

Environmental conservation a national duty: president



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and prize winners in contests to mark World Environment Day 2015.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — The adoption of sustainable development goals and climate change protocols by the United Nations this year will be milestones for the international community, President U Thein Sein said Friday, in a speech to mark World Environmen-

tal Conservation Day.

In his speech at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2), the president said the UN General Assembly is going to adopt sustainable development goals in September, while the climate change conference to be held in December in Paris will see the

adoption of an ambitious global environmental pact.

It is necessary for people around the world including Myanmar to fundamentally change their individual lifestyles so that extraction, consumption and waste of natural resources will not affect the sustainability of the envi-

ronment and ecosystem, the president said.

Supplying food, human needs and resources to the growing global population, which is estimated to grow from 7 billion today to 9.6 billion in 2050, is a major challenge for all countries including Myanmar, which has seen an in-

crease in population from over 40 million in 1990 to 51.4 million today, the president added.

Then president said 925 million people around the world are facing food shortages, while another 600 million lack clean drinking water.

The president said the

world loses 30 percent of its forestland, 20 percent of farmland and 10 percent of pasture land every year, having lost 50 percent loss of its wetlands between 2000 and 2010, before adding that such conditions are threatening the lives of 7 billion people.

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Gov't team seeks to determine origins of rescued boat people

MAUNGTAW, 5 June — A team of officials led by Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint on Friday visited a camp in Rakhine State housing 733 boat people rescued at sea last month by the Myanmar Navy.

The team has been assigned to investigate the countries of origin of the boat people at the camp in Taungpyo (Letwe), and

return them as quickly as possible, sources said.

The team is composed of Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htein Lin and other officials.

The team also inspected food and health conditions of the boat people, who were rescued at sea southeast of Pyapon, some 75 miles south of Yangon, on 29 May.

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Myanmar, UK business chambers agree to strengthen partnership

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 5 June — The country's largest business federation signed a memorandum of understanding Friday with the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar aimed at strengthening partnerships between the two associations and promoting ethical business practices.

The MoU will strengthen business relationships and enable the sharing of information and organization of exhibitions among members of the two associations, said Dr Maung Maung Lay, vice president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Dr Maung Maung Lay said there were numerous successful business partnerships between the United

Kingdom and Myanmar.

According to the agreement signed by UM-FCCI President U Win Aung and Mr Tony Picon, President of the British Chamber of Commerce

Myanmar, the two chambers are committed to promoting international trade and investment, supporting joint networking opportunities and facilitating sustainable economic growth

and responsible firms.

The signing will help develop trade between British companies here and their Myanmar counterparts, said Mr John Longworth,

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UMFCCI President U Win Aung and BCCM President Mr Tony Picon sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen business relations between Myanmar and UK in Yangon on Friday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Pyithu Hluttaw

Self-reliant electrification projects carried out in some villages: councilor

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — Self-reliant electrification projects had to be carried out in some villages with the consent of locals as spending state budget on electrification of over 63,000 villages in the entire country will reduce the spending for other important sectors, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Phone Zaw Han told the Friday session of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The council member was replying to a question raised by U Phyo Zeyar Thaw of Pobbathiri Constituency, who asked about the collection of K267.68 million from farmers to electrify 14 villages in Pobbathiri Township this fiscal year.

The council member said village electricity supply committees estimated expenditures for power supply works before collecting the money from local farmers under supervision of district and township electrification committees. Authorities in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area coordinate with the Ministry of Electric Power to supply electricity to local people residing near

the power grid, he added. U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency asked whether there is a plan to build toilets at pagodas, religious edifices, sites of cultural heritage and public places. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay replied that toilets have been built at separate areas of famous religious edifices. However, some boards of trustees cannot afford to build toilets. Likewise, most buildings at cultural zones have not yet been equipped with public toilets.—MNA

the power grid, he added.

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Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and authorities together with well-wishers fix jade orb atop Wairawsana Jade Pagoda in Hsinywa Myinhmu Village in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, on Friday.

TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife hoist umbrella atop pagoda, comfort patients at military hospital



NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the reliquary of Lawkananhga Abhaya Pagoda, hoist an umbrella atop the pagoda, offer an emerald alms bowl and golden robes and consecrate the pagoda in Mayingyi region, Yebyu Township, Taninthayi Region, on Friday morning.

The commander-in-chief and wife and well-wishers offered a diamond orb, pennant shape vane and umbrella together

er with religious objects to the venerable monks.

The senior general and wellwishers enshrined the religious objects into the reliquary. They also hoisted tiers of the umbrella, pennant shape vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda.

The senior general and wife together with attendees planted a Bo tree in the northern ward of the platform.

In the afternoon, the senior general and wife comforted patients at the military hospital in Dawei Station individually and provided cash assistance and foodstuffs to them.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts patients at military hospital in Dawei Station, Taninthayi Region.—MYAWADY

Myanmar, UK ...

(from page 1)

Director-General of the British Chambers of Commerce.

The UMFCFI has a membership of more than 30,000 firms. The British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar was founded in 2014 and has 11 global sponsors, as well as 140 member companies, including those from Myanmar, the United Kingdom, ASEAN and Europe.

As of 30 April 2015, 48 firms from the United Kingdom have invested a total US \$3.5 billion in Myanmar since 1988-89, making the United Kingdom the fourth-highest overall foreign investor in the country.

GNLM

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — Government departments should adopt departmental policies for relations with media and releasing information, Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut told the opening ceremony of the training course on relations with media and releasing information at the Ministry of Information, here, on Friday.

The union minister stressed the need for departmental officials to accept relating with media as a good opportunity.

Journalist U Ye Naing Moe of Yangon-based Journalism School gave lectures on nature of media, ideology on media, definition, relations with media, salient points at interview,

preparation for the press release, holding press conference and programmes for media.

Altogether 83 officers from Supreme Court of the Union, ministries, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Union Civil Services Board and Central Bank of Myanmar are attending the course, which continues up to 6 June.

MNA

Journalist U Ye Naing Moe gives lectures on media relations to trainees.—MNA

Departmental officials need to accept good opportunity for relations with media



NATIONAL

Environmental conservation a national...

(from page 1)

The Myanmar constitution promulgates that the state and all its citizens shall protect the environment, the president said. The government has been adopting environmental regulations, while organizations are being formed to cooperate on environmental conservation, he said.

In addition, the gov-

ernment, in cooperation with international community, has emphasized environmental conservation, development of the green economy and frameworks for climate change in its 20-year plan for national development.

In conclusion, the president said active participation in environmental conservation to reduce climate change is a national duty, so that Myanmar can achieve sustainable development and hand down favourable environmental conditions to future generations.

After the president's speech, the resident representative of UNDP read out messages of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the executive director of the UNEP.

Later, the president presented prizes to winners of an essay competition.

After the ceremony, the president viewed an environmental exhibition and posed for documentary photo with attendees.

Present at the ceremony were Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, union ministers and deputy ministers, the resident representative of the UNDP and officials.—MNA

UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Renata Lok-Dessal-lien presents second prize to Ma Htet Htet Lin in open essay contest to mark World Environment Day 2015.—MNA



President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Sweden

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and His Excellency Mr Stefan Lofven, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden, which falls on 6 June 2015.

MNA

Postponement of general elections only likely in face of disaster and instability: UEC



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye explains functions of UEC and subcommissions.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—The postponement of general elections will be likely only either at the outbreak of natural disaster or in the absence of regional security, the chairman of the Union Election Commission on Friday told a meeting

with its subcommissions. U Tin Aye said the number of constituencies

will remain unchanged as they represent townships. There are 330 townships in the country.

The chairman briefed on the functions of the commission, urging the subcommissions to play a supervisory role and stick to the letter of the law in undertaking their missions.

The meeting discussed the designation of constituencies and polling stations.

According to an announcement made by the Union Election Commission on 1 January, general elections were planned in late October or early November.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Sweden

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Margot Wallstrom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden, which falls on 6 June 2015.—MNA

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Hospital sees rise in female patients living on streets

YANGON, 5 June—Yangon General Hospital's Medical Social Work Department in recent months has seen an increase in the number of female patients admitted after living on the streets, a department officer said Friday.

"Some do not want to receive treatment while others want to remain at the hospital for fear that they would face difficulties for their daily survival," medical social officer U Tun Lin said.

Medical social worker Daw Yin Yin Hnin said there are currently three women staying at the department, one of whom is

being treated for tuberculosis.

"We received five patients in May and two patients in June, most of them women," Daw Yin Yin Hnin said.

The department normally receives about 50 patients per year, most of them men, including monks. Many of its patients are found to be suffering from undernourishment as well as mental health problems. One-third of them die at the hospital.

Most patients are from other regions and states and have moved to Yangon in search of job opportunities, Daw Yin Yin Hnin said.

U Tun Lin said the department is seeking donations from the public and is in urgent needs of women's clothing.

"The department is in need of the contributions by private donors such as cash assistance, clothes and other needs for those patients, even though the department is providing medical treatments to them free of charge," he said.

"The department transports the patients to the place where they want to. Among them, those who have no families or relatives are usually transported to Thabawa Meditation Centre in Thanlyin Town-

ship in Yangon, but some patients do not want to go there."

Since 1957, the med-



ical social work department has provided care to patients picked up on the streets. Well-wishers may

call Yangon General Hospital on 01 256112 to make contributions.

GNLM

Archway opened, religious objects enshrined at Jade Pagoda



MANDALAY, 5 June — A ceremony marked the opening of an archway of the Jade Pagoda at Hsiny-

wa Myinhmu village, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, on 4 June morning.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, leader of the religious advisory team to the president

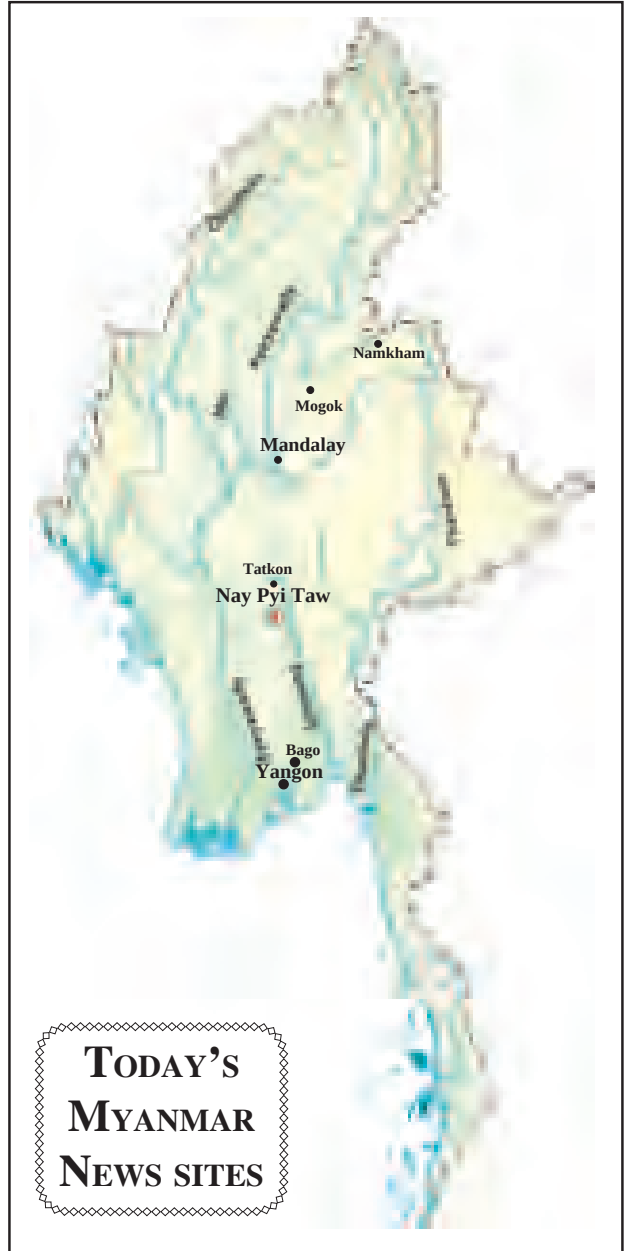
Thura U Myint Maung, departmental officials and well-wishers attended the ceremony.

Mandalay Region Minister for Forestry, Mining and Religious Affairs U Than Soe Myint, well-wishers U Soe Naing and U Aung Thein formally opened the archway of the pagoda.

A ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the upper reliquary was later held at the pagoda.

The chief minister and party donated provisions to members of the Sangha on the occasion.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Nay Pyi Taw Council member supervises regional development tasks

TATKON, 5 June — Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe held a meeting with departmental officials and social organizations on regional development at the township General Administration Department in Tatkon on Thursday.

Deputy Township Administrator U Thiha Zaw spoke about progress of current projects, while township officials discussed future projects.

The council member observed the electrification of Thayetpin and Paytaw villages through solar panels and supply of potable water.

Tatung Company of



China Taipei donated 70 lamp-posts, one tube-well, solar panels, batteries, two

and one water tank to two

villages.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)*

Public Health Dept team treats villagers, shares knowledge



NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — A medical team provided treatment and gave talks to local residents in the precinct of the monastery in Kyeintawmyaung Village in Pobbathiri Township on 4 June.

After an address by Head of Township Public Health Department Dr Nang Kyawt Khaing, Chairwoman Daw Nweni Tun of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association gave a talk

Township Health Officer Dr Thiha Than and dentist Dr Thit Thit Toe provided health services free of charge to five pregnant women, 15 dental patients and 147 general patients.

Shwe Ye Yint

on reproductive health.

Nurse Daw Moe Moe Khaing spoke about the root causes of dengue haemorrhagic fever, while health assistant Daw Nang Shwe Htay discussed dysentery and diarrhea.

The team led by Dr Nang Kyawt Khaing,

Photo shows upgrading of sports grounds in Bago Region with the use of heavy machinery.

Bago Region sports grounds set for maintenance

BAGO, 5 June — Bago Region Sports and Physical Education Department will carry out maintenance works on four sports grounds in the region, using more than K170 million from the fiscal 2015-16 budget.

The department invited tender proposals from 16 May to 1 June to up-

grade the sports ground in Kyaukdaga Township, to build a stadium with 400-meter track in Gyobingauk Township, maintain the inner fencing, stand and 400-m track at Thayawady District football ground, and upgrade the Aungdagon sports ground in Minhla Township.

Tin Soe (Bago)



REGIONAL



Cambodian volunteers collect rubbish along a riverside to mark World Environment Day in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 5 June, 2015. World Environment Day is marked every year on 5 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the earth. This year's theme is "Seven billion dreams. One planet. Consume with care".—XINHUA

Quake strikes Malaysia's Sabah state, climbers stranded on mountain

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 June — About 145 climbers, including foreigners, were stranded on Mt Kinabalu, Malaysia's highest mountain, after a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck the west coast of Sabah state on Borneo island on Friday, though no major damage was reported in the town area.

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck shortly after 7 am at a depth of 10 kilometres, with the epicenter located 12 km from the town of Ranau and 54 km from Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah.

Pictures shared on social media showed shattered windows, cracked walls and roads.

The New Straits Times daily quoted Sabah Park Director Jamili Nais as saying that at least 145 people were stranded on top of Mt

Kinabalu because of falling rocks.

The Star daily quoted a Malaysian doctor, who is one of the climbers, confirming that at least one person died.

Rezlan Abdul Rahman was quoted as saying that he checked the pulse of the woman and confirmed that she was dead. Two other women with her were reported to be injured.

The three were reportedly attached to a rope while climbing the steep rocky surface of the 4,101-metre high mountain when the earthquake struck.

"They were apparently swung out before hitting back to the mountain," Rezlan said.

The military has dispatched helicopters to rescue the trapped climbers.

Kyodo News

Vietnam's Hoi An voted one of 10 best cities in Asia

HO CHI MINH CITY, 5 June — The Vietnamese city of Hoi An, a UNESCO world heritage site, has recently voted as one of the 10 ideal cities for visiting in Asia by US online travel resource Smarter Travel.

Hoi An remains a trading port, just as it was from

the 15th to 19th centuries as it thrived in the spice trade. One-time merchant homes represent Vietnamese, Japanese and Chinese styles and are currently a mix of antique shops, eateries and galleries.

"Wander among canals and bridges, including the

Philippine pres ready to create pact with Japan for joint exercises

TOKYO, 5 June — Philippine President Benigno Aquino said on Friday his nation is ready to begin talks to create a visiting forces agreement with Japan, a move that would allow Japanese troops to refuel in the Southeast Asian country and hold joint exercises with the Philippine forces.

Aquino said at a Press conference he discussed with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during their summit talks on Thursday that the "the relevant entities will start discussions leading up to a Visiting Forces Agreement." "The Philippines does welcome this development and we will be initiating all of the diplomatic requirements to come up with a Visiting Forces Agreement," Aquino said on the last leg of his four-day state visit to Japan from Tuesday.

He made his remarks a day after he and Abe agreed to begin negotiations on an accord for the transfer of defence equipment and technology in the fields of disaster relief and maritime security, as their nations bolster security ties due to tensions



Philippine President Benigno Aquino (L) shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after their joint Press conference at the Akasaka State Guesthouse in Tokyo on 4 June, 2015.— KYODO NEWS

sparked by the pace and extent of China's reclamation work in the South China Sea.

Although details have yet to be worked out, Japanese government sources have said P3-C patrol aircraft and radar-related equipment are seen as potential export items. Aquino underlined the importance of having a visiting forces agreement especially for Japan and the United States, with whom the Philippines has strategic partnerships.

His country has visiting forces agreements with the United States and Australia. Such accords allow access

by foreign forces to the Philippines and enable joint military exercises.

"It does not behoove a good partnership or relationship if you are not able to work at the interoperability with the other," he said at the Japan National Press Club.

An agreement of such kind, ratified by the Philippine Senate, is "needed" to enable holding joint exercises since the Constitution bans foreign troops from entering the Philippines, Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told a group of journalists on Thursday.

Japan and the Philip-

ppines, which mark the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties next year, have increasingly stepped up their cooperation in the face of China's increasing assertiveness in the contested waters in South China. China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, which is a vital shipping lane and believed to have rich fishing grounds. Rival claimants in the dispute are Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taipei and the Philippines, which is one of the most vocal in opposing China's push for overlapping territorial claims. While Japan is not directly linked to the South China Sea dispute, it fears Beijing's expanding influence in the sea. The United States, an ally of Japan and the Philippines, does not take a stand in the territorial issues but has expressed concern over unilateral attempts to change the status quo at sea by force.

Asked if he favours Japan patrolling in the South China Sea, Aquino said, "We welcome Japanese patrols or joint patrols" given that such actions will take place in "international waters."—*Kyodo News*

South Koreans squabble about MERS as more cases appear

A woman wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) uses her mobile phone at Myeongdong shopping district in central Seoul, South Korea on 3 June, 2015.

REUTERS



rises daily, fear and anger are growing. South Korea's neighbours are also increasingly concerned.

Memories are still fresh in Asia of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which emerged in 2002-2003 and killed about 800 people worldwide. MERS is caused by a coronavirus

from the same family as the one that caused SARS.

Health Minister Moon Hyung-pyo accused authorities in the capital, Seoul, of giving out incorrect information about a case which he said would spread alarm and undermine the fight against the disease. On Thursday, city officials accused nation-

al authorities of being slow to share information, in particular about a doctor who had treated a MERS patient and subsequently went to a 30 May gathering attended by 1,565 people.

The doctor was later diagnosed with MERS and the people at the gathering have been advised to stay in voluntary quarantine.

Moon rejected assertions his ministry had mishandled the case.

"The announcement by the city of Seoul yesterday has parts that are not factual and can increase public concern," he said. The comments would only hurt the credibility of the government's effort to stamp out MERS, he said.—*Reuters*

islands. For the fashionable set, Hoi An is known for its tailors, it is home to hundreds of them, who can make you a custom-made coat or dress just by looking at a photograph," Smart Travel said. On the 14th day of a lunar month, visitors can experience Hoi An aglow

via traditional coloured lanterns, as the town shuts off its electric lights and shuts down to motorized vehicles. The lantern festival offers a glimpse at what life was like hundreds of years ago. Hoi An is ranked ninth in the list of Smarter Travel. The others include Beijing, Sin-

gapore, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Bangkok, Tokyo, Seoul, Siem Reap and Taipei.

Vietnam received nearly 3.3 million foreign visitors in the first five months of this year, down 12.6 percent against the same period last year, its General Statistics Office said.—*Xinhua*

China urges no new demands at Iran nuclear talks



The head of Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi (R) looks over papers before meetings at the Beau Rivage Palace Hotel on 28 March, 2015 in Lausanne.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 5 June — China's foreign minister has urged that all parties involved in talks on Iran's nuclear programme make no new demands and that the legitimate concerns of the partici-

pants be respected, the Chinese government said late on Thursday.

Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China reached a tentative

framework for a nuclear pact on 2 April in Lausanne but several issues remain unresolved.

They have a self-imposed 30 June deadline to arrive at a comprehensive agreement.

Western powers fear Iran wants to build an atomic bomb and years of talks have focused on eradicating the alleged threat. Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is in Russia, said the situation had become more complex now that the talks process was in its final stages but that everyone should be patient.

"(We) must push forward the next stage of talks on the basis of the Lausanne framework ... and all parties should not raise any new demands to prevent complicating the talks process," the foreign ministry quoted Wang as telling his Russian and Iranian

counterparts.

"All sides' legitimate concerns ought to be paid attention to and rationally resolved; all sides should meet each other half way and not drift further apart," Wang added.

A swift agreement would benefit the global non-proliferation system as well as regional peace and stability, and China would continue to play a constructive role, he said.

China and Iran have close diplomatic, economic, trade and energy ties, and China has repeatedly urged Iran to reach an agreement.

China's crude oil imports from Iran jumped by nearly 30 percent last year to their highest average level since 2011, as Iran's largest oil client boosted shipments after an interim deal eased sanctions on Teheran.

Reuters

New US forces commander assumes post at Yokota base ceremony



Lt Gen John Dolan addresses a change of command ceremony at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo on 5 June, 2015, taking over the top post from Lt Gen Salvatore Angelella. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 5 June — The US forces in Japan held a change of command ceremony on Friday at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, with Lt Gen John Dolan taking over the top post from Lt Gen Salvatore Angelella. "It is the strength of our alliance that gives us the ability to make every challenge into an opportunity," Dolan said in an address at the ceremony. He pledged "I will do all I can" to foster an environment where the United States and Japan will together build a secure and prosperous future. Dolan served as an F-16 fighter jet pilot before being deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. He was chief of staff of the Pacific Command before assuming his latest position.

This is his second assignment in Japan following a tour as an F-16 instructor pilot at Misawa base in Aomori Prefecture from 1988 to 1992.

Friday's ceremony was attended by about 500 people including senior officials from Japan's Defence Ministry, Self-Defence Forces and Foreign Ministry.—*Kyodo News*

Australia appoints panel to oversee submarine acquisition programme

SYDNEY, 5 June — The Australian government announced on Friday a four-member advisory panel of experts to oversee the competitive evaluation process for the country's planned acquisition of a submarine fleet from one of three potential partners including Japan.

"The expert advisory panel will assure the government that the competitive evaluation process remains sound, is conducted in accordance with probity and accountability princi-

ples, and that participants have been treated fairly and equitably," Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said in a statement.

The Japanese Defence Ministry, French company DCNS SA and German company Thyssen-Krupp Marine Systems GmbH will participate in the evaluation process for Australia's Future Submarine Programme.

The panel's members are Donald Winter, a professor and former secretary of the US Navy, Julie Anne Dodds-Streeton, a former Australian justice, Ron

Finlay, a leading Australian infrastructure specialist, and James McDowell, who has extensive defence experience, according to the Australian government.

Australia announced in February it would invite Japan, France and Germany to participate in a competitive evaluation process for the "largest defence procurement programme in Australia's history."

Andrews has visited all three countries where he met with his respective counterparts and industry leaders to discuss their in-

volvement in the process.

The evaluation process will take 10 months to complete and represents an investment of some A\$50 billion (US\$40 billion) to be spent on Australia's submarine development programme, with the actual cost subject to refinement.

The new submarines are set to replace the navy's current fleet of six Collins Class submarines, scheduled to retire from service in the mid-2020s.

Kyodo News

Nepal's sole int'l airport halts operation for 3 hours

KATHMANDU, 5 June — The only international airport of Nepal Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) shut down all the flight operations for three hours on Friday morning.

TIA remained closed with halt in all international flights since 7:00 am local time for the maintenance of its single runway.

General Manager of TIA, Birendra Bahadur Shrestha told *Xinhua* via phone, "There was an immediate need of maintenance of the runway, which witnessed few damages after the heavy traffic led by 25 April massive earthquake." Many flights were diverted following the shutdown of the only international airport. Hundreds of passengers were stranded at the airport after the halt.—*Xinhua*

US says North Korea satellite launch would violate UN resolutions

WASHINGTON, 5 June — The United States, responding to a report that North Korea is developing a new space satellite, said on Thursday any launch that used ballistic missile technology would be a violation of United Nations resolutions. *The Associated Press* news agency quoted Paek Chang Ho, vice director of the scientific research and development department of North Korea's space agency, as saying that "a more advanced Earth observation satellite" was under development.

"When it's complete, before launching it, we will inform inter-

national organizations and other countries," Paek was quoted as saying. Marie Harf, a spokeswoman for the US State Department, said any rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit used technology almost identical to that of a ballistic missile.

"Any satellite launch that uses ballistic missile technology would be a violation of multiple Security Council resolutions that require North Korea to suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme," she told a news briefing.

The secretive country has

an arsenal of missiles of various ranges and is believed to be developing an intercontinental ballistic missile aimed at delivering nuclear weapons.

In 2012, North Korea launched what is generally considered a long-range rocket, putting what it said was a satellite into orbit. Pyongyang called it a space launch vehicle, but the international community said it was a missile that violated UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea is under various sanctions for its missile programme and three nuclear tests.—*Reuters*

Two Indonesians convicted for attempting to leave Singapore illegally

SINGAPORE, 5 June — Two Indonesians were convicted and face imprisonment and three strokes of canes for trying to leave Singapore illegally, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) said in a press release on Friday.

ICA said that officers stopped a Malaysia-registered saloon car at the Woodlands Checkpoint for checks on 21 May. When they

opened the car boot, they found a man crouching inside. The driver and the "boot passenger," both Indonesians, were immediately placed under arrest.

The 48-year-old driver, Hasan Bin Maksum and the 41-year-old "boot passenger," Sofyan Soeb, were charged and convicted on 4 June. Maksum was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and three

strokes of the cane for conveying Sofyan out of Singapore, while Soeb was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and three strokes of the cane for overstaying in Singapore and failing to present his passport when leaving Singapore, ICA said, adding that the vehicle has been detained and is liable for forfeiture.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

Colombia, FARC rebels agree to form truth commission

HAVANA, 5 June — The Colombian government and leftist FARC guerrillas agreed on Thursday to form a truth commission that would seek to shed light on atrocities once Latin America's longest war is over.

Negotiators reached agreement despite a recent escalation of violence that has threatened the country's peace talks, taking place in Cuba.

"The commission ... will begin to function after the signing of a final agreement and once the FARC have laid down their arms," read the agreement announced by representatives of Cuba and Norway, two countries sponsoring the talks.

"The government will commit to ... the clarification of the truth in all events from the conflict, including the most serious human rights violations," the agreement said.

The United States has backed Colombia with billions of dollars of military aid in a conflict fueled by the illegal drugs trade.

In addition to government troops and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the war has involved right-wing paramilitary groups, armed criminal gangs and the leftist rebels of the National Liberation Army (ELN).

The 11 commissioners, yet to be selected, are expected to complete the body's task within three years.

Fighting has continued in Colombia during the two-and-a-half years of talks in Havana, adding to a death toll estimat-



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos

ed at 220,000. Millions more Colombians have been displaced during the 50-year-old conflict.

In March, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos had agreed to halt aerial bombing in recognition of a unilateral cease-fire called by the FARC. But he ordered new air assaults in response to a rebel ground attack that killed 10 soldiers in April.

Since then three bombing raids in recent weeks have killed some 40 guerrillas, and the FARC has renewed offensive operations. Government and rebel negotiators have reached partial accords on three of five agenda points: land reform, the political future of the FARC and an end to the illegal drugs trade. Still under discussion are victim reparations and the FARC's demobilization.

Should the two sides reach a comprehensive agreement, it would be submitted to the voters for ratification.—Reuters

Argentine president met Edward Snowden in Moscow — lawyer

BUENOS AIRES, 5 June — Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez held talks with US whistleblower Edward Snowden during a visit to Russia in April, Anthony Romero, director of the American Civil Liberties Union and one of Snowden's lawyers said on Thursday.

The two hour-long meeting took place after an Argentine TV channel, citing intelligence documents provided by Snowden, revealed Britain spied on Argentine military and political leaders from 2006 to 2011 to safeguard the security of the disputed Falkland Islands.

"She met with him toward the end of April," Romero told reporters in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires.

A spokesman for Anibal Fernandez, Argentina's cabinet chief, said he had no information about the meeting and referred Reuters to the president's spokesman, who was not available for comment. Calls to a spokesman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs went unanswered.

Fernandez travelled to Russia to deepen bilateral trade ties, signing energy cooperation documents, part of a drive by Moscow to strengthen ties with South America. Romero said Snowden had informed him directly of the encounter, adding it was the ex US spy agency contractor's first face-to-face talks with a head of state since he fled to Russia in 2013 after leaking details of the US government's mass surveillance programmes.

"They spoke about the National Security Agency's (NSA) electronic surveil-



Former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden appears live via video during a student organized world affairs conference at the Upper Canada College private high school in Toronto, on 2 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

lance, its ramifications for world leaders and impact on the citizens of foreign countries," Romero said.

Romero, whose organization lobbies for civil liberties ranging from religious freedoms to immigrant rights and also provides legal counsel, said it was important world leaders supported Snowden.

The United States wants Snowden to stand trial and news of Fernandez's secret meeting is unlikely to help improve the already-chilly relations between Washington and Buenos Aires.

"My government considers him a criminal, which he isn't," said Romero, a US citizen. "(The meeting) demonstrates the bravery, courage and independence of President Fernandez."—Reuters

Vucic: Serbia is reliable partner

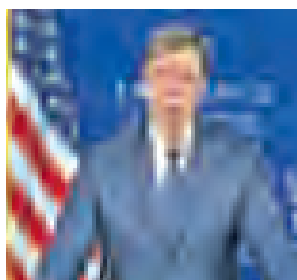
BELGRADE, 5 June — Serbia today says what it thinks and does what it says, and this is the difference between the current Serbia and the one from the past, which is why the country is a reliable partner, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said.

Holding a lecture at the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, Vucic said Serbia is a very reliable partner to the West.

We have fulfilled what we said and promised. I will not say anything I will not fulfill, I have not said we will recognize the independence of Kosovo, but I have promised we will solve the Bitici case and you will see that we fulfill our promises. I think this is why Serbia is a reliable partner today, the Prime Minister said.

Vucic also noted that, despite difficulties, a lot has been accomplished in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue so far.

He pointed out that



Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

an agreement on judiciary and an implementation plan have been made, adding that the issues of civil protection and municipal budgets have been resolved, and that the process of opening two crossings on the administrative line is underway, in keeping with the integrated border management agreement.

Also, we have influenced Kosovo Serbs to return to Kosovo institutions. We are not far from reaching an agreement on insurance, and I hope we will make significant progress in terms of the community of Serb municipalities (ZSO), the PM said.

Tanjung

EU/IMF hard stance may force Greece to early elections — deputy minister

ATHENS, 5 June — Greece's leftist-led government may call early elections if the country's international lenders do not soften their terms for a cash-for-reforms deal, Deputy Social Security Minister Dimitris Stratoulis, a hardliner in the government, said on Friday.

"The lenders want to impose hard measures. If they do not back down from this package of blackmail the government...will have to seek alternative solutions, elections," he said. Stratoulis is closer to the far-left faction of the ruling Syriza



A girl scout holds a Greek national flag ahead of a student parade in Athens on 24 March, 2015, a day before a military parade to mark Greece's Independence Day. —REUTERS

party, and it was not unclear if the statement represented a wider view within the party. But it underlined the deep anger at the proposal from lenders and a growing sense that the party will seek alternatives to avoid accepting the plan.

Greece delayed a key debt payment to the International Monetary Fund due on Friday as Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, facing fury among his leftist supporters, demanded changes to tough terms from international creditors for aid to stave off default.—Reuters

Greece cannot accept lenders' latest proposal

LONDON, 5 June — Greece cannot accept the latest proposals for a cash-for-reforms deal put on the table by its international lenders but was prepared to negotiate a compromise, Greek Economy Minister George Stathakis said on Friday.

Greece delayed a key debt payment to the International Monetary Fund due on Friday as Prime Minister Alexis Tsip-

ras demanded changes to tough terms from international creditors for aid to stave off default. Stathakis said Greece had the money to pay, but had accepted an offer from the IMF to bundle four payments due in June into a single 1.6 billion euro lump sum due at the end of the month. "We are looking forward to getting a deal as soon as possible," he told BBC Radio, but said that

while Greece was ready to discuss compromises, it would not accept proposed fiscal adjustments for 2015 and 2016.

"It was actually included in their proposal without being on the negotiation table during the last month ... the Greek government cannot accept these new proposals," he said.

Asked if Greece was prepared to leave the euro

zone, Stathakis said his Syriza party, elected in January on a promise to end austerity, had not been given a mandate to do that by the Greek people.

"Our government has a mandate to remain in the euro and get a better deal to ... try to change the terms of the agreement that we have with European partners," he said. "Greece has to remain within the euro."

Reuters



Saturday, 6 June, 2015

Make most of young minds for good of nation

By Kyaw Thura

Wisdom is commonly linked with age, but being old does not automatically qualify one as wise. People in privileged positions often entertain the illusion that they know better than ordinary folk, especially those at grass roots. What matters most are the experiences gained in the process of aging, and whether one is

able to turn them into something of value.

There has been an increasing awareness of the potential of young men and women as crucial partners in political change. They may possess the creativity required to effect meaningful change for themselves, their communities and the world as a whole.

The time has come for older generations to accept the reality that young people are an indispensable element of society, as well as a driving force for the future development of a nation. In addition, people in authority should realise leadership is not just about wielding power.

If the youth of today are to be the leaders of tomorrow, they must be encouraged to better themselves as partners of today. At a time of rapid

change, institutions that swim against the tide will not last.

As Aesop's fable about the hare and the tortoise reminds us, the fastest runner doesn't necessarily win the race. Using one's abilities to the fullest is more important.

Write for us

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

Food wastage versus world hunger

By Hla Maung

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that the world produces 4.3 billion tons of food each year. This is enough to feed about 10 billion people. For the last twenty years, food production rate has increased faster than the rate of population growth, and the world now produces 17% more food per person than 20 years ago. The world's population is about 7 billion people. We therefore produce more than enough food to feed all the people in the world. Tragically, the sad truth is that for the past 30 years or so, nearly a billion people continue to remain hungry or short of food.

This is because the food produced is not distributed equally, and not all is consumed. About 5 % of food produced is used to make bio-fuel, 30% is used to feed animals, and as much as 30%, or 1.3 billion tons, is lost or wasted.

In the wealthy developed countries, much of the produced food is discarded because it is not attractive enough to appeal to customers even though perfectly edible and tasty. Sometimes fruit and vegetables are discarded because they are too small or too big. And not all cooked food is eaten. It has been estimated that nearly 20% of restaurant-served food is left uneaten and thrown away. All this is regarded as "food waste".

In the poorer underdeveloped countries, much of the food produced is spoiled because of lack of proper refrigeration or packing and

transportation facilities, and spoiled or eaten by pests and rodents. This is considered "food lost". Even if only half of this food lost or wasted can be recovered, we would have more than enough to feed the billion people who are hungry, if the food can be distributed to those in need.

It is unlikely that we will be able to keep on increasing food production. It is estimated a 60% increase in food production is needed to meet a population increase to 9 billion by 2050. If we do not find ways to reduce food waste and food loss, a billion people will continue to live in hunger. Indeed, with food production reaching a plateau and population increasing, the number of hungry people may increase.

In the history of mankind, the disparity between rich and poor has perhaps never been greater. Restaurants are filled with customers merrily feasting on delicacies while the unfortunately hungry stay hungry. It is easy to become complacent and uncaring because most of us have never known prolonged hunger day after day after day. The nearest we have been "hungry" is once in a while when, for some reason, lunch or dinner is delayed. Moreover, the hungry people, whether they be in poor slums or in refugee camps, are also always out of sight and out of mind.

Global warming, extreme weather, population increase, loss of nutrition in soils – these are factors that

By Jim Yong Kim

JAKARTA, Indonesia, 5 June—Over the past 25 years, with almost no notice or acclaim, more than 1 billion people lifted themselves out of extreme poverty, thanks in large part to governments that promoted economic growth and invested in people.

Today, fewer than 1 billion people remain in such difficult circumstances. We now have the opportunity to be the first human generation in history to end extreme poverty. It will not be easy and will take the coordinated efforts of many organizations, but it's entirely doable.

Still, the world needs more champions to fight poverty. That's why I warmly welcome the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). We believe the AIIB has great potential to help Asia build power plants, roads, bridges, schools, and clinics that will create jobs and boost economies.

When it comes to promoting development in low- and middle-income countries, there's no reason for

are going to impact world food production in the coming decades. We need to find ways to minimize food loss and food waste, and to find better ways to both produce food and distribute food so that all of humanity is adequately fed and nourished. As sages and saints have been telling us through the ages, all Humanity is one, we are our brother's keeper.

About author : U Hla Maung went to school in London and graduated from London's Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1966.

Welcoming new partners to fight an old enemy: Poverty

institutions to be rivals. Indeed, there's more than enough work to go around to fight a common, old enemy: poverty.

Building new infrastructure will be critical. We are currently doing all we can now with our private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation, and through our public sector work, to support countries in identifying and then financing bankable infrastructure projects. The gap in infrastructure funding for developing countries remains enormous – estimated to be \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion a year – and any new funding source for roads, rail, seaports, airports, and other infrastructure should help the poor.

We are already working with the AIIB, sharing our expertise in laying the foundations for a new structure, just as we did for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. With strong environment, labour and procurement standards, the AIIB can become a powerful new force in development.

There's no doubt that the aspirations of leaders to promote development have grown in middle- and low-income countries. Many understandably want to accelerate their nation's ascent into middle- or high-income status.

At the World Bank Group, we firmly believe that establishing time-bound targets will help meet our objectives. We have set two goals: to end extreme poverty by 2030 and increase the incomes and well-being of the poorest 40 percent of people in developing countries.

To reach those targets, we now are collaborating with governments to create customized poverty reduction programs. These plans are based on analyses of a wide range of local factors, including demography and location of people living in extreme poverty. These plans also will highlight numerous types of investments that countries need to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. Many of these projects will surely be led by our partners.

Just last month when I was in Jakarta, I met with country leaders, including President Joko Widodo, and was impressed with their vision to boost the economy and to fight poverty. I also learned much more about Indonesia's development needs, ranging from dealing with health crises (childhood stunting is estimated at 37 percent) to its infrastructure gap estimated at more than \$600 billion in the next five years.

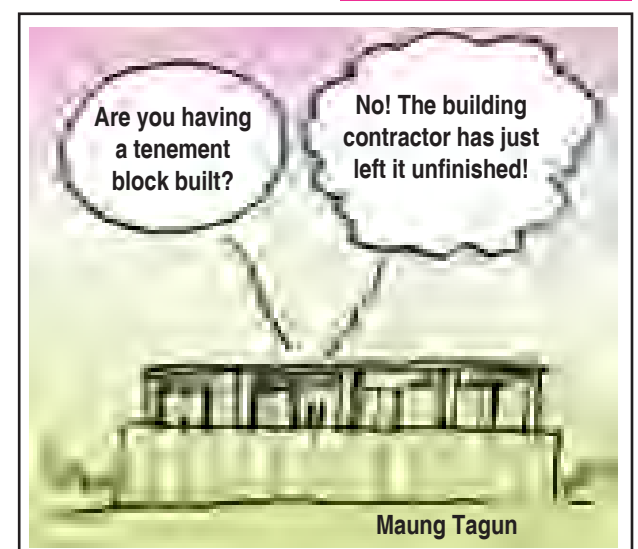
As part of my trip, I visited two ports – Sunda Kelapa Harbor and Tanjung Priok Port. Sunda Kelapa is an old port that accommodates two-masted wooden

sailing ships and where laborers use their backs to lift tons of cargo into the hulls of the ships. Tanjung Priok, in contrast, is an industrialized port in which huge container cranes lift 20-foot containers onto the decks of modern freighters.

In this tale of two ports, it was clear that investing in Indonesia's port infrastructure could reap huge benefits for the economy. One port authority told me that if Indonesia can reduce its logistics costs from the current 24 percent of gross domestic product to 16 percent – the same as Thailand's – it can save an estimated \$70 billion to \$80 billion a year and attract more global manufacturers.

That's the core of our work: To help countries find solutions to their most vexing development challenges and build their economies. This will create jobs and boost the earnings of the poor. For Indonesia and the rest of Asia, more partners means more development. And more development means we can end extreme poverty.

Dr. Kim is the president of the World Bank Group.



LOCAL NEWS

Mogok Lake dredged to increase capacity, cut flood risk

MOGOK, 5 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than together with departmental officials on 3 June inspected the dredging of Mogok Lake by the Irrigation Department.

The minister instructed officials to stockpile gravel and earthen works for the embankment of the lake.

Upon completion, Mogok Lake will store a greater amount of water,

making the surrounding environment greener and reducing the flood risk for nearby homes. The project is also aimed at making the lake a focal point for recreation.

On arrival at Shweh-ninsi agricultural farm, the minister and party viewed thriving tea, macadamia and jack fruit plants, holding discussions with workers of the farm on welfare tasks and wages.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Needy students receive uniforms, stationery



MANDALAY, 5 June — Local authorities and well-wishers donated school uniforms and stationery to needy students at No 15 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay,

on 4 June.

The ward administrator and well-wishers presented notebooks and stationery to 108 primary and middle school students through headmistress Dr Myat Soe Moe

and teachers.

Likewise, they provided school uniforms and stationery to needy students from No 18 BEPS in east Chanayethazan Ward.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Police officers check sales of prohibited chemicals, medicines

NAMKHAM, 5 June — Police in Namkham Township, Shan State, have been scrutinizing pharmacies and medicine sellers as part of a crackdown on illegal drug sales.

Commander of Namkham Township Police Force Police Major Maung Aye and police officers on Thursday inspected 16 medicine sellers at Myoma market to see whether prohibited chemicals or drugs were being sold.

They gave an educative talk at the market on prohibited chemicals to the shopkeepers and departmental officials.

Mong Nyan Soe

JICA to assist water supply for urban areas in Pyigyidagun Tsp

MANDALAY, 5 June — Mandalay City Development Committee and the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed an agreement on a water supply project for Pyigyidagun Township at the MCDC office, here, on 3 June.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moungh thanked JICA Chief Representative Mr Keiichi Nakazawa for the assistance before they signed the agreement worth USD 22 million.

According to the agreement, JICA will help supply water to 30 percent of wards in Pyigyidagun Township.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

MCDC election campaign hits home stretch

MANDALAY, 5 June — Candidates are campaigning ahead of the 7 June election for new Mandalay City Development Committee members in Aungmyethazan and Chanmyathazi townships.

The MCDC will be reconstituted with public-elected members and government assigned members. Electoral rolls have been released in respective wards of the townships.

In Aungmyethazan Township, the candidates are U Aung Naing Oo, U Htay Aung, U Nyunt



Maung, U Myo Nyunt, U Khaing Mye, U Kyaw Moe and Dr Than Myint. U Zaw Myo Lwin

and Dr Thein Tun Hsaung will contest the election in Chanmyathazi Township.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay Region gov't assigns regional projects

MANDALAY, 5 June — The economic development of Mandalay Region depends on cooperation between the government, state-run enterprises and private businesses, Chief Minister U Ye Myint said at a ceremony to give de-

partment officials with regional project assignments for the fiscal year.

At the office of Mandalay Region government on 2 June, the chief minister said regional projects are necessary to improve the education, health and

job opportunities of residents.

Director U Kyaw Kyaw Shein of Mandalay Region Planning Department reported on visions for this year's projects.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Yemen's Houthis agree to talks as bombing reportedly kills 58 people

SANAA/DUBAI, 5 June — Yemen's dominant Houthis agreed on Thursday to join United Nations-backed peace talks in Geneva planned for 14 June, a day after their opponents in the exiled government confirmed their attendance. A Saudi-led coalition of Arab states has been bombing Houthi forces, the strongest faction in Yemen's civil war, for over two months in an attempt to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who has fled to Saudi Arabia. Around 2,000 people have been killed and half a million displaced by the fighting.

Coalition Arab bombings killed around 58 people across Yemen on Wednesday and Thursday, the state news agency *Saba*, controlled by the Houthis, said.

48 people, most of them women and children, were killed in air strikes on their houses in the Houthi heartland in the rural far north adjoining Saudi Arabia. The reports could not be independently verified.

The UN envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, has for weeks been shuttling between the Houthi-controlled capital, the exiled government in Riyadh and other regional capitals to garner support for peace talks in Geneva.



Smoke billows from a Houthi-controlled military site after it was hit by a Saudi-led air strike in Sanaa, Yemen, on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Daifallah al-Shami, a member of the Houthis' politburo, told *Reuters* his movement would take part, and "supports without preconditions the efforts of the United Nations to organise Yemeni-Yemeni dialogue".

Both sides appeared to have relaxed their conditions for opening the talks.

Hadi had previously insisted that the Houthis obey UN Security Council Resolution 2216, passed in April, which required them to recognize his administration and quit Yemen's main cities.

The Houthis for their part had sought a suspension of the bombing raids. Yemeni politicians say representatives of long-time president Ali Abdullah Saleh will also accept a UN invitation to the talks, but that southern rebel factions, who also control swathes of Yemen, are unlikely to be invited.

The Houthis, who seized the capital Sanaa last September and now control much of the country with the help of forces loyal to Saleh, say they are part of a "revolution" against corruption.

Saudi Arabia and allied Sunni Muslim states fear that the Houthis, who hail from a Shi'ite sect, will spread the influence of the Gulf states' Shi'ite arch-rival Iran in the Arabian Peninsula.

The foreign minister of one of those allies, Qatar, told *Reuters* in Paris that the armed intervention had prevented a Houthi takeover.

"If there had not been (Operation) Decisive Storm, we would have seen the Houthis and Ali Abdullah Saleh's people all over Yemen," Khaled al-Atti-

yah said. "I think Decisive Storm ... has restored legitimacy in Yemen."

"Is it enough or not? I think it will be enough when the Houthis and Saleh's followers fulfil the elements of 2216."

Overnight, around 12 air raids hit weapons stores around the presidential palace in Sanaa, according to a *Reuters* witness, triggering secondary blasts that lit up the night sky.

Air strikes also hit a naval base and Yemen's naval command in the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, residents said, and the state news agency *Saba* said six people were killed.

Saudi shelling also hit the main border crossing from Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, in the far northern province of Haradh, demolishing Yemeni customs offices.

In the southern city of Aden, a bastion of support for Hadi and scene of street clashes, air raids hit Houthi positions in the northern suburbs on Thursday.

Local fighters in the city and in a tangled battle line stretching through Yemen's south oppose the Houthis, but many support eventual independence for South Yemen, which was forced to unify with the north, under Saleh, in a 1994 civil war.

Reuters

Bomb at market in northeastern Nigeria kills around 30 — eyewitnesses

YOLA, 5 June — A bomb at a market in the town of Jimeta, northeastern Nigeria, has killed around 30 people, eyewitnesses told *Reuters* on Thursday.

The device, which an eyewitness said was planted in a three-wheeled motorized scooter inside the market in Adamawa state, was detonated around 2000 London time, a few minutes after a female suicide killed two people at a checkpoint in Maiduguri.

"We have evacuated 32 bodies, we are taking them to two hospitals," a Red Cross ambulance driver, who wanted to remain unnamed, told *Reuters* on the telephone.

Nobody has claimed responsibility but the attacks bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the militant Islamist group that has waged a six-year insurgency in the northeast of Africa's biggest economy and top oil exporter in a bid to set up an Islamic state.

The bombing is the latest attack in a series of explosions in the last few days that has killed around 80 people, following the inauguration of new President Muhammadu Buhari last week.—*Reuters*

Texas-born al-Qaeda suspect pleads not guilty in New York

NEW YORK, 5 June — A US citizen accused of travelling to Pakistan to train with al-Qaeda pleaded not guilty to terrorism charges in federal court in New York on Thursday.

Texas-born Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh spoke only briefly during a short court appearance in Brooklyn, confirming to a US judge that he understood the indictment against him and his rights.

Prosecutors said Farekh was at least partially radicalised by the online sermons of Anwar al-Awlaki, the US-born militant preacher associated with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula who was killed in Yemen in a

2011 US drone strike.

That was the first instance in which the United States targeted and killed an American citizen with a strike, prompting criticism from civil liberties advocates that the act was unlawful.

Farekh studied at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada, according to prosecutors. Around 2007, he and two other students, Ferid Imam and an unnamed person, decided to travel to remote tribal areas along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan and train with al-Qaeda, US authorities said.

Imam also provided training at an al-Qaeda

camp in Pakistan in September 2008 to Najibullah Zazi and two other men later convicted of plotting a suicide bombing attack in the New York City subway system, according to the US Justice Department.

Imam's whereabouts are unknown.

The criminal complaint against Farekh said that two cooperating witnesses in his case were also involved in the subway plot.

Farekh faces charges of providing material support to terrorists as well as attempting and conspiring to provide such support. He faces up to life in prison if convicted.—*Reuters*

Lebanon deploys army against IS, jihadists near border town

BEIRUT, 5 June — Lebanon decided on Thursday to deploy army inside the northeastern town of Aarsal, bordering Syria, against militant attacks, after "violent clashes" there on Wednesday between Hezbollah and jihadists.

Lebanese Information Minister Ramzi Jreij said that the cabinet had tasked the military with making the "best assessment of the situation in Aarsal and its outskirts," indicating that "any decision to intervene militarily to oust jihadists from Lebanese territory would be left to the military's leadership."

Lawmakers, including those from the Shite movement Hezbollah, have

demanding the army's support to oust the Islamic State (IS) and the al-Qaeda linked al-Nusra Front militants from Aarsal's outskirts.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah's official media reported "violent clashes" with al-Nusra near Aarsal, a Sunni Lebanese town on the frontier with Syria.

Hezbollah has been fighting al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate, in the mountainous area north of Damascus, bordering Syria.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah has pledged to liberate Aarsal's outskirts from the militants if the Lebanese state failed to do so.

However, Lebanese officials warned Hezbollah earlier in March against attacking Aarsal, saying protecting the town is the responsibility of the Lebanese state and army.

The army has been confronting the jihadists since last August, when the IS and al-Nusra militants overran Aarsal and abducted at least 35 soldiers and policemen after a fierce five-day battle with the army.

The al-Nusra Front later executed four soldiers and the IS beheaded another one. The Lebanese government is negotiating the release of the remaining captives through a Qatari mediator.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Lloyds fined 117 million pounds for PPI complaints failings

LONDON, 5 June — Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L) has been fined 117 million pounds for failings in its handling of complaints about the mis-selling of loan insurance between March 2012 and May 2013, in the largest penalty imposed since the 26 billion pounds scandal erupted.

Britain's financial regulator on Friday handed out its largest ever fine in a case relating to retail banking and said that Lloyds, which is 19 percent-owned by the British government, had failed to treat its customers fairly.

The Financial Conduct Authority said Lloyds dismissed customers' personal accounts of what had happened during the PPI sale in some cases or did not fully investigate customers' complaints. In some instances, Lloyds did not contact customers to enable them to give their account of the sale. As a result, the



FCA said a significant number of claims were unfairly rejected.

Lloyds said that it will reduce bonuses paid to staff by 30 million pounds in 2015 in response to the fine. It apologized to cus-

tomers who had been affected.

Lloyds has already set aside 12 billion pounds to compensate customers mis-sold payment protection insurance (PPI) policies.

The policies were meant to

protect borrowers in the event of sickness or unemployment but were often sold to customers who did not require them, or who would have been unable to claim.

Reuters

Signs are seen outside a branch of Lloyds Bank in central London on 28 Oct, 2014. REUTERS

China treasury bond futures open higher Friday

BEIJING, 5 June — China's five-year treasury bond futures opened higher on Friday, with contract for settlement in June 2015 opening at 96.78 yuan (15.82 US dollars), up 0.12 yuan.

The contract for settlement in September 2015 opened 0.11 yuan higher at 96.37 yuan, and the December contract opened at 98.2 yuan, up 0.13 yuan.

The contracts are agreements to buy or sell treasury bonds at a predetermined price and set date. They allow investors to bet on or profit from the movements in the value of the bonds.

The treasury bond futures were launched at the Shanghai-based China Financial Futures Exchange and started trading on 6 September, 2013.

Xinhua

Cholesterol drugs might be linked to lower risk of cancer death

LONDON, 5 June — A years-long study indicates that women who take cholesterol-lowering drugs might have a reduced risk of death caused by cancer, according to a report released on Thursday by the Cancer Research UK. During the 15-year long study, researchers tracked nearly 150,000 post-menopausal women between age 50 and 79, of whom over 3,100 died of cancer over the period, the report said.

Researchers said they found that women who reported taking statins, drugs that lower cholesterol levels, were 20 percent less likely to die of cancer during the course of the study, when all cancers were taken into account.

Previous research has suggested that cholesterol, which statins targets, helps cancer to spread.

However, researchers said the study did not prove statins were the reason why people were less likely to die from cancer, and that more research was needed.

It is still not sure if the link shown between a decreased risk of dying from cancer, and statin use, is due to the drugs themselves, or some other reason, said Dr Richard Roope from Cancer Research UK.

Further studies, including the Cancer Research UK-funded LungStar trial, are exploring whether the cholesterol-lowering drugs could help treat cancer.

Xinhua

Nestle pulls Maggi noodles off Indian shelves as food scare spreads

MUMBAI, 5 June — Nestle SA will pull its Maggi instant noodles from stores across in India, withdrawing one of the country's most popular snacks after weeks of damaging headlines triggered by regulators' reports that some packs contained excess lead.

In what has become India's most significant packaged foods scare for nearly a decade, Nestle reiterated on Friday that its noodles were safe. But after coming under fire for what domestic media said was a failure to react swiftly and decisively, the group said it would pull the product regardless, more than two weeks after food inspectors first reported their findings.

At least six states, several major retailers and even the Indian army have banned Maggi noodles. On Thursday, Tamil Nadu became the first state to ban a handful of brands of instant noodles, including Nestle's.

"Unfortunately, recent developments and unfounded concerns about the product have led to an environment of confusion for the consumer, to such an extent that we have decided to withdraw the product off the shelves, despite the product being safe," the Switzerland-based firm said in a brief statement.

Sales of Maggi in India represent just 0.005 percent of Nestle's global revenue of almost 92 billion Swiss francs (\$98.6 billion). Maggi noodles account for roughly a fifth of Nestle's sales

in India, which also include dairy products, chocolate and baby food.

But the importance of containing damage to the brand has not been lost on Nestle, whose group chief executive Paul Bulcke will speak later on Friday in New Delhi to seek to draw a line under the scare.

Maggi two-minute noodles, which sell at roughly a dozen rupees (\$0.20) per single-serving packet, are a hugely popular snack in India. The food is frequently served to children and eaten at roadside shacks and "Maggi points" across the country.

Often using Bollywood superstars in advertising campaigns, Maggi has been a market leader for three decades, though it now competes with rival brands like Hindustan Unilever Ltd's Knorr and GlaxoSmithKline PLC's Horlicks.

Analysts and industry advisers welcomed the recall but questioned the firm's strategy of denying the problem for weeks, even as headlines proliferated.

"If you ask me everything that Nestle has done is wrong," said Arvind Singhal, chairman of retail consultancy Technopak.

"In this day and age of social media you cannot question the government and consumers...If your product is safe and you are confident, you recall it immediately without question, because it is safe, and will pass tests."



Packets of Nestle's Maggi instant noodles are seen on display at a grocery store in Mumbai, India, on 3 June, 2015.

REUTERS

Despite poor public hygiene, India has not experienced food scares on the scale that has hit neighbouring China in recent years. But analysts say the country's increasingly affluent, health-conscious consumers and easy access to social media are likely to mean more incidents are brought to public attention, and international brands need to be better prepared.

Employees questioned by Reuters at several multinational food companies operating in India reported what one described as a "state of alert".

"You have to understand multinationals are soft targets," said a top executive at one, speaking on condition of anonymity. "If they checked street food, who

knows how much lead and other things are to be found?"

The noodle scare is India's biggest involving packaged foods since 2006, when a New Delhi environmental group raised questions over pesticide traces in Coca Cola Co and PepsiCo Inc fizzy drinks.

Food inspectors in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh last month reported high lead content was found during routine tests on two dozen packets of instant noodles.

Nestle India had said earlier this week it had conducted internal and external tests on samples of 125 million Maggi packets which showed the noodles were safe to eat.

Reuters

Former UK finance minister says Cameron will only achieve 'trivial' EU reform

LONDON, 5 June — Prime Minister David Cameron will not achieve anything of significance in his planned renegotiation of Britain's ties with the European Union, former finance minister Nigel Lawson said.

Cameron, whose Conservatives won a surprise majority at an election last month, has begun talks with other European leaders in his bid to reform Britain's relationship with the bloc ahead of a membership referendum by the end of 2017. "It is likely that the changes David Cameron secures will be inconsequential, of no significance at all. He will present them as a major change," Lawson, finance minister from 1983-89 under Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, told the BBC. "He is looking for



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Number 10 Downing Street to attend Prime Minister's Question Time in Parliament, in London, Britain on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

more than that but what he will secure will be trivial ... they are not going to give him anything significant," said Lawson, who has previously said Britain should leave the bloc.

Cameron has said he would prefer to stay in a reformed EU but will rule nothing out if he cannot get

the changes he wants. Lawson said he expected Britain would vote to remain within the bloc but would later lament doing so.

"I think they will come to regret staying in because they will discover that there hasn't been any fundamental change," he said.

Reuters

Sri Lankan president likely to attend UN Human Rights Council session in September

COLOMBO, 5 June — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has informed UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that he wishes to attend the United Nations Human Rights Council sessions in September when a crucial report on Sri Lanka is expected to be submitted.

During a telephone conversation between Ban and Sirisena on Thursday, the Sri Lankan president said that he wishes to travel to Geneva to attend the September sessions after the establishment of a new government in the island nation.

President Sirisena had recently said that a new government will be in place by September and parliamentary elections are expected anytime soon.

"The president said that he wished to attend the United Nations Human Rights Council session

scheduled to begin in September in Geneva after the establishment of the new government in Sri Lanka, " a statement by the President's office said here on Friday.

During the conversation, Ban Ki-moon also assured UN support for the work done by the Sri Lankan government and appreciated the new government's forward march under the leadership of President Sirisena, which builds peace and reconciliation in the country while protecting democratic rights of the people, the statement added.

Sirisena defeated former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in a presidential election in January and soon after, his government won a six-month delay in the publication of a UN report on alleged war crimes which

are said to have taken place mostly in the final months of the country's civil conflict between the Sri Lankan military and Tamil Tiger rebels.

The UN Human Rights Council voted last year to investigate war crimes in the island nation, saying former President Rajapaksa had failed to do so properly and a report was expected to be submitted to the Council in March by UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein.

Al-Hussein however said he had recommended deferral of the team's report until September, and the president of the Human Rights Council had agreed, given "the changing context in Sri Lanka, and the possibility that important new information may emerge which will strengthen the report."

Xinhua

Death toll climbs to 97 as China rights capsized ship



Cranes work on righting the capsized Eastern Star cruise ship at the Jianli section of the Yangtze River, Hubei Province, China, on 5 June, 2015. REUTERS

JIANLI, (China), 5 June — The death toll from a Chinese cruise ship that capsized on the Yangtze River climbed to 97 on Friday as authorities righted the battered vessel and turned their efforts to recovering bodies still on board amid simmering anger from distraught families.

The rescue mission has become an operation to recover hundreds of bodies from the ship, which was carrying 456 people when it overturned in a freak tornado on Monday night. Only 14 survivors have been found, including the captain.

Frustration over the

lack of information has grown among families of the missing. Seventy-year-old Xia Yunchen burst into a room where senior officials had just finished a media conference, screaming and yelling and demanding answers.

"Is it necessary to treat the common people, one by one, as if you are facing some kind of formidable foe?" said Xia, whose sister and brother-in-law were on board the Eastern Star.

Xia, from the eastern city of Qingdao, told reporters she had wanted to get into the news conference to hear for herself what the government was saying, and that she wanted

an honest investigation because family members doubted the weather was the real cause of the disaster.

"You view the common people as if we are all your enemy. We are tax payers. We support the government. You had better change your notion of this relationship. You are here to serve us. You need to be humane," Xia said, before being escorted out.

Police then kept reporters back while they moved away relatives and passersby on the street outside.

"The next step is to concentrate on doing a good job of purging the wa-

ter, raising the boat, overall salvage and looking for victims' bodies," Transport Ministry spokesman Xu Chengguang said just before Xia's dramatic intervention. Rescuers, many from the military, worked through the night to right the ship. Pictures on state television showed the ship, which had capsized completely, sitting upright in the water. Large dents and gashes scarred its blue roof.

Most of the four-deck ship remains under water, sitting on the river bed.

More than 200 divers have groped through murky water after cutting through the hull, searching every cabin on board, but

have found no more survivors.

The weather improved markedly on Friday, after days of heavy rain, which should help rescuers. However it was forecast to worsen again at the weekend.

About 1,200 relatives have come to Jianli county in Hubei Province where the disaster happened.

Showing the sensitivity of the disaster, the ruling Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, China's apex of power, called on local authorities to take measures to help grieving families and to "earnestly safeguard social stability". Relatives have asked the government to

release the names of survivors and the confirmed deaths, and questioned why most of those rescued were crew members.

Some have demanded to know why the boat did not dock in the storm, and how the rescued captain and crew members had time to put on life vests but did not sound any alarm.

Beijing has pledged there would be "no cover-up" in the investigation.

Police have detained the captain and chief engineer for questioning, although authorities have given no details. An initial investigation found the ship was not overloaded and had enough life vests on board.—Reuters



Photo taken on 5 June, 2015 shows billboards of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The state visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh, scheduled this weekend, is expected to strengthen bilateral relationship between the two neighbouring countries.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV JRS CARINA VOY NO (1506-14N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)

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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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Rakhine coasts.

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Vietnam launches special 'sovereignty' cruise, angering China

HANOI, 5 June — Vietnam is offering scores of patriotic citizens the holiday of a lifetime with a cruise to some of Asia's most hotly contested islands, in a move likely to stoke its simmering dispute with Beijing over South China Sea sovereignty.

In a special \$800 promotion offer, 180 Vietnamese will get to see parts of the disputed Spratly archipelago later this month and take part in night fishing, visit a lighthouse and enjoy local seafood.

High-rollers will have VIP hotel rooms and can fly in on their private helicopters, according to the Ho Chi Minh City government's website.

The elaborately worded offer is for a six-day cruise that will visit two reefs and two islands in the Spratlys, or Truong Sa in Vietnamese, which the country has occupied for some time despite rival claims.

It makes little attempt to disguise its political flavor, and comes as Vietnam pursues a bolder agenda in

pushing its claims in the face of China's own growing assertiveness.

"Travelling to Truong Sa ... means the big trip of your life, reviving national pride and citizens' awareness of the sacred maritime sovereignty of the country," the promotion said.

"Tourists will no longer feel Truong Sa as far away, the blue Truong Sa ocean will be deep in people's hearts."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei expressed anger at the move on Friday.

"Vietnam's actions violate China's sovereignty. We demand that Vietnam respect China's sovereignty, not take actions that complicate or magnify the situation, and make proper efforts to safeguard the peace and stability of the South China Sea," he said.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia each compete for jurisdiction of the Spratlys with China, which claims nine-tenths of the South China Sea, a vital global shipping lane

with potentially vast energy reserves.

The cruise mirrors those offered by China on ships like its "Coconut Princess", and illustrates a growing civilian presence in the South China Sea as countries vie to cement their competing claims.

China has been criticized for extensive reclamation work and moves to turn submerged rocks into man-made structures. The United States last week said Beijing had placed mobile artillery systems in contested territory.

Despite close party-to-party ties with Communist neighbour China and nearly \$60 billion of annual trade, analysts say Vietnam has taken a harder line since a fresh territorial row erupted last year and wants to boost diplomatic and military alliances.

Its media ran news last month of the opening of a new school on the Spratlys, and Vietnamese troops stationed there joined counterparts from the Philippines in a soccer match.—Reuters

Another patient dies after liver transplant surgery in Kobe

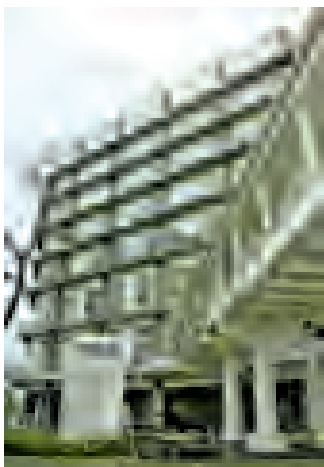


Photo taken in April 2015 shows the Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre in the western Japanese city of Kobe, which opened in November 2014. A fifth patient died on 5 June, 2015, after undergoing liver transplant surgery at the hospital, where four patients previously died within a month of undergoing surgery, the hospital said the same day.—KYODO NEWS

KOBE, 5 June — A fifth patient died on Friday after undergoing liver transplant surgery at a newly opened hospital in Kobe, where four patients previously died within a month of undergoing surgery, the hospital said.

The 63-year-old man from Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, was the ninth patient to undergo a liver transplant from a living donor at the Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre, which opened last November.

Koichi Tanaka, direc-

tor of the hospital and a surgeon who performed the transplantation for the man, said he "feels a heavy responsibility" for not being able to save the patient's life.

The man was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2007 after developing hepatitis C and liver cirrhosis. His operation scheduled for 22 April was postponed due to the previous deaths at the hospital.

His operation was finally performed on Wednesday and Thursday, but he died early Friday

following massive bleeding during the surgery, according to the hospital.

Tanaka denied any malpractice, saying at a press conference in Kobe that the hospital will continue its transplant surgeries. "We will make utmost efforts to meet the needs of patients," he said.

The man's 64-year-old wife, who donated part of her liver to her husband, recovered consciousness after the operation and is still in the hospital, the medical facility said.

His family said in a statement issued through a lawyer that they do not regret the surgery, which offered the patient a ray of hope.

A report by the Japanese Liver Transplantation Society, which looked into the cases, said three of the four patients who died could have been saved if the medical staff's approach to the transplants and the surgery plans had been problem free.

Kyodo News

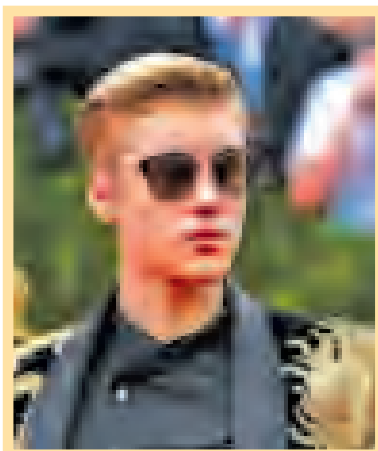
Bieber pleads guilty to assault, careless driving in Canada

TORONTO, 5 June — Justin Bieber pleaded guilty to assault and careless driving charges in connexion with a collision and altercation with a photographer near his Canadian hometown, his lawyer confirmed on Thursday.

The 21-year-old singer, who appeared at the hearing via video link from Los Angeles, received an absolute discharge on the assault charge and a C\$750 (\$600.00) fine for the careless driving charge. He was also required to pay a C\$100 victim surcharge.

The pop star had originally been charged with dangerous driving following the August incident, but that charge was dropped.

The incident happened during a visit to the Stratford, Ontario, area with pop star Selena Gomez. The two were “disrupted by the unwelcome presence of paparazzi,” his lawyer said at the time. Local media, citing police, reported there was a “physical altercation” following a collision between a minivan and an all-terrain vehicle outside the town.



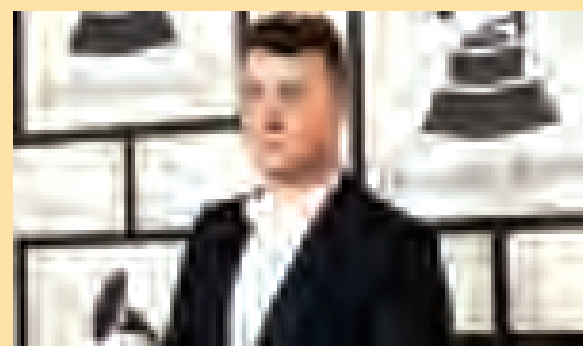
Bieber’s lawyer, Brian Greenspan, said the absolute discharge for the assault “recognized the fact that it was an incident that was somewhat provoked and that it lasted less than a minute.”

“The assault was described even by the photographer as a couple of slaps, certainly three at the most, that he deflected with his shoulder,” Greenspan said, adding that Bieber acknowledged his responsibility to the judge.

Bieber, whose songs include the hits “Boyfriend” and “Beauty and a Beat,” has been a favourite paparazzi target and has had several run-ins with the law.

In August, he pleaded guilty to careless driving and resisting an officer without violence in Florida, part of a deal to resolve allegations that he had been drag racing in a Lamborghini under the influence of drugs and alcohol. In July, Bieber pleaded no contest to misdemeanour vandalism for pelting a neighbour’s California home with eggs. He was sentenced to two years probation.—Reuters

Sam Smith gets his voice back



LOS ANGELES, 5 June — Four-time Grammy-winning singer Sam Smith has rescheduled his cancelled Australia tour after recovering from a throat surgery.

The British soulman had ended the April tour early, when it transpired that he had suffered a hemorrhage to his vocal cords, reported Acshowbiz.

The 23-year-old singer will perform in Australia starting 28 November at Perth Arena before visiting Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in early December, the promoter Frontier Touring announced.

“Australia, I am so so happy to finally have some good news for you... I can now announce that my cancelled IN THE LONELY HOUR tour dates have been rescheduled!,” Smith said in a statement.

The “Stay With Me” singer said he was excited to perform again and promised it will be better than before.—PTI

Nazi-era work Carmina Burana debuts at Israel’s Masada Festival

MASADA, (Israel), 5 June — Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana, composed in the Nazi era, will be showcased at an Israeli opera festival against the backdrop of a towering desert plateau that stands as a symbol of Jewish resistance and sacrifice.

Orff’s cantata comprising 24 poems, mostly in Latin, is one of the most popular works in classical music, particularly the opening bars of the first movement “O Fortuna”.

Orff, born in Bavaria in 1895, thrived under the Nazis, who adored his rousing choruses and pagan themes. But unlike Richard Wagner, Adolf Hitler’s favourite composer and a virulent anti-Semite whose music remains unofficially banned in Israel, Carl Orff’s work has been performed publicly in the country for decades. It will now be performed for the first time at the annual Opera Festival at Masada, on the shores of the Dead Sea, first on Friday and then on 12 June.

“I don’t think that in the (death) camps in Auschwitz and Treblinka they played Carl Orff, but they played Wagner before (people) went to the gas chambers,” Daniel Oren, music director of the Israeli Opera that is staging the festival, told Reuters.

Michael Ajzenstadt, the company’s artistic administrator, said “the art was the message” when it came to controversial composers. “If we are going to look into the lives and the beliefs and doctrines of every artist around the world, I’m sure we won’t be able to perform, at least here in Israel, a lot of music,” Ajzenstadt said. “I think in the 21st century, there should not be censorship, definitely not of artists, especially those who lived in Germany and tried to remain alive. Some did it because it is what they felt, some believed (in Nazi ideology), others didn’t,” he said.

The site of Masada strikes a special historic chord with Israelis. It was at Masada in 73 AD that hundreds of Jewish rebels who rose up against the Roman Empire committed mass suicide rather than fall as slaves to the occupiers, according to the writings of the Jewish Roman historian Josephus. The Carmina Burana production on Masada’s enormous open-air stage has been designed by Polish director Michal Znaniecki, with the Kielce Dance Theatre providing colourful movement on brightly lit, innovative sets. This year’s Masada festival will also include four performances of Puccini’s opera Tosca.—Reuters

John Lennon’s long lost Gibson guitar up for sale

John Lennon’s original 1962 J-160E Gibson Acoustic guitar is shown in this handout publicity photo released to Reuters on 2 June, 2015. REUTERS



LOS ANGELES, 5 June — A rare, once-lost 1962 guitar belonging to former Beatles member John Lennon will go up for auction this year and could break a record, Julien’s Auctions said on Thursday.

The jumbo J-160E Gibson Acoustic guitar, purchased by Lennon in Liverpool, is expected to fetch between \$600,000 and \$800,000 when it goes on sale on 6 November at an auction of rock’n’roll memorabilia in Beverly Hills. Darren Julien, owner of Julien’s Auctions, called the guitar “one of biggest finds in music history,” and said its sale could top the \$965,000 auction record set in 2013 for an electric guitar owned by Bob Dylan.

“John Lennon items don’t come up very often because a lot of people keep

them. This was one of his favourite guitars, he talked about wishing he still had it,” Julien said.

Lennon died on 8 December, 1980, after he was shot by a fan in New York City.

His Gibson guitar went missing in 1963 during the Beatles’ Finsbury Park Christmas Show, and turned up 50 years later, after it was purchased by a man named John McCaw in a US second-hand goods shop.

Its authenticity was verified by Andy Babiuk, who has written about musical equipment used by the Beatles, by matching the guitar’s serial number, wood grain and scratches to photographs and videos of Lennon playing the instrument.

Babiuk said Lennon used the guitar to record the Beatles hit single “Love Me Do,” and played it in live shows and writing sessions.—Reuters

Taylor Swift turns ‘love coach’



LONDON, 5 June — Pop star Taylor Swift has reportedly got trained as a “love coach” to advise her friends.

The 25-year-old “Blank Space” hitmaker has taken up a course online to help her friends going through a break-up,

reported Contactmusic.

“Taylor is very good at offering advice. She’s secretly trained to be a love coach and was doing a course online. She qualified last month,” said a source.

Swift, 25, who previously dated Harry Styles, John Mayer and Jake Gyl-

lenhaal and is now dating DJ Calvin Harris, has drawn up an “ex rulebook” as a go-to reference for her friends who have recently split up.

“She’s also very good at advising her girl group on how to get more commitment from a man,” the

source added.

Swift, known to advice friends including Lorde, Gigi Hadid and Emma Stone, is currently counselling actress Jennifer Lawrence, who is dating Gwyneth Paltrow’s estranged husband Chris Martin.—PTI

GENERAL

Safarova silences Ivanovic to reach first slam final

PARIS, 5 June — Lucie Safarova became the first Czech woman in 34 years to reach the French Open final after she fought back to topple 2008 champion Ana Ivanovic 7-5, 7-5 on Thursday.

Just when it looked as if her title aspirations were floundering, the 13th seed shook off her jitters and unleashed her A Game to pummel Ivanovic into submission.

"It's a dream come true, I still cannot believe it. The happiness is unreal," said a jubilant Safarova, who will be aiming to become the first Czech to lift the Suzanne Lenglen trophy since Hana Mandlikova in 1981.

With his girlfriend Ivanovic looking unstoppable at 5-2 up in the first set, Bayern Munich midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger held up two clenched fists to his face before swinging out his right arm to deliver a knock out punch.

The message from the players' box on Philippe Chatrier Court was clear for all to see — it was just

too bad for Ivanovic that Safarova decided to steal the idea.

The left-handed forehand that had looked rather ordinary during the first seven games suddenly caught fire, helping Safarova to win 20 of the last 26 points in the first set.

Ivanovic's celebratory cries of "hajde", Serbian for 'come on', that had often reverberated around the arena during the first 30 minutes of the contest dried up as Safarova pocketed the first set when the seventh seed slapped a service return long.

However, for a player who was looking to reach her first grand slam final, keeping her nerves in check proved to be a task easier said than done.

After breaking in the third game of the second set, it seemed nothing could stop Safarova from setting up a final date with Serena Williams when she went up to serve for the match at 5-4.

The occasion, however, turned Safarova's legs to jelly as first she gifted a



Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic celebrates after defeating Ana Ivanovic of Serbia during their women's semi-final match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on 4 June, 2015.—REUTERS

break point with a double fault, and having survived that wobble, she then surrendered match point with another pair of misfired serves.

The dramatic nine-minute game featured a matchpoint, two double faults and four break points before Ivanovic finally struck to level at 5-5 when Safarova's netcord bounced wide into the tramlines.

But Safarova was determined not to let the gold-

en opportunity slip through her sweaty fingers on the hottest day of the championships and two games later, her bare upper back was caked in red clay as she marked her triumph with a celebratory roll.

"When I realized that I could be in the final, I got tense... I was overthinking and couldn't really concentrate," she said. "But when I lost the serve I shook it off and played aggressive again."

Reuters

Sick Serena battles on to set up Safarova final

PARIS, 5 June — Serena Williams did not smile, celebrate or even acknowledge the standing ovation she was receiving from the roaring crowd as she watched Timea Bacsinszky's backhand float out on match point at the French Open on Thursday.

Instead, the pained expression on the ailing American's face spoke volumes about what she must have been thinking — "Thank Jehovah it's over".

Using her racket like a walking stick Williams, who now stands one match away from winning a 20th grand slam title, gingerly shuffled

her ailing body back to her seat after completing a 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 semi-final win over the Swiss outsider.

It was a victory that an hour earlier, when she was a set and a break down, seemed nigh on impossible as her body seemed to be letting her down with the mercury tipping at 27 degrees Celsius on the hottest day of the championships.

But a woman who has built a career on overcoming every obstacle life can throw at her — be it a piece of glass that sliced her foot open or a childhood spent dodging bullets during practice sessions in Comp-

ton, California — was determined not to give up on her dreams of a third French Open title.

To do that, the American will need to recover quickly to overcome Czech firecracker Lucie Safarova in Saturday's final.

On Thursday, however, Williams — who always thanks Jehovah for her grand slam victories — was not thinking that far ahead.

"I tried everything. I thought if I lose I must fight. I have tried and tried, I don't know where I found the energy," the world number one spluttered during the obligatory on court in-

terview.

"Sorry I am sick," she added before a coughing fit abruptly ended the conversation.

Safarova, who had staged her own fightback from 5-2 down in the first set to beat Serbia's 2008 champion Ana Ivanovic 7-5, 7-5 in the other semi, has been left wondering which Williams will show up on Saturday.

The one who has clung on for dear life to survive four three-set battles at this year's championships or the one capable of crushing opponents without so much as a second glance.—Reuters

Gatlin wins third successive Rome Golden Gala 100m



Justin Gatlin from the US reacts after winning the men's 100 metres event during the Golden Gala IAAF Diamond League at the Olympic stadium in Rome, Italy on 4 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ROME, 5 June — American sprinter Justin Gatlin won this third successive Rome Golden Gala 100 metres when he clocked 9.75 seconds at the Olympic stadium on Thursday.

Gatlin, 33, has faced a barrage of criticism since clocking a lifetime best of 9.74 seconds at the opening Diamond League event in Doha from sceptics who point out he has served two doping bans.

On Thursday he shot out of the blocks to lead from start to finish and finish in an unofficial 9.74 seconds which was rounded up by

one hundredth of a second.

At a news conference on Wednesday to promote the first European Diamond League meeting of the season Gatlin, also the world leader in the 200, said it was too early to be considered the world championships favourite in Beijing in August ahead of defending champion and Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt.

"I'm just trying to stay healthy and strong," he said. "But having two world leads does put me in a position to say entering a race, 'Okay, I'm the man to go out there and go against.'—Reuters

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Several homes damaged as tornadoes hit Colorado

DENVER, 5 June — Tornadoes and hail-producing thunderstorms struck the greater Denver area on Thursday, damaging several homes in two counties in the northern part of Colorado, though no injuries were reported, emergency officials said.

A storm packing hail and heavy rain produced a tornado in Elbert County that damaged at least five houses and tore down farm fences near the town of Silma, southeast of Denver, the county's emergency management officials said.

Images of the damage posted by emergency crews showed roof shingles ripped off a home, a smashed window, and debris scattered next to what appeared to be a flipped camper.

"Please be careful for livestock on the roads due to broken fences," Elbert County Emergency Management said on its Twitter feed, adding no injuries were reported.

A tornado also struck around the town of Berthoud,

about 40 miles north of Denver, destroying at least three homes and damaging 12 more, prompting officials in Larimer County to warn of flash floods through the evening. Hundreds of power outages were also reported in the area.

The Northern Colorado Red Cross opened an evacuation center in Berthoud.

The National Weather Service issued a "flash flood emergency" for Boulder and Larimer Counties, two areas that were hit by severe floods in 2013, and officials warned residents to stay off roads.

"This is an extremely dangerous and life threatening situation," the National Weather Service said, advising residents not to travel in Boulder and Larimer Counties. "Excessive runoff from heavy rainfall will cause flooding of small creeks and streams."

Traffic lights failed in the city of Longmont, which activated an Emergency Operations Centre as a precaution.—Reuters

Vice President U Nyan Tun attends opening ceremony of 28th SEA Games

SINGAPORE, 5 June— The 28th SEA Games was opened on a grand scale in Singapore at the National Gymnasium in Singapore at 8 p.m. on Friday, with Vice President U Nyan Tun together with Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, leaders of ASEAN countries, ministers and senior officers in attendance.

Athletes from 11 countries marched into the stadium by hoisting State flags at the opening ceremony.

Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth of Singapore as well as Chairman of the 28th SEA Games organizing

committee, delivered an address while Singapore President Mr. Tony Tan Keng Yam kicked off the 28th SEA Games.

After athletes took the sports oaths, entertainments were presented to audiences.

The SEA Games will hold 402 events of 36 main sports. More than 300 athletes from Myanmar will take part in 31 sports events.

Singapore hosted South East Asian Peninsula Games in 1973 and the 17th SEA Games in 1993.—MNA

The opening ceremony of 28th Southeast Asian Games in progress in Singapore.

MNA



Five star performance gives hosts hope

WELLINGTON, 5 June — New Zealand came from behind to defeat Myanmar 5-1 and give the hosts hope of reaching the FIFA U-20 World Cup knockout stages. The excellent Noah Billingsley equalized Aung Thu's superb opener, before Monty Patterson pushed the Junior All Whites ahead minutes after the break. A late collapse from the Asian side saw Joel Stevens, Sam Brotherton and Clayton Lewis score to bring the Kiwi goal difference back to zero and finally give the home fans something to

cheer.

Despite the margin of their defeat, Myanmar dominated the opening stages and took the lead with a wonderfully-crafted goal. After winning the ball in their defensive third, red shirts flooded forwards, working their way towards the edge of the Junior All Whites' penalty area. Thu was fed inside the box and, taking an excellent touch to cut inside onto his right foot which left Brock Messenger on his backside, the Myanmar No9 curled a superb effort beyond Nikola Tzanev.

The Wellington Regional Stadium was

stunned, and it almost got worse for the home support minutes later as the goalscorer Thu, brimming with confidence, let fly from 30 yards, but his thunderous effort crashed off the underside of the bar and away.

Myanmar were made to pay for their profligacy. The home crowd had been made to wait for something to cheer, and almost three-and-a-half hours into the hosts' campaign, they had their first goal. Deklan Wynne was set free down the left, after a defence-splitting pass found him in the Myanmar penalty area. His cross left

Billingsley with a simple tap-in from six yards out.

Within 90 seconds of the restart, New Zealand were ahead and, after scoring the first, the youngest of the Junior All Whites set up the second. The ball was worked into the Myanmar box and a superb backheel nutmeg from Rufer found Clayton Lewis, who in turn set up Billingsley. His cross-cum-shot was turned home by Monty Patterson and the elation from the crowd was touched with a tinge of relief.

It was to get even better for the hosts, as Myanmar faded quickly in the second half once



Fans of Myanmar enjoy the atmosphere prior to the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group A match between Myanmar and New Zealand at Wellington Regional Stadium on 5 June, 2015 in Wellington, New Zealand.—FIFA

more, with echoes of their six-goal collapse against Ukraine on Tuesday.

With every goal crucial in the race to finish as the best third-placed side, Darren Bazeley threw on forward-thinking midfielder Joel Stevens for defender Messenger, and it proved an inspired switch. Billingsley found space down the New Zealand left, who cut back to Stevens, and the No7 sidefooted home with his first touch.

The Kiwis' new-found confidence bore fruit again moments later, with Sam Brotherton rising highest from a corner to head home

and give the hosts more than a glimmer of hope of reaching the knockout stages.

In the closing moments, Wynne found space once more on the New Zealand left, Latt failed to clear his tame cross and Lewis had the simple task of bringing the hosts' overall goal difference in Group A back to zero.

The home fans will have to wait and see if this victory was enough for them to progress, with the Round of 16 picture becoming clearer over the coming days.—FIFA



Nanda Kyaw (R) of Myanmar is challenged by Noah Billingsley of New Zealand during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group A match between Myanmar and new Zealand at Wellington Regional Stadium on 5 June, 2015 in Wellington, New Zealand.—FIFA

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 5 June, 2015

Group A	Myanmar	1-5	New Zealand
	Ukraine	3-0	USA
Group B	Austria	0-0	Argentina
	Panama	0-1	Ghana

Match Schedules for 6 June 2015 (all times local)

Group C	Senegal	-	Qatar	07:30
	Colombia	-	Portugal	07:30
Group D	Serbia	-	Mexico	10:30
	Mali	-	Uruguay	10:30