

Central and work committees meet for successful convening of Hluttaw sessions

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann on Friday

refuted reports that journalists have been banned from covering stories from inside parliament.

The speaker made the comment at the work coordination meeting of the central committee and

working committee for convening Hluttaw sessions in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said (See page 3)

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Gov't must examine proposed changes to ceasefire deal: senior MPC adviser

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 12 June — The government must consider amendments to the draft national ceasefire accord proposed by ethnic armed groups at the recent Law Khee Lar summit, U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre, said Friday.

An MPC team led by U Hla Maung Shwe met Nai Hong Sa, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and other members of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team representing ethnic armed groups for informal talks in Chiang Mai on Thursday.

In proposing the amendments to the draft accord approved by the peace negotiating teams from the government and ethnic armed groups in late March, the leaders at Law Khee Lar agreed that any signing of a draft deal must be inclusive of all ethnic groups.

“My understanding is that it is the time for the (government’s) Union Peace-Making Cen-



An MPC team holds discussions with ethnic peace negotiators at a restaurant in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on Thursday. — PHOTO CREDIT TO NYO OHN MYINT FACEBOOK

tral Committee and Union Peace-Making Work Committee to define and examine further amendments to the approved draft by the ethnic side,” U Hla Maung Shwe told The Global New Light of Myanmar shortly after his return from Thailand.

“As a working group,

we were there to take the amended peace draft sent back by the ethnic side to the government and report to Union Minister U Aung Min-led peace negotiating team on what the NCCT said,” U Hla Maung Shwe recounted.

On the proposed amendments to the draft

NCA, he expressed his view that seven out of 12 points would require further discussion between the two sides.

According to the sources, no date was set at the Chiang Mai meeting for further negotiations between the government side and a new high-level nationwide

ceasefire coordination team, appointed by the ethnic armed groups at the Law Khee Lar summit, to finalize the draft text for the ceasefire with the government.

U Hla Maung Shwe repeated that it is up to the UPWC to decide whether the meeting will take place.

GNLM

Donations fund cochlear implant surgery for children

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 12 June—Two young children with congenital hearing loss are

set to receive free cochlear implant surgery at Yangon’s Victoria Hospital



Well-wisher offers cash assistance for a patient with congenital hearing loss through Cochlear Implant Program.—Photo: Khaing Thanda Lwin

under a programme funded by community donations, Prof Soe Tin, the hospital’s chief executive advisor, said Friday.

The operations will be conducted Saturday thanks to contributions of local well-wishers—families of Tat Lann Co., and Shwe Pyi Nan Group of Companies—to the Victoria Health Support Foundation’s Cochlear Implant Programme.

The families donated US \$17,000 for the cochlear implants, which are small electronic devices that can provide a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing.

(See page 3)

Financial institutions meet to deal with dollar exchange rate surge

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Economic and political instability can have harmful effects on national stability, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane told a meeting with financial institutions on Friday, describing the financial crisis as a sensitive issue.

The meeting sought ways to deal with the current surge in the U.S.

dollar’s value against the Myanmar kyat.

This meeting was the second between the government and banks to discuss the matter, with the first taking place on 13 May.

Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, also Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, noted the flow of investments is steady, with a US \$1.8

billion investment expected to come in soon. He urged the Central Bank of Myanmar to manage the situation and facilitate a rapid inflow of foreign investments.

Dealers of rice, beans and pulses, edible oil, fisheries and gold reported on difficulties they faced in business transactions.

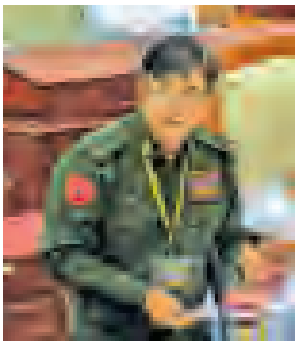
(See page 2)

MRTV channels, radio to broadcast live semifinal Myanmar-Vietnam semifinal football match

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast live the semifinal match between Myanmar and Vietnam teams in the football tournament of the 28th SEA Games as of 12 pm Myanmar standard time on 13 June.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on land disputes

Pyithu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June — Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt responded to questions on land disputes at the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Friday.

Representative U Khin



U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency.

MNA

Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency raised questions on land confiscated for a factory of the Ministry of Defence. He requested the ministry pay decent compensation to land owners, relocate posts on the land,



U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency.

MNA

and allow farmers to grow crops on vacant land.

The deputy minister said that a total of 3,390 acres of land were confiscated for construction of a factory for defence industry in Pauk Township and com-



U Zaw Tun of Moemauk Constituency.—MNA

pensation of K17.4 million was paid to land owners in 2011.

He also added that peasants are allowed to grow crops in places where security of the factory cannot be breached, while posts

will not be relocated, as they have been erected in the correct places.

Representative U Zaw Tun of Moemauk Constituency asked whether the ministry has plans to release 67 acres of land owned by 12 farmers in his constituency.

The deputy minister said the land was confiscated for an artillery regiment and families of the regiment are working on the land at present.

However, the land is

too close to military facilities and cannot be returned to former land owners, the deputy minister added.

Representative U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency raised a question about 40 acres of land confiscated by a battalion in his constituency. The deputy minister said the land will be released to the former owners.

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the bill for television and radio broadcasting sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw. —MNA

High-yield Palethwe paddy seeds planted in Nyaungshwe Tsp

NYAUNGSHWE, 12 June — High-yield Palethwe hybrid paddy is being grown on a 5-acre farm plot owned by U Win Shwe in Tilaw village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

The Palethwe paddy is being cultivated with the aim of producing seeds for local farmers at a fair price.

A pollination ceremony for Palethwe paddy plantation was held at the farm on 11 June.

“The paddy strain will produce 840 kilos of seeds per acre,” Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun

said. “One acre of quality paddy strain can distribute its seeds to 120 acres of farmlands. Thus, five acres of farmland in the village is purposed for 600 acres of farmlands in the region. We expect to distribute Palethwe paddy seeds to local farmers in the coming season.”

The pollination ceremony was attended by Shan State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sai Has Lu, Inn Ethnic Affairs Minister U Win Myint, MPs, departmental officials and local farmers.

Nay Myo Thurein



Union Minister U Soe Thane speaking at meeting on financial institutions.

MNA

Financial institutions meet to deal...

(from page 1)

Union Minister U Soe Thane urged the Central Bank of Myanmar to pump its reserved sum into assistance necessary for local banks and merchants to cope with the hike in exchange rates. He also urged foreign banks with offices here to provide financial assistance to local banks. —MNA

GMS Economic Corridors Forum eyes establishment of new special economic zones in Mekong

YANGON, 12 June 2015 — Ministers and senior officials attending the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Seventh Economic Corridors Forum Thursday agreed on measures to promote the development of economic corridors, facilitate cross-border transport and trade, and enhance co-operation and private sector participation.

The GMS includes the six countries sharing the Mekong River: Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

“GMS leaders strongly committed their countries to promoting trade, tourism, industrial development, and other economic activities along GMS economic corridors,” said Stephen Groff, Vice-President of the Asian Development

Bank (ADB).

“The development of new special economic zones, support for e-commerce, and other activities that will be undertaken following today's forum will have a transformative impact for businesses and communities in every GMS nation.”

In a joint statement, ministers and senior officials from the six GMS countries called for a Transport and Trade Facilitation Action Program to enhance the cross-border flow of goods and people, and for a coordinated approach to developing urban areas throughout the region.

They also endorsed the Framework on GMS Cross-border E-commerce Cooperation, which seeks to advance the development of cross-border e-commerce through

shared consumer markets.

The GMS representatives likewise emphasized the need to boost trade through further development of economic corridors, with a focus on developing specific sections. They noted the importance of involving local authorities and communities, as well as the private sector, in corridor development.

Also present at the forum were senior national and provincial government officials from the GMS countries, and representatives from the GMS Business Forum and development partner organizations.

The Seventh Economic Corridors Forum—co-hosted by Yunnan Province, the Ministry of Commerce of PRC, and ADB—took place during the GMS Economic Corridors Week in Kunming, the PRC. —GNLM

YCDC puts low-cost housing complex out to tender

YANGON, 12 June — Yangon City Development Committee on Friday invited registered local and foreign companies and joint-venture firms to submit tenders to build a low-cost housing complex.

The complex will be built on an 11-acre plot on Minyekyawswa Road in

Dagon Myothit East Township, according to YCDC.

The tender form is available at a cost of K50,000 per copy at the Engineering Department of YCDC.

YCDC said detailed information for the project is mentioned in the tender form and has urged those

interested to make submissions to the department in Yangon by 2 pm, 30 June, 2015.

Those who submit the tender form to the department need to credit K50 million to Yangon City Bank's account No. DY-9 as a guarantee for the tender submission. —GNLM



Joint Secretary-3 U Pyae Sone Oo and officials of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association seen at Yangon International Airport on 11 June before departure for Ho Chi Min City of Vietnam to attend Mekong Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Summit 2015.—MYEA



Central and work committees meet for successful...

(from page 1)
the meeting was convened to address the failures and weaknesses at Hluttaw

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Speaker U Khin Aung Myint at work coordination meeting of central committee and working committee for convening Hluttaw sessions.—MNA

sessions and security problems, which are important issues for the Hluttaw, the symbol of democracy.

He said the reports of a news ban were inaccurate, saying journalists are merely not allowed to cover news from the interpreter's booth.

He added that the Hluttaw has never prohibited interviewing representatives, union ministers or deputy ministers, with the ban on journalists

covering news from the interpreter's booth imposed because a proper location and procedures for interviews are already in place. In conclusion, the speaker urged all to cooperate in accordance with rules and regulations.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint of the Amyotha Hluttaw later thanked the officials who help in Hluttaw sessions.

Afterwards, members of the central committee and the work committee reported on progress of work.

MNA

Union Industry Minister meets German delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint held a talk with a delegation led by Process Engineer Mr Walter Florian of BOSCH Pharmatec GmbH Germany of Germany at the ministry, here, on Thursday.

They discussed supply of high-tech machinery by Germany's BOSCH Company to the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) for production of medicines.

Also present at the call were officials of the Ministry of Industry.

MNA

CCDAC manages anti-drug campaign for Yinmar project

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control implements the anti-drug special work plan (Yinmar) from 26 May to 26 June.

In the second week of the project, Region and State DACs erected signboards on anti-drug campaign in 41 townships, organized anti-narcotic talks in 35 townships for 65 times, held coordination meetings in 13 townships for 18 times, distributed seeds of seasonal crops in 8 townships, perennial saplings in five townships and opened training courses in six townships.

Livestock Breeding Group conducted training courses in seven townships, gave vaccinations in four places in two townships and provided medical treatment in four townships. The medical group admitted 43 new patients for treatment and performed medical check-up on more than 8,600

patients. The group counseled 10 patients to take ART drug and held educative talks in two townships.

The Rehabilitation group gave talks in two townships, disseminated knowledge about anti-drug campaign to five townships, held the ceremonies to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in three townships and organized article, essay, poem and poster contests on anti-drug campaign in 39 townships.

The Information group undertook mobile library activities in 45 townships, distributed pamphlets in 48 townships, showed wall magazines in 23 townships, photo shows in 21 townships and shared knowledge about anti-drug in five townships. The prohibited chemicals supervisory group made field trips to six townships for nine times and held meetings in eight townships.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese ambassador



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yang Houlan.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan, who is leaving Myanmar on completion of his tour of duty, at Zeyarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Also present were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Command-

er-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Wang Jinbo.

At the meeting, the senior general said that relations between the two countries have flourished without any major problems although the relations were troubled by problems

caused by some individuals and organizations in border areas and urged the ambassador to implement ways and means for border management peacefully in accordance with the law.

The ambassador said that relations between the two countries will remain steady despite changing international and local affairs, adding that China wishes for stability in northern Myanmar. The

tribution."

Donor Shein Win of Tat Lann Construction and Decoration Co., said, "I want to create a better life for children born deaf or with hearing losses."

Prof Soe Tin said, "Surgery at a young age can bring better results for children."

"Parents must provide careful trainings to their children after the operation," he said.

Chinese government contacted Phone Kyar Shin and urged him to stop military operations and solve the problems through political means, the ambassador said. The two neighbours were able to solve the problems in time, the ambassador added, before saying that China supports the peace process of Myanmar as armed conflicts are not beneficial either country.—Myawady

There are many low-income people in Myanmar with congenital deafness.

"The country's first cochlear implant operation was conducted about three or four years ago but the device was introduced to the world over 30 years ago," Prof Soe Tin said.

More than 50 patients have undergone the implant surgery at the hospital, he said.—GNLM

Donations fund cochlear implant...

(from page 1)

A medical team led by Malaysia's Prof Prepageran Narayanan will conduct the surgery on two boys under six years old from Yangon and Shan State. Prof Narayanan has carried out many cochlear implant operations for Myanmar patients.

Five hearing-impaired children have undergone

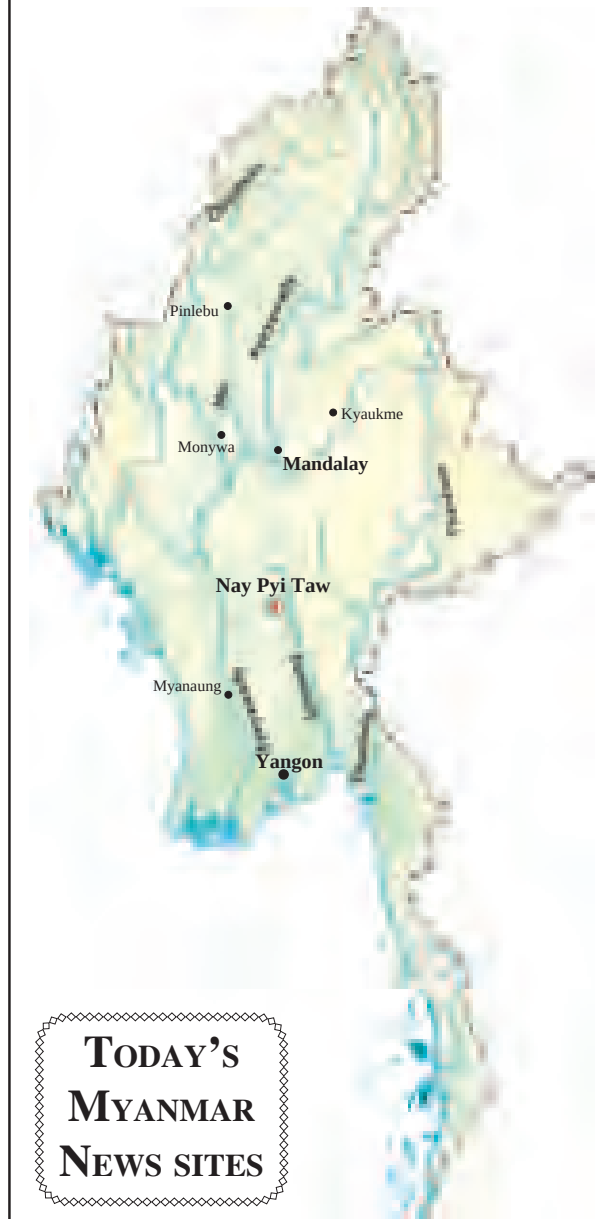
the surgery since the programme began in 2014.

The price for a pair of cochlear implant device is US \$8,500 and the cost for the whole operation amounts to around K1 million.

Donor U Kyaw Min of Shwe Pyi Nan Group of Companies said, "I decided to make a donation after seeing my colleague's con-



Engineers and skilled workers carry out substitution of 2500-KVA transformer in place of 1250-KVA transformer at sub-power station in Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 10 June, under supervision of the Pathein District Electrical Engineer.
DAVID (KYAUNG GON)



Pre-school students receive medical checkups



MCWA members and medical officer perform medical checkup on children from pre-primary school.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June — Zabuthiri Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Public Health Department jointly provided health care services at the pre-primary school in Shwekyabin Ward, Zabuthiri Township, on Thursday.

Chairman of the township association Daw Maw

Maw and Township Health Officer Dr Lei Myinzu gave educative talks on health knowledge.

Health staff performed medical checkups on 42 children and carried out preventive measures for dengue haemorrhagic fever at the school.

Min Min Latt
(Physics)

Kyaukme Tsp honours basketball team

KYAUKME, 12 June — A ceremony to honour Kyaukme's U-19 men's basketball team was held at Myittamon Hall in Kyaukme in the northern Shan State on 10 June.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chairman of the Township Development Supporting Committee U Tin Win urged more local youths to participate in sports events.

The Kyaukme Township U-19 team finished second in this year's Summer Invitational Basketball Tournament conducted by the Myanmar Basketball Federation.

Myint Aung (KaMa)



Betel plantations thriving in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June — Betel plantations are thriving in villages of Thityagon village-tract in Pobbathiri Township.

Local farmers had been planting Shwedah

and Yangon strains of betel but, after finding them unsuitable for the weather in the region, switched to the Monywa Muyin strain.

The farmers spent about K2 million grow-

ing 1,000 betel plants per farm.

Thanks to their efforts, the betel farms produce more than 48 kilos of betel leaves, fetching K 6,000 per 1.6 kilos.

Local farmers use natural fertilizers and cow manure for their farms, helping sellers of these products also earn an income.

Shwe Ye Yint



REGIONAL

Gov't plans to lift Fukushima evacuation orders by FY 2016



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (far L) addresses a meeting of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 12 June, 2015. In the meeting, the government decided on a plan to lift evacuation orders covering many of the areas affected by the Fukushima nuclear disaster by the end of fiscal 2016, despite strong public concerns over radiation contamination.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 12 June — The government decided on Friday on a plan to lift evacuation orders covering many of the areas affected by the Fukushima nuclear disaster by the end of fiscal 2016, despite strong public concerns over radiation contamination.

The revised guidelines also include enhanced support for local businesses damaged by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that triggered the nuclear crisis.

The government now plans to lift the evacuation orders for areas around Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in which overnight stays are basically restricted, allowing some 54,800 residents, or roughly 70 percent of the total evacuees, to return home.

The government will speed up work to realize the lifting of evacuation orders and "materialize the areas' future vision,"

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a relevant task force's meeting held at his office.

But whether the evacuees will actually return is uncertain amid strong concerns over radiation contamination and changes in living conditions.

The latest plan did not mention when the government would lift the remainder of the evacuation orders for areas with higher radiation levels.

The Cabinet decision also covered policies to provide intensive support for rebuilding businesses in the devastated areas for two years through fiscal 2016 ending in March 2017.

The support measures include setting up a public-private organization to provide consultation to some 8,000 businesses that have been forced to evacuate after the disaster and help them get back on their feet.

Kyodo News

Malaysia Airlines makes emergency landing in Melbourne

SYDNEY, 12 June — A Malaysia Airlines flight returned safely to Melbourne on Friday, having turned back within minutes of take-off after an engine fire alert went off, Air Services Australia said.

"There was an emergency declared, there was an 'engine fire' alert in the cabin. The plane proceeded to dump the fuel and returned to land and it landed safely at the aviation rescue sites," a spokeswoman at Airservices Australia told *Reuters* by phone.

Local media reported there were 300 people on board the Airbus A330 flight to Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia Airlines was involved in two air disasters in 2014 with MH370 disappearing over the southern Indian Ocean last March and MH17 being shot down over Ukraine a few months later.

The incident could further dent confidence in the "technically bankrupt" Malaysian carrier, whose decline began long before the tragic events of last year.

Reuters

South Korea seals off two MERS hospitals; worst may be over

SEOUL, 12 June — South Korea has sealed off two hospitals that treated people with a deadly respiratory disease, officials said on Friday, even as the outbreak that has been spreading through health facilities could have peaked.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome has infected 126 people in South Korea and killed 11 since it was first diagnosed just over three weeks ago in a businessman who had returned from a trip to the Middle East.

The outbreak is the largest outside Saudi Arabia, where the disease was first identified in humans in 2012, and has stirred fears in Asia of a repeat of a 2002-03 scare when Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) killed about 800 people worldwide.

The 68-year-old man who brought the virus back from the Middle East visited several health centres for treatment of a nagging cough and fever before he was diagnosed, leaving a trail of infection in his wake.

The danger of the virus in hospitals had led to two being sealed off with at least 133 people — patients and staff — inside. They would be sealed off for at least the next 11 days, given the incubation period of the virus, officials said.

"No patients can get out of their rooms," said a city government official in the capital, Seoul, who declined to be identified.

"Nurses in protective gear are giving them food. No one can get in from outside."

All but one of South Korea's cases have been confirmed as originating with the



Tourists wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) look around Myeongdong shopping district in central Seoul, South Korea, on 11 June, 2015.—REUTERS

businessman who travelled to the Middle East and happening in health-care centres, and the last one is likely to be confirmed as such too, the health ministry said.

MERS is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that caused SARS. It is more deadly than SARS but does not spread as easily, at least for now. There is no cure or vaccine.

World Health Organization (WHO) experts are in South Korea working with the government and a delegation of Saudi Arabian health officials is meeting authorities on Friday.

The health ministry reported four new cases on Friday, the lowest daily increase in 11 days, raising hope the worst might be over.

The number of people in quarantine, either at home or in medical facilities, also declined for the first time, by 125 to 3,680, the ministry said.

The incubation period for many people exposed to infected patients is ending, which should

mean a decline in new cases, said infectious disease expert Jacob Lee.

"There may be a third wave from hospitals that MERS patients had stayed at but it won't spread as much as it has," Lee told *Reuters*.

The central bank cut interest rates on Thursday in the hope of softening the blow to an economy already beset by slack demand and plunging visitor arrivals.

Alarm has spread throughout the region even though only one case has been reported outside South Korea in this outbreak, that of a South Korean man who travelled to China via Hong Kong after defying a suggestion from health authorities that he stay in voluntary quarantine at home.

South Korea's new cases bring the total number of MERS cases globally to 1,275, based on WHO data, with at least 450 related deaths.

Reuters

Cambodia, Thailand join hands to promote "Two Kingdoms, One Destination" tourism

PHNOM PENH, 12 June — Cambodia and Thailand have joined hands to boost foreign and inter-ASEAN tourism under the "Two Kingdoms, One Destination" pact, local media reported on Friday.

Tith Chantha, secretary of state at Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism, said Cambodia and Thailand have already created a single-visa option for tourists looking to explore both countries in one trip.

"Now, we're joining with Thailand to promote 'Two Kingdoms, One Destination.' It will make it much easier for tourists who don't want to visit only one country during their trip," he was quoted by the *Phnom Penh Post*

newspaper as saying. "Thailand has a lot of airlines operating long-haul to Europe or the United States, we don't have many of those long flights, so we will benefit from this once the campaign kicks in."

Thailand's Minister of Tourism and Sports, Kobkran Wattanakvrangkul, told the *Bangkok Post* that the campaign would run from 2015 to 2017.

"The collaboration looks forward to exchanging foreign travellers and facilitating travel across both countries. The plan also promotes intra-ASEAN tourism," Kobkarn was quoted as saying.

Ho Vandy, co-chair of the Government-Private Sector

Working Group on Cambodian Tourism, welcomed the initiative. He said Cambodia had been co-operating with Thailand's tourism association since 2008.

"Now that this is being done on a governmental level, it will be a big boost because it will share benefits with both countries," said he, adding "We have observed that we got more than 30 percent of (Cambodia's) tourists from Thailand since the promotion began."

According to the Ministry of Tourism, Cambodia received some 1.3 million foreign tourists in the first quarter, a 3.1-percent increase from the 1.26 million tourists during the same period last year.—Xinhua



Australian PM's attack on wind turbines provokes criticism



Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott

CANBERRA, 12 June — Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott launched another attack on "ugly," "noisy" wind turbines on Friday, prompting Labour's environment spokesman saying the matter has become "more than a joke."

"Tony Abbott is actively campaigning against an industry that employs thousands of Australians, attracts billions in investment and reduces Australia's carbon pollution," Labour's environment spokesman Mark Butler told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Friday. "No other world leader would show such recklessness towards one of their own industries."

After describing wind turbines as "visually awful" on Thursday, Abbott said on Friday his government's decision to reduce the Renewable Energy Target had prevented "an explosion of these things right around our country."

When asked if he had ever visited a turbine, Abbott recounted a cycling excursion on Western Australia's Rottne Island, which built a turbine in 2004 with a subsidy from the Howard government, of which Abbott was a minister.

"Up close, they're ugly, they're noisy and they

may have all sorts of other impacts which I will leave to the scientists to study, and that's why I think it's right and proper that state governments should have increased the distance from habitations that these installations now need to keep," Abbott told reporters in Canberra.

"Frankly, it's right and proper that we have reduced the Renewable Energy Target because, as things stood, there was going to be an explosion of these things right around our country."

"There will still be some growth, but it will be much less than it would otherwise have been thanks to measures that this government has taken."

Treasurer Joe Hockey last year described wind turbines as "utterly offensive."

The Renewable Energy Target was reduced in May to 33,000 gigawatt hours after a decline in electricity use in Australia meant the original target based on 20 percent of 2020 levels had increased to 26 percent.

Rottne Island's sole turbine produces 40 percent of the island's electricity needs, saving 385,000 US dollars in fuel costs and the emission of 1,100 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year.

Xinhua



Environment ministry opposes new coal plant over CO2 emissions

TOKYO, 12 June — Japan's Environment Ministry said on Friday it cannot approve the planned construction of a coal-fired thermal power plant in western Japan, as it could hamper the country's efforts to cut carbon dioxide emissions to fight climate change.

Following the March 2011 nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi complex that eventually resulted in shutting down all of Japan's nuclear reactors, utilities and oil companies are planning to build new coal power plants across Japan, but have shown less inclination to take measures against greenhouse gas emissions.

Based on the results of the environment assessment, the ministry submitted to the industry ministry, which oversees the power

sector, a nonbinding written statement saying it "cannot approve the construction at this moment" of the large-scale, two-unit coal power plant. The plant construction is being planned jointly by Electricity Power Development Co, known as J-Power, Osaka Gas Co. and Ube Industries Ltd in Yamaguchi Prefecture. "If the construction of the coal power plant proceeds as planned, it will jeopardize achieving the reduction goal (of greenhouse gas emissions)," Environment Minister Yoshio Mochizuki told reporters.

The three companies are planning to begin building the 600,000-kilowatt units in 2017 and start commercial operation of the No 1 unit in 2023.

The government has set the goal of slashing green-

house gas emissions by 26 percent by 2030 from 2013 levels prior to a UN climate change conference slated to start on 30 November in Paris for deciding on a post-2020 regime for greenhouse gas emission reduction.

But Japan plans to slightly increase the country's dependence on coal down the road, due partly to uncertainties over the use of nuclear power following the 2011 Fukushima melt-downs. The Environment Ministry said that if all of the current plans to newly construct coal power plants in the country were approved, the combined installed capacity would increase to 53 million kw in fiscal 2030, up 13 million kw from fiscal 2013. If those coal power plants operate at 80 percent of capacity, output could ex-

ceed some 281 billion kilowatt-hours stipulated in the government's long-term energy mix as electricity supply from coal in fiscal 2030.

Industry minister Yoiichi Miyazawa, who is authorized to approve construction of coal power plants, told reporters he is aware of the Environment Ministry's concern but believes the ministry "does not reject the implementation of the project."

He added that coal features as one of the key energy sources in the government's energy policy, and urged the nation's power sector to accelerate efforts to set up a framework on reducing CO2 emissions.

J-Power declined to comment on the Environment Ministry's move.

Kyodo News

China detains nine for spreading rumours about the military

BEIJING, 12 June — Chinese authorities have detained nine people for spreading rumours on the Internet that several military officers were involved in protests and for damaging the military's image, the military's official newspaper said on Friday.

The nine "fabricated and spread the rumours" on the Internet, the *People's Liberation Army Daily* said.

They used Chinese

microblogs and mobile messaging apps to "spread military-related rumours, slander military cadres and falsely accuse troops of being involved in 'mass incidents'," the newspaper added. "Mass incidents" are a euphemism for protests.

Some of them also "demonised the military's image", it said. The newspaper did identify the nine but gave the family names of three of them as Huang, Yuan and

Song. The people confessed to spreading rumours and had been sentenced to "administrative detention", it said, a term which is normally up to 15 days behind bars. They also had to undergo "education". It provided no further details. Last month, the defence ministry said authorities had detained 10 people for spreading rumours online damaging to the military's image, including the presence of gangs

and infighting.

The military has been one of the focuses of President Xi Jinping's sweeping crackdown on deep-seated corruption, with several senior officers caught up.

The punishment for the rumour-spreading shows the Communist Party's growing determination to control information about alleged official misbehaviour, to avert triggering public dissatisfaction.—Reuters



Photo taken on 12 June, 2015 shows the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-South Asia Exposition in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province. The 3rd China-South Asia Exposition opened here on Friday.
XINHUA

WORLD

After IMF departure, EU puts ball back in Greece's court

ATHENS/PARIS, 12 June — European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said on Friday that stalled debt talks between Athens and its creditors would restart but put the ball firmly in the Greek government's court to come up with an acceptable deal.

Juncker spoke after the International Monetary Fund quit negotiations in Brussels on Thursday, and a European Union leader bluntly told Athens to stop "gambling" with its future.

Time is fast running out for Greece to strike a cash-for-reforms deal with its creditors and stave off a default at the end of June that could see it tumbling out of the euro zone.

But Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is showing no signs of alarm. His first engagement after rushing home from Brussels on Thursday was an open air pop concert celebrating the revival of the ERT state TV station, closed exactly two

years ago under cuts ordered by the country's EU and IMF lenders.

Both sides tried to keep hope alive on Friday. A senior minister and close adviser to Tsipras said he hoped for a deal on June 18, at a meeting of euro zone finance ministers.

Juncker also stressed the process was not yet over. "Negotiations will start again, first at a technical level, then a political one," he told French radio. "A deal is necessary in the coming days," adding: "The ball is in the Greek court."

Greece needs a deal to unlock aid or loosen curbs on how much it can borrow in short term debt before a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) repayment to the IMF falls due by the end of this month.

Renewed uncertainty sent Greece's top share index .ATX down 4 percent on Friday morning. The German tabloid *Bild* reported that the German



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras shows his watch while leaving the European Council headquarters on the first day of an EU-CELAC Latin America summit in Brussels, Belgium on 11 June, 2015.—REUTERS

government was holding "concrete consultations", including about introducing capital controls restricting bank withdrawals in Greece and transfers abroad should the country go bust.

Tsipras faces major problems in meeting the promises he made before his election in January.

He has vowed to end the waves of austerity imposed by previous governments at the lenders' behest. But he also needs to keep the country in the euro zone: a poll this week showed an overwhelming 77.4 percent favoured keeping the common currency.

But the creditors are demanding yet more austerity and refusing to release any aid until Athens backs down, raising the risk of default and a euro zone exit. For all the warnings of dire consequences, Tsipras put on a show of calm confidence at the evening concert outside the ERT headquarters in an Athens suburb.

Still in the blue suit he wore at the Brussels talks, he was mobbed by reporters as he arrived at the party. "It's a celebration of democracy. It is not the government that reopened ERT but the struggles of the Greek people. Today we should all be happy and look to the future with opti-

mism," he said.

Major sticking points in the talks remain. Athens has balked at measures such as curbing pension benefits and raising value-added tax, and pressed lenders for more help to attempt to reduce the debt burden. Its own delegation also flew home from Brussels on Thursday.

For a deal to work, EU officials said Tsipras's government needed to come up with new savings and tax measures to replace those that Athens finds unacceptable. People familiar with the talks said the two sides have come closer to agreeing a primary surplus target but cannot agree on how to achieve it.

Juncker said he had given Tsipras a set of propositions in discussions on Thursday evening, but it was not immediately clear how Greece would respond, or whether it would send counter proposals to take the talks forward.

"No matter what we

do, if we don't start addressing the debt issue, there is no chance that the Greek economy kickstarts," said Alekos Flabouraris, a state minister. "And if the Greek economy doesn't kickstart, we cannot deal with unemployment, shops will close down."

Anger against the grinding austerity measures imposed on Greece has simmered in the capital Athens. A group of about 50 workers gathered outside the deputy labour minister's office on Friday, demanding jobs.

That followed a larger protest by the Communist-affiliated trade union PAME on Thursday night, thousands of whom gathered to protest in a central square.

Asked about the upcoming IMF payment, Deputy Finance Minister Dimitris Mardas told SKAI radio: "It is our job to be paying our obligations at the time when they are due."—Reuters

Russia's lower house passes bill banning drift-net fishing

MOSCOW, 12 June — Russia's lower house State Duma on Wednesday passed a bill banning drift-net fishing of salmon in Russian waters starting in January, a move likely to impact Japanese fishermen who operate in such areas in line with bilateral arrangements.

The legislation on the ban in Russia's so-called exclusive economic zones where Russian fishing boats also operate will be deliberated shortly by the Federal Council. The measure, aimed at conserving natural resources, will take effect after the upper house's approval and is subject to

President Vladimir Putin's signing.

If the envisaged ban is enforced unilaterally by Moscow, it could have ramifications on relations with Japan, which holds annual consultations with Russia to work out terms for Japanese fishing boats to undertake drift netting.

The Japanese government has expressed concerns through various channels about the potential impact the proposed ban would have under the legislation, which was prepared by Senator Valentina Matviyenko, a Putin ally, and other influential lawmakers.

Last year, a total of 38 Japanese fishing boats operated in Russia's EEZ off the coast of Kamchatka in Russia's Far East and elsewhere in exchange for fishery cooperation payments. Russia has jurisdiction over natural resources within its EEZ, which extends beyond its territorial waters.

Japanese fishermen mostly from the eastern part of the northernmost main island of Hokkaido have been drift netting salmon and trout for many years.

While Russian lawmakers have proposed prohibiting drift nets to protect marine resources, Japanese

officials have argued that there is no scientific evidence to support such a ban, saying the waters hold an ample supply of salmon and trout.

On Wednesday, Mayor Shunsuke Hasegawa of the eastern Hokkaido city of Nemuro called on fisheries minister Yoshimasa Hayashi at the ministry in Tokyo to enlist the national government's support in pushing against the potential ban.

A total ban would result in several million dollars in losses for the eastern Hokkaido economy, according to one estimate.

Kyodo News

Spain's King strips title of duchess from his sister

MADRID, 12 June — Spain's King Felipe VI has stripped the title of duchess from his sister, the palace said, heaping pressure on Cristina de Borbon to give up her succession rights as she prepares to stand trial on tax fraud charges.

The bold move by the 47-year-old king, crowned nearly a year ago after the abdication of his father Juan Carlos, is part of a bid to revive the image of a monarchy tarnished by scandals. Cristina is due to stand trial as soon as this year and will be the first Spanish royal to face prosecution. Graft investigations in Spain have exposed high-level corruption throughout society, damag-

ing Spaniards' faith in their institutions.

The title of Duchess of Palma de Mallorca was conferred on Cristina by her father on her marriage in 1997 to former Olympic handball player Inaki Urdangarin, who has been charged with fraud and embezzling public funds following a long-running investigation into his Noos Foundation charity.

Late last year, the couple as well as 15 others were ordered to stand trial following the probe. No date has yet been set, although the case is expected to come to court in the second half of this year.

Both have denied any wrong-doing.—Reuters

Merkel stresses Germany wants good relations with Russia

BERLIN, 12 June — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday that Berlin was keen to have good relations with Moscow and was striving for a political solution to the conflict in Ukraine.

"We want to have good relations with Russia, but we can't accept breaches of international law and we will only find a political



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

solution. There won't be a military solution to this conflict," Merkel told a conference of family business leaders.

Reuters



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

BELGRADE, 12 June — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Thursday that the situation in the Western Balkans was getting complicated and the coming months would be difficult to Serbia.

Vucic: Serbia faces difficult decisions

Vucic said that talks between strongest political parties in Macedonia about ways to overcome the current crisis held on the day before had failed and European Commissioner Johannes Hahn, with whom he had met later on the same day, had canceled his visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina (as there was no agreement on the implementation of reforms at all levels of government).

Great antagonism is showing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia plans to celebrate victory in of

the 1995 Operation Storm (which resulted in a persecution of at least 230,000 Serbs) on 5 August, and Serbia will be "weeping and crying" that day, the Serbian prime minister told journalists in the Serbian parliament.

The situation in the Western Balkans, he said, is further complicated by the great internal problems and turmoil in Kosovo-Metohija and by local elections in Albania.

Vucic said that Serbia was facing difficult talks

with Pristina in Brussels on 23 June, and not the least easier talks with a delegation of the International Monetary Fund on 26 June, a visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the marking of 20 years since the crimes in Srebrenica on 11 July.

Vucic stressed that Serbia would not be falling for any provocations from the region and that it would do everything possible to maintain stability, calling on the citizens to maintain unity in the country.—Tanjug

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 13 June, 2015

Instability and poverty have hand in migration problem

By Kyaw Thura

Pressure from a certain global superpower on Myanmar to treat Bengalis as citizens has been a cause of anxiety for the country in recent weeks. The fear probably stems from the repercussions of communal violence which broke out in some parts of the country two or three years ago.

Earlier in June, United State Assistant Secretary of State Anne Richard called on our government to accept Bengalis as citizens so as to solve the root cause of the migrant crisis in Southeast Asia. Her words resembled those of U.S. President Barack Obama, who noted Bengalis have lived in Myanmar for generations and that they are as much citizens of Myanmar as anyone else.

Their comments prompted protests of Myanmar people from all walks of life, including monks, to take to street, carrying banners and wearing T-shirts emblazoned with slogans such as, “Boat people are not from Myanmar,” and “Myanmar should not take the blame for the problem of boat people.”

While influential political parties have kept silent on the issue, the government took a bold step to rebut the unjustified accusations of the West. The truth will always out. The boat people themselves have confessed that they belong to

Bangladesh, whose authorities are as a result making arrangements to bring their citizens home in lots.

No country will ever turn a blind eye to the plight of its citizens languishing at sea or abroad. Naturally people from failed states tend to migrate to where the grass looks greener, but often at the risk of discrimination.

All things considered, migration problems go hand in hand with political instability, poverty, and racial discrimination.

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Let him go the way he is destined to

Aye Pe (Padaung)

ON one cool, fresh morning in the cold season, my father, sipping coffee at the coffee table, abruptly asked me “Son, what will you do for your living when you grow up?”

At that time I was only a fifth standard student. I was vexed a little by this unexpected query for which I was not prepared at all. I scratched my head.

“Father, I want to be a teacher and writer both at the same time.”

In no time I saw a restless, anxious expression in his countenance. It is natural that every parent has expected to hear from the kid such encouraging words as “I want to be a physician or a great engineer”. But I had no desire to betray myself. I hate to hear hollow words, I must be honest with my father and true to my conscience. More importantly I must be not in the state of telling lies to my guardian spirit. So without a long thought I swiftly responded with what I have had on my mind.

“No damn good!”

“Why, father?”

“Don’t you have ear to hear that a teacher or a writer always cuts a sorry figure in our society?”

I bent my eyes to the floor. To exchange words with parent or teacher is against Myanmar traditional culture. I knew about it. But this time I gathered myself together and ventured to explain about my intention for life.

“It’s my lifelong dream, father. It’s part of

me. My interest is in teaching and writing. I wish I were a Dr. Htin Aung, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt or Daw Khin Myo Chit. They are my idols. They are bilingual writers English and Myanmar. Besides these writers, there are world famous authors like Charles Dicken, Sir Rider Haggard, Pear S. Buck, Leo Tolstoy, etc, who can be counted on one’s fingers and whom I have a great respect for. It is because I am fascinated with their works.”

“Don’t give me your lame excuses. Otherwise you have to be prepared to die of starvation. Mind my word! Have you ever heard that either a teacher or a writers is fully fed. Him! Him! Don’t be so stupid. I don’t want to hear any more. Later don’t say, “Sorry, father!”

A dialogue between father and son ended in fiasco. Some years elapsed. I graduated from the Yangon University. With a newspaper folded under his arm-pit, father gestured for me to come to him and said, “Public Service Commission announced that graduates are invited for the post of the Assistant Township Administrator! Go to Yangon, apply for the job. Finish all that’s needs to be done in a day”.

What could I do? Nothing but obeys him. I had to have verbal and written examinations for the interview. For the written examination, I went to the Convocation Hall of Yangon University. I answered all questions in English. I got through. Next I had to take a verbal examination at

a high building on the Strand Road. When I went into the examination hall, I saw three interviewers sitting at a long table.

“I’ll tell you the names of rivers. They are really in Myanmar. Tell me in which part of the country the river, I have named, is flowing.”

He told me the name of a river I had never heard before. I was astonished by the unknown river which never existed in Myanmar. My intuition warned me that they would deliberately fail me. But I had to answer the question whether it was fair or unfair. Most of the rivers flow in the north of the country. I had to do a guess-work.

“It is flowing in the north.”

I bluffed.

The gentleman smiled a big smile and asked another question of the same type and my answer was as identical as the first one.

“You are bluffing. It is not in our country.”

The man with brazen face refused openly to accept my answer. I was encouraged by this unfair treatment to rebuff the gentleman for his ungentleman question.

“Uncle said I’ll ask the names of rivers that are really in Myanmar. Now you said this, then you did that. O God save me!”

I hurled a few wailing words at the man. Anyhow, they deliberately failed me to my satisfaction but not to my father’s. I was not hurt. I was indifferent.

Back home when I happened to discuss about the famous authors, father called me a dreamer as a

joke. I felt nothing offended.

Without the knowledge of my father I sent my application in secret for post of teacher to the hierarchy. As the summer months quickly slipped by, my moves were uncertain but I never gave way to the hope that everything must come if I would only work and wait. God help those who help themselves. One day, an appointment order knocked at the door. It was a part of dream come true. Father said nothing but smiled broadly meaning that he agreed. Half the battle was won.

However, my lifelong childhood dream to be come and established writer was still away. What should I do? I should go on writing and writing intensively and extensively. No short-cut to learning. I have to keep on writing till my head decays and my hair rots.

I am convinced that my father is rich in understanding heart. Abundant in met-

take pride in mending even and old kettle better than any other tinker can.

Rooted in agreement with the status quo, my old father persisted in acclimatizing modern pattern of life to his old outdated worn-out way of life, instead of acclimatizing his way of life to modern way of life. He disfavoured changes in the way of living. He refused to believe in the value of work especially of work by hand-manual labour. But I have to abhor what he abhorred because he is my father.

From my practical experience I suggest that you shouldn’t manipulate your child and bend him to your will for since birth he has been endowed by nature with capacity. If you try to squeeze what you want into the small head of your son, it couldn’t accept all. Consequently, the skull would crack, so to speak. It would be a great mistake to cast your child in your desired mould. Instead you should let him go the way he is destined to take.

The rains have just come, and the loans are in hand, so...

All we have to do is start cultivating fields!



Speaker

LOCAL NEWS

MANDALAY, 12 June—Mandalay City Development Committee laid down plans for growing saplings in the raining season for the greening of the city.

On 11 June, MCDC organized a tree-growing ceremony from 62nd Street to the Yangon-Mandalay Highway junction in Pyigyidagun Township. Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun, officials of the committee and workers participated in the tree-growing ceremony. Participants planted more than 1,200 saplings along both sides of the road.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

1,200 saplings planted in monsoon tree-growing ceremony



Chinese Wushu master trains Myanmar students



MANDALAY, 12 June—Chinese Wushu master Mr Tu Jingli is conducting a training course for players in Mandalay until 5 July.

The course has been arranged as part of a sister city exchange between Mandalay and Kunming in China's Yunnan Province. The master is coaching 33 trainees at the Institute of Sports and Physical Education, as well as 20 selected players of Mandalay Region Wushu team and 30 youth players at the Bahtoo Gymnasium.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Hinthada District's deputy commissioner U San Htay and Chairperson Daw Maw Maw Than of Hinthada District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and family present soya milk to children at pre-primary school of MCWA in Hinthada on 11 June.—WIN BO (MYANAUNG)

Local youths attend talks on maternal, child healthcare

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June — Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department and Nay Pyi Taw Central Health Education Branch jointly conducted health talks in Natthaye village, Pinyin Township, on Thursday.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw

Public Health Department Daw Hla Hla Kyi stressed the need for local people to consult community health workers and receive medical treatment at hospitals.

A total of 60 youths from villages were divided into five groups for the discussions.

The youths together with officials of the department and members of social organizations discussed health care services for mothers and children, prevention of dysentery and dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Maung Kyaik Latt



Ayeyawady Region Electrical Engineer U Aung Than inspects 2x1250KVA sub-power station, 33 KV and 11KV power lines in Kyaunggon Township on 11 June.—DAVID (KYAUNGON)



As a gesture of the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China, Monwun Bamar cultural troupe from Tamoeyne region, northern Shan State, performs Kachin, Shan and Bamar traditional dances in Kunming, Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China.—THAN OO (LAYMYETHNA)

Pinlebu TV begins digital broadcasting

PINLEBU, 12 June—Local people in Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region can watch digital TV programming following the establishment of a DVB-T2 retransmission stations in the area.

Myanma Radio and Television is overseeing the transition from ana-

logue to digital TV broadcasting. It began digital broadcasting through the DVB-T2 system in 2013 in the first phase of the programme. MRTV has started the second phase at 22 re-transmission stations across the nation through the new digital system.

In fiscal 2014-15, MRTV will begin digital broadcasting through 69 re-transmission stations for the first phase.

Installation of the DVB-T2 transmitter and antenna at Pinlebu TV re-transmission was completed on 28 May.

Shwe Lin Pyae Sone

UN envoy to meet Yemen's warring sides separately at peace talks

GENEVA, 12 June — A United Nations special envoy will hold separate "proximity" talks with Yemen's two main warring parties in Geneva on Sunday, in the hope of bringing them to the same table eventually, a UN spokesman said on Friday.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed has convened the talks, expected to last two or three days, to try to end more than two months of war between Iranian-backed Houthis and forces loyal to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who has fled to Saudi Arabia.

"The talks will start as proximity talks, which means the envoy will be shuttling between the two groups in the hope that he can bring them together during these consultations," spokesman Ahmad Fawzi told a news briefing in Ge-

neva. A Saudi-led coalition of Sunni Muslim states has been bombing the Houthis, fearing the Shi'ite movement will act as a proxy for Saudi Arabia's arch-rival in the region, Shi'ite Iran.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will attend the opening day of the talks, which Fawzi said were the start of a process.

"They are the first consultations to involve the different sides of the Yemeni conflict since hostilities resumed, and therefore mark an important step as the parties, we hope, embark on a road toward a settlement."

He added: "The Special Envoy hopes, and the Secretary-General hopes, that the Geneva consultation on Yemen will create a new dynamic that will build confidence between the Yemeni actors and yield concrete



United Nations envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed steps out of a plane upon arrival at the international airport of Sanaa, Yemen on 29 May, 2015.—REUTERS

benefits for the population, especially reduced violence and increased access to humanitarian aid and basic services." More than 3,000 people have been affected by an outbreak of dengue fever in Yemen since late March, with three deaths, the World

Health Organization said. "However, there are unconfirmed reports we are verifying that suggest cases and deaths, especially in Aden, could be much higher," WHO spokesman Tarik Jarasevic told the briefing.

Reuters

At least six killed as Saudi-led air strikes hit ancient Sanaa

SANAA, 12 June—Saudi-led coalition air strikes on Sanaa's Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, left at least six dead and several others injured, Yemen's state news agency Saba said on Friday.

The strikes, which started in the early hours

of the morning, destroyed five houses and damaged several other buildings, the Houthi rebel-controlled agency said.

The Old City has been inhabited for nearly 3,000 years and has a high density of unique ochre and white, mud-brick, tower

houses, labyrinthine souqs, mosques and hammams or bathhouses. For more than 11 weeks, an Arab military grouping led by Saudi Arabia has been bombing the Houthis, now the dominant group in Yemen, in a bid to restore the exiled president to power and support local

fighters in battlefields nationwide.

UN-sponsored talks are due to be held in Geneva on Sunday to try to find a solution to the crisis which has left 80 percent of the population needing some form of humanitarian aid.—Reuters

Pakistan orders aid agency Save the Children to leave

ISLAMABAD, 12 June — Pakistani authorities have given Save the Children 15 days to leave the country, officials said on Friday, accusing the aid agency of spying.

Police locked the gate of the charity's office in the capital Islamabad late on Thursday and put up a notice saying the building was sealed.

"We strongly object to this action and are raising our serious concerns at the

highest levels," Save the Children said in a statement.

"All our work is designed and delivered in close collaboration with the government ministries across the country and aims to strengthen public service delivery systems in health, nutrition, education and child welfare."

The charity, which has been in Pakistan for over 35 years, has had run-ins with the government since 2011,

when it was linked to Shakil Afridi, a Pakistani doctor recruited by the CIA to help in the hunt that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad.

Save the Children's foreign staff members were expelled from Pakistan soon after the accusations surfaced, but more than 1,000 local staff have continued to operate. The charity denies any links with the Pakistani doctor or the CIA.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the aid agency was being shut down because it was involved in "anti-Pakistani projects."

"We have been monitoring their calls and watching their offices and their activities are very suspicious," a senior police official said in Islamabad.

An official at the charity said several staff members had been denied visas since

2012, and aid supplies had been blocked by Pakistani authorities.

"These restrictions have blocked aid to millions of children and their families," the official said. "Hopefully better sense will prevail."

Aid workers say Pakistan has toughened its policies towards both international and local groups, accusing them of using their work as a cover for espionage.

Of particular concern is the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act 2015, a bill that, if approved, would make it easier for officials to prevent groups that receive foreign funds from operating in Pakistan.

According to CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organizations, the Pakistan government deregistered 3,000 local aid groups in December last year.—Reuters

Thousands flee into Turkey from Syria as Kurds fight Islamic state

AKCAKALE, (Turkey) / ISTANBUL, 12 June — Thousands of people fled from Syria into Turkey on Wednesday as moderate rebels and Kurdish forces fought Islamic State insurgents holding the Syrian border town of Tel Abyad.

A Reuters photographer at the scene said the refugees had entered Turkey through a makeshift border crossing overseen by Turkish gendarmerie officers, and that many of them were women and children.

A Turkish official said 2,000 refugees were being registered on Wednesday after more than 6,800 were admitted in the area last week. He said they were fleeing advances by Kurdish YPG forces as well as aerial

bombardment by the United States and Arab allies trying to help the Kurds push back Islamic State. The northeastern corner of Syria is important to the radical Islamist group because it links areas under Islamic State control in Syria and Iraq.

The group last week launched an offensive on the provincial capital, the city of Hasaka, which is divided into zones run separately by the government of President Bashar al-Assad and a Kurdish administration. But Syria's Kurds have also sought to take advantage of Syria's complex war to expand their control over a region, stretching from Kobani to Qamishli, that they see as part of a future Kurdish state.—Reuters

Israel closes probe into killing of four boys on Gaza beach

JERUSALEM, 12 June — Israel's killing of four Palestinian boys in an air strike on a Gaza beach during the 2014 war was a case of mistaken identity that does not warrant criminal charges, the military says.

Witnessed by several foreign reporters, the 16 July attack fuelled censure abroad of Israel's assault on the Hamas-run enclave. The Israelis have been conducting internal investigations of possible military misconduct while trying to fend off war-crimes allegations by various UN bodies.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner, an Israeli military spokesman, said the air force fired on the four boys after failing to identify them as children and believing they were gunmen running in an area "utilized exclusively by militants".

Witnesses said the boys were playing football at the time.

"After reviewing the investigation's findings, the Military Advocate General found that the attack

process in question accorded with Israeli domestic law and international law requirements," Lerner said on Facebook. He called the deaths "tragic".

Launched after a surge of cross-border rocket fire by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, Israel's two-month offensive killed more than 2,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians. Sixty-seven Israeli soldiers and six civilians in Israel also died.

Israel says it tried to prevent civilian casualties and accuses Hamas of inviting these by operating inside urban areas. Israel's critics accuse it of wanton tactics and impunity.

In a separate statement, the military said it was also closing the cases on 21 July and 29 July attacks on residential buildings that killed 22 Palestinians. A 9 July attack on a Gaza cafe that killed 9 people was under criminal investigation, it said, as well as allegations that troops abused a Palestinian detainee and illegally fired on a Gaza medical clinic.

Reuters



A Syrian refugee woman is helped by a Turkish soldier after crossing into Turkey near Akcakale in Sanliurfa Province, Turkey, on 10 June, 2015.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Sydney house prices near one million Australian dollar average

SYDNEY, 12 June — Australia's median house price has risen to almost 660,000 Australian dollars (509,919 US dollars), with Sydney leading housing market, according to Real Estate Institute data released on Friday.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) figures show the median house price in Sydney has gained 4.9 percent in the March quarter to 929,842 Australian dollars (718,400 US dollars), significantly above next closest Melbourne at 688,000 Australian dollars (531,446 US

dollars). REIA president Neville Sanders told local media the median house price has increased by almost 9 percent from the same period last year, and is expected to continue to rise over the rest of 2015.

"In 2015 we expect interest rates to stay low and growth in dwelling prices to continue, however changes to rules around foreign investment in Australian residential real estate may change the dynamic on the market," Sanders said.

Housing affordability has been a significant issue in Australian me-

dia over the past fortnight when Australian Treasury secretary John Fraser told an Australian Senate committee hearing that property markets in Sydney and parts of Melbourne were unequivocally in a price bubble.

On Wednesday, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) governor Glen Stevens described housing prices in pockets of the Australian market as "crazy" and "acutely concerning for a host of reasons, many of which are not to do with monetary policy".

Xinhua

Daily consumption of nuts lowers risk of early death: study



LONDON, 12 June — Eating a certain amount of nuts and peanuts every day can help lower premature mortality risk caused by many common diseases, according to a new study recently published on Thursday in the *International Journal of Epi-*

demology.

Researchers from Maastricht University in the Netherlands collected the dietary and lifestyle data of more than 120,000 Dutch men and women in 1986. These individuals were aged between 55 to 69 years old.

A decade later, when researchers looked at these people's mortality rate, they found that there was an average 23 percent lower risk of 10-year mortality across all diseases among those eating at least 10 grams of nuts or peanuts a day.

Significant decrease of risk can be seen in some diseases: 45 percent for neurodegenerative disease, 39 percent for respiratory disease, 30 percent for diabetes, according to the study. But researchers said they would not count peanut butter as a healthy food, as it is high in salt and trans fats.

Xinhua

US lawmakers to examine worst-ever bird flu outbreak



An egg-producing chicken farm run by Sunrise Farm is seen in Harris, Iowa on 23 April, 2015.
REUTERS

CHICAGO, 12 June — The US Senate Agriculture Committee is set to hold a hearing next month on the deadliest-ever outbreak of bird flu in US poultry amid mounting criticism from

Iowa lawmakers about the speed of the US Agriculture Department's response.

Sen Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican and committee chairman, is expected to hear testimony

on the USDA's response and funding for its efforts on 7 July, spokeswoman Meghan Cline said.

More than 47 million chickens and turkeys have been killed in the past six

months because of bird flu or are set to be culled to prevent the spread of the disease. Most are hens in Iowa, the nation's top egg-producing state, and US egg prices are projected to set an annual record high because of the losses.

The USDA is overseeing the killing and disposal of affected birds and the scope of the outbreak "has exposed some flaws in the response plans," Republican Sens. Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst of Iowa told Roberts in a letter that requested a hearing.

There are concerns about the complexity of a programme through which the USDA pays farmers for birds that must be culled, the lawmakers wrote last

week.

The USDA will be prepared to talk about its response if invited to testify before the Senate committee, spokeswoman Andrea McNally said. The agency's ability to pay producers for birds is set by federal law, she added.

The USDA has more than 1,900 staff and contractors responding to bird flu in Iowa, according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Earlier in the outbreak, it was difficult getting USDA officials to infected sites so birds could be euthanized, Beth Pellett Levine, a spokeswoman for Grassley, said on Monday.

Republican US Rep Steve King of Iowa said last

week that the USDA took too long to set up incinerators to dispose of carcasses.

"I think everyone feels a similar frustration that we would like this to be moving faster, because we're all moving to the ultimate goal of getting Iowa's producers back into production," USDA spokeswoman Carol Bannerman said last week.

Minnesota, the top US turkey-producing state, has lost 9 million birds to the disease.

Producers there feel the USDA is probably responding as well as it can, US Rep Collin Peterson, a Minnesota Democrat and the ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee, said last week.

Reuters

Asia shares, euro numbed by Greek drama

SYDNEY, 12 June — Asian shares had a muted session on Friday as Greek debt talks took yet another confusing turn, while the dollar held firm in the wake of reassuringly upbeat US retail data.

Activity was sparse with MSCI's index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan up 0.2 percent, but only just above three-month lows. Japan's Nikkei barely budged, though it found some support in a dollar bounce against the yen.

China's market built on its long bull run as the Shanghai index rose 0.8 percent to its loftiest level since early 2008, with property shares firmer on signs of a revival in real estate demand.

Wall Street had been tentative on Thursday with the Dow ending up 0.22 percent, while the S&P 500 added 0.17 percent and the

Nasdaq 0.11 percent.

Sentiment was bolstered by a solid rise in US retail sales which, combined with upward revisions, suggested the economy was warming nicely after a chilly start to the year.

If the momentum is sustained, the Federal Reserve could begin to hike interest rates later in the year, with September increasingly seen by markets as the lift-off date.

All of which sets the scene for the Fed's meeting on 16 and 17 June which will include a news conference from Chair Janet Yellen.

"We don't think the Fed will explicitly reference September, but we do think they will harp on their data dependence and give a nod that a hike this year is likely if the data remain constructive," said Tom Porcelli, chief economist at RBC

Capital Markets.

"And so far both the data and the market are on the right track."

The improving US data helped the dollar index up to 95.173, and away from a near one-month low of 94.322 set on Wednesday. Against the yen, the greenback bought 123.46 yen, well off this week's trough

of 122.46.

The euro had less luck as talks on Greece showed no sign of reaching a deal. The single currency was off at \$1.1232, from a high of \$1.1387 set on Wednesday.

The dip followed the International Monetary Fund's surprise decision to leave negotiations in Brussels and fly home because of major

differences with Athens.

The move came as the European Union told Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to stop gambling with his country's future and take crucial decisions needed to avert default.

Adding to the air of caution, German newspaper *Bild* reported Berlin was holding "concrete consultations" on what to do in the case of a bankruptcy of the Greek state, citing several people familiar with the matter. This includes discussions about introducing capital controls in Greece if the crisis-stricken country goes bankrupt. In commodity markets, oil prices dipped after Saudi Arabia said it was ready to raise output further to meet strong demand.

Brent crude oil for July fell 38 cents to \$64.73 a barrel, while US crude lost 45 cents to \$60.32.—Reuters



A man takes a photo of an electronic stock quotation board with his smartphone outside a brokerage in Tokyo, on 9 June, 2015.—Reuters

Malaysia to implement new bio-diesel plan

BEIJING, 12 June — Malaysian Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities will fully implement the B10 Bio-diesel Plan from October, which may raise the average extraction rate of oil from 20 to 25 percent in 2020.

The minister said, once B10 Bio-diesel Plan is fully implemented, Malaysian domestic palm oil consumption is expected to increase by one million tons, and B7 Bio-diesel be replaced.

B10 Bio-diesel policy is 10 percent palm oil mixed with 90 percent diesel. This policy is expected to support Malaysian palm oil futures, according to the latest local media report.—Xinhua



Workers stand by the pipes as they flood the Panama Canal Expansion project on the outskirts of Colon City, Panama, on 11 June, 2015. Engineers began flooding a newly enlarged section of the Panama Canal on Thursday as authorities prepare to test a series of new locks that will allow the waterway to accommodate much bigger ships, affecting trade around the world.—XINHUA

JAL pilot suspended from duty over photos taken with crew in cockpit

TOKYO, 12 June — A male pilot of Japan Airlines Co was suspended from flight duty after taking photos with a female flight attendant in the cockpit amid growing concerns over misconduct by crew members in the wake of a German aircraft crash in March, the airline said on Friday.

The transport ministry issued a strict warning to JAL, saying the captain violated the aviation law by failing to keep guard while he took the pictures with his smartphone after the co-pilot left the cockpit.

The 47-year-old cap-

tain took photos of himself and a 28-year-old flight attendant roughly 10 minutes after the Boeing 737 operated by JAL left Sapporo in northern Japan for Osaka last Sunday morning, according to the company.

While the co-pilot temporarily left the cockpit to go to the restroom, the captain had the flight attendant sit in the seat vacated by the co-pilot and took some pictures although she refused several times to have her picture taken.

She entered the cockpit in accordance with an instruction by the transport ministry in April to always

keep at least two crew members there after the Germanwings co-pilot was alleged to have locked out the captain and deliberately crashed the plane.

The JAL pilot brushed off the flight attendant's refusal, saying, "It's a good opportunity. How about trying for your memory?" The attendant reported the matter to the company later in the day, resulting in the captain being suspended from flight duty from Monday.

"I didn't take the matter seriously," the pilot was quoted as saying by the airline.—Kyodo News

Serbia, EU work together to improve position of Roma

BELGRADE, 12 June — Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic and Director for the Western Balkans of the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Negotiations for Enlargement of the European Commission Jean Eric Paquet said on Thursday that Serbia was working with the support of the European Union to improve the position of Roma.

After a meeting she had with Paquet in Belgrade today, Mihajlovic told reporters that it was necessary to accelerate the

adoption of a legal framework vital to improving the Roma situation.

We will be working together to draft Roma settlements legalization and eviction legislation over the summer to have them submitted to the parliament for approval in the fall, said Mihajlovic, who is the coordinator of activities to improve the situation of Roma in Serbia.

Paquet said that Roma inclusion was a social priority for Serbia and an important element of cooperation between Serbia and the EU.

Accession negotiations are important with respect to assisting Serbia in developing policies for Roma inclusion, Paquet said. The European Union is working together with

Serbia to prepare relevant public policies and achieve progress in this area and I hope that we will manage to step up their implementation, Paquet said.

Tanjung



China electricity giant starts building new hydropower stations

BEIJING, 12 June — Construction began on new hydropower plants with advanced electricity storage in central and east China on Friday, marking the country's latest effort to promote clean energy.

State Grid Co, the world's largest electric utility company, began building the three power stations, which can store hydropower to be used during periods of high-demand, in Anhui, Shandong and Henan provinces.

With a capacity of 3.6 million kilowatts and total investment of 21.7 billion yuan (3.55 billion US dollars), all the projects are scheduled to be completed and put into operation by 2021, the company said.

The power plants are expected to reduce China's greenhouse gas emissions, cutting carbon dioxide by 3.64 million tonnes as well as sulfur dioxide and other fumes, equivalent to consumption of 2.18 million tonnes of coal.

The company currently has 19 hydropower plants with another 12 planned or under construction in the country's central and eastern areas. Total capacity is expected to reach 38 million kilowatts by 2020.

The projects will be a push for the national ambition to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in its power grid and gradually replace prevailing but heavily-polluting thermal power generated from coal.

China has been working to promote hydropower, wind power, solar power and nuclear power. Its installed hydropower capacity surpassed 300 million kilowatts by the end of 2014, making up around a quarter of the world's total.

The power stations will also help improve China's ultra-high voltage grid, improving its safety and reliability, said Zhang Zhengling, spokesperson of the electricity giant.

Xinhua

Indian capital reels under massive garbage crisis

NEW DELHI, 12 June — The Indian capital has been reeling under a massive garbage crisis, with sanitation workers escalating their strike over non-payment of their salaries for the last two months.

Striking workers have strewn garbage on the road in many parts of the national capital, thus creating

stink in the air and triggering traffic jams.

Political parties have also jumped into the fray trying to capitalize on the situation, blaming each other for the mess. While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which controls three civic bodies in the Indian capital, has blamed Delhi's government for not

releasing money to pay salaries to the sanitation workers. The anti-corruption Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is in power in the national capital, on the other hand, has accused the three civic bodies of mishandling finances.

The country's main opposition Congress party, which had ruled Delhi

for 15 years before being decimated by AAP, has accused both the Delhi government and the central government for the mess. Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi Friday met striking sanitation workers and posed for photos, and he also blamed both the BJP and the AAP for the situation.—Xinhua

Thai students detained in Pakistan have no Islamic State links — government

BANGKOK, 12 June — Five Thai students detained in Pakistan for trying to board a plane with a pistol and ammunition have no links to the Islamic State militant group or any criminal organization, a Thai government spokesman said on Friday.

The men, who had been studying at a religious school in Pakistan, were trying to catch a flight on Monday night when they were intercepted.

"We have no evidence that there are any links at all between the students and any criminal organization, so news that there is a link between ISIS and the students is not true," Major General Sansern Kaewkamnerd, a deputy government spokesman, told Reuters.

On Friday, Thai newspaper the Bangkok Post re-

ported that two of the five were suspected of having links to Islamic State, which is also known as ISIS. The report cited intelligence sources.

Officials from Thailand's embassy in Islamabad had visited the students and an investigation by embassy officials was underway, Sansern said.

An investigation into the students' families found no links with violence in Thailand's southern region, where there has been a long-running Muslim separatist insurgency, Army Chief Udomdej Sitabutr told reporters on Friday.

Some of the detained men are from Thailand's south.

The students are in detention in Lahore, according to Thailand's foreign ministry.—Reuters

Two arrested over allegedly adding poppy seeds to restaurant dishes

WUHAN, 12 June — Two managers of a restaurant in central China's Hubei Province have been arrested by police on suspicion of adding parts of the opium poppy plant to dishes, authorities said on Friday. According to the Procuratorate of Hanyang District, Wuhan City, the local food and drug administration detected main ingredients of poppy seeds including papaverine and narcotine from dishes of a restaurant during routine tests in March.

The two managers

of this restaurant allegedly added poppy seeds to dressings of its stewed pots for the purpose of improving taste of dishes and keeping customers coming back for more, said police investigation.

Adding poppy seeds containing morphine to food is prohibited by law. Doctors say they contain only a small amount of alkaloid, but long-term consumption will lead to addiction, damage to the nervous system and induce chronic intoxication.

Xinhua

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MV VEGA KAPPA VOY NO (1529)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA KAPPA VOY NO (1529) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (002N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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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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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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kay-in and Mon States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likely to be isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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Popular Pyongyang tourist spot the Koryo Hotel catches fire

SEOUL, 12 June — A section of the Koryo Hotel, one of the oldest and best known hotels in Pyongyang, caught fire on Thursday, sources who witnessed the fire in the North Korean capital told *Reuters*.

Images obtained by *Reuters* showed plumes of black smoke billowing from the bridge connecting the two 43-storey towers of the 143-metre (469-foot) structure, which lies a short distance from Pyongyang's bustling train station and the Taedong river that cuts through the city. One source in Pyongyang who witnessed the scene said swarms of police, paramilitary, ambulances and officials from North Korean state security were outside the landmark hotel.

"Several foreigners were apprehended for trying to take pictures of the scene," the source, who declined to be identified, told *Reuters*. Troy Collings of Young Pioneer Tours said: "The fire was eventually put out, the building didn't burn down, and our partners in Pyongyang reassured us that there were no casualties." Collings regularly takes foreign tourists to North Korea.

It was not immediately clear if the hotel had been fully evacuated. The fire started at 6.15 pm local time and by 11.45 pm only thick plumes of black smoke were visible from the outside, the source said. North Koreans leaving the building said the inside was still burning, according to the source. A sec-

ond source at the scene said a heavy downpour may have helped contain the blaze. Both Seoul and Pyongyang were hit by seasonal heavy rains on Thursday night.

North Korea is one of the world's most isolated and secretive countries, and there was still no mention of the fire in state media by about midday on Friday. In May last year, North Korean state media said the government had apologized to bereaved families after an apartment building collapsed in Pyongyang, possibly killing hundreds. Unlike the unfinished 105-storey pyramid-shaped Ryugyong Hotel, the plush Koryo Hotel has for years been the go-to place to stay for foreign tourists visiting North Korea.—*Reuters*



The black-rind Densuke watermelon, a signature product of the northern Japanese town of Toma, Hokkaido, is priced at as high as 350,000 yen at this year's first auction in Asahikawa, Hokkaido, on 12 June, 2015.

KYODO NEWS

Teen arrested over bomb threat note at western Japan high school

OKAYAMA, (Japan), 12 June — A 15-year-old boy was arrested on Thursday for allegedly leaving a note threatening to bomb a high school in Bizen, Okayama Prefecture in western Japan ear-

lier this week and causing an evacuation of all students, police said.

The teen is suspected of obstructing school administration by leaving a note saying "a bomb has been planted at school" in

a shoe locker at the prefectural Bizen Ryokuyo High School on Tuesday.

The school alerted the police after the memo was found in the morning.

The school's around 460 students all evacuated

to the school ground and were sent home.

On Thursday morning, a letter encouraging police to do their best to arrest the sender in handwriting similar to Monday's note was also found

at the school, the police said. The police said they questioned school officials and tracked down the teen, who admitted to the allegations, adding that they are investigating the case as a prank.

The teen is identified as a first-year high school student from the city but it has not been made clear if the boy goes to the school. He has not been named because he is a minor.

Kyodo News

Ian McKellen portrays elderly Sherlock in 'Mr Holmes'

LONDON, 12 June — Sherlock Holmes hits British cinemas this week but not quite as many might imagine the legendary sleuth.

"Lord of the Rings" and "X-Men" star Ian McKellen portrays him as an elderly beekeeper, who at 93 has long retired from solving cases.

Living in an isolated Sussex farmhouse with his housekeeper Mrs Munro (Laura Linney) and her young son Roger (Milo Parker), he is unable to let go of his past as he tries to solve the case that ultimately led to his retirement.

McKellen, 76, said audiences would enjoy his Holmes more than the many others in recent years, including younger versions played by Benedict Cumberbatch and Robert Downey Jr, in television and film.

"This Holmes ... is 93 years old when we first meet him at the end of a



Actor Ian McKellen arrives for a screening of the movie 'Mr Holmes' at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival, in Berlin on 8 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

long life, of retirement and he's trying to solve his last mystery, the one that he didn't quite complete when he was in his heyday," he said at the film's premiere on Wednesday.

"So I get to play Holmes young and middle-aged so that makes it slightly superior to other versions."

Joining him on the mock-up Baker Street setting for the premiere was McKellen's "X-Men" co-star Patrick Stewart.

The two friends hugged and kissed on the cobblestone-effect carpet.

McKellen confirmed he would not be returning as Magneto in "X-Men: Apocalypse" due in 2016. The British actor said that he could imagine retirement but would not be "giving up".

"I'm ... not retiring and shutting the door, but doing less," he said. "Mr Holmes" is due for release in Britain on 19 June.—Reuters

Matthew Vaughn confirms 'Kingsman' sequel

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — The "X-Men: First Class" director has confirmed that "Kingsman: The Secret Service" sequel is in the works. "Kingsman: The Secret Service" has become a smashing hit after it earned USD 400 million worldwide, reported Ace Showbiz.

"Well, the good news is that I'm writing it next door at the moment. If I think I can get the script good enough, then we are making it. We are doing our damndest to make that happen," he said. Vaughn has been rarely interested to work on follow-ups to



his own movies. "I have to feel inspired and that I'm doing something different, and pushing my boundaries. Sequels normally you're doing more of the same. "I'm trying to reinvent how to do a sequel at the moment, and

it's tough," said Vaughn, explaining why he had stayed away from follow-ups to his movies. "Kingsman: The Secret Service" is based on the comic book entitled "The Secret Service", written by Mark Millar.—PTI

Hungary selects 'Son of Saul' for Oscars

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — "Son of Saul", directed by Laszlo Nemes, will be Hungary's official entry in Foreign-Language category for the 2016 Oscars. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Hungary is believed to be the first country to have picked its Oscar contender for 2016.

"Son of Saul" is set in Auschwitz in 1944 and follows the life of Saul Aus-

lander, a Jewish Hungarian enlisted to assist the Nazis in their mass killing in a claustrophobic manner.

While working in the crematoriums, Saul sees the body of a boy he believes to be his son. He starts what seems to be an impossible task to try and rescue the body to ensure it receives a proper Jewish burial. The film won the Grand Prix in Cannes Film Festival last month.—PTI

Adele's '21' named UK's best-seller of the decade

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — British singer Adele's "21" is the biggest-selling album of the decade till date in the UK.

"Rolling In The Deep" hitmaker's all-conquering sophomore set has sold more than 4.75 million copies in her homeland to hold-off a challenge for top honors from home-grown boyband Take That, according to the Official Charts Company.

Adele's blockbuster



British singer Adele

recording has sold more than 30 million copies worldwide following its

arrival in 2011, reported Billboard. In second position on the UK's all-dec-

ade list is Take That's "Progress". While Michael Buble's yuletide-themed 2011 album "Christmas" is at number three.

Rounding out the top five is Emeli Sande's "Our Version Of Events" and Ed Sheeran's "X". While Sheeran's second album "X" has now reached 2.134 million copies since its release July 2014 and it was confirmed as the biggest-selling album of the year.—PTI

Katy Perry new face of Moschino

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — Singer Katy Perry is the new face of fashion brand Moschino. Announcing the news on Instagram, the 30-year-old singer wrote, "The face of Moschino" alongside her first advertisement for the fashion brand, reported Ace Showbiz.

In the ad, the "Part of me" hitmaker is seen donning a black pencil skirt and a lot of golden accessories. Photographed by Inez & Vinoodh, the ad is aimed at promoting Moschino's new Fall/Winter 2015 collection by designer Jeremy Scott.—PTI

Bradley Cooper sues French magazine

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — Actor Bradley Cooper is the latest celebrity to sue a French magazine for invasion of privacy following the publication of a story about his love life with Irina Shayk. The "American Sniper" star filed a lawsuit against "Oops!" reported Ace Showbiz.

According to a statement which Cooper, 40, filed with the help of French lawyer Vincent Tolledano, the actor had never publicly addressed dating rumors with the Russian model. Under French law, the story clearly violated Cooper's right to a private life as the country bans any publications from printing any information about celebrities' personal lives.

In the lawsuit, the "Hangover" actor is also asking the magazine for 11,000 Euros or around USD 12,500 in damages, in addition to legal fees. The owner of the troubled magazine, Frederic Truskolaski, maintained that the story was based on reality

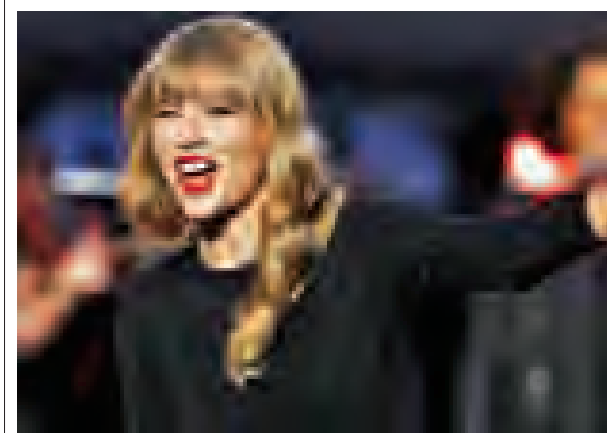
that Cooper and Shayk indeed frequently hang out together. Prior to Cooper, Leonardo DiCaprio filed a lawsuit against the same magazine for making a fake report claiming he shared a baby together with Rihanna.

PTI



Actor Bradley Cooper

Taylor Swift imparts grammar lessons to fans



A fan told Taylor Swift that she might've forgotten to put an apostrophe in handwritten lyrics of her 1989 song "Wildest Dreams".—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — Country star Taylor Swift recently gave a grammar lesson to a fan, who first told her that she might've forgotten to put an apostrophe in handwritten lyrics of her 1989 song "Wildest Dreams".

The lyrics that read, "Say you'll see me again, even if it's just in your wildest dreams," are written in one of the polaroid photos from the deluxe edition of Swift's latest album. The fan named Maddy Werch then wrote on Tumblr, "uh, taylor there's supposed to an

apostrophe s on its btw."

In her response, Swift, 25, first defended herself, saying that she did put an apostrophe on the word "its," but it "blended into the Y above it." The "Shake It Off" hitmaker went on to make corrections to Werch's post. "But if we're being all fancy with grammar tonight, btw would've had a comma before it. And the 'U' is 'uh' would've been capitalized. And there would've been some sort of punctuation at the end of the sentence."

PTI

GENERAL

China steal late win, hosts Canada held



China's player Wang Lisi (L) vies for the ball with Canada's player Danielle Van De Donk during the group A match between Canada and China at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup in Edmonton, Canada, on 11 June, 2015.—XINHUA

EDMONTON, 12 June — An injury-time goal earned China a dramatic victory, while hosts Canada and Germany and Norway all had to settle for draws on a competitive on Thursday at the Women's World Cup.

Wang Lisi scored in the first minute of injury

time lifting China past the Netherlands in a 1-0 victory that kept both teams a point behind group leaders Canada, who have four.

Wang received a ball from team mate Tan Ruyin in the penalty box and tapped in at the far post to give her a team an exciting

win that put them in the group mix.

It was much more of a slog for Canada who battled to a scoreless draw with New Zealand on a stormy, wet night.

The contest got off to a soggy start when play was suspended after five min-

utes due to severe weather forcing players off the pitch. Following a 30-minute delay, action resumed under sunny skies but the dreary play continued.

Canada's scoring struggles continued after edging China on an injury time goal from Christine Sinclair in the opener.

In Group B, top-ranked Germany had a win snatched from their grasp after Maren Mjelde scored on a free kick in the 61st minute to earn Norway a 1-1 draw.

The result left both teams tied on four points, though Germany lead on goal difference. Germany's Anja Mittag netted the opener in the sixth minute.

Elsewhere, Thailand earned a historic 3-2 win against Ivory Coast in a victory that saw both teams score their first ever goals of the Women's World Cup. Orathai Srimanee led the way with a pair of first-half goals for Thailand who close group play against Germany on Monday. Norway will face Ivory Coast.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(13-6-2015 07:00 am~ 14-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * News | * Food Trip (Ep-9) (Part-1) |
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David Guetta to produce UEFA EURO 2016 anthem

LONDON, 12 June — DJ and music producer David Guetta will write and produce the anthem for UEFA EURO 2016.

The 47-year-old star will perform during the opening ceremony of the football tournament at Stade de France in Paris on 10 June, 2016, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"Secrets out then. I am the musical ambassador for UEFA Euro 2016. @uefaeuro bring it on!" Guetta posted on twitter.

"It is incredibly exciting ... to be part of this huge football tournament in my home country. Music



David Guetta will perform during the opening ceremony of the football tournament at Stade de France in Paris on 10 June, 2016.—PTI

and football go hand in hand when it comes to celebration and enjoyment and I want to help to make this EURO the biggest and most memorable

yet," he later added in a statement. Besides creating the official song, the "Titanium" hitmaker — who released his sixth album,

"Listen", last year — will develop the musical identity for the competition, including in-stadia audio and global broadcast sequences.

Guetta, who will also play a free concert at the Champ Mars in Paris on the eve of the tournament on 9 June 2016, added, "We want the fans to be at the very heart of everything that we do."

The acclaimed French DJ has collaborated with stars including Rihanna, Kelly Rowland and Sia during his career, although it is not yet known whether a vocalist will feature on the tournament's anthem.—PTI

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(13-6-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Round Up of The Week's Local TV News |
| 7:00 am | 3:15 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News |
| 8:35 am | 4:00 pm |
| • Documentary (SEA Games) | • News / Weather Report |
| 9:35 am | 5:35 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • Documentary |
| 10:35 am | 6:15 pm |
| • Hight Light (28 th SEA Games) (Part-1) | • Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 11:15 am | 7:35 pm |
| • Hight Light (28 th SEA Games) (Part-2) | • Business News |
| 11:45 am | 8:00 pm |
| • 28 th SEA Games (2015) (Football) (Semi Final) (Live) (Myanmar U-23 & Vietnam U-23) | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| | 9:00 pm |
| | • News |
| | • Media 7 Programme (28 th SEA Games Special) |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(13-6-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 6:00 am | 9:40 am |
| • Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:10 am | 9:55 am |
| • Teleplay | • Myanmar Video |
| 6:40 am | 11:45 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • 28 th SEA Games (2015) (Football) (Live) (Semi Final) |
| 8:00 am | • Myanmar U-23 vs Vietnam U-23 |
| • Teleplay | |
| 8:30 am | |
| • Dramatic Arts | |
| 9:10 am | |
| • Teleplay | |

Reuters

Obama drops in at congressional ball game on eve of trade vote

WASHINGTON, 12 June — On the eve of a vote in Congress that could determine the fate of his Pacific Rim trade pact, President Barack Obama put in a surprise appearance on Thursday night at the annual congressional ball game between Republicans and Democrats.

Obama brought along beer to be awarded to the winning team and watched part of the contest on a muggy night at the ballpark that is home to Major League Baseball's Washington Na-

tional. The president, who has sometimes been criticized for not reaching out to members of Congress, made no formal remarks but greeted players in both the Democratic and Republican dugouts. Fans cheered his appearance.

Obama may have brought some luck to fellow Democrats, who led 3-1 when he left the game and eventually won 5-2.

Democrats and Republicans have played each other once a year since 1909, with the two sides winning

an equal share of games going into Thursday's contest, according to the organizers' website. In an age of partisan division when many lawmakers fly home every weekend, the game is one of the few congressional traditions left from years ago when lawmakers were a more social bunch.

"Everybody's always running to an airport. There are so few opportunities where you're able to just engage your colleagues without suits on and debating," Democratic Representative

Thai PM, Union Minister award champion Thai team in Sepak Takraw event



SINGAPORE, 12 June—Thai Sepak Takraw team emerged champion with a 2-1 win over Myanmar team in the final at Expo Hall-1 in Singapore Friday.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan together

with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha watched the final match of Sepak Takraw event. The Thai Prime Minister awarded individual gold medals to Thai players while the union minister gave commemorative gifts to

them. They also presented the joint third prize to Indonesian and Singaporean teams.

They posed for documentary photo with prize winning teams.—SPED

Spectators leave for Singapore to give cheers to Myanmar U-23 team



YANGON, 12 June—A 57-member team of Myanmar citizens left Yangon International Airport for Singapore on Friday.

They will give rous-

ing cheers together with Myanmar football fans from Singapore to Myanmar U-23 team that will play against Vietnam in the semifinal of the football tournament in the 28th

SEA Games on 13 June.

The spectators were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department.—MNA

Myanmar athletes back from Singapore

YANGON, 12 June—A Myanmar sports team comprising four athletes from track and field event, 21 shooters and four swimmers arrived back Yangon International Airport Friday.

Among the, Swe Li Myint won one silver in the women's 800-m race, Phyu Wah Thet two silver in the women's 500-m and 1500-m races, Kyaw Nyi Nyi Htwe one bronze in javelin event. Lin Aung, Wai Yan Min Thu and Kaung Htaik secured one bronze in the men's 50-m rifle prone team while Kyaw Swa Win, Ye Tun Naung and Nay Htet Aung bagged one bronze in the men's 50-m pistol team.

SPED

Medal Standings for 12 June, 2015					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Thailand	71	68	54	193
2	Singapore	70	62	83	215
3	Vietnam	62	41	50	153
4	Malaysia	38	40	50	128
5	Indonesia	33	41	54	128
6	Philippines	24	29	53	106
7	Myanmar	11	22	25	58
8	Cambodia	1	4	7	12
9	Laos	0	3	14	17
10	Brunei	0	0	5	5
11	Timor-Leste	0	0	1	1

Football Semifinals Match Schedules for 13 June 2015 (all times local)

Match 26	Myanmar	-	Vietnam	12:30 MST
Match 27	Thailand	-	Indonesia	19:00 MST

Chile beat Ecuador in Copa America opener

SANTIAGO, 12 June — Arturo Vidal and Eduardo Vargas scored second-half goals as Chile defeated Ecuador 2-0 in the opening match of the Copa America here on Thursday.

Vidal converted a 67th-minute penalty before Vargas put the result beyond doubt six minutes from time after being set up by Alexis Sanchez.

Despite keeping the match on even terms for more than an hour, Ecuador rarely troubled Claudio Bravo's goal. Chile, meanwhile, provided a constant threat and, if not for Ecua-

dor goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez, could have had the match wrapped up by halftime.

The hosts' attacking intent was evident from the outset in front of a partisan crowd at the Estadio Nacional. Veteran playmaker Jorge Valdivia put Sanchez through on goal in the second minute but the Arsenal man fired his shot wide with only the keeper to beat. Sanchez had another chance moments later but his chipped effort was comfortably thwarted by Dominguez.

As expected, Jorge

Sampaoli's team controlled possession as Ecuador were content to sit back and wait for their opportunities on the counterattack.

Mauricio Isla, Vidal and Sanchez, in particular, caused constant problems for Ecuador on the right.

But the hosts were unable to capitalize and they almost paid the price when Valdivia was dispossessed in his own area, allowing Fidel Martinez to unleash a thumping shot that was directed straight at Bravo.

Isla arguably had the best chance of the first half but the Queens Park Rangers wing-back misdirected his shot after being set up by Sanchez.—Xinhua

Myanmar have gold on minds ahead of semifinal clash with Vietnam

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 12 June — Myanmar's footballers are aiming to bring home the gold medal from the 28th SEA Games in Singapore, coach Kyi Lwin said Friday on the eve of the under-23 team's semifinal showdown with Vietnam.

"We are confident of reaching the final and winning the gold medal," the Myanmar coach told

the media at Singapore's Ramada Hotel. "I know their strong points and weak points."

Myanmar will wear all-red kit while Vietnam will done white in the match which kicks off Saturday at 2pm local time (12:30 Myanmar Time) at the Singapore National Stadium.

Defender Ye Win Aung, who has two yellow cards from previous matches, and Win Zin Tun, who broke his leg in the match

against host Singapore, will miss the game.

Myanmar advanced to the last four as the top-placed team in Group A after defeating Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines and drawing with Cambodia in the group stage.

Myanmar scored 14 goals in the four group matches, with seven different players finding their way onto the score sheet.—GNLM