on the awards show tracking website Goldderby.com.

"It's the big commercial hit, 'American in Paris' versus the small, critical darling, 'Fun Home,'" said Paul Sheehan, Gold Derby's executive editor.

Producer Debbie Bisno described 2014-2015, in which attendance topped 13.1 million and grosses soared to \$1.36 billion, as "an incredibly robust, creative season." "The Curious Incident

of the Dog in the Night-Time," a British import about a 15-year-old math whiz with Asperger Syndrome, is the top bet to take home the Tony for best play.

Its young star, recent Juilliard School graduate Alex Sharp, could also top multiple Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper as the physically deformed male in "The Elephant Man" and English actor Bill Nighy's wealthy restaurateur in "Skylight" for the best actor award in a play.

"It's a slam dunk (for the play) and it is a slam dunk for him," Playbill magazine's Harry Haun said about Sharp. "Every aspect of that play supports his performance."

Oscar and Emmy winner Helen Mirren seems the one to beat for the best actress prize for her role as Queen Elizabeth II in "The Audience," outpacing Carey Mulligan's inner-city schoolteacher in "Skylight" and Elisabeth Moss in the feminist play "The Heidi Chronicles."

"It's the right time. It's the right showcase for her and it is deserved," said Sheehan. "This play looks at 60-plus years in the life of the queen. It is an extraordinary performance."—Reuters

GENERAL

FIFA-lionising film that failed in Europe to hit US

LONDON, 4 June — The film “United Passions” in which British actor Tim Roth portrays FIFA president Sepp Blatter does not hit American cinema screens until Friday, but whether it sinks - as it did in Europe — or swims it has at least one immortal line:

“Blatter is apparently good at finding money,” a voice intones on the trailer for the film which industry website IMDB says will have its US launch on 5 June. Heavily financed by FIFA and meant to show it as a force for good — and Blatter as the Maradona of scoring sponsorships — “United Passions” was born under a different star than the black one hovering over world soccer’s governing body.

US prosecutors have launched a fraud and corruption investigation of FIFA, which was announced to the world by the early-morning arrests of several FIFA officials in Zurich last week.

There were more arrests this week and on Tuesday, Blatter announced his resignation, four days after being re-elected as FIFA president and shortly before it emerged that he too was



Actor Gerard Depardieu (L) and FIFA President Sepp Blatter pose on the red carpet for the screening of the film “United Passions” at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 18 May, 2014. — REUTERS

under investigation by US law enforcement.

This is not the kind of real-world trailer that FIFA had envisaged for its movie which, according to IMDB, had an estimated budget of 24 million euros (\$27 million), of which FIFA officials have acknowledged providing about 20 million.

“FIFA has been considering the production of a feature film about its history for some time, dating back to 2004 when FIFA was approached with a concept to coincide (with) our cen-

ennial celebrations,” FIFA says in a post on its website explaining why it helped finance the film when the producers came cap in hand.

“FIFA then agreed to contribute, considering this to be a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the breadth of FIFA’s work to develop football globally. ‘United Passions’ allows FIFA to highlight the challenges involved in establishing the FIFA World Cup in order to turn it into the world’s biggest single sporting event.” Direct-

ed by France’s Frederic Auburtin, the film casts Gerard Depardieu as Jules Rimet, the FIFA president who launched the World Cup, and Sam Neill as Joao Havelange, who as FIFA’s second longest serving president signed up developing nations as members — and ran into bribery issues of his own.

Critics who saw it at the Cannes film festival in 2014 dismissed it as a hagiography of Blatter and his predecessors and it sank like a stone in limited release in soccer-mad Europe. On its opening weekend in Hungary last year it took in just under \$8,000 on 27 screens, IMDB says.

Director Auburtin could not be reached for comment through his Paris-based agent, but in an interview with the *New York Times* this week he said he would have preferred to look deeper into the underside of FIFA.

“But I accept the job,” he said. “I know FIFA is producing the film. As we say in France, don’t be more royalist than the king; Don’t be the king if you are not the king.”

Reuters

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(5-6-2015 07:00 am~ 6-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Djokovic ends Nadal’s remarkable reign in brutal fashion

PARIS, 4 June — It was sharp, quick and brutal as Novak Djokovic finally dropped the French Open guillotine on Rafa Nadal — ending the most remarkable of Roland Garros reigns in ruthless fashion on Wednesday. The champion, who was rumoured to have red clay pumping through his veins after ruling the Paris slam for nine of the last 10 years, tamely surrendered

his crown at 6.12pm local time. A double fault ended the most miserable of miserable days for the Spaniard, with Djokovic proving that even players of Nadal’s stature can be turned into mere mortals.

The manner of Djokovic’s 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 execution was impressive enough but unfortunately for the Serb, no one was running out on court to hand him a

gleaming trophy for condemning Nadal to only his second defeat at Roland Garros.

For this was merely a quarter-final.

To get his hands on the Musketeers’ Cup and complete the coveted career grand slam, the world number one will first have to tackle Andy Murray — a 7-6(4), 6-2, 5-7 6-1 winner over David Ferrer — and then win the final on Sunday. A match befitting the final of any grand slam stage came two rounds too early due to Nadal’s slide down the rankings.

While injuries and appendicitis kept Nadal off court during the second half of 2014, 2015 has not exactly been a stellar year by his own high standards — he arrived in Paris without winning a European clay-court event for the first time in over a decade.

Nadal’s woes meant he entered Roland Garros ranked seventh, which set him on the path to a horror 29th birthday date with Djokovic. The traffic-stopping 44th showdown between the two was dubbed “The Superbowl on clay” by John McEnroe but there was nothing ‘super’ about



Rafael Nadal of Spain leaves the court after being defeated by Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their men’s quarter-final match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on 3 June, 2015. — REUTERS

it during the opening exchanges because within a blink of an eye, Djokovic was 4-0 up. As Djokovic unleashed an assortment of lethal backhands, forehands and volleys, McEnroe exclaimed: “Nadal unbelievably has no idea what he’s doing — that spells trouble.” There was trouble with Nadal’s forehand, there was trouble with his usually reliable top spin and there was trouble with his serve.

“Novak had me under control most of the time. He was better than me. That’s it, simple,” said the sixth seed after suffering only his second loss in 72 matches in Roland Garros.

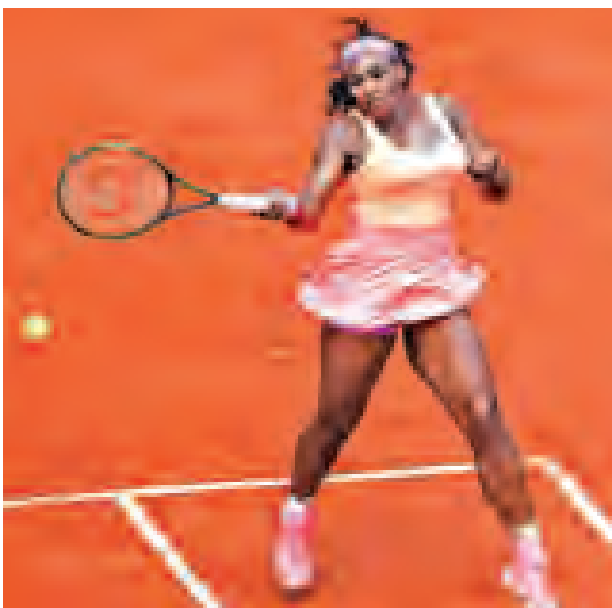
win, a match that I will remember for a long time,” said Djokovic.

“At the end of the day, he’s human. I understand that people are questioning his game. But if you need a reminder of who he is, you just look at his career stats and grand slams that he won.” Djokovic’s next test will be against a player who also boasts a 15-0 record on red dirt this year.

Murray’s triumph over Ferrer ended a miserable day for the Spaniards, who will not feature in the last four here for the first time since 2009. While Djokovic harbours hopes of becoming only the eighth man to win all four majors, Serena Williams showed that she is primed to win a 20th grand slam singles title.

After surviving three tough three setters, she subjected poor 2012 finalist Sara Errani to a 6-1, 6-3 hammering to prove that it will take a brave woman to deny her a third title in a city she calls her second home.

Standing in her way to a final date on Saturday is surprise Swiss semi-finalist Timea Bacsinszky, who toppled little-known Belgian Alison van Uytvanck 6-4, 7-5. — Reuters



Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball during the women’s singles quarterfinal against Sara Errani of Italy at 2015 French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros, in Paris, France on 3 June, 2015. Serena Williams won 2-0 and advanced to the semifinal. — XINHUA

Mistake by goalie Syazwan sees Singapore lose 1-2 to Myanmar

SINGAPORE, 4 June — Singapore lost 1-2 to Myanmar in the South-east Asian (SEA) games under-23 football tournament.

The game turned on a Singapore goalkeeping error. An innocent-looking free kick from distance by Ye Ko Oo (#21) bounced over Syazwan Buhari (#24) who misjudged the bounce.

This is their first loss after an opening 1-0 win over Philippines earlier this week. For Myanmar, this is their second win in a row, after they beat Indonesia 4-2 in their opening game.

Myanmar got themselves on the score sheet first from a free kick. Shakir Hamzah (#2) gave away a free kick outside the penalty box on the right flank. The incoming

free kick was missed by Sheikh Abdul Hadi (#15) who ducked and let the ball go over him instead of heading it away. The ball landed at the feet of a grateful Nay Lin Tun (#8) who bundled it past a stranded Syazwan Buhari (#24) in goal.

Sahil Suhaimi (#7), who also had two chances in the opening 15 minutes, saw his effort on goal charged down in the 28th minute.

Singapore got their equaliser in the 32nd minute when a Myanmar handball gave Singapore a penalty. Kyaw Zin Phyoo (#1) guessed the right way but Faris Ramli's (#10) penalty was too powerful and accurate for him to stop.

Coming out of the half-time break at 1-1, Singapore almost went ahead within the minute when Pravin Guanasagran (#12) hit a stiff



Myanmar football fans in Singapore celebrate a 2-1 victory of Myanmar U-23 over host Singapore.

shot from outside the box that just missed the left upright.

The home crowd raised a cheer when Irfan Fandi (#17) came on in place of

Safirul Sulaiman (#28) but the mood turned dark within minutes.

Pravin got a yellow card for a challenge and the resulting free kick seemed

far away enough not to cause worry. However, Ye Ko Oo (#21) delivered a wickedly spinning shot that took a bounce which fooled Syazwan in goal

and the ball bounced over him into goal for a 2-1 Myanmar lead.

Singapore next play Cambodia on Monday, June 8.—*redsports.sg*



Union Sports Minister joins South East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting

SINGAPORE, 4 June — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan attended the South East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting at Fair Mount Hotel,

here, Thursday.

The permanent honorary chairman from Malaysia spoke about policies for hosting the SEA Games in Southeast Asian countries, and policies for inserting traditional and Olym-

pic sports into the SEA Games' sports events.

The Olympic Committee secretary of Malaysia reported on plans to host 36 sports events in the 29th SEA Games on 16 September 2017 with preparations

of sports venues the coming Games.

Thet Ko Ko Latt of Myanmar beat Ryan Rodney Jaccolo of the Philippine 3-2 in the table tennis event of the group match in the SEA Games.—*SPED*

Nigeria get into gear against Korea DPR

NEW PLYMOUTH, 4 June — A spirited second-half display saw Nigeria get their FIFA U-20 World Cup back on the rails as the romped to a 4-0 win over Korea DPR.

After weathering a tight first-half, An Ye Gun's side went to pieces after the break as a quick-fire brace from Saviour Godwin undid all that good work. A fine final two goals secured all three points for Nigeria and put them back in the mix for qualification from Group E.

Manu Garba's team almost put their disap-

pointing second-half against Brazil behind them inside the opening two minutes. Captain Musa Muhammed looked to lead by example as he struck a thunderbolt of a shot off the inside of the post from 25 yards, for which keeper Cha Jong Hun was only an airborne spectator.

From there, though, Korea DPR improved for a spell. They contained the threat of Nigeria and had occasional forays forward, but were ultimately blunt in attack. The Flying Eagles looked more menacing as the half wore on.

Taiwo Awoniyi and

Bernard Bulbwa threatened, before a Muhammed free-kick and Awoniyi follow-up brought out a superb double save from Jong Hun in a half in which he was busy, but rarely tested to his limits.

The second half saw all that change, as the Korea DPR goalkeeper spoiled what had been an impressive display. His misjudgement to come and challenge Saviour Godwin

for a Bulbwa cross saw the Asian side lose their foothold, as Godwin scored.

It only took the same player just three minutes to double his tally, after a lucky ricochet allowed Awoniyi to skilfully progress up the field before playing in the FC Sports forward, who coolly slotted through legs of defender and goalkeeper.

The third was a peach. A corner found its way out

to Kingsley Sokari and his laser-guided shot from the edge of the area screamed into the top left corner. The final one wasn't bad either, following a slick team move. Awoniyi and substitute Success Isaac's exchanged passes sliced through the Korea DPR defence before the latter slammed home from a tight angle to revive the African champions' last 16 hopes.—*FIFA*



Isaac Success of Nigeria shoots and scores his team's fourth goal during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group E match between Nigeria and Korea DPR held at Stadium Taranaki on 4 June, 2015 in New Plymouth, New Zealand.—*FIFA*

Cash-rich Premier League remains in a league of its own

LONDON, 4 June — The Premier League continues to pull away from its European rivals in terms of total revenue, if not quality on the pitch, and the bubble looks unlikely to burst any time soon.

English clubs were eclipsed by the likes of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain in this season's blue-riband Champions League, with none of them reaching the quarter-finals, yet they continue to be the envy of the continent when it comes to the size of their banCOOLk accounts.

According to Deloitte's latest Annual Review of Football Finances, based on the 2013-14 season, the 20 Premier League clubs generated record revenue of 3.26 billion pounds (\$4.99 billion), a rise of 29 percent on the season before.

That was 1.4 billion pounds higher than Germany's Bundesliga, second on the list, and more than Spain's La Liga and Italy's Serie A combined.

Reuters

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 4 June, 2015

Group E	Nigeria	4-0	Korea DPR
	Hungary	1-2	Brazil
Group F	Honduras	0-3	Fiji
	Germany	3-0	Uzbekistan

Match Schedules for 5 June 2015 (all times local)

Group A	Myanmar	-	New Zealand	13:30
	Ukraine	-	USA	13:30
Group B	Austria	-	Argentina	10:30
	Panama	-	Ghana	10:30