

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to President, PM of Iceland

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of the Republic of Iceland, and His Excellency Mr Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iceland, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Iceland, which falls on 17 June 2015.—MNA

Myanmar eyes good image in hosting CLMV, ACMECS Summits

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Myanmar is making efforts to successfully host the 7th Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam Summit and the 6th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Summit, both of which are slated to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 and 23 June, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said Tuesday.

Like the ASEAN summit which was hosted by Myanmar last year, the CLMV and ACMECS reflect the good image of the country, and the central committee and sub-committees are obliged to strive for success in hosting them, the vice president said at a final meeting of the central committee Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Participants of the final



meeting reported on preparations for the summits.

About 175 local and

foreign journalists are expected to cover the summits.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at the meeting on hosting 7th CLMV Summit and 6th ACMECS Summit.—MNA

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Byline: Khin Yadana
Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

As the circular railway train approaches Kyimyindine (formerly Kemmendine) Station, signal operator Ko San Win is ready for its arrival, having been notified by the discoloured electric telegraph system as old as the weathered station building.

Ko San Win is one of only a handful of people who know how to operate the point signals that switch the lines on Myanmar's limited railway network.

It is impossible to change tracks with brute strength alone. It requires timing, experience and the right weather conditions.

As he does every day, Ko San Win signals the arrival of the train to the station master. Everything is OK. Until an automatic system is installed, Ko San Win will continue to play a crucial role. The Yangon-Pyay Railway line began operating on 1

May 1877. In 1876, 18 railway stations including Kyimyindine were built for the Yangon-Pyay Railway line. However, the station building was eventually replaced.

Fifty-two years after the world's first railway line was built, steam locomotives from England began travelling the tracks to and from Kyimyindine. The Yangon-Pyay Railway was the first line in the country and was operated by the state-owned Yangon and Ayeyawady Delta Railway Company.

The railway station building that can be seen today was built in 1928. Although there were no records of the station's construction, bricks dated from the year were found during repair work for damage caused by Cyclone Nargis. Despite its designation as a heritage building, the building has not undergone (See page 9)

Kyimyindine Station upgrade raises heritage, conservation concerns



Photo shows Kyimyindine Railway Station with architectural design of colonial era in Kyimyindine Township.

Myanmar ready to sign multilateral rights treaty

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Myanmar is ready to sign the UN's multilateral rights treaty, as the country is undertaking a reform process that aims for public-centered development programmes, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Tuesday.

President U Thein Sein asked the bicameral parliament to discuss Myanmar's

possible membership of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted in 1966 the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural that came into force in 1976. Regarding the 2014 annual report of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Chairman U Win Mya explained the activities of the commission. Parliamentarians suggested the MNHRC needs to do more across the

country and stand as a reliable and independent body for Myanmar people. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also approved the Boiler Bill, which had been subject to disagreements between the two houses of parliament, and invited MPs to discuss the amendment of Article 436 (A) and (B) in the 2008 Constitution.—MNA

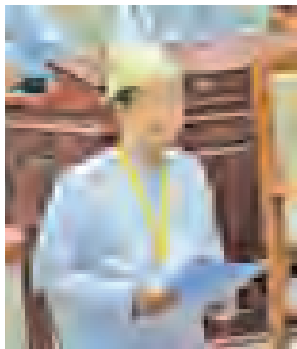
The 59th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw

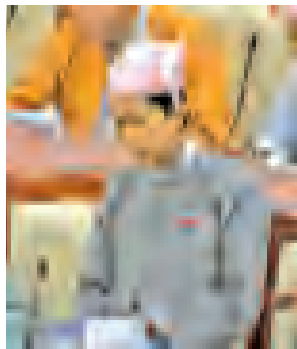
Authorities to take preventive measures against DHF in Kyaukpyu



**Deputy Minister
U Kyaw Kyaw Win.**
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Arrangements have been made for dredging drains in urban area of Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State, to prevent outbreak of dengue haemorrhagic fever, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied to questions of U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency at the Tuesday's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

The MP asked about infection of DHF in Sanpya, Zeditaung and Rakhine



**U Ba Shein
of Kyaukpyu
constituency.—MNA**

Paikseik wards in Kyaukpyu due to blocks of drains in the rainy season, reclamation of new wards for odd-job people and the plan for taking action against illegal use of pavements, sewerage lanes and vacant areas.

He said that local authorities cooperate with Public Health Department and volunteers in carrying out sanitation for prevention of common diseases in the rainy season such as malar-

ia, DHF and elephantiasis in Kyaukpyu and for raising public awareness of health knowledge with health care services at schools and hospitals.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win added that departments concerned will scrutinize the illegal use of pavements and the sewerage lanes in the urban area and seek legal advices from the departments for managing the use of vacant lands. In doing so, local authorities will provide assistance for needy persons in cooperation with social organizations.—MNA

Myanmar-India transport project under way in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — Myanmar is implementing a transit transport project in Chin State that will connect the country with neighbouring India, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein told the Amyotha Hluttaw on Tuesday.

U Whae Yein, MP for Chin State constituency 11, asked about the Union government's plan regarding the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in the western Myanmar state.

The deputy minister said the waterway along

Kaladan River is being dredged, and discussions are in progress on building a motorway to the Indian border.

The project will link Rakhine and Chin states to India's eastern seaport of Kolkata, as well as its landlocked northeastern state of Mizoram through a newly constructed river and highway transport system.

U Nyunt Tin, MP of Yangon region constituency 2, proposed to the Up-

per House to form an independent commission of traffic accident prevention.

U Ohn Tin, MP of Rakhine state constituency 10, complained about the erection of illegitimate party signboards that mimic the name of registered political party.

Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing said the electoral body has instructed its sub-commission in Rakhine State to prohibit such illegal signboards.—MNA

Information for Public Remonstrations

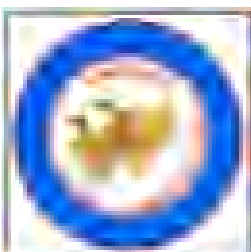
1. Women's Party (Mon) headquartered at No 17 on Bogyoke Aung San Road, Myaingthaya Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 16-6-2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.
2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Women's Party



Emblem of Women's Party

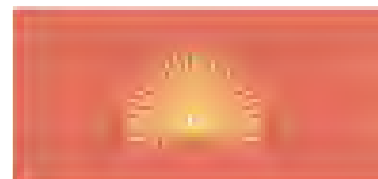


Information for Public Remonstrations

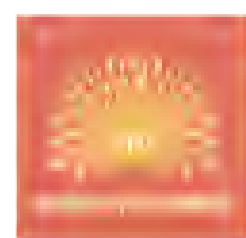
1. National Development Party headquartered at Room No 204 of C Building, Myintha Housing Project, Ward 14, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 16-6-2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.
2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission

Flag of National Development Party



Emblem of National Development Party



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. 12/2015

15th Waning Day of Nayon, 1377 ME
(16 June, 2015)

88 Generation Democracy Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Tuesday that 88 Generation Democracy Party headquarters at No 133, Ngantay Road, Mawlamyine, Mon State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 16 June 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party's registration number is 87.

By order,

(Tin Tun)
Secretary

Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Moscow, 16 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Nyan Tun on Tuesday visited the Nuclear Research Institute in Moscow.

The delegation observed cooperation in the use of nuclear technology by organizations and ministries of Russia.

The head of Crisis Center Rosenergoatom spoke to the delegation about control and systematic management of nuclear power by skilled workers at the research institute in cooperation with nuclear agencies from other countries.

The delegation arrived

Vice President U Nyan Tun visits Nuclear Research Institute in Moscow

in Moscow on Tuesday morning and was welcomed at the Domodedovo Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Tin Yu and officials of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun being welcomed by official at Domodedovo Airport in Moscow.—MNA



OIC Special Envoy visits Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Syed Hamid Albar, Special Envoy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Tuesday.

During the call, the foreign affairs minister briefed Myanmar's position and measures taken in connection with boat people and development programmes in Rakhine state.

The OIC official said

the discussion helped understand the situation on the ground of Myanmar, adding that he would be reporting the information to the headquarters.

He also expressed the willingness to provide without discrimination, development and humanitarian assistance to the people in need through Myanmar government, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Chinese journalist delegation visits Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—A five-member delegation led by President Mr Tang Yuanjie of All-China Journalists Association-ACIA called on Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and party of the Ministry of Information at the ministry, here, on Tuesday morning.

The Chinese journalists held talks with officials at Myanmar Radio and Tel-

evision in Tatkon Township and Nay Pyi Taw daily at Khayaybin Junction in Zeyathiri Township.

They also visited the Gems Museum and the National Landmarks Garden.

The Chinese delega-

tion arrived in Yangon on Monday night and proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning.—MNA



Chinese journalists visit Myanmar Radio and Television in Tatkon Township.

MNA

Union FM sends messages of felicitations to Republic of Iceland

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Iceland, which falls on 17 June 2015.—MNA

National Development Party, Women's Party (Mon) apply for registration as political parties

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registration as political parties. National Development Party and Women's Party (Mon) applied for registration as political parties to the UEC on Tuesday.—MNA

Draft Myanmar Companies Law available on DICA's website

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 16 June — The Directorate of the Investment and Company Administration (DICA) announced Tuesday that the draft Myanmar Companies Law is available on its website in English and Myanmar languages.

According to the DICA, the draft Companies Law with two versions in Myanmar and English has been uploaded to its website (www.dica.gov.mm), as the modernization of the country's century-old Companies Act 1914 has been completed with the support of the Asian Development Bank.

The DICA has sought consultation from businesspeople and members of the public to provide input on

modernization of the new legislation by email, post or fax to its offices in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, as well as Shan and Mon states.

Modernising the old Companies Act will be of benefits to businesses in Myanmar, making it easier for them to operate and to access finance, said Mr Winfried Wicklein, ADB country director in Myanmar during a public consultation meeting on the process in Yangon last April.

Mr Christopher Hughes who made a presentation on the draft law at the meeting commented that its reform is as important as the modernisation of the investment law which is also currently in draft form.

GNLM

Video highlights importance of nutrition in first 1,000 days

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 16 June—The non-profit Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund and partners launched an educational video Tuesday on the importance of early childhood nutrition.

The 2-minute video developed by LIFT and Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition (LEARN) highlights the impact of nutrition in the first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday.

The organizations hope to spread the video's message to a wide audience across the country.

"Globally, the 1,000 days are referred to as a 'window of opportunity' where good nutrition can have lifelong impacts on

a child," said Elizabeth Whelan, LEARN's nutrition program manager. "Children can benefit from good nutrition during this time."

Researchers say well-nourished children are 10 times more likely to overcome the most life-threatening childhood diseases, complete 4.6 more grades of school and

earn up to 46 percent more over their lifetimes. In addition, they are more likely as adults to have healthier families.

A study shows 35 percent of children under age five in Myanmar are malnourished and are shorter than they should be, based on international growth standards. Additionally, almost 9 percent of infants are born underweight, having been malnourished

even before birth. On the positive side, the rate of breastfeeding in the country is high.

According to a 2013 LIFT survey, only one in three Myanmar children aged 2 and under eat a sufficiently diverse diet.

Since its establishment in 2009, LIFT has helped around 2.7 million people, targeting smallholder farming families and landless rural poor.—GNLM



Only about one in three Myanmar children up to two are eating sufficiently diverse foods.

PHOTO: TIM MITZMAN

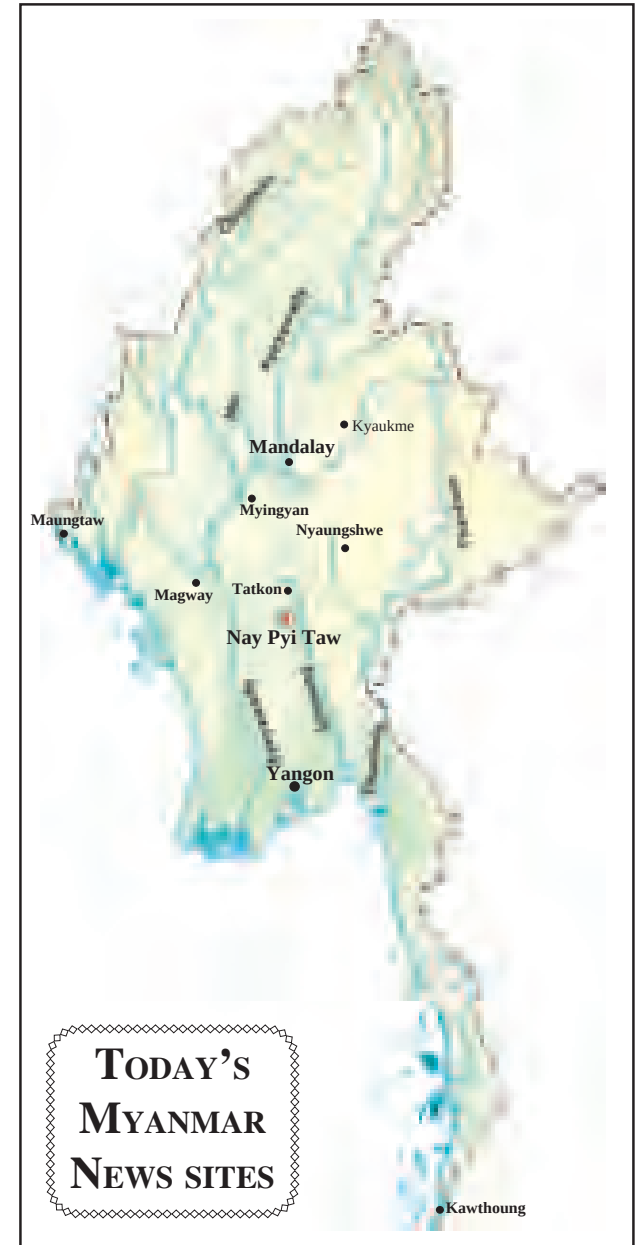
Top performers in Buddhist culture course honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — A ceremony to honour those who passed the township level Buddhist culture course examination was held at Aungthabye monastery in Thabyebin village, Zeyathiri Township, on 14 June.

Vice Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Abbot Bhaddanta Jotika and officials presented gifts to prize winners Maung Myo Naing Win, Ma Yu Sanda Myint and Maung Chit Min Thu.

A total of 33 trainees from Thabyebin village passed the course.

Shwe Ye Yint



Farmers hope for rains in Magway Township



MAGWAY, 16 June — Farmers in Magway Township and surrounding rural areas are hoping for more rain amid a dry spell following the last significant downpour on 21 May.

Local farmers are ploughing, weeding and buying fertilizer as they prepare to cultivate sesame and groundnut on

their plots.

“Most farmers have spent about K200,000 on labour costs for ploughing and weeding, and use of fertilizers,” a local farmer from Magyikan Village said.

“Each year heavy rain falls across the region enabling cultivation of sesame and groundnut. After that,

rainfall declines gradually,” he added.

“Using rainwater last month, sesame and groundnut plants are still thriving on farms,” said a local farmer.

“Based on my experience, I think there may be rain in the region on the early waxing days of Waso,” a farmer from Hsa-

tainggan village said, referring to the period from 17 to 19 June.

Nagu, Thandawgon, Hsadaingkan, Magyihsan, Pasosan Pahto and Thabyesan villages in Magway Township face a shortage of water for cultivation.

Zar Zar (Magway)

Kawthoung landslide destroys home, injuring resident

KAWTHOUNG, 16 June — A man was seriously injured when his home was destroyed in a landslide following heavy rain on 15 June in Padauk Shwewah Ward, Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region.

U Si Paw was inside his home when it was crushed by debris from the property of his neighbour U Tun Oo. Township and ward officials and rescuers rushed to the scene.

Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



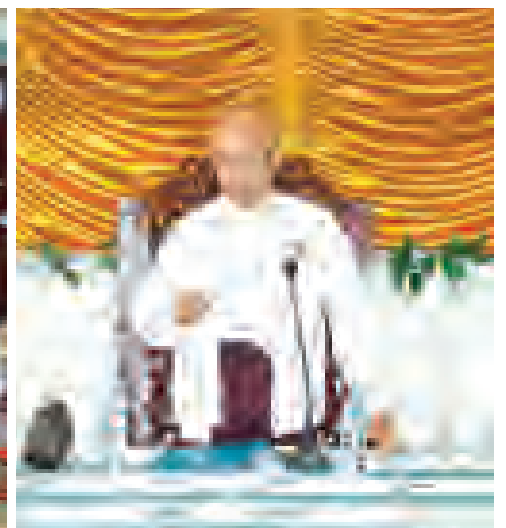
Retirees gather at annual meeting in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 16 June — An association of retired government service personnel held its annual general meeting for the 2014-15 fiscal year at the town hall in Kyaukme, northern Shan State, on 15 June.

Chairman of Township Development Supporting Committee U Tin Win urged the retirees to work toward ensuring the longevity of the association.

Township officials presented certificates of honour to well-wishers and prizes to outstanding students related to retirees.

Myint Aung (Ka Ma)



LOCAL NEWS

NYAUNGSHWE, 16 June — A 10-acre model plot of summer paddy on the farmland of U Shwe Ba in ThaleU village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township was harvested on 15 June.

Inn Ethnic Affairs Minister U Win Myint and officials praised the farmers for their efforts in cultivation of paddy to ensure local food sufficiency.

Head of Shan State Agriculture Department U Win Hlaing and Head of Township Department Daw Moe Thida Htaik explained the agricultural practices that yielded more than 200 baskets of Palethwe hybrid paddy per acre.

The local farmers harvested 148-day Palethwe paddy and produced 264.30 baskets of paddy per acre.

Nay Myo Thurein

Palethwe paddy yields more than 260 baskets per acre in Nyaungshwe Tsp



Local farmers receive paddy seeds for food sufficiency

MAUNGTAU, 16 June —Maungtau District Department of Agriculture recently distributed seeds to local farmers who cultivate crops on salty farmlands in the district.

At the ceremony, Head of District Agriculture Department U Aye Tun said local authorities from Maungtau, Taungpyoletwe and Buthidaung townships purchase rice from Kyauktaw Township to supply local residents, because these three townships cannot balance paddy production and population.

He said local farmers need to extend cultivation of paddy to gain a higher per acre rate with the use of quality strains.

The head of the district Agriculture Department presented 3,000 baskets of Vietnam, Hsinthwelat, Yezin-3, Yadanaaung and Thehtetyin paddy strains to local farmers.

Later, agriculturists explained agricultural law and rules, and seeds laws.—District IPRD



Pol Col Han Tun, Commander of Mandalay Region Police Force, speaking at opening of community policing course at the region police force office in Mandalay on 15 June. Altogether 16 police officers are attending the course from 15 to 26 June in Mahaangmye Township.

TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Mandalay Region targets 75% rice sufficiency in 2015

MANDALAY, 16 June —Mandalay Region aims to plant 3.4 million acres of monsoon paddy and other crops this cultivation season, according to the Region Department of Agriculture.

At present, most summer paddy has yet not been harvested in the region. Monsoon paddy will be grown from July to September. This year, monsoon

paddy, cotton, sugarcane, maze, onion, beans and pulses will be cultivated on 3.478 million acres of farmlands, said U Hla Myint Aung, head of Region Agriculture Department.

The region had 60 percent rice sufficiency last year and is aiming for 75 percent this year.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Conference seeks to reduce traffic congestions



MANDALAY, 16 June — A conference under the title, “Mandalay without traffic jams? Yes, we can!” was held at Mandalay Hill Resort in Aungmyethazan Township on 15 June.

Officials discussed solutions for urban areas of Mandalay, the impact of train networks on urban development and effective solutions for traffic congestions in major cities.

Guest speakers included French regional councillor Mr Jean Marc Brule, who shared strategies for countering congestion in his home country.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Students attend lectures on dangers of drugs

TATKON, 16 June — Local authorities have been lecturing students on the dangers of narcotic drugs at the start of the school year.

One such talk was given at Aung Thaphu Board-

ing School in Myawady Ward, Tatkon Township, on 14 June.

Speakers included Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Tint Tint Khaing, reporter

Min Hein Khant and IP Kyaw Soe Moe of Tatkon Myoma police station.

The students also viewed documentary photos displayed by the Township IPRD.

Tint Tint Khaing





Cambodian rights groups fear bleak future under new law

PHNOM PENH, 16 June — Rights groups in Cambodia are fighting a government they say feels threatened by their growing clout and is just weeks away from shackling them with strict rules crafted without any public consultation.

International rights groups and Western nations are alarmed by the determination of the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has ruled the country for nearly three decades, to ram through a new law.

They fear the measure would impede the work of 5,000 foreign and Cambodian non-government organizations. The government has tried to keep secret the latest draft of the law, which has been in the works for years, and is due to go to parliament soon.

“The law has never been so restrictive,” said rights activist Pen Bonnar, 53, who has become a hero to tens of thousands of Cambodians after 16 years of fighting landgrabbers, illegal loggers, and other forms of injustice. “It will tie us.”

A copy of the draft law, seen by *Reuters*, requires all NGOs to report their activities and finances to the government, with punishments for breaches ranging from fines and criminal prosecutions to the break-up of the organization.

It allows the government to take wide-ranging action against the NGOs, targeting them for anything from jeopardising peace, stability and public order to harming national security or Cambodian culture and traditions.



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen greets journalists during a plenary session at the National Assembly in Phnom Penh on 9 April, 2015.—REUTERS

The move will come as no surprise to critics of Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), who have accused it of constantly abusing its power by prompting authorities, such as judges, the police and military, to stifle opponents.

He has accused NGOs

of acting irresponsibly, including supporting the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), which is now challenging the CPP's dominance.

The new law aims to prevent the funding of “terrorism”, Hun Sen says, but his government has not said

if such a threat exists.

Civil society need not worry about the law, he said, adding, “It will protect you, support you and let you act freely.”

Cambodia has been widely praised for turning itself into a promising frontier market from war-torn basket case, cutting its ratio of poor among its population to a fifth in 2011, from half in 2004. NGOs played an important role in the process.

But that progress has fueled a black economy and dubious large-scale seizures of lucrative real estate and farmland, a trend often blamed on businessmen in cahoots with politicians.

New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the draft law was designed to muzzle critics and existing laws adequately

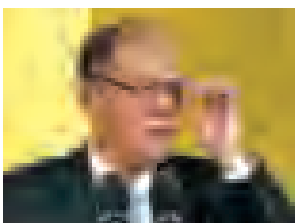
covered the NGO sector, the development of which it called one of Cambodia's “most thriving and important achievements”.

Opposition CNRP lawmaker Yim Sovann said his party would reject the law, but it is almost certain to be passed by parliament, where the ruling party has a majority.

Soeung Saroeun, of the Cooperation Committee of Cambodia, a grouping of 160 domestic and international NGOs, said, “This is the worst and most harmful law.”

Earlier this month, Scott Busby, a US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour, said the NGO law would make it “impossible to do their crucial work”.—*Reuters*

Philippine leader tries to resuscitate peace deal with rebels



Philippine President Benigno Aquino

SULTAN KUDARAT, (Philippines) 16 June — Philippine President Benigno Aquino attempted to revive a stalled peace process with Muslim insurgents on Tuesday, calling on lawmakers to grant autonomy for the predominantly Christian nation's restive southern region before time runs out.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) handed in a token 75 weapons at a ceremony on Tuesday, where Aquino attempted to push forward his autonomy proposal for the region, known as Bangsamoro.

The MILF, the largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines, agreed in March last year to disband its guer-

rilla force and surrender 15,000 weapons in exchange for control of their economy, culture and politics.

Work on the so-called Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) ground to a halt soon after fighting on the island of Mindanao in January killed 44 policemen and 18 rebels. The killing of the police commandos became Aquino's greatest political crisis, with calls for him to resign.

Aquino is trying to restart the process before he leaves office in June 2016.

“Our Moro brothers and sisters made a commitment, and before us is the concrete proof of their sincerity,” Aquino said in a speech at the “decommissioning ceremony” on Mindanao.

The weapons were handed over to a group of independent monitors, with the government in exchange granting about 25,000 pesos (\$555) each to 145 former combatants to begin a new life as farmers. The 45-year conflict has killed 120,000

people, displaced 2 million and stunted growth in the resource-rich southern region.

Al-haj Murad Ebrahim, leader of the 11,000-member rebel group, said the weapons handover was not a sign of weakness. “We begin the long walk towards transformation, not surrender,” Murad said. The rebels fear that the Philippines Congress, which suspended work on the BBL after the January killings, will try to dilute Aquino's proposed law.

One political analyst saw the ceremony as nothing more than propaganda in an attempt to convince lawmakers and Filipinos to support it. A recent survey showed only 23 percent of the population support the BBL. “Aquino wants to rally support for the BBL, but he is already a lame duck,” said Earl Parreno of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms. “Lawmakers would not be willing to risk their re-election to give him his legacy.”—*Reuters*

Mt Asama appears to have had small eruption: weather agency

TOKYO, 16 June — Mt Asama, a volcano about 140 kilometres northwest of Tokyo, appears to have had a small eruption Tuesday morning, the Japanese weather agency said.

A small amount of ash was confirmed at around 9:30 am to have fallen about 4 km north of the mountain straddling Nagano and Gunma prefectures, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, warning that rocks could fall within 2 km of the crater.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters that the government “will do our utmost to deal with the situation,” and will gather information and enhance safety measures. The eruption came a week after the agency raised the alert for the 2,568-metre volcano from 1, warning that it is potentially active, to 2, advising against approaching the crater, due to volcanic tremors since late April and a surge in sulfur dioxide emissions.

The agency said, however, it will not raise the alert further on its five-level scale as there are no signs of more volcanic activity.

Major Japanese airlines — Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co — both said the eruption has had no impact on their flight routes. It is unknown whether the volcano spouted a plume due to low visibility, according to the weather agency.

Surrounded by major tourist spots, Mt Asama last erupted on 27 May, 2009. When it had a minor eruption in February that year, ash showers reached as far as Tokyo and its vicinity.

The latest eruption follows recent volcanic activity nationwide including an eruption on Kuchinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on 29 May, and an eruption last September of Mt Ontake in central Japan that killed 57 people and left six others missing. Mt Asama also had



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo on 16 June, 2015, about the latest eruption of Mt Asama in central Japan.—KYODO NEWS

a minor eruption in August 2008. Medium-scale eruptions in September and November 2004 caused damage to local crops.

A major eruption in 1783 killed more than 1,000 people and destroying over 1,000 houses. More recently, 398 eruptions were observed through 1941 and 287 in 1954.

Kyodo News

WORLD

S Korea's MERS death toll rises to 19

SEOUL, 16 June — South Korean health authorities said on Tuesday the number of deaths linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus has risen by three to reach 19, while the number of diagnosed cases now stands at 154, with four new cases compared with the previous day's figure.

Three of the four new patients were infected while visiting Seoul's Samsung Medical Centre which has been pinpointed as the source of about half of cases of infection by the potentially fatal virus, including the country's first known case, ac-

cording to the Health and Welfare Ministry.

Since Sunday, the hospital has partially suspended operations and stopped receiving outpatients in an effort to prevent the virus from spreading.

More than 5,000 people are under quarantine in hospitals or at their homes.

Out of the 19 deaths, only four were under the age of 60.

Fifteen patients of those who died had underlying health conditions, the ministry said.

According to the World Health Organization, people with diabetes, renal failure and chronic lung disease, and those

whose immune systems have been compromised, are considered to be at high risk from MERS infection.

The government has been making all-out efforts to prevent any further spread of the respiratory illness since a 68-year-old man who travelled to the Middle East became the first South Korean case. His infection was confirmed on 20 May.

South Korea has the second-largest number of MERS patients, after Saudi Arabia, which has reported over 1,000 confirmed cases since the virus emerged there for the first time in 2012.

Kyodo News



A worker (R) disinfects an escalator at Busan's train station on 16 June, 2015.

South Korean health authorities reported the same day the 19th death linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus and four new cases, raising the total number of cases to 154.

KYODO NEWS



Health-care workers in protective clothing disinfect an internet cafe in Seoul on 16 June, 2015, following an increase in the number of diagnosed cases linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus. South Korean health authorities reported the same day the 19th death and four new cases, raising the total number of cases to 154.

KYODO NEWS

Michelle Obama in London to promote global education drive for girls



US first lady Michelle Obama greets US Ambassador to Britain Matthew Barzun at Stansted Airport, southern England on 15 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 June — Michelle Obama kicked off a two-day visit to London on Tuesday with a tour of an inner city school as

part of the US First Lady's drive to support education for girls around the world.

Obama arrived in London on Monday evening

with her daughters Malia and Sasha and her mother Marian Robinson, and will later meet Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince

Harry and Prime Minister David Cameron.

The First Lady will visit a school in east London, Mulberry School for Girls, where she will discuss her Let Girls Learn initiative which aims to reduce the number of girls who do not go to school in an effort to improve their financial stability, health and independence.

Writing in the *Financial Times* newspaper, Obama described the 62 million girls who do not attend school as suffering a heartbreaking injustice that deprives them of a chance to develop their potential.

"I intend to use my remaining time as First Lady — and beyond — to rally leaders across the globe to join us in this work," she said. "Because every girl, no matter where she lives, deserves the opportunity to develop the promise inside of her."—Reuters

Japanese subject to MERS home quarantine returned from South Korea

TOKYO, 16 June— Japan acknowledged on Tuesday that its nationals subject to home quarantine for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in South Korea had returned to Japan, though its officials declined to specify their gender or other details on privacy grounds.

A source close to Japan-South Korea relations has said two Japanese nationals subject to such quarantine had returned to Japan by Monday.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said on Tuesday that several Japanese returned to Japan before they were notified of the quarantine. But the ministry said none showed symptoms and that their risk of infection was "low." "There is no information that Japanese nationals have been infected or are suspected of having MERS," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said at a Press conference.

Asked about the Japanese who were subject to home quarantine and returned to Japan, Kishida said authorities are now monitoring their health, and said his ministry will continue to work closely with the health ministry on the matter. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga also sought to allay concerns, saying in a separate news conference that there is "absolutely no problem" with the Japanese returning to Japan since the country has in place what he said were "appropriate measures to prevent infections."

The two Japanese nationals are believed to be among 20 to 30 foreign nationals who senior South Korean health ministry official Kwon Jun Wook said have been subject to isolation at home. None showed symptoms and all tested negative for the virus, according to the South Korean official. It remains unknown why the two Japanese could be repatriated when South Korea has banned people under quarantine from leaving the country. The pair could have left before they were notified of the quarantine measure.

The Japanese health ministry said South Korea has considerably expanded the scope of home quarantine and its criteria do not necessarily match those for Japan's "health monitoring" measures.

The ministry has stepped up border checks for quarantine and adopted response measures since 4 June in the wake of the MERS outbreak in the neighbouring country.

People arriving or returning from South Korea will be subject to "health monitoring" even if they have exhibited no symptoms such as fever, if they had contact with a MERS patient or stayed in the same home or hospital. They will be required to have their temperatures taken twice per day for the 14-day incubation period of the virus. If fever is detected in the monitoring period, a virus detection check will be conducted on the suspected patient at the nearby regional public health institute and at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Tokyo. If confirmed positive, an announcement will be made.—Kyodo News

Vietnam to study over hosting of Southeast Asian Games in 2021

HANOI, 16 June — Vietnamese Prime Minister has agreed on studying the hosting of the 31st Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in 2021, said Vietnamese government office on Tuesday.

"Hosting SEA Games 31 in 2021 is the responsibility of Vietnam with the regional community, and will contribute to promoting the country's image as well as high performance sports," reads the office's

announcement on the government website.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister assigned Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to coordinate with relevant agencies to build a hosting plan for SEA Games 31 to submit to the Politburo for approval of the hosting.

The plan will include the number of sports and events, which are in the programme of Olympic and Asian Games, as well

as clarify training programs of Vietnamese athletes for the SEA Games 31.

Regarding infrastructure for the sport event, the Prime Minister asks for using existing facilities, upgrading them if necessary and not to construct new buildings from state budget.

According to former local report, the games are expected to be organized in Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh City, the country's

economic and sports hub.

The SEA Games has been held every two years, starting in 1959 in Thailand. According to the Southeast Asian Games Federation (SEAGF)'s Charter, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members will take turns to host the Games. Vietnam first hosted the games in 2003. The 28th SEA Games are taking place in Singapore on 5-16 June.—Xinhua



Wednesday, 17 June, 2015

Defeat can teach valuable lessons

By Aung Khin

Myanmar football has been on the rise in recent years, with the country recently contesting its first World Cup at the U-20 tournament in New Zealand. Although Myanmar's U-23 team could not grasp gold at the 28th SEA Games in Singapore, the side successfully defeated a number of regional rivals that it had not overcome for some years.

After being forced to settle for silver in a 3-0

defeat to Thailand, most Myanmar football fans accepted the result and were happy with the overall performance of the team, which continued to fight until the final whistle.

The Myanmar players showed will to succeed and a good deal of skill, but were outperformed by stronger opponents who went on to claim their 14th football gold in the biennial games, and 10th in the last 12 editions.

The objectives of the SEA Games include promoting cooperation and understanding among countries in the Southeast Asian region. However, the event has also highlighted the role of government agencies in the development of sports in respective countries.

As Myanmar has transformed into a multi-party system in politics, the private sector has begun supporting the sporting sector. While it is a start, much more needs to be done. Not only

athletes, but also coaches and managers should be exposed to competition at an international level.

The support of government agencies is crucial, as private firms face certain limitations. It takes time for a tree to bear fruit, and the results of such support may not be borne out for several years. While there is no shame in defeat, provided the game is played in the right spirit, it does show us how we can improve.

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Hot Pursuit vis-à-vis Populism in Statecraft

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

Sonu Trivedi

News channels, newspaper headlines, opeds, blogs and social networking sites have been inundated by articles and commentaries on India's cross border operations against insurgents in Myanmar. Though in the history of Independent India, it is not the first time that the Indian army has been offensive in cross border operations, but never has the media been so provocative. Hot pursuits, surgical operations and pre-emptive attacks are essential in the Global War Against Terrorism and in the present case against the insurgent groups based in North-eastern Indian States, but given the media hype and propaganda the entire purpose of what ought to be a "secret mission" seems to have been defeated. Implementing it in a subtle manner and breaking the stereotyped 'soft-state' image would have certainly given a boost in tackling terrorism and maintaining peace in the sub-continent. On the contrary, it has turned out to be a show of strength and machoism justifying nationalist sentiments and populism by the ruling Government in India.

Paradoxically, India has been overtly involved in augmenting soft power diplomacy. As a result of globalisation of popular culture, Indian soft power

has steadily grown over decades. Buddhism, Bollywood and Yoga have long been a part of Indian cultural heritage offering immense possibilities for projecting its soft power image. In its present bid of projecting Yoga on the world map, celebrating International Day of Yoga on 21st June is going to further enhance its soft power diplomacy at the global level.

Ironically, the present show of strength illustrates a case of 'throwing the baby out with the bath water'. In its bid to outmaneuver the rebel camps on the border, Indian security establishment in its counter offensive operation seems to have been taken in by the media. Covert armed operations bear fruits when devoid of media frenzy and actions. But the ongoing drama and public rhetoric has been adverse to India's international image and diplomacy running into the risk of antagonising a friendly neighbour and compromising on bilateral ties. The lessons are obvious and must be used with caution before replicating it elsewhere.

The facts and figures emerging out of post-cross border operation offers no credible confirmation and speaks of inherent contradictions and inconsistencies about the causalities inflicted. There seems to be no clear answer to that question. The details are likely to be murky given

the secrecy in the security establishments and diplomatic sensibilities. But what is sure is that the use of force and military interventions as an instrument of statecraft and inter-state relations is back not only in India's security establishments but in the sub-continent as well.

Attempting a military solution to what really is a social and political issue of decades long exclusion of India's northeast may further complicate the matter. India has been fighting a long six decade war with its own people resulting in a tragic engagement and leading to a vicious cycle of violence. Northeast's tryst with violence has been a product of bloody confrontation between the insurrectionary groups and security forces and political narrative of unending power struggle between the Centre and the State. Added to this, the persistent centralising drives have been responsible for the 'failed' state of affairs in the Northeast. The Indian state has failed to address the root cause and provide an economic environment conducive to the new generation of youth who could realize, express and hope for a better life. Lacking basic means of livelihood, decent standards of living and political opportunities to express dissatisfaction, the newly educated youth have taken to arms.

Therefore, solution lies in highlighting this

major structural problem in the political system created by the centralising drives of the Indian state in a society which is predominantly characterised by diverse ethnic groups and focusing the systemic gap in the lopsided development strategy of the nation. Political interventions, dialogues, negotiations, accommodation and inclusive developmental economic policies could certainly be an alternative for channelizing the energies in the right direction.

Though scoring a major shift in India's existing 'soft' stand on anti-terror operations, success of this well coordinated, coherent and covert military retaliation has been marred by the criticism of (alleged) unilateral action, violation of sovereignty (if any) of what may be regarded as a 'distant neighbour' having shared frontiers and breast beating by the government, thereby setting a

dangerous precedent and putting the region on a 'short fuse'. Willingness of the Government to overdo hard and high risk options and celebrating it by responding to public opinion through social media have questioned the traditional wisdom of Statecraft and intelligence and military capabilities. Success of such an operation must be shared appropriately and responsibly.

National interest expressed in terms of 'power' is a dominant realist paradigm in international relations theory, but institutions, structures, procedures and norms has its own substance in global politics. Role of institutions in facilitating cooperation amongst nations offers a nuanced approach of accommodation in international relations theory of 'Complex Interdependence'. This reinforces the need to focus on particular 'sensitivities' and

'vulnerabilities' of actors involved. If compromised in the name of 'national interest' and outplayed as a populist measure, it may lead to blunders in the game of International politics.

Nonetheless justified in flushing out militant outfits, neutralising the insurgents and guarding the sanctity of borders and lives of soldiers and citizens, the triumphalism evokes responsible response with due regard to geographical boundaries and diplomatic sensibilities. Such pre-emptive operations and swift retaliations can be a 'State of Exception' in Agamben's term increasingly subjecting people to extra-judicial state violence, rather than the order of the day. Diplomacy as an element of statecraft can never be compromised for hard options indeed!

(Sonu Trivedi teaches at Delhi University)



Cartoonist
Bahan Aye Min

ARTICLE

Kyimyindine Station upgrade raises . . .



An official using old communication devices at Kyimyindine Railway Station.

(from page 1)
any special maintenance, only regular cleaning and painting.

Recently, it was announced that the historic station would undergo a major upgrade. Tenders have been invited for construction of shopping centres and warehouses. Eight acres of land have been allotted for the new development which will be carried out in three phases.

Priority will be given to installation of digital systems, new lines, security gates and signal systems at stations including

Kyimyindine, according to a railway official.

For the moment, however, Kyimyindine Station operates as it has for decades. The station serves about 2,000 people a day including migrant workers and labourers from the far bank of the Kyimyindine River. Many passengers use the station as a transit point for changing from train to buses.

A railway worker recently expressed concern about the upgrade works, particularly its impact on the heritage aspect of the station.

“The buildings are ancient. Ladders in flag boxes were manually made. Priority should be given to conservation of ancient buildings, even if high-rise apartments and car parking are necessary for modern lifestyle,” the worker said.

The worker said he and others had voiced their concerns through official channels, but had not received any response.

“We have given our opinion for a long time but there has been no response, although it has been said that the conservation tasks would be carried out with (Japan

International Cooperation Agency) loans,” the worker said.

“It is also necessary to upgrade the operations of railway staff, as well as the status and dignity of the station.”

Tenders have been invited to build warehouses at Kyimyindine Station, which will also eventually accommodate all warehouses currently at Yangon Station. In addition, the steel overpass of the station is deteriorating and the rickety overpass is in need of repair.

Among the voices calling for the station’s preservation is a 94-year old former railway worker.

“The history of Kyimyindine Station cannot be separated from the history of railways in Myanmar,” the retired worker said. “While we are glad to see new developments emerging, the old station should be preserved for years.

“We can see ancient station buildings like Kyimyindine Station in London today.”

Contemplating his uncertain future, Ko San Win described the signalling skills that make him indispensable for the time being.

“When it is too hot, railroads broaden and we have to be careful about the timing,” he said. “Some-

times, it is very difficult to lift up points and we have to do it manually.

“As I have grown up among the railway families, I am happy to work here.

“It is good news that new developments will be built and automatic systems will be installed, but we don’t know what will happen to us signal and telegraph workers.”

With new develop-

ments emerging in economic, political and social fields, it is important to balance progress with the needs of society, according to Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin.

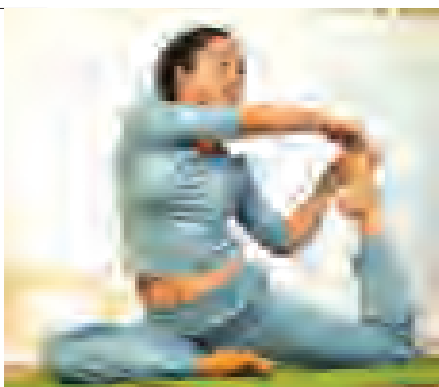
“With new development, ideologies of citizens on heritage and society change,” Daw Sanda Khin said. “We have to find equilibrium before going ahead.”



Ancient signalling machinery and linkage devices for railroads seen at a control room of Kyimyindine Railway Station.

Indian Embassy holds competition to celebrate World Yoga Day

A competitor performs a yoga pose in a competition hosted by Indian Embassy in Yangon on Tuesday.
PHOTO: YE MYINT



By Ye Myint

YANGON, 16 June — Yoga enthusiasts young and old showed their flexibility Tuesday in a competition hosted by the Indian Embassy in Yangon to promote the UN-designated day for the ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice.

The competition in the run-up to World Yoga Day on 21 June was the first of its kind in Myanmar and attracted 30 participants ranging in age from 6 to 56.

“The competition aims to show how much progress yoga practitioners in Myanmar have made,” yoga teacher and competition judge U Khin Maung Swe said.

Competitors performed five mandatory poses, as well as one of their own choosing, added

the teacher, who has been demonstrating yoga to enthusiasts in Yangon for 10 years.

The Indian Embassy will hold public demonstrations of the discipline on Sunday morning at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon and Mandalar Thiri Football Stadium in Mandalay.

More than 600 yoga enthusiasts have signed up to take part in the public event in Yangon, said U Khin Maung Swe, who will

provide commentary on the event.

A special programme arranged for International Yoga Day celebrations around the world will be demonstrated at the event, he added. The United Nations designated 21 June each year as the International Day of Yoga, through a resolution in December, 2014.

According to the Embassy, there are 18 Yoga clubs and centres in Yangon. —GNLM

ADB to help Myanmar banks boost risk management capacity for SME lending



YANGON, 16 June — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Myanmar Banks Association are holding a 4-day workshop, starting on Monday at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon, to help local commercial banks raise their risk management capacity for lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

“With sound risk management, financial institutions will be able to

promote access to financial services by SMEs, which is crucial for promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in Myanmar,” said Thierry de Longuemar, ADB Vice President for Finance and Risk Management. “Strengthened risk management will also help promote the development of the financial sector.”

The workshop will cover key aspects of credit risk management and operational risks in SME lending. Participating bank loan officers and risk managers will gain practical insights

into formulating credit policy, assessing loan applications, and monitoring loan portfolios more effectively. More than 30 participants from 19 local banks and the Central Bank of Myanmar are expected to attend.

SMEs are the backbone of the private sector in Myanmar—accounting for over 90% of companies and over 70% of employment. However the sector has been hampered by a lack of access to finance, partly because of restrictive collateral requirements, but also because of a lack of capacity

among local banks to assess and manage operational and credit risks for smaller businesses.

The workshop is organized as part of ADB’s Technical Assistance for Enhancing Regional Capacity for Risk Management project, which will complement ADB’s non-sovereign operations in Myanmar. ADB’s operations in Myanmar focus on infrastructure development, education and skills development, and private sector development, including access to finance.

GNLM

In U-turn, Cameron rules out EU referendum vote on 5 May, 2016

LONDON, 16 June — British Prime Minister David Cameron has performed a U-turn and ruled out holding a European Union membership referendum on 5 May, 2016, a shift to placate some of his own lawmakers who were opposed to it being held on the same day as

local elections.

The move will be interpreted as a tactical one designed to preserve unity in Cameron's ruling Conservative Party which is riven by differences over Europe and follows another U-turn by Cameron on the subject earlier this month.



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron arrives to attend an EU-CELAC Latin America summit in Brussels, Belgium on 10 June, 2015. —REUTERS

Cameron has promised to renegotiate Britain's relationship with the 28-nation bloc before holding an in-out referendum by the end of 2017. He has said he would be open to holding the vote before then if he can complete the renegotiation early.

But Eurosceptic lawmakers from Cameron's Conservatives had feared he might try to secure a "yes" vote by holding the vote as early as next May, the same day as elections in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, in order to limit the time available to debate any deal he secures. On Monday night, in a policy shift, his government tabled an amendment to a law paving the way for the referendum which rules out holding the referendum on the same day as the local elections.

"We have listened to the views expressed by MPs across the house and decided that we won't hold the referendum on 5 May, 2016," a spokeswoman for Cameron's Downing Street office said.

The law is due to be debated in parliament on Tuesday.

The decision to rule out the 5 May vote comes after Cameron told parliament last week he thought voters were capable of making two decisions on one day, suggesting the referendum could be held on 5 May.

The government is also likely to promise not to spend large amounts of public money to influence the campaign in the immediate run-up to the referendum, another demand from Eurosceptic lawmakers.

Reuters

Nikolic: Serbia will not introduce sanctions against Russia



Aleksey Pushkov, the Chairman of the Russian State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee and Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic. —TANJUG

BELGRADE, 16 June — Serbia will preserve its neutral position in the conflict between the European Union (EU) and the Russian Federation and will not introduce sanctions against Russia, as no sanctions can lead to resolving a crisis, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said at a meeting with Aleksey Pushkov, the Chairman of the Russian State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee.

Nikolic voiced hope the EU and Russia will soon overcome their disagreements and go back to the relations as they were before the Ukraine crisis.

Pushkov said he submitted a proposal to the Serbian parliament and the Russian State Duma to set up a joint inter-parliamentary commission. He noted it is necessary to raise the inter-parliamentary ties between Serbia and Russia to a higher level, because of exceptional closeness between the two countries and the importance Serbia has for Russia.

The Russian Federation has so far established such commissions with four countries only: China, Italy, France and India, Pushkov pointed out. —Tanjung

Obama invites Netanyahu for post-Iran deal talks



US President Barack Obama

JERUSALEM, 16 June — US President Barack Obama has invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks in Washington next month after a deadline for reaching a nuclear agreement with Iran, an Israeli newspaper reported on Tuesday, quoting State Department sources.

A spokesman for Netanyahu's office had no immediate official comment on the report. Officials speaking on condition of anonymity, however, told reporters that no such invitation had been received.

The mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth daily quoted unidentified sources at the State Department as saying Obama had invited Netanyahu for talks in mid-July, after a 30 June deadline for a major powers deal with Iran on its nuclear programme.

Netanyahu has criticized the emerging deal Israel fears will allow Iran the means of making a bomb, while also granting it sanctions relief that could help bankroll its guerrilla allies in the region.

Iran says its nuclear projects are peaceful. —Reuters

Russia says will retaliate if US weapons stationed on its borders

MOSCOW/WARSAW, 16 June — A plan by Washington to station tanks and heavy weapons in NATO states on Russia's border would be the most aggressive US act since the Cold War, and Moscow would retaliate by beefing up its own forces, a Russian defence official said on Monday.

The United States is offering to store military equipment on allies' territory in eastern Europe, a proposal aimed at reassuring governments worried that after the conflict in Ukraine, they could be the Kremlin's next target.

Poland and the Baltic states, where officials say privately they have been frustrated the NATO alliance has not taken more decisive steps to deter Russia, welcomed the decision by Washington to take the lead.

But others in the region were more cautious, fearing their countries could be caught in the middle of a new arms race between Russia and the United States.

"If heavy US military equipment, including tanks, artillery batteries and other equipment really does turn up in countries in eastern Europe and the Baltics, that will be the most aggressive step by the Pentagon and NATO since

the Cold War," Russian defence ministry official General Yuri Yakubov said.

"Russia will have no option but to build up its forces and resources on the Western strategic front," Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

He said the Russian response was likely to include speeding up the deployment of Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave bordered by Poland and Lithuania, and beefing up Russian forces in ex-Soviet Belarus.

"Our hands are completely free to organise retaliatory steps to strengthen our Western frontiers,"

Yakubov said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said: "We hope that reason will prevail and the situation in Europe will be prevented from sliding into a new military confrontation which may have dangerous consequences."

The Pentagon said on Monday the US military was in the process of deciding where to store a battalion's worth of military equipment in Europe. The decision is part of a long-term effort to maintain equipment for a heavy brigade in the region to facilitate US rotational training with NATO allies.

"This is purely posi-

tioning of equipment to better facilitate our ability to conduct training," said Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, noting that two battalions of equipment already was stored there.

Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, commander of the US Army in Europe, told Reuters in December the equipment set for the full brigade would be about 160 M-1 tanks plus M-2 Bradley fighting vehicles and self-propelled howitzers. A Pentagon official said on Monday the total number of vehicles would be about 220.

Reuters



Crew from US navy aboard at USS Viksburg participating in NATO's Dynamic Mongoose anti-submarine exercise in the North Sea off the coast of Norway, on 4 May, 2015. —REUTERS

Syrian Kurds claim capture of border town from Islamic State

AMMAN/AKCAKALE, (Turkey), 16 June — Syrian Kurdish-led forces said they had captured a town at the Turkish border from Islamic State on Monday, driving it away from the frontier in an advance backed by US-led air strikes that has thrust deep into the jihadists' Syria stronghold.

The capture of Tel Abyad by the Kurdish YPG and smaller Syrian rebel groups means the Syrian Kurds effectively control some 400 km (250 miles) of the Syrian-Turkish border that has been a conduit for foreign fighters joining Islamic State.

While the advance has brought the well-organized YPG deep into Islamic State's stronghold of Raqqa Province, it has also concerned Turkey, which is worried the expansion of Kurdish sway risks inflaming separatist sentiment among its Kurdish minority.

Redur Xelil, the YPG spokesman, told *Reuters* that Tel Abyad was "un-

der complete control". The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based group that monitors the war, said most of the town was under YPG control with only a handful of Islamic State fighters inside. Xelil said: "Most of them entered Turkey."

The YPG has been the only significant partner to date in Syria for the US-led alliance that is bombing Islamic State. The YPG now controls the border from Syria's far northeastern corner to just east of the town of Jarabulus. That is Islamic State's last remaining border crossing with Turkey, Xelil said. The YPG-led forces also seized control of the road linking Tel Abyad to the Islamic State's de facto capital of Raqqa city, about 50 miles (80 km) to the south, cutting off a supply route which Islamic State had used to send reinforcements. Tel Abyad, on the border with Turkey, has been a main conduit for Islamic State to smuggle weapons and oil.

The YPG-led forces



Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) fighters walk with their weapons at the eastern entrances to the town of Tal Abyad in the northern Raqqa countryside, Syria, on 14 June, 2015, after taking control of nearby Suluk town from Islamic State fighters.—REUTERS

had advanced into Raqqa after making big gains against Islamic State in neighbouring Hasaka province since early May, also with the help of the US-led alliance.

While Islamic State was being driven back in Hasaka, it was advancing

elsewhere in Syria against government forces, notably in Palmyra, which the jihadists seized from the government in mid-May.

The fighting near the border has forced more than 18,000 people to cross into Turkey from Syria, aid workers say. A

further 5,000 are believed to have crossed on Monday, according to a *Reuters* photographer at the scene.

Soldiers directed the people, many of whom were elderly, women and children, through a passage in a barbed wire fence to a

border facility, he said.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has voiced concern about the latest YPG-led offensive, saying Kurds were taking over areas from which Arabs and Turkmen were being displaced. He has accused the West of backing Kurdish "terrorists". He has also said the outcome could eventually threaten Turkey's border.

Turkey views the YPG as part of the PKK, which has fought a decades-long insurgency against Ankara and is considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

A Turkish official and humanitarian worker had said US-led air strikes were partly to blame for the recent displacement of mainly Arab residents from the border area. The US Embassy in Ankara defended its strategy from accusations that it was hurting civilians, saying they were only targeting the militants and their activities.

Reuters

British police hunt for family of 12 suspected of travelling to Syria

LONDON, 16 June — British police said on Tuesday they were hunting for three sisters and their nine children whose family fear they may have travelled to Syria to join a relative believed to be involved in the fighting there.

Khadija Dawood, Sugra Dawood and Zohra Dawood and their children, aged between three and 15, from Bradford, northern England, were reported missing five days ago.

According to media reports, the group disappeared after travelling to Medina in Saudi Arabia and there are now concerns they may have tried to join a brother of the three sisters who is suspected to be fighting with Islamic State

militants in Syria.

"One of the possibilities is they travelled to Turkey to travel to Syria," Balaal Khan, the lawyer acting on behalf of the women's husbands, said in a statement. "The suspicion, and main concern, is that the women have taken their children to Syria."

Naz Shah, the local member of parliament, told Sky News she had met the women's husbands and that they were shocked to have discovered their families were missing.

"If they have gone to Syria then the alarm bells are really, really loud," she said, saying work had to be done to understand why the women would have taken such action without their

husbands' consent.

British authorities estimate more than 700 Britons have travelled to Syria, with a significant proportion thought to have joined Islamic State which has taken over vast areas of the country and neighbouring Iraq.

Families are among those to have travelled, and police said of those arrested on their return to Britain last year, 11 percent were women and 17 percent were under 20. "We are extremely concerned for the safety of the family," said Assistant Chief Constable Russ Foster, of West Yorkshire Police. "Their families are gravely worried about them and want them home."—*Reuters*

Yemeni al-Qaeda leader killed in suspected drone strike — CNN

DUBAI, 16 June — The Yemeni leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Nasser al-Wuhayshi, who was once an associate of Osama bin Laden, was killed in a suspected US drone strike, CNN reported on Monday, citing two Yemeni national security officials.

If confirmed, it would be a major blow to one of the most active branches of the network founded by Osama bin Laden that had claimed the attack on a French satirical magazine and plotted against international airlines. CNN said the attack occurred on Friday in the Hadramout region in eastern Yemen.

Reuters could not independently confirm the

report, but some supporters of the group have published mourning notices on social media.

"Nasser al-Wuhayshi, may God accept him," one supporter identified as Abu Gandhi wrote on Twitter under the hash-tag Martyrdom of Abu Baseer al-Wuhayshi. The United States was assessing reports of his death, said a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity and declining to comment on any possible US involvement.

The US military was not involved in any strike, a second official said. It was unclear whether a strike may have been carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency. Wuhayshi, according to Gregory Johnson,

author of a book on AQAP, was born in southern Yemen and travelled to Afghanistan for the first time in 1998 to join al-Qaeda.

There, he met bin Laden and acted as his aide-de-camp until 2001, when the group was scattered after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan following the 11 September attacks on the United States. He became head of AQAP in 2009, several years after a daring prison break from a jail in Yemen.

The group has orchestrated a number of spectacular attacks inside Yemen in recent years, targeting government ministries, military camps and other institutions in which hundreds of people were killed.—*Reuters*

Rebels shelling kills 18 Syrians in Aleppo

DAMASCUS, 16 June — At least 18 people were killed on Monday when rebels fired improvised rockets on residential areas in Syria's northern city of Aleppo, the state news agency SANA reported.

The rockets slammed into the government-controlled districts of Serian and Faisal in Aleppo, said SANA, adding that children were

among those killed.

The rockets were fired from the rebel-held Bani Zaid district in Aleppo, SANA added. Meanwhile, Syria's Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi slammed the firing as an act of terrorism, which, he said, is supported by the Turkish government, which emerged as one of their main backers of the militant groups in Syria.

Aleppo, Syria's second largest city and once an economic hub, has become carved out between the rebels and the government troops. Tens of civilians have been killed by similar rebel shelling during the crisis, while the rebels accuse the government troops of shelling rebel-held areas with crude barrel bombs that also killed tens of civilians as well.—*Xinhua*

Somali students sit for national exams for the first time in 25 years

MOGADISHU, 16 June — About 7,000 Somali students sat for their final school examination for the first time in 25 years on Monday as the Horn of Africa nation seeks to revive its education system.

Acting Premier Abdullahi Amed Jama said the country was making

steady progress in reforming its education system.

"It is a great day for us taking centralized examination from our secondary schools today. This is the progress our country is making now, I wish you success in the exam," Ahmed told the candidates in Mogadishu

before the examination kicked off.

Internal Security Minister, Abdirisak Omar Mohamed, told reporters that security forces have been deployed to beef up security and thwart any terror threats where the examinations are taking place.—*Xinhua*

Joksimovic: Opening of chapters additional impetus on EU path



Jadranka Joksimovic

BELGRADE, 16 June — Serbian Minister without Portfolio for European Integrations Jadranka Joksimovic said on Monday that opening the first chapters in the EU accession talks by the end of the year would be an additional impetus for accelerating reforms in Serbia.

Joksimovic and Ser-

bia's chief EU negotiator Tanja Miscevic spoke with Ernst Reichel, the German Foreign Office's envoy for Southeastern Europe, about the continuation of the negotiation process with the EU, the Serbian government said in a statement.

Serbia has made significant progress in the European integration process,

the officials said in the discussion.

Reichel noted the significance of continuing the implementation of the Brussels Agreement so that Chapter 35 can become one of the first chapters opened.

In the implementation of the Brussels Agreement, it is important that both sides demonstrate a readiness for compromise, Joksimovic said and underscored that the community of Serb municipalities is vital for the Serb community in Kosovo-Metohija.

The two sides also pointed to the significance of regional stability and improved cooperation, where, as they said, Serbia has made a significant contribution, the statement said.—*Tanjug*

Alaska wildfires destroy dozens of homes, menace highway

JUNEAU, (Alaska), 16 June — Two fast-spreading Alaska wildfires have forced a series of evacuations, destroyed up to 45 homes and forced authorities to restrict traffic on a major highway connecting two of the state's largest cities, state officials said on Monday.

As many as 200 firefighters have been battling a 6,500-acre fire about 40 miles (64 km) north of Anchorage since Sunday afternoon. About 137 miles (220km) south of Anchorage, crews are fighting a much smaller, but equally dangerous blaze that threatens nearly 200 homes.

Additional specially trained firefighting teams from the lower 48 states and Canada were scheduled to arrive on Monday night and begin assisting on Tuesday, Alaska Forestry Division spokesman Sam Harrel said.

Crews have been battling the fires on the ground and from the air, with help from the three Alaska National Guard Blackhawk helicopters, according to state reports.

Harrel said the larger fire was ignited by human activity but the specific cause is being investigated. Dry and warm weather accelerated the blaze, he said.

It started on Sunday afternoon near Willow, where the Iditarod, Alaska's famed sled-dog race, typically kicks off. It initially covered about two acres, but within

11 hours had engulfed 6,500 acres, according to the forestry division.

Harrel said flames quickly jumped from one 30- to 40-foot spruce tree to the next, forcing a temporary closure of the Parks Highway, which links Anchorage in the state's south central region to Fairbanks in Alaska's eastern interior.

Residents along a 22-mile (35 km) stretch have been evacuated. The highway remains subject to intermittent closures and remained closed on Monday night, Harrel said.

Governor Bill Walker had surveyed the area by air and issued a disaster declaration for the affected area.

By Monday morning, Harrel said, about 25 primary homes had been destroyed and as many as 20 secondary homes were also lost.

There are about 170 residential structures in the evacuation area, according to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. These include year-round residences and seasonal cabins, said borough spokeswoman Patty Sullivan. The borough also reported more than 200 people checking into evacuation centers, including residents and tourists, Sullivan said.

A second blaze, a 640-acre grass fire in the town of Sterling, began in the early afternoon, quickly destroying six structures and threatening 200 homes, Harrel said.—*Reuters*

Ex-Florida Gov Bush joins Republican nomination race for 2016

MIAMI, (Florida), 16 June — Former Florida Gov Jeb Bush, younger brother of former President George W Bush, announced on Monday that he will join the already

crowded race for presidential nominee in the Republican Party.

While 10 other Republicans have already said they will run in next year's presidential election, Bush,

also son of former President George Bush, is regarded as a favourite, according to US reports and public polls.

"I will run with heart and I will run to win," Jeb Bush, 62, said at a gathering in Miami.

Bush pleased the audience by giving part of his speech in Spanish and pledged to push for immigration reforms. Bush's wife, Columba, was born and raised in Mexico.

In President Barack Obama's Democratic Party, Hillary Clinton, a former secretary of state and wife of former President Bill Clinton, has been a far more popular candidate for the party's nominee than the three others so far confirmed.—*Kyodo News*



Former Florida Gov Jeb Bush speaks at a rally in Miami on 15 June, 2015, after officially announcing his presidential candidacy, making him the 11th candidate in the Republican nomination race for the 2016 presidential election.—*KYODO NEWS*

Bangladesh upholds death sentence for top Islamist for war crimes

DHAKA, 16 June — Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the death penalty for a top Islamist party leader over atrocities committed during the war of independence more than four decades ago, paving the way for his execution.

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, 67, secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was convicted in 2013 on charges of genocide, killing intellectuals, torture and abduction during the 1971 war to break away

from Pakistan, a ruling that triggered violent protests by supporters.

Mojaheed, a minister during former premier Khaleda Zia's rule from 2001-2006, could be hanged within months, lawyers said.

"Everyone in Bangladesh is pleased over this verdict," Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters. "There's no bigger crime than to eliminate the nation's intellectuals."

Defence lawyer Khandaker Mahbub Hossain said he would seek a review

of the judgment and the Jamaat called for a 24-hour nationwide strike on Wednesday in protest.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened an inquiry into crimes committed during the war in 2010, paving the way for prosecutions by a war crimes tribunal that Islamists have denounced as part of a politically motivated campaign aimed at weakening Jamaat-e-Islami's leadership.

Two Jamaat leaders have been executed, one in December 2013 and another

in April. International human rights groups say the tribunal's procedures fall short of international standards. The government denies the accusation.

East Pakistan broke away to become independent Bangladesh after the war between India and Pakistan. About three million people were killed. Some factions in Bangladesh, including the Jamaat, opposed the break with Pakistan, but the party denies accusations that its leaders committed atrocities.—*Reuters*

Unstable atmospheric conditions cause strong wind north of Tokyo

MAEBASHI, (Japan), 16 June — Unstable atmospheric conditions generated cumulonimbus clouds on Monday over extensive areas north of Tokyo, causing thunder, heavy rain and strong wind, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Strong winds damaged building roofs and windowpanes and uprooted trees in Isesaki and Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture, local authorities said. In Isesaki, wind also overturned two cars, injuring a 61-year-old woman in one of the vehicles and a 74-year-old man about to get into the other vehicle.

A 38-year-old woman in Isesaki said, "I was at home and looked out to find the outside almost white with falling hail. I also saw the door of a shed blown

away and I was very afraid."

About 3,300 households were temporarily without electricity in Isesaki and elsewhere after the wind broke a power cable, Tokyo Electric Power Co said.

The meteorological agency said the severe

weather was caused by two cold air masses — one of minus 9 C and up to 5,500 meters high over the Kanto-Koshin region in eastern Japan, and another of minus 12 C above the Tohoku area in northeastern Japan — while temperatures at

ground level topped 30 C in some locations.

That huge temperature difference made atmospheric conditions extremely unstable, producing cumulonimbus clouds in the Kanto and Tohoku areas.

Kyodo News

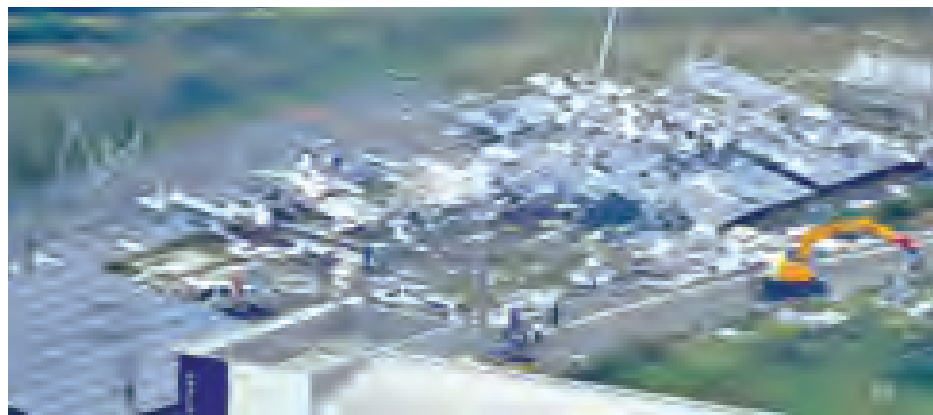


Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows solar panels destroyed by strong winds on 15 June, 2015, in the city of Isesaki, north of Tokyo. The winds overturned cars and damaged roofs in Isesaki and nearby areas.—*KYODO NEWS*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SKYHIGH SW VOY NO (007)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SKYHIGH SW VOY NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (054N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF265R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE**
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (004N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (004N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is Strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate in elsewhere in Myanmar water.

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(10/2015)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars / Myanmar kyat,

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-021(15-16)	5" Drill Pipe (5000) Meter	US\$
(2)	IFB-022(15-16)	5" Heavy Weight Drill Pipe (50) Nos	US\$
(3)	IFB-023(15-16)	6 1/2", 7 3/4" & 8" Drill Collars (3) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-024(15-16)	13 3/8", 9 5/8" & 5 1/2" Casing Shoe & Collar (16) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-025(15-16)	BJ Cementing Unit Spares (30) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-026(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Casings	US\$
(7)	IFB-027(15-16)	Electrical Spares (22) Items for HDD Rig	US\$
(8)	IFB-028(15-16)	Spares for HDD Rig (10) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-029(15-16)	Pump Spares for D3 T2 Drilling Rigs (23) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-030(15-16)	F 1000 Rig Pump Spares Ex D3 T2 Drilling Rigs (23) Items	US\$
(11)	DMP/L-005(15-16)	Spares for SINO Truck (20 Ton Long Body)	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15-7-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Leader of major organized crime syndicate faces tax evasion charges

KITAKYUSHU, (Japan), 16 June — The leader of Kudo-kai, one of Japan's major crime syndicates, was served a fresh arrest warrant on Tuesday for allegedly hiding hundreds of millions of yen collected from members affiliated with the group, and evading income tax, police said.

It marks the first time police have built a case against a crime syndicate official for suspected violation of the income tax law by regarding dues collected from members as taxable income.

Satoru Nomura, the 68-year-old head of Kudo-kai, which is based in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, was served the ar-

rest warrant, while three others, including Masakichi Yamanaka, a 64-year-old senior member of the group, were arrested on suspicion of managing the dues.

Nomura allegedly hid around 227 million yen collected in dues between 2010 and 2013 and evaded around 88 million yen in income tax, the police said. He has already been indicted on murder and other charges.

Members affiliated with organized crime syndicates often collect protection money from restaurants and pachinko parlors operating on their turf as well as from stimulant drugs dealers. The money is then handed over to their leaders as dues.

The police found the

dues collected by Kudo-kai had been wired to bank accounts held by Nomura's relatives and others, prompting them to count the money as personal income, an investigative source said.

At a news conference in Kitakyushu, Naomasa Yoshida, chief of Fukuoka prefectural police, described Kudo-kai's due collection as an "antisocial" system that could motivate crimes. "We estimate the dues to amount to hundreds of millions of yen a year. We will work to solve how the system works."

With its members implicated in numerous shootings against law-abiding citizens, Kudo-kai has been designated by local public safety commissions as a particularly dangerous gangster group.

Nomura has been indicted over the shooting death of a former local fishery cooperative leader in 1998 and attacks on a female nurse in 2013 and a dentist in 2014.

Kyodo News

S Korea's nuclear reactor operator to shut oldest unit permanently

SEOUL, 16 June — South Korea's nuclear operator said on Tuesday it had decided to permanently shutter its oldest nuclear reactor, the nearly 40-year-old Kori No 1 unit, in line with a recommendation by a government-led advisory panel.

Such a shutdown would be the first permanent closure of a plant in South Korea since the country launched its nuclear industry nearly four decades ago.

A spokesman for Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co Ltd said the company had

decided not to seek a second extension for the plant on the country's southeastern tip, after its operating permit expires in June 2017.

Last Friday, the advisory panel recommended the closure of the 587-MW reactor, which contributes

around 0.5 percent of South Korea's total power generating capacity.

The operator, which is part of state-run utility Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO), had been widely expected to accept the panel's suggestion.

Public trust in nuclear energy in the world's fifth-biggest user of nuclear power has been undermined by a 2012 scandal over the supply of reactor parts with fake security certificates and the 2011 Fukushima crisis in Japan.—Reuters

‘Jurassic World’ scores biggest box office opening in history



Cast member Chris Pratt poses at the premiere of “Jurassic World” in Hollywood, California, on 9 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 16 June — Dinosaurs stomped to a box office record over the weekend as “Jurassic World” notched the biggest movie debut in history, with a global total of \$524.1 million, Universal Pictures said on Monday.

“Jurassic World,” which reboots the dormant “Jurassic Park” franchise nearly 15 years after the first trilogy ended, grossed \$208.8 million at the North

American box office, topping the \$207.4 million record set by “Avengers” in 2012.

At the international box office, “Jurassic World” opened to \$315.3 million, exceeding the previous \$314 million record set by “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2” in 2011.

“Jurassic World,” starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, was

made for \$150 million by Comcast Corp’s Universal Pictures and Legendary Pictures. It adds a capitalist twist to a world where dinosaurs still roam among humans within an island theme park.

The film easily surpassed early projections for a \$121 million opening, drawing both fans of the original trilogy and a new generation of moviegoers.

“Jurassic World” becomes yet another box office hit this year for Universal Pictures, following February’s erotic “Fifty Shades of Grey,” April’s “Furious 7” action release and May’s “Pitch Perfect 2.”

The studio notched two more records this weekend, becoming the fastest to reach \$1 billion within a calendar year at the North American box office and \$3 billion worldwide.

Shares of Comcast were up 4 cents at \$58.30 in afternoon trading.

Reuters

Isle of Wight Festival honours Jimi Hendrix with record attempt



A woman paints graffiti of the rock star Jimi Hendrix, on the wall of a music shop in Malaga, southern Spain, on 18 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 June — Britain kicked off its summer music festival season on the Isle of Wight with a world record attempt in honor of Jimi Hendrix 45 years after his last UK performance at the venue.

As a sideshow to performances by groups such

as Fleetwood Mac, Blur and The Prodigy, thousands of music fans donned masks bearing the face of the guitar hero to try to get the most people wearing the same mask in the same place.

Hendrix played at the Isle of Wight Festival short-

ly before his death aged 27 in September 1970. Footage from that performance was beamed on Saturday from the stage, renamed “The Electric Church” for the occasion in honor of his music. A spokeswoman said organizers were still establishing whether a world record had been set. Proceeds from the masks, one pound each, will go to children’s charity Well Child, with 5,000 pounds (\$7,750) raised so far.

Electronic music band The Prodigy were among the first acts to perform at the 11-14 June festival off the English south coast, followed by 1990s Britpop act Blur and rock band Fleetwood Mac who closed the event.

“Happy” singer Pharrell Williams also performed.

The festival is considered the first major music festival in the British summer calendar ahead of Glastonbury later this month.—Reuters

‘Kung Fu Panda 3’ first teaser reveals villain Kai

LOS ANGELES, 16 June — The first teaser trailer for the highly-anticipated animation “Kung Fu Panda 3” has arrived.

Although the trailer is in Chinese, fans still can enjoy several scenes of the movie which reveal some new characters and give a look at the Furious Five, reported Ace Showbiz.

The trailer opens with Master Shifu seemingly warning the Furious Five that there will be a war. It continues with scene where the main villain, Kai aka The Collector, smirks.

Kai has an enormous body with evil spirit that goes around stealing the powers of other kung fu masters. It also shows the Furious Five fighting with other enemies on the roof of a building as well as fea-



Voice casts of ‘Kung Fu Panda 3’ pose in Shanghai.—XINHUA

tures Mei Mei, the female panda who is rumoured to be Po’s love interest. At the end of the trailer, Kai is seen destroying a Chinese

building with a huge statue.

According to the official synopsis, “when Po’s long-lost panda father suddenly reappears, the reunit-

ed duo travels to a secret panda paradise to meet scores of hilarious new panda characters.

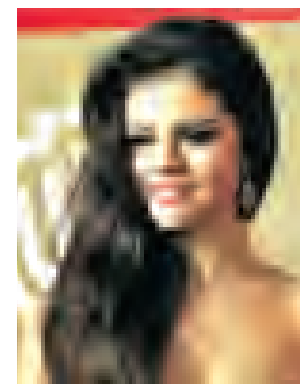
“But when the super-

natural villain Kai begins to sweep across China defeating all the kung fu masters, Po must do the impossible—learn to train a village full of his fun-loving, clumsy brethren to become the ultimate band of Kung Fu Pandas!” Jennifer Yuh Nelson, who directed “Kung Fu Panda 2”, returns as director while Melissa Cobb is tapped as producer.

The voice cast includes Jack Black, Gary Oldman, Dustin Hoffman, David Cross, Angelina Jolie, Michelle Yeoh, Danny McBride, Lucy Liu, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan, James Hong and the newly-added voice cast members Bryan Cranston, Rebel Wilson and Mads Mikkelsen.

The movie is slated for a US release on 29 January, 2016.—PTI

Selena Gomez teases new single ‘Good For You’ on Instagram



LOS ANGELES, 16 June —Pop star Selena Gomez has teased her fans with new details about her next single “Good For You”.

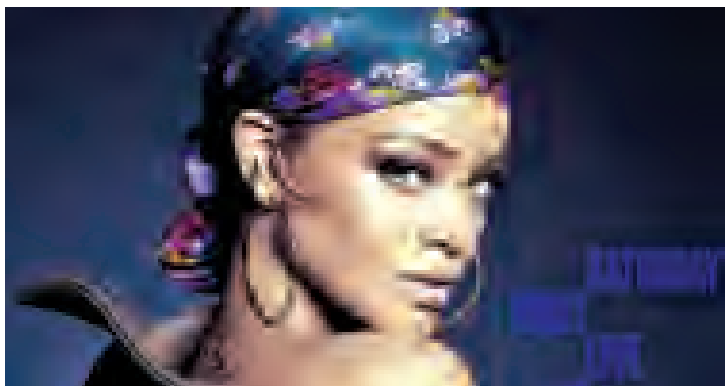
The 22-year-old singer took to Instagram and posted a blurry image of herself lying on the ground, reported Billboard.

“Now, who would like the first look of my new music video?” she captioned the picture.

The “Come and get it” hitmaker also shared a black and white photo of herself sitting on a stool against a bare white wall. She hashtagged the pic #IMready.

The new single will arrive on 22 June.—PTI

Rihanna dines with soccer star Karim Benzema in Santa Monica



LOS ANGELES, 16 June — Pop star Rihanna and soccer player Karim Benzema were spotted dining together in Santa Monica, California.

The “Four Five Seconds” singer grabbed dinner with the Real Madrid player and friends at an Italian restaurant where Rihanna is a frequent patron, reported People Magazine.

Rihanna and Benzema, both 27, travelled separately to the popular restaurant. The dinner date was the second time this week the pair was spotted together.

Last week, Rihanna and Benzema were caught getting cozy at a performance. According to a source, Rihanna and Benzema were “drinking and cuddling during the show” in a booth near the back of the venue.

The friends interacted on social media during the 2014 World Cup when the singer tweeted her support at the soccer star.—PTI

GENERAL

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham visits Cambodia to support vulnerable children



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham (R) visits children in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia, on 15 June, 2015. David Beckham visited Cambodia to focus on children who have endured physical, sexual and emotional abuse, according to a news statement on Monday.—XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 16 June — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham had visited Cambodia to focus his

attention on children in danger, according to a news statement on Monday.

The statement said, in Cambodia, the British-born soccer star saw how UNICEF and its partners are helping children who have endured physical, sexual and emotional abuses, and protecting vulnerable children from danger.

"I am here in Cambodia to meet children who have experienced violence, hear their stories and see what UNICEF and its partners are doing to keep these children safe," David said in the statement. "It is shocking that every five minutes a child dies because of violence somewhere in the world. This has to stop."

David arrived in Cambodia on Saturday for a three-day trip.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(17-6-2015 07:00 am~ 18-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(17-6-2015, Wednesday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • News / International News |
| 6:25 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Public Policy) |
| 7:00 am | 5:35 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • People's Talks |
| 7:35 am | 6:15 pm |
| • Money Talk Myanmar | • Documentary |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • People's Talks | • Science and Technology Programme |
| 9:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News |
| 10:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • Hight Light (28 th SEA Games) (Part-1) | • Teleplay |
| 11:30 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:35 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Hluttaw Image | • News |
| 12:50 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • TV Drama Series | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |
| 1:50 pm | |
| • Gatamahar | |
| 2:30 pm | |
| • Head Line News | |
| 2:35 pm | |
| • Traditional Boxing | |

Germany take top spot in Group B with Thailand rout

WINNIPEG, (Manitoba), 16 June— Lena Petermann scored two second half goals in three minutes as Germany wrapped up round-robin play at the Women's World Cup with 4-0 win over Thailand on Monday to claim top spot in Group B.

Norway (2-1-0) was also a winner in their final group contest easing past the Ivory Coast 3-1 to join Germany (2-1-0) at the top of table but the 2003 and 2007 champions take first thanks the better goal differential at plus-14 to the Norwegian's plus-six.

Thailand (1-0-2) finished third in Group B but could still advance to the knockout round depending

on the results of remaining group stage matches.

Thai goalkeeper Waraporn Boonsing did her best to keep her team in the match, yielding only a goal from German Melanie Leupolz in the first half.

But the top ranked Germans showed their class in a dominating second half display as Petermann headed home twice in the 56th and 58th minute.

Sara Dabritz completed rout with a 73rd minute tally.

In Moncton, it was Ada Hegerberg doing most of the damage giving Norway the early lead in the sixth minute then finding the back of the net again in the 62nd minute.



Thailand defender Sunisa Srangthaisong (10) and Germany forward Lena Petermann (19) go up for a header in the second half of a Group B soccer match in the 2015 FIFA women's World Cup at Winnipeg Stadium.—REUTERS

Veteran 34-year-old midfielder Solveig Gulbrandsen scored off a goal-mouth scramble to make it 3-0.

Ivory Coast refused to quit and were rewarded with a consolation goal from forward Ange Nguessan.—Reuters

Blatter could remain FIFA head if suitable candidate not found

ZURICH/NEW YORK, 16 June — Sepp Blatter could go back on his promise to stand down as FIFA president, a former adviser said on Monday, even as US prosecutors revealed a plea deal with a past FIFA executive who told investigators about bribes and kickbacks.

Klaus Stoeckli, who advised Blatter during this year's FIFA election campaign, told Sky News that Blatter could remain head of world football's governing body if a "convincing candidate" to replace him did not emerge.

FIFA said in a statement that Stoeckli, who was in a meeting when contacted by Reuters and unable to comment, was no longer working

with Blatter.

Blatter said on 2 June that he would step down as FIFA president. He is under pressure to leave sooner rather than later as US and Swiss authorities widen investigations into bribery and corruption at the organization. European Union lawmakers are among those calling for his immediate departure.

Also on Monday, US prosecutors revealed their plea agreement with Chuck Blazer, showing that the former FIFA executive committee member secretly provided authorities with information for nearly two years before he admitted guilt in court in November 2013. Blazer was the former general secretary of CONCACAF, football's

governing body in North and Central America and the Caribbean and a FIFA executive.

FIFA underwent yet another blow to its prestige on Monday when the Nobel Peace Center said it was ending its cooperation with the governing body.

The centre was behind the Handshake for Peace initiative, which had been enthusiastically promoted by Blatter over the past three years.

As the international probe intensified, pressure mounted at the Swiss body to stabilise its leadership. But Blatter has changed his mind in the past. In 2011, he said his fourth mandate would be his last but he stood again this year.

A Swiss newspaper on Sunday, the Schweiz am Sonntag, reported that Blatter had received messages of support from African and Asian football associations, asking him to rethink his decision to step down. Blatter was honoured by the support and had not ruled out remaining in office, the newspaper reported, citing an anonymous source close to him.

Africa's football confederation (CAF) said on Monday that it had not heard of any of its members asking Blatter to stay on.

"At CAF level we are not aware of any African countries who have written to ask Blatter to stay on," Kalusha Bwalya, a CAF ex-

ecutive committee member and president of the Football Association of Zambia, told Reuters.

English Football Association chairman Greg Dyke does not think Blatter will have a change of heart.

"I think it (a U-turn) is extremely unlikely. I think it would be very controversial," Dyke told Reuters. "There would be a rebellion amongst a lot of people (if he did)."

Insiders at the Union of European Football Asso-

ciations (UEFA) told Reuters that European football's governing body was left perplexed by the reports that Blatter would stand again and that the plot would be too outrageous even for a Hollywood script.

Officially, European football's governing body did not want to comment, but the German football association (DFB) called on Blatter, who is staying on until the election, to leave quickly.

Reuters

Victorious Myanmar athletes back from 28th SEA Games



YANGON, 16 June — Athletes from international rowing, Taekwondo, men's hockey, archery, bowling, sailing and badminton teams arrived back Yangon International Airport on 14 June and those of Sepak takraw, Squash and basketball teams on Tuesday.

The international rowing team of Myanmar won 2 silver and 5 bronze, Taekwondo team 1 silver and 1 bronze, men's hockey team 1 bronze and Sepak Takraw team 1 gold and 3 silver in the 28th SEA Games.

The victorious athletes were welcomed back by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department.—SPED

Medal Standings for 16 June, 2015					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Thailand	95	83	69	247
2	Singapore	84	73	102	259
3	Vietnam	73	53	60	186
4	Malaysia	62	58	66	186
5	Indonesia	47	61	74	182
6	Philippines	29	36	66	131
7	Myanmar	12	26	31	69
8	Cambodia	1	5	9	15
9	Laos	0	4	25	29
10	Brunei	0	1	6	7
11	Timor-Leste	0	1	1	2

Chile draw 3-3 with Mexico in Copa thriller

SANTIAGO, 16 June — Hosts Chile had to come from behind twice before themselves being pegged back by Mexico in a thrilling 3-3 Group A clash at the Copa America on Monday.

Mexican striker Matias Vuoso and Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal both scored twice in a game that roared from end to end and never let up in intensity.

The result leaves Chile and Bolivia on four points, ahead of Mexico on two and Ecuador bottom without a point.

Chile face Bolivia in their final group game in Santiago while Mexico face Ecuador in Rancagua,

both on Friday.

Vidal said Chile were improving as the tournament wore on.

"It was a tough match, an end-to-end match, but the important thing is that we played better than in our opening game and we're getting better," Vidal said. "Now comes the match against Bolivia and we need to be at 100 percent." Both sides went on the offensive from the outset and it was the Mexicans who took the lead in the 21st minute.

Jesus Corona crossed from the left, Juan Carlos Medina knocked the ball back across the face of goal and Vuoso stabbed a left-

foot shot past goalkeeper Claudio Bravo from close range, silencing nearly 50,000 fans in Santiago's national stadium.

That stunned silence did not last long as a minute later the Chileans were level, Vidal escaping his marker at a corner to power an unstoppable header into the bottom right-hand corner.

In the 28th minute Bravo tipped a Gerardo Flores header onto the underside of his crossbar and the Chilean defenders scrambled the ball to safety but with their next attack, the Mexicans restored their lead.

Raul Jimenez's loop-

ing header from a corner should have been saved by Bravo but the keeper was off his line and the ball ended up in the net.

Chile pulled level again three minutes before the break, Vidal crossing from the right for Eduardo Vargas, who escaped some suspect Mexican marking to plant another firm header into the back of the net.

Chile then took the lead for the first time in the match in the 55th minute with Vidal scoring from the penalty spot after he had been pulled down in the box by Gerardo Flores.

Mexico refused to give up and on 66 minutes Vuoso scored his second, beating the offside trap and running on to a long ball from Adrian Aldrete before chipping the ball over Bravo.

The Chileans poured forward in search of a winner and Alexis Sanchez appeared to have found it when he met a cross from the right and slammed the ball home from close range, but the linesman ruled he was offside.

"Maybe it was a good match for the spectators but we were hoping for another kind of match and another result," Bravo said.—Reuters

Young keeper shines in long-awaited win for Bolivia



Bolivia's goalie Romel Quinonez reacts after a penalty for Ecuador during their first round Copa America 2015 soccer match at Estadio Elias Figueroa Brander in Valparaiso, Chile, on 15 June, 2015.—REUTERS

VALPARAISO, 16 June — The standout player of Bolivia's first Copa America win since 1997 was delighted to have finally secured three points for his country and said the victory is a huge help in making sure they reach the quarter-finals of this year's tournament.

"Our objective was to finally win a Copa America match after so long," goalkeeper Romel Quinonez said of their 3-2 win over Ecuador in Valparaiso.

"We haven't qualified but this is a big step forward we have taken and we're very happy."

Bolivia lead the group on four points, with hosts

Chile on three points before they play Mexico later on Monday. The central Americans have one point, while Ecuador have zero.

Quinonez was just five when Bolivia last won a match in the Copa America, the year they hosted the tournament and were beaten 3-1 by Brazil in the final.

He was outstanding in Monday's win in which Bolivia stormed to a 3-0 first half lead and then had their backs to the wall for most of the second half.

With a fierce wind driving them on the Ecuadorians repeatedly tried their luck with wind-assisted shots from far out.

Reuters



Mexico's Raul Jimenez (9) celebrates after scoring against Chile during their first round Copa America 2015 soccer match at the National Stadium in Santiago, Chile, on 15 June, 2015.—REUTERS

FIFA to keep 'Handshake for Peace' at U-20 World Cup

WELLINGTON, 16 June — FIFA will continue to use the 'Handshake for Peace' at the under-20 World Cup in New Zealand despite the Nobel Peace Centre ending its cooperation with football's governing body.

Team captains have shaken hands before and after games at the age-group tournament, which sees Brazil playing Senegal

and Serbia facing Mali in Wednesday's semi-finals.

"We have not received any communication from the Nobel Peace Centre and so where we stand at the moment we will continue to do so (the handshake) for the remainder of the games," said Monika Huser, FIFA's media and communications manager for the tournament. "If an-

thing changes we will inform you."

Huser said teams at the women's World Cup in Canada would also continue to perform the handshake and FIFA staff in New Zealand were in 'constant contact' with head office in Zurich and their colleagues in Canada.

The Nobel Peace Centre, which had been

behind the initiative that had been enthusiastically promoted by FIFA President Sepp Blatter over the past three years, ended their co-operation with the scandal-plagued FIFA on Monday.

The Oslo-based Peace Centre, however, added that their agreement would not end immediately.

Huser would not com-

ment on whether FIFA, which is under investigation by Swiss and US authorities for bribery and corruption, had an opinion on the move by the Centre.

Blatter, who resigned

earlier this month just days after being re-elected for his fifth term because of the developing scandal, was not expected to visit New Zealand for the end of the tournament.—Reuters

FIFA U-20 World Cup Semi-finals Match Schedules for 17 June 2015 (all times local)				
Match 49	Brazil	—	Senegal	10:30
Match 50	Serbia	—	Mali	13:30