



New centres in Yangon, Mandalay to showcase performing, visual arts

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Heritage trust recognizes Myanmar Agricultural Bank building

By Aye Mim Soe

YANGON, 17 June — The Myanmar Agricultural Bank on Pansodan Road in Kyauktada Township on Wednesday received the Blue Plaque of the Yangon Heritage Trust, in recognition of its importance as one of the city's architectural landmarks.

The Blue Plaque is the sixth issued under the YHT's initiative following City Hall, the Aya Bank Headquarter, the Armenian Church, Central Fire Station and the General Post Office.

Built in 1930, the Myanmar Agricultural Bank building originally served as the Yangon branch of Grindlay's Bank. Myanmar's modern banking system is one of the oldest in Asia, with international banks having been present in Yangon since the 1850s.



The building was turned into the National Museum in 1970.

Dr Thant Myint-U, founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, said

Myanmar, while looking to rejoin the global financial world, must remember and

learn from its own checked financial history. (See page 9)



Myanmar Agricultural Bank is the sixth building where YHT installed a Blue Plaque.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Central Bank promises unrestricted foreign exchange for purchase of fuel and edible oil

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June— The Central Bank of Myanmar will begin the unrestricted sale of foreign currencies at its set rates, in a move aimed at facilitating the import of fuel and edible oil, according to a decision reached at a meeting here on Wednesday.

CBM Deputy Governor U Set Aung spoke of the bank's effort to deal with the unstable exchange rates between the local and foreign currencies, adding that the initiative is intended to prevent unwanted

hikes in foreign currency rates.

The Central Bank will sell foreign currencies through financial institutions, with the deputy governor saying the sales are expected to start on 17 June.

The Myanma Economic Bank and the Myanmar Investment Bank will introduce the plan on 22 June, he added.

Currently, the Central Bank has set its exchange rate at K1,105 per US dollar.—Moe Thuzar Soe

European delegation explores import deal on aromatic rice from Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 17 June — A delegation from the European Commission met with representatives of the Myanmar Rice Federation in Yangon on Wednesday to discuss the potential for supplying the EU market with aromatic varieties of the country's staple crop.

In the meeting at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, European Commission rice market officer Mr Damien Plan asked the federation about Myanmar's ability to export fragrant strains to Europe in

the mid- to long-term. Demand for fragrant rice varieties produced outside EU is

on the rise among European consumers, according to the visiting delegation.

U Ye Min Aung, general secretary of the MRF, (See page 2)



U Ye Min Aung, secretary-general of Myanmar Rice Federation, makes a presentation to delegation from the European Commission.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Unsettled education amendment bill brought before Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday discussed the education amendment bill, with MPs scrutinizing the bill clause by clause.

The Pyithu Hluttaw

and the Amyotha Hluttaw had held different views on the bill.

MP U Khin Maung Yi discussed in favour of the Amyotha Hluttaw's use of terminology for 'scholar' as 'independent scholar',

defining the qualities of an independent scholar as academic excellence, neutrality and free will.

Academics involved in the writing of the education law were not able to take a neutral stance in the process, he noted.

Supporting the amendment made by the Amyotha Hluttaw, MP U Thein Nyunt stressed the need to recognize the role of intellectuals representing students' unions, warning that

the denial of their role will be called into question in history.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the amendment bill of the Amyotha Hluttaw Law.—MNA

MP U Khin Maung Yi of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA



Deputy Governor of CBM Daw Khin Saw Oo.—MNA

Central Bank's responsibility questioned at Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — The Pyithu Hluttaw on Wednesday heard a query about the responsibility of the Central Bank of Myanmar to report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the country's monetary policies.

U Phyo Min Thein

of the Hlegu constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw whether the Central Bank provides information on the developments of monetary affairs to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In response, CBM's Deputy Governor Daw Khin Saw Oo said the bank

monitors financial stability and improves the stability and efficiency of payment systems.

CBM reported its functions to the parliament in November 2013 and in March 2014, with the deputy governor saying that the bank is preparing two

reports on monetary policy and financial stability.

Daw Khin Htay Kywe of the Mawlamyine constituency asked about actions to be taken against illegal logging and exploitation of natural resources in the area of dam projects on Thanlwin river. She also asked about compensation to local people who have lost their

land to the projects.

In response, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo said compensation will be made according to the economic values of crops and trees.

He added arrangements have been made to compensate for damages incurred by the dam projects on the river.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Swiss Ambassador, Indian National Security Adviser



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Swiss Ambassador Mr. Christopher Burgener.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Swiss Ambassador Mr. Christopher Burgener, who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at Ze-

yarthiri Hall on Wednesday morning.

Efforts are being made to bring ongoing armed conflicts to an end in order to turn the situations into peace and stability, said the Senior General.

Highlighting the importance of the Three Main National Causes, the Senior General expressed his belief that cooperation and experiences gained from Switzerland will be of great benefit to the country.

In his response, the Swiss Ambassador said that Myanmar is on the right track from the point of view of the international community as a step-by-step approach is needed for implementation of reforms.

Likewise, the Commander-in-Chief also met with Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser of India, at the same venue in the afternoon.

The meeting focused on further cooperation between the two armed forces, border security and exchange of army delegations between the two countries.

Also present at the two separate calls were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief's Office.

Myawady

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

Notification No. 18/2015

1st Waxing Day of Waso, 1377 ME
(17 June, 2015)

Kayin United Democratic Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that Kayin United Democratic Party headquarters on Bogyoke Road, Yadanadipa Ward 9, Hpa-an, Kayin State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 17 June 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party's registration number is 88.

By order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Electoral authorities seek to clarify Dala Tsp voter enrolment

YANGON, 17 June — Authorities in Dala Township held a meeting Wednesday with local residents, representatives from political parties and civil service organizations to clarify electoral enrolment procedures, in order to ensure the correct numbers of voters are registered in the township ahead of the upcoming general election.

Though there are more than 100,000 people of voting age in the township, only about 90,000 people are eligible to vote, said U Saw Naing, head of the electoral commission in Yangon Region's

South District.

For purposes of voter registration, the commission does not count people staying in the township with temporary census certificates and guests, even if they are of voting age, he added.

Those who are registered with the township's census form 66/6 are eligible for voter enrolment.

Local authorities are working in cooperation with the people to be able to compile accurate voter lists, and are aiming to release the electoral roll for Dala Township on 22 June.—Phyo Min Thein

European delegation explores ...

(from page 1)

said Myanmar can grow both short and long grain aromatic rice to meet EU demand through the contract farming system.

Myanmar has two types of aromatic rice — Lone Thwal Hmwe, which is similar to jasmine rice from Thailand and Paw San, which was judged the world's best rice at the World Rice Conference in 2011.

MRF vice-chairman Dr Soe Tun said exporting to Europe would enable Myanmar growers to diversify their markets.

However, local farmers will need to grow a greater volume of aromatic rice to supply the EU market, as local consumption already accounts for most of the crop.

"As the price of Paw San is high here, no one wants to export," he said,

adding that the price of export rice would be around US \$900 per ton.

According to the MRF, Myanmar targets to export some 200,000 tons of rice to the EU this year, compared to 100,000 tons last year. Around 70 percent of Myanmar's rice exports go to China, with the remaining 30 percent going to the EU, Japan and Africa markets.

EU statistics show exports of Myanmar milled rice to Europe increased

120 percent between September 2014 and April 2015, while broken rice exports rose 81 percent during the same period.

A member of the European delegation said an export deal with Myanmar on aromatic rice strains would "create a win-win situation, as we don't produce them and we want and eat them."

"We hope to come back again in the future and continue discussions," he said.—GNLM

New centres in Yangon, Mandalay to showcase performing, visual arts

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—New art centres to be built in Yangon and Mandalay will host music and dance performances, exhibitions, cultural shows and film screenings, President U Thein Sein said here Wednesday at a meeting with artists.

The president said the government is responsible for both economic development and pursuit of public happiness through the arts, and these centres will be able to host cultural shows all year around under the management of independent bodies comprised of artists.

U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, the vice chairman of the construction committee for the centres, detailed the projects during the meeting at the hall of the farmer educative farm.

Union ministers and artists then discussed the needs of the centres.

The meeting was also attended by Union ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint, U Aye Myint Kyu and U Ye Htut, as well



President U Thein Sein cordially meets with artists in meeting to open art centres in Yangon and Mandalay.—MNA

as Deputy Minister U Soe Tint and representatives of arts and cultural associations.

President U Thein Sein also received Mr Ajit Dov-

al, the 5th National Security Adviser to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Myanmar ministers and

Indian delegates discussed border issues and military cooperation between the two countries. —MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun meets secretary of Russia's Security Council, Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association

Moscow, 17 June—Vice President U Nyan Tun met Mr. Nikolai P Patrushev, Secretary of Russian Security Council and party at the President Hotel in Moscow on Wednesday morning.

They discussed further cementing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, cooperation in defence and security sectors, preparations for

signing the MoUs, signing of MoU between Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar and Russia's ROSATOM State Atomic Energy Corporation over nuclear safety, assessment for impact of nuclear energy on environment, technology on nuclear medicine, and cooperation in research and development of nuclear energy utilization for peace process, cooperation in

drug control, anti-terrorism, criminal matters, cooperation in international relations and issues on ASEAN-Russian Meeting.

The vice president also met retired General Mr Michael Dmitriev, Chairman of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association at the President Hotel here Tuesday for talks on increasing cooperation between the two countries.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, who accompanied the vice president, met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Igor V Morgulov of the Russian Federation at the ministry to discuss increasing bilateral relations and matters related to the signing of memorandums of understanding and agreements during the vice president's trip.

The deputy minister also called on Natural Resources and Environment Minister Mr Sergey Donskoy and discussed cooperation in the natural resources conservation sector between the two countries.

The deputy minister and Russian Minister Mr Sergey Donskoy signed an MoU on cooperation of expertise in the geological field between Myanmar's Ministry of Mines and Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.



Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Secretary of Russian Security Council Mr. Nikolai P Patrushev and party.—MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.—MNA

Union FM receives National Security Adviser of India

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Ajit Davil, National Security Adviser (Minister in Prime Minister's office) of India, Wednesday at the ministry, here.

During the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation in a cordial manner.—MNA

MNA

Myawady to upgrade Bayintnaung Market

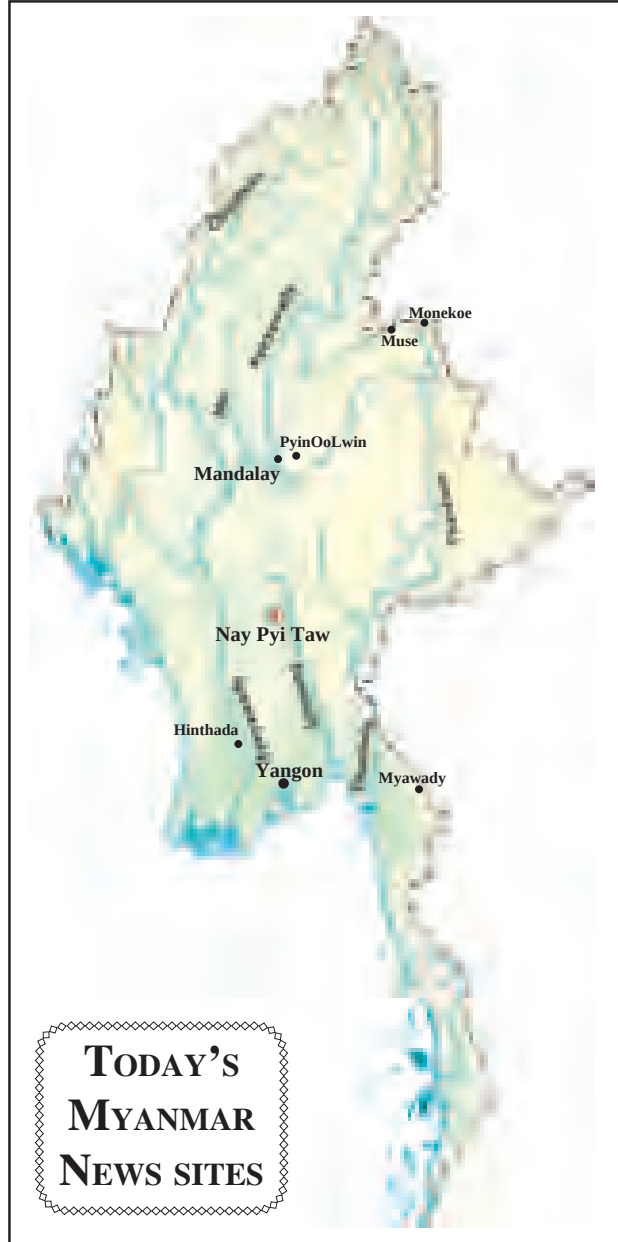


MYAWADY, 17 June — A co-ordination meeting on upgrading Bayintnaung Market was held at the hall of Shwemyinwun Pagoda in Myawady, Kayin State, on Tuesday.

Kayin State Minister for Development Affairs U Than Daing outlined construction of the new market. An official of Phasi, Thanlwin and Zwegabin Public Company spoke about the new market's design, including allocation of shops, fire prevention and security measures.

Officials and shopkeepers shared their thoughts on the market upgrade.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Victorious Myanmar hockey team seen with President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Htin Zaw Win, general secretary U Khin Maung Latt at Yangon International Airport on 15 June evening. Myanmar secured bronze medal with a 5-1 win over Thai team in third placed match in 28th SEAGames.—REPORTER THAN SHWE (PABEDAN)



Experts review ancient Pyu inscriptions, murals



MANDALAY, 17 June — The Ministry of Culture on 15 June gave a presentation to share findings on the ancient Pyu stone inscriptions and paintings recently discovered at a cave near Kabani Village in Ywangan Township.

Deputy Director U Aung Aung Kyaw of the ministry and lecturer U Kyaw Khaing of the National University of Arts and Culture gave talks during the briefing at the National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township. Officials explained findings of ancient Pyu stone inscriptions. The ceremony was also attended by faculty members from Mandalay

and Yadanabon universities, historical researchers and media.

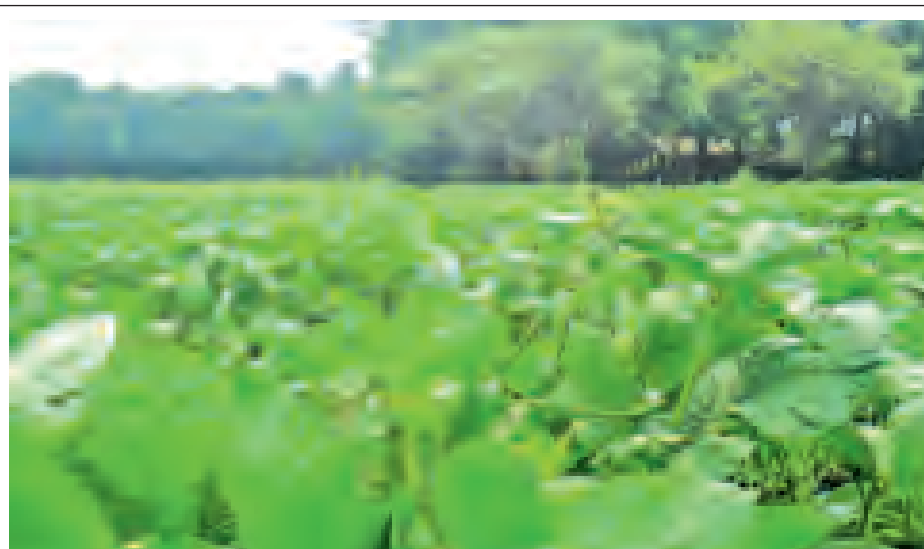
Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)

Course spreads knowledge of electoral procedures

HINTHADA, 17 June — An electoral knowledge course under the guidance of the Union Election Commission concluded at the hall of the Hinthada District General Administration Department on 16 June.

UEC member U Win Ko and the respective chairmen of Hinthada District and Ayeyawady Region election sub-commissions gave lectures on electoral laws and procedures.

Altogether 87 people attended the two-day course.—Kyaw Kyaw
(Hinthada)



Farmers hope to boost production of green gram

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June — After recent rains, monsoon green gram is thriving on more than 300 acres of farmland in Wegyi village-tract in Pobbathiri Township.

Local farmers spent K35,000 per acre on cul-

tivation of Yezin hybrid green gram. They can harvest the plants in two months with 15 baskets of green gram per acre.

Merchants pay K45,000 per basket of bean, a local farmer said.

Shwe Ye Yint

LOCAL NEWS

Police promote campaign against human trafficking



MANDALAY, 17 June — Police gave a talk on human trafficking to residents in Minte Ekin Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, on Tuesday.

SIP Nay Aung Kyaw

of No. 11 Anti-Human Trafficking Police Squad spoke about the different types of human trafficking, laws related to overseas employment and efforts of the government to combat

the crime. Police officers distributed pamphlets about efforts to combat human trafficking to some 70 local residents who attended the talk.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Roundtable highlight challenges for universities

MANDALAY, 17 June — The Government Technological University marked its 60th anniversary with a roundtable discussion on challenges facing the higher education sector at its Mandalay campus on 16 June.

Chairwoman of the university's Literature, Culture and Fine Arts Association Ma Ei Pyat Phone, rector Dr Hsint Soe and writer Tin Maung Than participated in discussions.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



New body for farmers formed in PyinOoLwin Tsp

PYINOOLOWIN, 17 June — A new representative body for farmers and agricultural workers was formed in Nyankwe Ward, PyinOoLwin Township, on 15 June.

The Tagun Ahman

Farmers and Agriculture-based Workers Organization plans to improve agricultural knowledge among local farmers and introduce new cultivation technology.

PyinOoLwin District

has 23 farmers and agriculture workers organizations. They are not politically affiliated and exist to improve the living standards of local farmers.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Revenue officers widen knowledge of taxpayers

MUSE, 17 June — Muse Township Internal Revenue Department clarified tax laws of the union and revenue affairs at the city hall in Muse, northern Shan State, on 16 June.

Muse District's depu-

ty commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun gave guests an overview of tax laws of the union. Head of Shan State Internal Revenue Department U John Sein Gi and Head of Township IRD U Maung Than outlined the

Union Tax Law 2015 and stamping of vouchers.

Some 200 participants, including Shan State Hluttaw MP Daw Nang Ngwe Ngwe, officials and taxpayers, took part in the discussions.—*Muse District IPRD*



Official of Internal Revenue Department explains union tax law and revenue affairs to taxpayers.

Residents in Myawady seek to reduce disaster risk

MYAWADY, 17 June — A course on disaster risk reduction was conducted at the hall of Township Administrator in Myawady, Kayin State, on 16 June.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw explained preparedness for disaster risk reduc-

tion while Deputy Director Daw Phu Phyu Win of Kayin State Relief and Resettlement Department outlined procedures for the training course.

The course included rescue operations during natural disasters.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Workshop aims to combat drug abuse

MONEKOE, 17 June — A workshop on combating drug abuse and prevention of HIV infection was recently held at the church in Ward 4, Monekoe,

northern Shan State.

Township Administrator U Wai Lwin Oo and officials from the police force, Information and Public Relations Depart-

ment and Public Health Department gave talks on the dangers of narcotic drugs and the risk of HIV infection for drug users.

Mong Soe (IPRD)



Japan's parliament enacts law lowering voting age from 20 to 18

TOKYO, 17 June — Japan's parliament enacted legislation on Wednesday to lower the voting age to 18 from 20 in the biggest reform of the nation's election system in 70 years aimed at encouraging political participation by younger voters.

The bill to revise the public office election law passed the House of Councillors unanimously after winning approval in the House of Representatives on 4 June. The voting age was last changed in 1945, when it was lowered to 20 from 25.

The change is almost certain to apply to an upper house election scheduled for the summer of 2016, unless

the more powerful lower house is dissolved for a snap election. Some 2.4 million people aged 18 and 19 will join the electorate.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference that the change will have "great significance" for Japanese politics because the "voices of young people will be more reflected in politics."

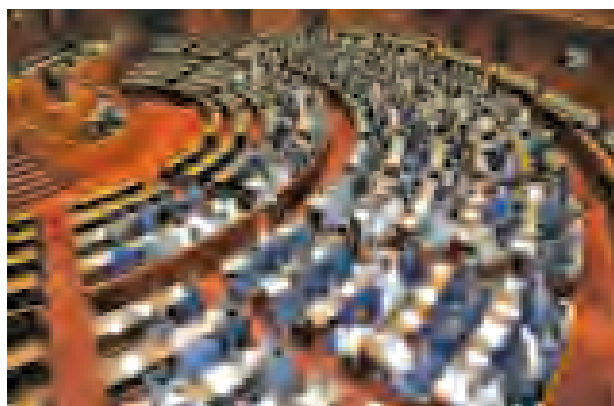
It will be important to educate senior high school and university students about the right to vote, he added.

The revised law will be promulgated in about a week and will take effect in one year. It will apply to both national and local elections held after that.

The decision to give 18- and 19-year-old citizens the right to vote comes as over 80 percent of the 198 countries and regions surveyed by the National Diet Library in 2014 had set the minimum voting age at 18.

The change would require political parties to cater to a wider voter base, as political observers say they have so far tended to focus on the elderly, who have a higher voter turnout than younger electorates.

In recent elections, voter apathy was more evident among young voters than middle-aged and elderly people, raising the bar for Japan to consider how to get



Japan's parliament passes legislation at an upper house plenary session in Tokyo on 17 June, 2015, to lower the voting age to the international norm of 18 from 20 at present in its biggest election system reform in 70 years.—Kyodo News

more young people involved in the political process.

The legislative work comes as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeks to amend the Constitution for the first time since it took effect nearly 70 years ago.

The minimum voting age for national referendums on constitutional amendments is already set to be reduced to 18 from 20 in 2018 under a revision to the national referendum law enacted last year.

In line with the lowering of the voting age, political parties are expected to consider whether to reduce the statutory age of adulthood from 20 and the maximum age covered by the juvenile law from 19.

The issue of lower-

ing the age ceiling in the juvenile law is especially controversial because some question whether 18- and 19-year-olds should be punished in the same manner as adults.

Political parties will also consider lowering the minimum age for eligibility to run for public office. Currently one must be at least 25 years old to run in lower house elections, while they must be at least 30 to run for upper house seats. The voting age reduction will allow 18- and 19-year-olds to also engage in election campaigns. But it also means that in principle, they will be sent to prosecutors for possible prosecution if they are suspected of committing serious violations of electoral laws, such as vote buying.

Kyodo News

S Korea reports eight new MERS cases, total hits 162

SEOUL, 17 June — South Korea's health authorities said on Wednesday eight new cases of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus have been confirmed, raising the total number of infected to 162.

No additional fatalities have been reported since Tuesday with the latest death toll standing at 19, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry.

Out of the 162 infected cases, 19 patients have been discharged from medical facilities after fully recovering. Among the 124 patients, 18 are currently under unstable conditions.

Four of the eight new cases were infected after visiting the emergency room of Samsung Medical Hospital, 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.

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

More than 5,500 people are under quarantine for possible infection in hospitals or at their homes after coming into contact with MERS patients.

As of midday Tuesday, 365 schools were still temporarily closed, down from 2,622 on 11 June. Last week, a joint investigation team of South Korea and World Health Organization recommended that schools be reopened, noting schools have not been linked to any transmission of the viral disease. The government has been making all-out efforts to tackle the outbreak since a 68-year-old man who traveled 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. People with preexisting conditions such as diabetes, renal failure and chronic lung disease, as well as those whose immune systems have been compromised, are considered to be at high risk of MERS infection.

Kyodo News



File photo taken on 12 June, 2015, shows a worker disinfecting a street in Seoul. The number of deaths linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus has reached 20, while that of diagnosed cases stands at 162, South Korean health authorities said on 17 June, 2015.—Kyodo News

Cambodia renews call for Vietnam to stop building military post at undemarcated border area

PHNOM PENH, 17 June — Cambodia on Wednesday renewed its call for Vietnam to cease immediately the construction of a military post at an undemarcated border area between Cambodia's Kandal Province and Vietnam's An Giang Province.

In a diplomatic note sent to the Vietnamese government, the Cambo-

dian Foreign Ministry said Cambodia has requested Vietnam several times to stop digging the land to lay the foundation for the construction of a military post at the border area close to Preksbov village in Kandal Province, but the Vietnamese authorities of An Giang province still continue the construction.

"Therefore, the Royal

Government of Cambodia reiterates its request to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to cease immediately the said activities until the JBC (Joint Border Commission) of the two countries has completely demarcated this area," said the diplomatic note.

On Sunday, Cambodia also demanded Vietnam to

"respect the borderline" after it had discovered eight ponds dug by Vietnamese authorities deeply inside northeast Cambodian territory in Ratanakiri Province.

Cambodia shares 1,270 km of border with Vietnam to the east. To date, about 80 percent of the border demarcation between the two countries has been completed.—Xinhua

Abe, Okada clash over constitutionality of security bills



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and main opposition Democratic Party of Japan leader Katsuya Okada face off during a Diet debate among party leaders in Tokyo on 17 June, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

China-led AIIB may attract as many as 70 members in near future

BEIJING, 17 June — More than 10 additional countries are willing to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in the near future, raising the possibility that the China-initiated lender may have more members than those of the Asian Development Bank led by Japan and the United States, sources familiar with the situation said on Wednesday.

In proportion to their economic power, about 98 percent of the AIIB's shares have already been divided among the founding members and, theoretically speaking, there is a possibility of the remaining 2 percent being allocated among the new applicants, the sources said.

But in the event a country with a relatively large gross domestic product wants to join the AIIB, more time will be required as the lender needs to go through the procedure of increasing its capital.

Under the articles, as discussed by chief negotiators of the founding members last month in Singapore, China will contribute nearly 30 percent of AIIB's capital base and will effectively have veto power on vital issues. Approval by at least 75 percent of voting rights will be necessary for important matters.

China's voting rights will be over 25 percent, according to the sources. The AIIB's second-biggest shareholder will be India, followed by Russia, Germany and South Korea, and all of them do not have a stake of more than 10 percent.

China's say in the AIIB will inevitably be strong. The first president will come from China, where it will be headquartered, and its board of directors will be non-resident.—Kyodo News

The ceremony will be attended by Chinese Pres-

TOKYO, 17 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Katsuya Okada, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, clashed on Wednesday over the constitutionality of security bills that would significantly expand the scope of operations by the Self-Defence Forces overseas.

In a one-on-one debate at the Diet, Abe defended the two government-sponsored bills, saying, "We are fully convinced of the legitimacy and legality (of the bills)."

However, Okada contended that the bills vio-

late the war-renouncing Constitution.

The bills, if passed, would allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence, or coming to the aid of the United States or other friendly nations under armed attack even if Japan itself is not being attacked.

Proponents say the legislation would boost the deterrence of the Japan-US alliance.

"In a situation where the international community must increase cooperation (to ensure security), the time has come for Japan to play its part as well," Abe said, stress-

ing the need to get the legislation enacted during the current Diet session, which is likely to be extended beyond its expiration on 24 June.

However, Okada said, "(Japan) does not need the right to collective self-defence."

In a separate debate, Yorihiro Matsuno, leader of the opposition Japan Innovation Party, told Abe that his party plans to present its counterproposals to the legislation, and that the party has therefore no need to hold talks with the ruling coalition to make revisions to the bills.

The government submitted the bills to the Diet last month amid an increasingly severe security environment in the Asia-Pacific region such as China's military build-up and muscle-flexing in the East and South China seas, as well as North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons development.

The bills consist of a new permanent one that would allow the SDF to provide logistical support for foreign militaries in international peacekeeping activities and another comprising revisions to 10 existing security-related laws.—Kyodo News

France, Italy, Germany act to defuse spat over allocation of migrants

LUXEMBOURG, 17 June — France, Italy and Germany agreed on Tuesday to join forces to identify migrants arriving by sea and to swiftly relocate them across the European Union or send them back to their home countries if their claims for asylum in Europe are rejected.

Ministers from the three countries put on a show of unity after the arrival in Europe of thousands of migrants, who make perilous Mediterranean crossings from Libya, strained the resources of Italy and Greece and raised tension with northern European states that are the destinations of many migrants.

"You have three friends in front of you," French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said at a joint Press conference with his Italian and German counterparts in a gesture to defuse the simmering spat.

"France, together with Germany and Italy support a relocation and readmission mechanism," Cazeneuve said during a break from a meeting of EU interior ministers in Luxembourg to discuss a plan to tackle the migrant emergency.

As they deliberated, police began removing mainly African migrants from makeshift seaside camps on the Italian-French border. Around 300 had collected on the Italian side in hopes of proceeding into France and onwards to

northern Europe where relatives live and job chances might be better.

France and Austria have stepped up border controls on migrants coming from Italy, turning back hundreds and leaving growing numbers camped out in railway stations in Rome and Milan.

In a sign of persisting discord over how to deal with the migrant crisis, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi threatened "retaliation" if other EU countries did not agree to take their fair share of refugees that land on Italy's shores.

In an interview with state broadcaster RAI, Renzi said he was confident a deal would be reached for half of all asylum-seekers to be distributed around the EU on a quota system. However, if none was reached, Italy would consider the "retaliatory weapon" of issuing migrants with temporary permits of stay which

would allow them to move freely inside the EU.

The European Commission has proposed that EU governments relocate 24,000 asylum-seekers from Italy and 16,000 from Greece over the next two years.

The plan envisages that potential refugees should be immediately sorted out from illegal economic migrants in EU-managed "hotspots" in Italy and Greece, where European officials would make sure that migrants are fingerprinted.

In a letter to ministers, the EU migration commissioner, Dimitris Avramopoulos, outlined new measures to make such repatriations more effective.

He proposed changing the mandate of the EU border protection agency, Frontex, to allow it to repatriate migrants on its own initiative and to support an individual EU government that wished to do so itself. At the moment,

Frontex can only coordinate operations involving several EU countries.

To make the return policy more effective, the EU needs to sign agreements with the countries of origin of migrants in Africa or Asia, which to date have mostly been reluctant to take their citizens back.

Despite the steps forward on the handling of illegal migrants, EU ministers remain divided over the major sticking points blocking the approval of the relocation plan.

Eastern and central European countries insist on a voluntary mechanism to take in refugees, contrary to the mandatory quota proposed by the EU executive. The criteria for allocating asylum seekers to EU countries also remain disputed and will require further discussions among EU leaders at their summit in Brussels on 25-26 June.

Reuters



Italian police evacuate a migrant from the Saint Ludovic border crossing on the Mediterranean Sea between Vintimille, Italy and Menton, France, on 16 June, 2015. REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 18 June, 2015

Envy can threaten peace and stability

By Aung Khin

Competition cannot be avoided in any strata of life. Roadside vendors compete to sell their goods, while politicians try to attract voters to win elections.

In many cases, envy is the result of someone

being unable to handle another's success. It may strike when one sees another's achievements or possessions. When someone is successful, some will hate him, others may even try to destroy what he has achieved.

Psychologists suggest there are two types of envy; malicious and benign. Ideally, it would be wonderful if we could all just enjoy the success of others. If an accomplishment benefits society as a whole, it should be celebrated and supported.

Envy is one of the most potent causes of unhappiness. If it cannot be controlled, it can threaten the peace and stability of human society.

If someone succeeds where another has failed, the latter will feel envious. But success achieved

through hard work and perseverance should be celebrated, not hated. Genuine success cannot be snatched away from someone who has earned it.

Write for us

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

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

Management Essentials

Kyri Mun

❖ Definition

Going places & doing things;
Making things happen, and
Getting things done (through team members, employees or other people) in doing a business or in running an organization.

❖ Purpose

To make the (present) business effective.
To find and realize the business potential.
To focus on building the future.

❖ Functions

Planning
Organizing
Leading / Directing
Controlling / Coordinating

❖ The Job of Management

To get direct results
To drive values commitment
To develop people

❖ Management Drivers (4)C

❖ Management Guidelines:

(The 5 International Best Practices)

❖ TQM-Total Quality Management

❖ Managing Change

❖ Corporate Performance Management

❖ Managerial Effectiveness & Operational Efficiency

❖ Marketing Management-Customer Relationship Management

❖ Man, Mind & Morale Management

❖ Managing for Results/ Value/ Wealth/ Growth

❖ Management's Triple Bottom Lines :

People, Planet, Profit

❖ Definition

Management is relentlessly and thoroughly executing the organization's business strategy boldly and brilliantly with cutting-edge tactics, deploying the distinctive capabilities.

❖ Purpose

- ✦ The current business performance must be satisfactory.
- ✦ The potential of the business should be thoroughly sought and boldly exploited to the advantage of one's own organization.
- ✦ The future of the business must be clearly envisioned and strategically focused forward and upward.

❖ Functions of Management

- ✦ Planning
- ✦ Organizing
- ✦ Directing
- ✦ Coordinating
- ✦ Controlling
- ✦ Planning

In a sustainably successful business, there usually is a

Statement of Purpose and Direction in place. This statement is popularly called Vision and Mission Statements which systematically contain concise definitions of :

- Vision
- Mission
- Goal
- Objective
- Strategy
- Tactic
- Control
- Reward

Planning comes under the categories of Objective, Strategy and Resources. The purpose of planning is to achieve the Strategic Objectives deploying the available resources.

✦ Organizing

Planning means WHAT TO DO and Organizing means WHO ARE GOING TO DO THE JOB of achieving the goal and objective by carrying out the Strategic Plan. Organizing includes Structuring, Staffing and PROGRAM OF PRIORITIES, indicating and identifying the necessary processes and schedules, tasks and steps.

✦ Directing

Directing means showing the Direction and PURPOSE of the whole business. Direction and Purpose clearly and explicitly state:

- What business are we in ?
- Where are we now ?
- Where do we want to be ?
- How can we get there ?
- Which is the best way ?

✦ Coordinating

Coordinating means aligning all the strategic and tactical performances with the VISION, MISSION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES.

✦ Controlling:

Controlling means evaluating and measuring the outcomes of the various performance functions against the targets of the goal and objectives.

❖ The Job of Management

- Management must always be positively able to deliver the desired results.
- Management must proactively encourage the whole organization to highly uphold and abide by its Core Values.
- Management must be strongly committed to continuously developing its people.

✦ Management Drivers

The FORCES that drive the wheels of management are :

- Customer
- Competition
- Change
- Complexity

❖ Management Guidelines

Management Guidelines are the following Five International Best Practices of Business:

- Financial Viability
- Operational Efficiency
- Managerial Effectiveness
- Customer & Employee Satisfaction

• Competitive Advantage

❖ Total Quality Management-TQM

Total Quality Management means :

- Personal & Professional Development
- Interpersonal Relationships Development
- Operational Efficiency
- Managerial Effectiveness, and
- Organizational Productivity & Innovativeness

❖ TQM means : Continuous Quality Improvement

For CQI, the following QUALITY CONCEPTS have been put into practice:

• Wow or WoWow Factor

(Affordably Superior Quality)

• Kaizen

(Everyone can improve anything at anytime)

• Dantotsu

(You can better the best)

• Six Sigma

(Error, defect, or reject allowance : 3.4 per million)

TQM's Essence is : **Right First Time & Every time!**

TQM Covers :

Design Quality

Conformance Quality

Performance Quality

❖ Managing Change

Managing Change means to manage with discrimination and discretion the following changes :

- S = Socio-cultural Changes
- T = Technological Changes
- E = Economic Changes
- E = Ecological Changes
- P = Political Changes
- L = Legal Changes
- E = Educational Changes

In managing change, if the changing itself is sufficiently justified, we had better be the change catalyst. In managing change, STRATEGIC CHANGE and TACTICAL CHANGE should be discriminately executed.

(See page 9)



NATIONAL

Myanmar, Japan discuss upgrading Yangon's circular railroad

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—A delegation led by Mr Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association called on Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay at the ministry, here, on Wednesday to hold talks on running high speed train on Yangon-Mandalay railroad.

They also discussed operating the electric train on the Strand Road section, upgrading Yangon circular railroad, comprehensive development of Kyimyindine and Pazundaung railway stations and soonest conveyance of RBE train bought from Japan and donated trains to Myanmar.—MNA

Myanmar, Switzerland sign MoU on cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—The signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation was held at the ministry, here, on Wednesday.

The MoU was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Christoph Burgener, Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar. Also present at the ceremony were officials of the ministry and Embassy of Switzerland in Yangon.—MNA

UEC explains voting for Defence and Foreign Affairs personnel

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June— Union Election Commission members met officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday to explain voting procedures for military personnel and Myanmar citizens abroad.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye said voter lists for Defence Services personnel and police will be announced soon, allowing voters to confirm they have been listed correctly.

The UEC has announced that electoral

candidates, observers and media will have access to polling stations in respective military headquarters, even though security will be tightened in restricted areas.

Military service personnel and their family members can vote at public polling stations if the headquarters cannot allow public access for security reason.

Ballot papers for advance votes are to be sent to the township electoral sub-commission offices by 4 pm on voting day.

The commission also

said Myanmar missions in foreign countries will have to arrange for voting abroad, and must make announcements on embassies' websites or notice boards.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for issuance of entry visas for international election observers and has announced a code of conduct for them.

The UEC chairman also reiterated that the commission will ensure a free and fair election, as it is crucial for the country and people.—MNA

Myanmar athletes return home from SEA Games



People warmly welcome silver medalist U-23 footballers at the airport.—MNA

YANGON, 17 June— There were hugs, cheers and even some tears as Myanmar athletes landed on home soil Wednesday after an exhilarating 11 days of competition at the 28th Southeast Asian Games in Singapore.

Among the returning athletes were the silver medal-winning U-23 men's football team and the men's volleyball bronze

medallists.

Thousands of people packed the arrivals hall at Yangon International Airport to welcome the athletes.

The silver medal was the Myanmar football team's third, following second-place finishes in 1993 and 2007. The footballers captured their sole gold medal in 1973.

Union Minister for

Sports U Tint Hsan arrived home with the athletes after attending the opening and closing ceremonies of the games and supervising the Myanmar team.

Myanmar finished seventh in the medal tally out of 11 Southeast Asian nations at the biennial event, capturing 12 gold, 26 silver and 31 bronze. Thailand topped the table with 95 gold, 83 silver and 60 bronze.—MNA

Heritage trust recognizes Myanmar Agricultural...

(from page 1)

“Bank buildings along Pansodan are a physical link to a past that we need to study if the country is going to do better in future,” he said.

In its incarnation as the National Museum, the

building housed the Lion Throne of the Last King of Myanmar, which was looted by the British and taken to Calcutta. In 1996, the building resumed service as a bank, becoming a branch office of the Myanmar Industrial Development Bank

and the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is part of the YHT's efforts to promote and integrate Yangon's unique heritage into a 21st Century vision of the metropolis as one of Asia's most liveable cities.

GNLM

Myanmar to host 7th CLMV Summit, 6th ACMECS Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June— Myanmar will host two major regional summits here from 22 to 23

June, officials said Wednesday.

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam will attend the 7th CLMV Summit at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in the capital, before a second meeting involving the four countries plus Thailand, known as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

Nearly 175 local and foreign correspondents are

expected to cover both meetings, an official said, adding plans are under way to issue security passes and media handbooks to them one day ahead of the meetings.

U Ye Naing, General Manager at the News and Periodicals Enterprise, said 50 computers have been installed at the media centre for reporters to ensure convenient media coverage.

MNA



U Ye Naing, General Manager of NPE.

MNA

Management...

(from page 8)

❖ Corporate Performance Management

In Managing Performance, the following principle should be consistently followed:

“PRIOR PLANNING PLUS PREPARATIONS PROMOTE PEAK PERFORMANCE”

In managing performance, the following PERFORMANCE STRATEGY has been in common practice: **The Business Strategy of Core Competence – IPG – Innovation, Productivity and Growth.**

In managing performance, the Power of Incentives and the Power of Morale should be both practiced consistently.

❖ Managerial Effectiveness & Operational Efficiency

- Effectiveness means doing the right things, and Efficiency means doing the things right.
- Effectiveness is used in the domain of strategy; and Efficiency is used in the area of tactics.
- Effectiveness helps the achievement of goal & objective; and efficiency means greater or better productivity.

- Strategy should be effective and tactics should be efficient.

❖ Marketing Management—Customer Relationships Management

The Customer-base should be soundly built by vigorously attracting new customers and retaining the old ones by cementing the customer relationships very strongly and carefully on the basis of win-win outcomes.

❖ Man, Mind & Morale Management

- Man Matters Most,
- Mind is the Key to Life; and
- You can elevate your life with your mind, and You can degrade your life with your mind.
- Morale is to Material as 3 is to 1.

In managing a business or any other matter, the following are the most determinant factors of success:

- Physical Strength determined by Discipline & Diligence
- Mental Strength determined by Vision & Strategy
- Emotional Strength determined by Passion & Values

- Spiritual Strength determined by Selflessness & Service
- Achievement Strength determined by Character & Competence

❖ Managing for Results/ Value/ Wealth/ Growth

Management should always be passionately vigilant :

- To get results
- To add value
- To create wealth
- To spur growth

Always Executing the Corporate Grand Strategy of :
“Conquest, Growth & Consolidation”

❖ Management's Triple Bottom Lines : People, Planet, Profit

Holding high the banner of the CSR—Corporate Social Responsibility, Management of all kinds must relentlessly and continuously strive to protect and promote the progress of people, planet and profit.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Merkel's Bavarian allies say Greeks act like "clowns" in debt talks



German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives to attend an EU-CELAC Latin America summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 11 June, 2015. — REUTERS

BERLIN, 17 June — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Bavarian allies have accused the Greek government of not having grasped the seriousness of the situation in the debt talks yet, with CSU Secretary-General Andreas Scheuer calling ruling politicians in Athens "clowns".

The remarks were the latest sign of hardening positions towards Greece among European politicians, on the eve of a meeting of euro zone ministers that could be the last chance to rescue Greece from default at the end of the month.

Scheuer said in an interview with *Rheinische*

Post newspaper published on Wednesday that Greece had done too little so far to stay in the euro and there would be no "careless compromises" just for the sake of keeping Greece in the single currency bloc.

"The Greek government apparently hasn't realised the seriousness of the situation yet," Scheuer said. "They are behaving like clowns sitting in the back of the class room, although they have received explicit warnings from all sides that they might fail to pass to the next grade."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Tuesday she was willing to do all she

could to keep Greece in the euro zone but insisted the onus remained on Athens and its creditors to break a deadlock and reach a deal.

Merkel is facing growing opposition among her ruling conservatives to granting Greece any further bailout funds. Germany is Greece's biggest creditor and the biggest contributor to the EU budget and the euro zone bailout fund.

Klaus-Peter Willsch, a dissident lawmaker from Merkel's conservative party who repeatedly voted against bailing out Athens, told Deutschlandfunk radio on Wednesday that in his view it would be no big deal if Greece were to leave the euro zone.

"This wouldn't be the end of Europe," Willsch said.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has accused creditors of trying to "humiliate" his nation, which is set to default on a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) debt repayment to the International Monetary Fund on 30 June, possibly driving it towards the euro zone exit, unless it receives fresh funds.

Reuters

With barbs and bluster, Trump barges into 2016 White House race



Republican presidential candidate, real estate mogul and TV personality Donald Trump holds up his financial statement showing his net worth as he formally announces his campaign for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination during an event at Trump Tower in New York, June on 16, 2015. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 17 June — Real estate mogul and TV personality Donald Trump barged his way into the 2016 US presidential election on Tuesday in a blitz of boasts, inflammatory comments and attacks on both fellow Republicans and President Barack Obama's administration.

Trump wallowed in political incorrectness as he insulted everyone from Mexican immigrants to Jeb Bush and US ally Saudi Arabia in announcing his bid for the Republican nomination.

"I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created," Trump predicted in a long, combative speech in the atrium of Trump Tower on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

The billionaire, widely seen as having almost no chance of winning the nomination, brings an outsized personality and a penchant for controversy to an unusually large group of Republicans vying for the presidency.

In highly provocative comments, Trump accused

Mexico of sending rapists and other criminals to live in the United States.

"They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing their problems," he said. "They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some I assume are good people, but I speak to border guards and they tell us what we are getting."

Eleven other Republicans have announced they are running for next November's election, the latest being former Florida Governor Jeb Bush who officially launched his bid on Monday. Trump hit out at Bush for backing the Common Core education initiative to set national education standards, which is mistrusted by many Republicans. "Bush is totally in favour of Common Core. I don't see how he can possibly get the nomination. He's weak on immigration, he's in favour of Common Core. How the hell can you vote for this guy? You just can't do it."

Trump, who owns sev-

eral hotels and hosts the reality show "The Celebrity Apprentice" on NBC, boasted having \$8.7 billion in net worth, a number he says he released so that America understands he is not a loser.

Trump has flirted with the notion of running in past elections, but has ultimately backed out each time. This time, he said, the United States needs him to come to the rescue and revive a "dead" American dream. "Our enemies are getting stronger and stronger by the day and we as a country are getting weaker," he said.

Republican strategists and officials cringe at the thought of Trump grabbing attention away from the party's more serious candidates as it tries to win back the White House after defeats in 2008 and 2012.

"Donald Trump is a great entertainer and developer, but his ideas of what to do as president won't grow the economy," said David McIntosh, president of the influential Club for Growth, a conservative group which advocates for small government.

Trump's first big challenge is to make it into a Fox News debate of Republicans in August that will be open to only the top 10 candidates in national polling.

As it stands, Trump languishes in 12th place, ahead only of former New York Governor George Pataki, in a Reuters/Ipsos online poll of 13 Republicans who have either declared their candidacies or, like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, are likely to. Bush leads the poll.—Reuters

Vucic: Serbia offers best investment conditions

BELGRADE, 17 June — Serbia can offer the best conditions for investors, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Tuesday at the Business Forum in Zurich, organized by the Chamber of Commerce Switzerland — Central Europe.

Serbia is doing everything to preserve regional stability, which is crucial for foreign investment, said Vucic address-

ing the potential investors.

He informed the forum participants about the economic reforms, the arrangement with the IMF, the Serbian government's foreign policy activities and relations in the region.

"The region of Western Balkans can only move forward if we all work together," the prime minister said, stressing that Serbia will continue to invest in regional stability.

Vucic also informed the Swiss investors about the incentives for foreign companies provided by the Serbian government, and bid welcome to all those looking to invest in Serbia, the government's media office said in a release.

After the prime minister's address, Serbian Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic responded to questions from Swiss company officials.—Tanjug

In Danish election, campaign turns personal in tight race

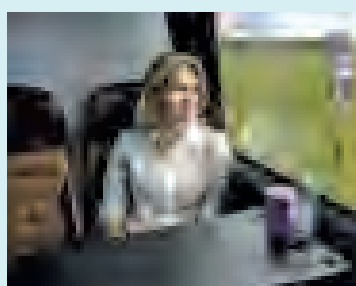
BORNHOLM, (DENMARK), 17 June — Dressed in a denim shirt and black jeans, Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt cracked jokes and took selfies with supporters on the island of Bornholm, just days before a 18 June election that could end her political career. It was an unusual performance for the 48-year-old premier, famed for her expensive tastes which earned her the moniker 'Gucci Helle' and rather formal, rigid style of speaking.

But her relaxed demeanor reflected her party's success in making up lost ground to the center-right opposition, whose lead over Thorning-Schmidt's

bloc was some 17 percent two years ago and still seemed unsailable earlier this year at 10 percent. Now the two blocs are running almost neck and neck ahead of Thursday's vote — one pollster said you could "toss a coin" to see who will win.

And with both Thorning-Schmidt and opposition leader Lars Lokke Rasmussen, 51, expected to leave politics if they lose, the campaign has taken on a personal intensity.

She and her Social Democrats lose no opportunity to remind voters of Rasmussen's past financial scandals, albeit minor, and question his credibility saying his policies are "dubious".



Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt

On Tuesday, some 1.5 million Danish households received a letter from Helle, as everyone calls her, imploring them to "say No to Lars Lokke Rasmussen".

Meanwhile, Rasmussen and his Liberals list the promises the prime minister broke after the

2011 election including better public transportation and health services.

One advert states: "Back then, she was so cocksure. Vote for the Liberal Party".

"The issue of trustworthiness has really come to the front," said Rune Stubager, Professor at Aarhus University's Department of Political Science.

"Because the government has been in trouble with voters due to their policies, they have seized the opportunity to use the personality of their main contender as one of their key weapons." Thorning-Schmidt's dignified response following a shooting attack by an Islamist gunman

in February and her growing stature within Europe have bolstered her standing, while Rasmussen has stumbled amid questions over his judgment.

The prime minister's personal rating stands at 42 percent compared to Rasmussen's 26 percent, a stark reversal from 2013 when he polled 46 percent and she was at 16 percent, according to pollster Epinion. But the bloc of opposition parties are a touch ahead with 50.9 percent compared to 49.1 percent for the ruling parties.

The group that ends up with more parliamentarians gets the first opportunity to form a government.—Reuters

Bahrain sentences opposition leader to four years in jail

DUBAI, 17 June — Bahrain sentenced opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman to four years in jail on Tuesday on charges of inciting unrest, a decision that an opposition group said could stoke more protests in the Sunni Muslim-ruled kingdom.

Salman, 49, is the most senior figure in Shi'ite opposition to be jailed since anti-government protests erupted in 2011, at the height of the region's "Arab Spring" uprisings.

"The Higher Criminal Court sentenced the secretary general of one of Bahrain's political societies to four years imprisonment," advocate general Haroon Al-Zayani was quoted as telling state news agency BNA.

Salman, who was not named in the statement, was convicted on charges of "publicly inciting hatred, an act which disturbed public peace, inciting non-compliance with the law and insulting public institutions."

Bahrain, which hosts the US Fifth Fleet, has experienced sporadic turmoil since mass protests in 2011 led by majority Shi'ites demanding reforms and a bigger role in government. That uprising was put down with military help

from Saudi Arabia.

The al Wefaq Islamic Society headed by Salman, a Shi'ite cleric, confirmed he had been sentenced.

"The sentence gives a new lease on life to the crisis and gives greater legitimacy to mobilize. The people have no choice but to continue in their peaceful popular movement," it said in a statement on its official website. "People will not return to their homes and will not relent in their demands."

Salman was acquitted of the most serious charge, promoting the overthrow of the political system by force, the advocate general said. Salman has denied the charges and has dismissed the trial as a bid to muzzle dissent.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said the United States was deeply concerned that Tuesday's ruling "has the potential to inflame tensions" and that any charges against Salman for engaging in peaceful expression or assembly should be dropped.

Amnesty International called on Bahrain on Monday to free Salman, calling him a "prisoner of conscience" and saying his trial was unfair.

The island kingdom says it



Protesters hold photos of Sheikh Ali Salman, Bahrain's main opposition leader and Secretary-General of Al-Wefaq Islamic Society, as they march asking for his release in the village of Jidhafs, west of Manama, in Bahrain on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS

has made significant political reforms and increased oversight of security forces. Opponents say abuses continue.

With a political accord between the government and oppo-

sition remaining elusive, deadly bomb attacks on Bahraini security forces have increased.

In a statement on Monday, the government said: "Ali Salman's case relates to criminal charges,

specifically incitement of hatred, as well as inciting violence. The charges and subsequent trial are wholly unrelated to any political views he may hold."

Reuters

Arab air strikes hit Yemen as peace talks enter second day

SANAA, 17 June — Arab air strikes hit military targets throughout Yemen on Wednesday and expanded into one west-

ern province for the first time, despite peace talks in Geneva aimed at ending almost three months of fighting.



Smoke billows from the site of a Saudi-led air strike on a Houthi position in the outskirts of Yemen's southern port city of Aden on 15 June, 2015.—REUTERS

The bombings hit army bases in the capital, Sanaa, and Houthi militia targets in Yemen's central desert and the mountainous province of Mahweet, one of the last provinces in Yemen not to be bombed since the Arab campaign began on 26 March.

A coalition of Sunni Muslim states led by Saudi Arabia has been bombing the Iran-allied Houthis, who hail from a Shi'ite sect, and their allies in Yemen's army since then. Their aim is to restore Yemen's exiled president to power and head off what they see as Shi'ite Iran's expansion in the region.

The Houthis seized Sanaa in September and pressed on into the country's centre and south, forcing President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his govern-

ment into exile in Saudi Arabia.

The militia denies any military link to Teheran and says it is winning a revolution against Sunni Muslim militants and a corrupt government.

United Nations-backed talks among Yemen's warring factions are entering a second day in Geneva, and the UN's special envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, began shuttle diplomacy on Wednesday to bridge differences. But the two sides still refused to sit at the same table and laid out clashing agendas.

In a televised speech on Tuesday, Houthi leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, held out hope for a resolution but accused his Yemeni opponents of seeking to advance Saudi Arabia's agenda.

"There is nothing hindering a political solution in the country; the solution is available, but they (Saudis) are the ones who ruin it with their aggression," he said.

Hadi and the Arab states have demanded the Houthis comply with a UN Security Council Resolution in April calling on the group to quit Yemen's main cities.

Adel Al-Jubeir, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, blamed the Houthis for the lack of progress.

"Houthis and their allies resorted to violence ... thus the ceasefire and truce is in their hands," al-Jubeir told reporters at a meeting of the Organization of Islamic States in the kingdom, according to the Kuwait state news agency KUNA.—Reuters

At least 279 children killed in last 10 weeks in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, 17 June — At least 279 children have been killed and 402 wounded since the escalation of violence in Yemen, which began on 26 March, said a UN spokesman on Tuesday at a daily news briefing.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that the number of children in Yemen who have been killed as a result of conflict over the last 10 weeks is four times that of all those confirmed to have been killed last year, when 74 were killed and 244 wounded, said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the secretary-general.

UN's Special Envoy on Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, has been meeting with the delegations from Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, and Sana'a, capital of Yemen. In the coming days, the special envoy will brief members of the international community on the situation in Yemen, said Haq.

Yemen has mired in political gridlock since 2011 when mass protests forced former President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down. The three-year reconciliation talks failed to resolve the crisis but create huge power vacuum.

The main fight right now is between forces loyal to the beleaguered President, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, and those allied to Houthi rebels, who forced Hadi to flee Sana'a in February. Both President Hadi and the Houthis are opposed by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

The picture is further complicated when a coalition led by Saudi Arabia responded to a request by Hadi to intervene and launched air strikes on Houthi targets. So far, the Saudi-led coalition has been bombing Yemen for more than two and half months. —Xinhua

15 dead, 70 injured in Tunisia train accident

TUNIS, 17 June — At least 15 people were killed and 70 more injured when a train hit a truck in south of the capital Tunis on Tuesday, in one of the worst rail accidents in the country's history, according to the Interior Ministry.

A large truck hit the train causing 14 dead at first. The 15th victim died on the way to hospital. Most of the dead were passengers on the derailed train, according to the transport

authority.

The Interior Ministry said the train was heading from the town of Gaafour, some 120 km southwest of Tunis, to the capital during the morning rush hour, when the tragedy occurred near El Fahes, some 60 km to Tunis, at around 6:30 am local time (0530 GMT).

Initial investigation shows that both drivers were over speeding before the collision.

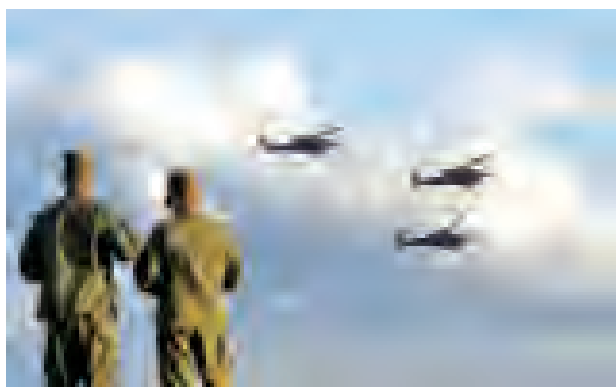
Xinhua

Russia forced by NATO to take steps to protect itself — Kremlin

MOSCOW, 17 June — Russia accused NATO on Wednesday of encroaching on its borders and seeking to change the strategic balance of power, forcing Moscow to take steps to protect its interests and security.

The comments by Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov came a day after Russia and the West accused one another of endangering global security, adding to tensions over the conflict in Ukraine, in which pro-Russian separatists have seized land in the east after Moscow annexed Crimea from Kiev in early 2014.

“It’s not Russia that’s approaching someone’s borders. It’s NATO’s mil-



Russian servicemen watch Mi-28 military helicopters of the Berkuti (Golden Eagles) aerobatic team fly during the opening of the Army-2015 international military forum in Kubinka, outside Moscow, Russia, on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS

itary infrastructure that is approaching the borders of Russia,” Peskov told reporters.

“All this ... forces Russia to take measures to safeguard its own interests, its own security.”

Peskov said the West had increasingly resorted to “unconstructive and confrontational” Cold War-style rhetoric and that Russia had never wanted strife.

President Vladimir Putin’s top foreign policy adviser also said on Wednesday that Russia would not be dragged into an arms race with the West as this would hurt the economy.

“Russia is not entering an arms race. Russia is trying to react in some ways to certain threats but nothing more than that. We are not entering any arms race because that would hurt our capabilities in the economic sphere,” Yuri Ushakov said.—Reuters

WikiLeaks marks three years since Assange’s flight to Ecuador’s UK embassy

LONDON, 17 June — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will on Friday mark three years stuck in Ecuador’s London embassy where he took refuge to avoid extradition to Sweden over alleged sex crimes and what he believes would be his eventual handover to US authorities.

Assange entered the South American country’s embassy on 19 June, 2012, to avoid being extradited to Sweden where he is wanted for questioning over allegations of sexual assault and rape involving two women, accusations which he denies.

He says he fears Sweden will extradite him to the United States where he

could be put on trial over WikiLeaks’ publication of classified military and diplomatic documents five years ago, one of the largest information leaks in US history.

The leaks infuriated Washington and, his critics say, damaged US security and put lives at risk. His supporters say they exposed embarrassing government and corporate secrets.

WikiLeaks says the 43-year-old Australian has effectively been detained, without charge, in prison, under house arrest and at the embassy for almost five years since he was first arrested by British police in

December 2010.

“Until Mr Assange’s right to effective protection from extradition to the US is recognised, he will continue to endure prolonged and arbitrary detention, a legally uncertain and precarious situation,” WikiLeaks said in a statement on Wednesday.

“This situation should not be tolerated or, worse still, abetted by any state which subscribes to the most basic human rights protections.”

Ecuador, which has granted him political asylum, has been trying with Britain to find a way to break the impasse, while on Monday, Swedish pros-

ecutors said they had submitted a request to British authorities and to Ecuador asking permission to question Assange at the embassy in June or July.

Assange says his health has deteriorated since he has been living in the embassy’s cramped quarters in central London with no access to direct sun or fresh air.

He faces immediate arrest for breaching bail conditions if he leaves, and British police have guarded the embassy round the clock for the last three years at a cost estimated at more than 10 million pounds (\$15 million).

Reuters

Russia, Germany call for swift end to fighting in east Ukraine: Moscow

MOSCOW, 17 June — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier

underlined the importance of ending fighting in eastern Ukraine immediately during a telephone call on Wednesday, Russia’s For-

eign Ministry said.

In a statement, the ministry said the two ministers “stressed the importance of an immediate ces-

sation of hostilities in east Ukraine and especially the shelling of villages and civilian infrastructure”.

Reuters

Swiss prosecutor confirms searches in Iran talks spy probe

BERNE, 17 June — Swiss authorities have searched multiple premises in relation to an investigation into allegations that hackers had targeted venues which hosted international negotiations on Iran’s nuclear programme, Attorney General Michael Lauber said on Wednesday.

“We have an open investigation into political espionage in Switzerland,”

Lauber told a news conference.

His office was analyzing data acquired during the searches, he said. An aide said the premises searched were hotels.

Russian computer security company Kaspersky Lab said earlier this month a computer virus had been used to hack into hotels used to host talks between Iran and six world powers.

Kaspersky said it had found the software in three European hotels. The suspected virus infections were linked to events and venues related to the negotiations between six world powers — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — and Iran on curbing Teheran’s nuclear programme.

The talks have been held in Geneva, Lausanne,

Montreux, Munich and Vienna.

Lauber declined to comment on who might be involved in the hacking.

Israel, which is worried that an eventual deal may not allay its concerns over Iran’s nuclear capability, last week dismissed as baseless reports that it may have had a connection to the matter.

Reuters

Getty oil heir had meth in system, died of haemorrhage

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — Andrew Getty, the grandson of billionaire oil tycoon J Paul Getty, died of an accidental gastrointestinal haemorrhage and also had a toxic level of methamphetamine in his system, a Los Angeles coroner’s official said.

Larry Dietz, watch commander at the Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office, said the drugs, a duodenal ulcer and heart disease contributed to the death of the 47-year-old heir to the Getty oil fortune.

Getty was found dead on 31 March at his Hollywood Hills home. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that he was found on the bathroom floor by his girlfriend Lanessa DeJonge, although he had recently gotten a restraining order against her.

Getty’s grandfather, J Paul Getty, died in 1976. He had merged several smaller oil companies into Getty Oil in the 1960s.

At one time one of America’s richest men, he was also an avid art collector who established the trust that funds the J Paul Getty Museum and other institutions.—Reuters

Black bear spotted in Indiana for first time in 144 years

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — A black bear has been spotted in Indiana for the first time in more than 140 years, state wildlife officials said on Tuesday.

Paw prints and a scat pile found in northwest Indiana were left behind by a young male black bear that likely walked into the state from Michigan within the last week, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said in two statements.

“It’s quite unusual and exciting for a Michigan lakeshore black bear to move this far south,” said Mitch Marcus, an Indiana DNR wildlife official.

It was the first evidence of a wild bear in Indiana since 1871, the DNR said, adding there was no panic in the state about the unexpected visitor.

The scat pile was found in a driveway just north of South Bend and the paw prints were found in LaPorte County, about 70 miles (110 km) southeast of Chicago, according to the department.

Young black bears disperse in the springtime as they seek new territory to settle, it said.

Black bears, once a native species in Indiana, are now listed as an exotic mammal and protected under Indiana law.

“Indiana does not have a breeding population of black bears, and we expect this one to turn back north eventually,” Marcus said.—Reuters



Investigators (C) examine a model plane, which apparently crashed into an electrical wire used by bullet trains on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line, in the western Japanese city of Himeji on 17 June, 2015. West Japan Railway Co halted operations temporarily while removing the object. The operator said that the model plane was different from a drone. The photo was taken from a Kyodo News helicopter.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (002W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (002W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 THESHIPPING CORP OF INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (0009S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (0009S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.6.2015 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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Request For Expression of Interest (EOI)
for Technical Advisory and Management
Support For Corporatization of MPT

Following the liberalization of the Myanmar telecommunications sector in 2013, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Government) is in the process of corporatizing the state owned operator, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) into a 100% government owned company with the support of World Bank.

The main objective of this assignment is to provide strategic and hand holding support to MPT during its corporatization process and transformation into a autonomous, commercial telecommunications operator.

The proposed support, solutions and advice should be based on international best practices, especially in countries of similar size, economy, market and sector development.

As a first step, MPT would like to invite interested entities to submit an Expression of Interest ('EOI') by 2nd July, 2015. Future details can be found in the related REOI document posted on the MCIT homepage (www.mcit.gov.mm).

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

Advertise with us!

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM,

Please email

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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,

<u>Sr.No</u>	<u>Tender No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remark</u>
(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

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 18th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likely to be isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

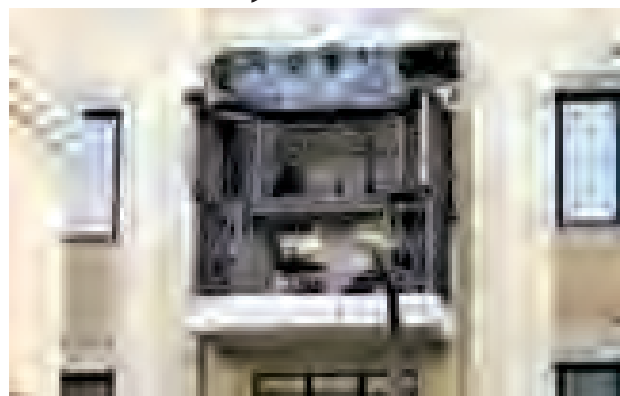
Russia restores Far Eastern leopard in Primorye

VLADIVOSTOK, 17 June — A programme to restore the Far Eastern leopard population in Russia's southern Sikhote-Alin territory started in Primorye on Tuesday.

According to Yuri Darman, director of the

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Amur branch in Russia, it is necessary to create a backup population of Far Eastern leopards in Sikhote-Alin. Specialists have been planning this programme for almost two decades and the WWF has

made great efforts to implement it. The most ideal place for the resettlement of the leopards is the seashore of the Japan Sea in the Lazo and Olga regions of Primorsky Kray, and has a total area of approximately 7,000 square kilometres.—Xinhua

Balcony collapse kills six, most of them Irish students, in California

Damage is seen at the scene of a 4th-story apartment building balcony collapse in Berkeley, California on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS

BERKELEY, (California), 17 June — An apartment balcony crowded with birthday revelers collapsed early on Tuesday near the University of California at Berkeley, hurling five Irish college students and an American friend to their deaths and injuring seven others, authorities said.

The victims, most of whom were working in the San Francisco Bay area on temporary visas for the summer vacation, had been celebrating a friend's 21st birthday on the fourth-floor balcony when the accident occurred, according to local police and Irish government officials.—Reuters

N Korea repatriates two S Koreans who illegally crossed border

SEOUL, 17 June — North Korea on Wednesday repatriated two South Koreans whom it said had illegally entered the North, the South Korean government said.

A 59-year-old man

and a 51-year-old woman were sent back to the South around 10:15 am via the truce village of Panmunjeom, Unification Ministry spokeswoman Park Soon Jin said during a press briefing.

She said the two re-

turnees would be given medical checkups and questioned on how and why they entered the North.

North Korea notified South Korea of the repatriation plan on Monday afternoon.

The government said that after learning the two had disappeared in the vicinity of the Sino-North Korean border while visiting China, it had been investigating their whereabouts.—Kyodo News

Cambodia arrests Frenchman suspected of sexually abusing 13 children

PHNOM PENH, 17 June — Cambodian police have arrested a French national, Bernard Louis Francois, 55, on suspicion of sexually abusing 13 underage boys, the National Police's website reported on Wednesday.

The suspect was arrested on Monday in southern

Kandal Province following complaints by the parents of two victims, the website said, citing Lieutenant Colonel Lao Lin, chief of the Juvenile Protection Bureau of the National Police's Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department.

"After we arrested the

suspect, parents of another 11 boys in Koh Khel village in Kandal Province filed complaints to the police, accusing the man of sexually abusing their children as well," he was quoted as saying, adding that the victims aged between 7 and 13 years old.

He said the suspect

will be sent to the provincial court for official charges on Thursday.

Cambodia launched an anti-pedophilia operation in 2003 in a bid to end its reputation as a haven for child sex offenders. Since then, dozens of foreigners have been imprisoned for child sex crimes.—Xinhua

Greece appoints economics professor as new IMF representative

ATHENS, 17 June — Greece appointed economics professor Michalis Psalidopoulos as its new representative at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), its finance ministry said on Wednesday, af-

ter a ruling party backlash prompted a previous nominee not to take up the post.

Psalidopoulos, a professor at the University of Athens, accepted Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis' proposal to repre-

sent Greece, the ministry said in a statement.

He has also been a professor at the US University of Tufts in 2010-2014 and will take over on 29 June, the statement added.

The government had

previously nominated Elena Panaritis as their representative, but this prompted a backlash from the ruling Syriza party, which said her views clashed with Syriza's programme.

Reuters

Canadian rocker Neil Young strikes sour note on Donald Trump's use of song



Musician Neil Young performs "Blowin' in the Wind" during the 2015 MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honouring Bob Dylan in Los Angeles, California on 6 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — Canadian rocker Neil Young has lashed out at real estate mogul and TV personality Donald Trump for using his song "Rockin' In The Free World" when the Republican launched a US presidential campaign on Tuesday in New York.

"Donald Trump was not authorized to use 'Rockin' In The Free World' in his presidential candidacy announcement," Young, who has long lived on a ranch in California, said in a statement. The statement from Young said the Canadian citizen supports Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent and one of the most outspoken liberals in

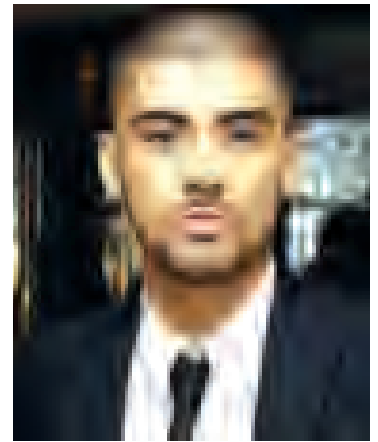
Congress, in his campaign for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

A Trump campaign spokeswoman said in a statement that the billionaire's team through a license agreement with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers paid for the legal right to play the recording during the launch of his campaign to seek the GOP presidential nomination in 2016.

"Nevertheless, we won't be using it again — there are plenty of songs to choose from," the statement said. "Despite Neil's differing political views, Mr Trump likes Neil very much."

Reuters

Zayn Malik's song leaks online



LONDON, 17 June — Former One Direction star Zayn Malik's collaboration with rapper MIC Righteous, "No Type", has leaked online.

22-year-old Malik's producer friend Naughty Boy, however, claimed Righteous stole the unfinished song, reported Metro. "Just wait for the real one... you won't be disappointed," tweeted Boy.

Righteous hit back and insisted he had not "stolen" the track. "Tell the truth shah. We recorded them bars in ur studio months ago... Bout 'stolen hard drive', (sic)" he said.

The song was taken down but Righteous later re-uploaded it, insisting he does not have to "keep the label happy" and was making the song public for Malik's sake as he isn't allowed to release music for two years.—PTI

Actor John Hurt reveals cancer diagnosis — agency

LONDON, 17 June — British actor John Hurt, 75, who had starring roles in "The Elephant Man" and "Captain Corelli's Mandolin", revealed on Tuesday that he has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer but says he intends to go on working.

"I have recently been diagnosed with early stage pancreatic cancer. I am undergoing treatment and am more than optimistic about a satisfactory outcome, as indeed is the medical team," Hurt said in a statement released to Britain's Press Association.

Hurt was quoted as saying

that he intends to continue working, with one of his projects in the near future being to record "Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell" for BBC radio.

Hurt was nominated for Oscars for his roles in "The Elephant Man" and "Midnight Express" and also had a starring role in the space science fiction film "Alien" of 1979.

He has recently finished filming for a new version of "Tarzan" and will appear with Gemma Arterton and Derek Jacobi in "The History of Love".

Reuters



Actor John Hurt arrives for a memorial service for actor and director Richard Attenborough at Westminster Abbey in London on 17 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Foo Fighters cancel Europe tour as Grohl recovers from broken leg

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — The Foo Fighters will cancel the remainder of their European tour as lead singer Dave Grohl recovers from surgery after breaking his leg while performing last week, the rock group said on Tuesday.

On the band's website, Gro-

hl detailed the incident that occurred last Friday in Gothenburg, Sweden, saying he dislocated his ankle and snapped his fibula "like an old pair of take out chopsticks" after a 12-foot fall off the stage.

The Seattle-native band has canceled the remainder of its

Europe dates, including a headlining slot at England's Glastonbury Festival on 26 June.

The 46-year-old Grohl said he had a successful operation with six metal screws fitted into his leg, but has been advised to take time out of his performance schedule.

"It kills me to say it ... the doctors have told us to cancel shows. I'm really so sorry, guys. You know I hate to do it, but I'm afraid it's just not physically possible for me at the moment," Grohl said in a post, accompanied by photos and X-rays of the injury.

Grohl cemented his rock-star credibility last week after coming back on stage in Sweden with a broken foot to keep performing as medics attended to his injuries and fixed a cast on him.

He called it "without a doubt the single most bizarre Foo Fighters show in the entire 20 years of being a band."

The band is still scheduled to embark on the US leg of its "Sonic Highways" tour, kicking off in Washington, DC on 4 July.—Reuters

Selena Gomez takes inspiration from Taylor Swift?



Taylor Swift & Selena Gomez

LONDON, 17 June — Singer Selena Gomez reportedly took inspiration from pop star Taylor Swift on how to write songs about "her personal experiences and heartbreaks" for her new album.

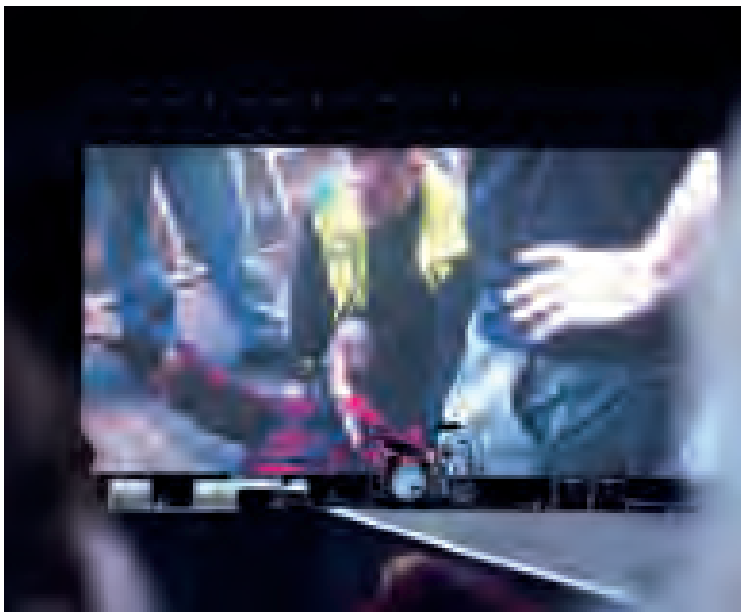
The 22-year-old singer wanted to write more tracks about her "heartbreaks" and looked to her close friend for advice, reported *Female First*.

"Selena's written a lot more songs based on her personal experiences and heartbreaks. It was Taylor that she drew inspiration from in that sense, who told her

that's something she should really focus on because it's what people, especially young female fans, can relate to," a source said.

The "Heart wants what it wants" hitmaker has reportedly penned tracks about her split from singer Justin Bieber. "Selena has written about elements of her relationship with Justin on the new album.

"She's also taken inspiration from stories of her girlfriends' break-ups and heartbreaks, as she aims to make her music more real than it's ever been," the source added.—PTI



Foo Fighters band member Dave Grohl is seen on a big screen talking on a microphone after falling from the stage during the band's concert at Nya Ullevi in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 12 June, 2015.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Japan suffer shock draw to Singapore in World Cup qualifier

SAITAMA, 17 June — Japan's qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup got off to a crippling start as Vahid Halilhodzic's men drew 0-0 with Asian minnows Singapore in a second-round qualifier on Tuesday.

The honeymoon for Halilhodzic came to an unspectacular ending and the crowd of 57,533 at Saitama Stadium were left stunned after Singapore, who had only three wins and a draw in 24 previous meetings against Japan, took a historic point off the four-time Asian champions in the Group E affair.

Since 1978, when Singapore last beat Japan, the Japanese had won 11 of 12 with a draw against the Southeast Asians.

After the final whistle, Japan heard it from the fans who are among the kindest in the world, receiving the loudest boos they have heard since qualifying for their first World Cup in 1997.

"In my entire life, I have never witnessed a game in which a team creates 19, 100-percent chances and doesn't score once," said Halilhodzic, whose side had scored a combined 11 goals in his three matches in charge. "If you want to crit-



Abu Sujad of Singapore (8) battles for the ball with Shinji Okazaki of Japan during the first half of a Group E match in the second round of Asian World Cup qualifiers at Saitama Stadium in Saitama, north of Tokyo, on 16 June, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

icize, criticize me. I cannot fault the players."

"We're obviously very disappointed by the result. The atmosphere tonight was great. One goal would've changed everything. We were motivated, but lacked accuracy in front of goal."

"Everyone was dying to score." Singapore coach Bernd Stange said his team had no choice but to park

the bus given the difference in quality of the two sides. Japan outshot Singapore 23 to 3 for the game.

"I believe Japan played an attacking game over 90 minutes," said the German, whose side sit on top of the group with four points following Thursday's 4-0 win at Cambodia. "I like this kind of football, but we were so massive in defense

without giving away needlessly silly fouls. We did not even have a yellow card."

"What do you expect from a team ranked 154th in the world? We did what we can do. I can be really proud of my team today. The goalkeeper was fantastic — and we had a bit of luck as well."

Japan were thrown even before the game kicked off with left-back Yuto Nagatomo becoming a last-minute scratch due to a sore left hip. FC Tokyo's Kosuke Ota filled in for the Inter Milan defender.

With half the first team barely having had the experience of World Cup qualifying, the hosts looked shaky from the start as they set off on their journey to Russia.

Japan, though, still had their share of chances in the first half, but were foiled by an outstanding performance in goal from Izwan Mahbud, who produced a series of saves to frustrate the four-time champions.

Mahbud first palmed away Shinji Kagawa's effort after 12 minutes, kept out captain Makoto Hasebe in the 22nd and then Shinji Okazaki a minute past the half-hour to hold Japan at the break.

Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(18-6-2015 07:00 am~ 19-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|--|
| * News | * Myanmar Traditional Identity |
| * Great Shwedagon "The Architectural Heritage" | * "Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)" |
| * Talented Musicians | * Kyauk Phyu Township Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar |
| * News | * News |
| * Yangon Markets: Mingalar Wholesale Market | * The Caves |
| * Today Myanmar & ICT "Sectorwise Integration with ICT" | * We'll leave after 12 Passengers are on Board |
| * Scented Buddha Images | * Myanmar Street Food |
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| * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon | * News |
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| * A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea) | * The Photographer (Portiature) |
| * Today Myanmar "Auto Mobile Market" | * "Aung Kyaw Moe" |
| * News | * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Aloe Vera) |
| | * Kid's Home |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(18-6-2015, Thursday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • News |
| 6:25 am | 3:30 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Head Line News |
| 7:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Zoology) |
| 7:35 am | 5:00 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • News / Weather Report |
| 8:35 am | 5:35 pm |
| • Documentary | • Documentary |
| 9:35 am | 6:15 pm |
| • Beautiful (ASEAN) | • Documentary |
| 10:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary | • People's Talks |
| 11:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News |
| 12:35 pm | 7:35 pm |
| • Hluttaw Image | • Current Affairs |
| 12:50 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • Fine Art-Bosom of Dramatic Performance | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 1:35 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Teleplay | • News |
| 2:40 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • Documentary | • Clever |
| | • Talk on Old Film (Part-2) |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(18-6-2015, Thursday)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:30 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:25 am | 8:45 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Teleplay |
| 6:45 am | 9:25 am |
| • Fashion Show | • ASEAN-Japan Cultural Show (2013) |
| 7:10 am | 9:40 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:55 am | |
| • TV Drama Series | |

Under-fire Soosay quits as AFC general secretary

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 June — Suspended Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Alex Soosay quit on Wednesday rather than fight to clear his name amid allegations he tried to interfere with a corruption probe of the regional governing body.

Soosay was suspended last month by the AFC after Malaysian media reported an official at the 46-member confederation had been asked by Soosay to "tamper or hide" documents during a 2012 external audit.

The PricewaterhouseCoopers inspection came following the lifetime ban handed out to former AFC president Mohammed Bin Hammam, by world governing body FIFA for ethics breaches, who Soosay worked closely with.

"The Asian Football Confederation would like to thank Dato' Alex Soosay for his commitment to Asian football during his extensive 20-year-long career at the AFC and wishes him all the

best for his future career," the AFC said in a statement.

The AFC did not say if the findings of the Soosay investigation would be made public. The body has also resisted calls to make public the 2012 audit.

Soosay's deputy Windsor John will take over the role until a new general secretary is appointed, the body said.

A former player, Soosay held the position of AFC general secretary since 2008 following the retirement of his Malaysian compatriot Peter Velappan.

He worked under Bin Hammam but his position appeared fragile when Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, an outspoken critic of the Qatari, was elected AFC President in 2013.

In April, the Malay Mail said it had obtained video evidence in which AFC financial directory Bryan Kuan Wee Hong had told investigators in 2012 that Soosay had come to him for help.



AFC General Secretary Alex Soosay speaks at the Qatar 2011 AFC Asian Cup mascot launching ceremony in Doha on 11 Nov, 2010.—REUTERS

"He said based on (what) they have found out, 'have I committed any crime and will they blame me for anything? Anything that you have... is it possible to either tamper or hide it somewhere?'," Kuan said of his conversation with Soosay.

Soosay told Reuters after the AFC Congress in Bahrain in May the "case is closed" blaming election fever for the matter becoming public. Salman was elected

unopposed for another four-year term at the regional meeting.

Soosay is the latest in a long line of casualties at the AFC since the Bahraini came to power.

Former Bin Hammam allies Manilal Fernando of Sri Lanka, banned for life by FIFA for bribery, and Thailand's Worawi Makudi have both been voted out of the world governing body's executive committee in Salman's tenure.—Reuters

Brazil and Serbia set up final date

AUCKLAND, 17 June — The two finalists at the FIFA U-20 World Cup have been determined, with Brazil and Serbia set to fight for the crown. On FIFA's 14th annual Anti-Discrimination Day, it was the five-time champions from South America and the dark horses from south-east Europe who were celebrating come the final whistle in their respective matches, and both now have the trophy in their crosshairs. The two semi-finals were vastly different affairs, with the Seleçãozinha scoring early on before easing to a comfortable victory, while Serbia played through 120 minutes of nail-biting action.

On a day filled with

tension, emotions and drama, one youngster in particular also emerged as his team's hero for the second time in New Zealand. Meanwhile, two African sides that were considered rank outsiders prior to the tournament will go head-to-head in the Play-off for Third Place. Both Senegal and Mali may have lost in the semi-finals on Wednesday, but they can go into their last encounter in Auckland on Saturday with their heads held high.

Results

Semi-finals

Brazil 5-0 Senegal

Serbia 2-1 Mali (aet)

Goal of the day

Serbia — Mali, 1-1, Youssef Kone (39')

With Serbia 1-0 up and pushing hard for a

second at North Harbour Stadium, it appeared to be only a matter of time before they scored again. Yet suddenly, and against the run of play, Mali defender Kone from French club OSC Lille unleashed a fearsome left-footed drive from the inside-left channel, sending a spectacular 30-yard effort rocketing into the far corner. Serbia keeper Predrag Rajkovic, and everyone else in the stadium, could only look on in amazement as the 19-year-old brought his side level.

Memorable moments

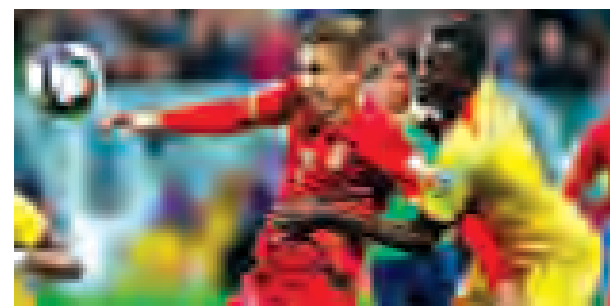
The fight against racism

The gripping encounters in Christchurch and Auckland took place within the framework of FIFA's 14th Anti-Discrim-

ination Day. Before the national anthems were played the team captains read out a message in their native language, emphasising the importance of the fight against racism. Furthermore, the teams in both stadiums lifted huge banners with the words "Say No To Racism" written on them. The four semi-finalists may have been rivals from different continents - South America, Africa and Europe - but they were united in sending out a clear message. As at every match at the tournament, that was underlined by the captains sharing the Handshake for Peace both before kick-off and after the final whistle.

Goal drought over

It is often thought that excitement is guaranteed whenever Brazil take to the pitch, but that is not strictly true. Coach Rogerio Micalle's side failed to score at all in their Round of 16 and quarter-final assignments, and only progressed after a penalty shoot-out each time. In fact, the last time the Seleçãozinha found the net in normal time was in their 3-0 triumph over Korea DPR in their final group game in Christchurch. Yet any concerns that Brazil had lost their goalscoring touch were misplaced, as they needed just five minutes to hit the target back in the metropolis on New



Ivan Saponjic of Serbia (L) is tackled by Hamidou Maiga of Mali (R) during the FIFA U-20 World Cup Semi Final match between Serbia and Mali at North Harbour Stadium on 17 June, 2015 in Auckland, New Zealand.—FIFA

Zealand's south island, even if it was an own goal by Senegal's Andelinou Correa, whose unfortunate deflection took the ball past his own goalkeeper. Nevertheless, it brought an end to a run of 249 minutes without scoring, opening the floodgates for Brazil to grab another four goals and putting them in buoyant mood ahead of the title decider.

Saponjic strikes again

It will come as no great surprise to learn that the phrase 'the future belongs to the young' has been widely used at the U-20 World Cup, but it is particularly fitting in Serbia's case. With their semi-final tie against Mali finely poised in extra time, it was the youngest member of their squad, Ivan Saponjic, who headed in the winner. It was not the first time the Partizan Belgrade attacker has come to his team's rescue, as he also scored one and created another in their last 16 clash with Hungary,

turning a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 victory in extra time. In both matches the 17-year-old came off the bench to devastating effect and is establishing a reputation as a man for the big occasion.

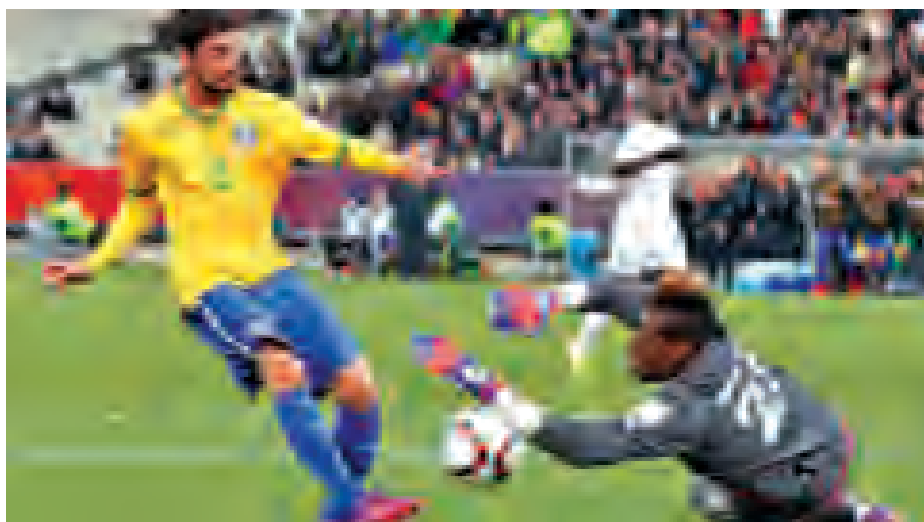
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20 — Brazil's rout of Senegal extended their unbeaten run at this tournament to 20 consecutive games, meaning they go one ahead of previous record holders Argentina.

The words

"This World Cup has been a great adventure and achievement for us, with this being the first time we have ever qualified at this level. Our goal on arrival was to get out of the group stage and we did that. We have done very well and only lost one match due to our lack of experience. Our team has had a good attitude. In football you have to know how to lose and we expected that one day we would." **Joseph Koto, Senegal coach.**

FIFA



Khadime Ndiaye of Senegal controls the ball from Boschilia of Brazil during the FIFA U-20 World Cup Semi Final match between Brazil and Senegal at Christchurch Stadium on 17 June, 2015 in Christchurch, New Zealand.—FIFA

After 'group of death', do-or-die for US and Australia

VANCOUVER, 17 June — Having escaped the 'group of death', it is now do-or-die for the United States and Australia after advancing to the knockout round of the Women's

World Cup on Tuesday.

In a pool featuring three sides ranked in the top 10 and the top African nation Nigeria, there may be no tougher route to the 5 July title game than from

Group D, but the US (2) and Australia (10) navigated the first stretch hitting only a few bumps along the way.

The US (2-1-0) clinched top spot with a

testy 1-0 win over Nigeria that included a red card and finished with the Super Falcons coach Edwin Okon refusing to shake his opposite number American Jill Ellis's hand.

The sour finish did not take away from sweet victory for the Americans, whose defence has been air-tight in not conceding a goal in 243 minutes, even if their attack has sputtered.

Abby Wambach, the all-time leading scorer in women's football, added to her record total in the 45th minute.

The goal also boosted the US captain's World Cup tally to 14 and moved her into a tie for second on the all-time list with Germany's Birgit Prinz.

"I think it is important people understand scoring goals is not that easy," said Wambach, though she has made it look routine with 183 for her country.

"I'm not making excuses I need to finish

chances that are handed to me.

"I just think if I score goals I am helping my team win games and now it is do-or-die, you win to move on."

Australia (1-1-1) grabbed the runnerup spot in the group after holding on for a 1-1 draw with Sweden, who closed out round-robin play without a victory (0-3-0) but could still advance as one of the best third-place finishers.

Having survived a tough group, the Americans and Australians believe they are better for the experience, emerging battle-tested and ready to take on any and all challengers.

"I read a lot of reports before the tournament and I don't think one predicted us to progress," said Australian coach Alen Stajci.

"A tough game and not a pretty one to watch perhaps, but this gives us so much belief that we can take on the best and

beat them in the knockout rounds.

"Any team that comes up against will have a fight on their hands."

There will be no shortage of confidence in the Japan (3-0-0) camp after the defending champions posted three straight wins to comfortably take top spot in Group C ahead of African debutants Cameroon (2-0-1). Yuki Ogimi's fifth minute goal accounted for all the scoring as Japan stopped determined Ecuador 1-0.

The South Americans, outscored 16-1 in their opening two contests, put up a brave effort against the champions but never really threatened, exiting the tournament without a win.

Cameroon scored two second half goals to edge Switzerland 2-1 and extend their stay in Canada, advancing to the knockout round in their first World Cup appearance.

Reuters



Sweden defender Lina Nilsson (16) battles for the ball with Australia forward Caitlin Foord (9) during the second half in a Group D soccer match in the 2015 FIFA women's World Cup at Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta, on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS