THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Thein Sein inspects preparations for 7th CLMV Summit, 6th ACMECS Summit and related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — President U Thein Sein inspected preparations for the 7th Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam Summit and the 6th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Summit and related meetings at Myanmar International Convention Centre (I) on Friday.

First, the President inspected preparations to welcome heads of states who will be attending the Summits at the main gate of the MICC-I and VVIP lounges.

Next, the President heard reports on preparations for hosting the Summits presented by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin.

Then, the President viewed round Ruby Hall which is slated for the 7th CLMV Summit and Emerald Hall which is also slated for the 6th ACMECS Summit.

Afterwards, the President observed the full dress rehearsal for the opening of the 6th ACMECS Summit and dinner which is slated to be held at Jade Hall.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and the Union ministers conducted the President round VVIP lounges and rooms set for separate meetings.—*MNA*

***President U Thein Sein inspects preparations for hosting 7th CLMV Summit and 6th ACMECS Summit.*—MNA**

Low pressure over West Central Bay of Bengal can intensify into storm within 24 hrs

YANGON, 19 June — According to observation at 6.30 pm Friday, a low pressure zone over West Central Bay of Bengal can intensity into a small storm within 24 hours, bringing strong winds and rough seas especially along and off Rakhine and Ayeyawady coasts, said Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

In the announcement of the department Friday, the weather bureau has warned fishing boats and vessels to be alert to rough seas due to the stronger monsoon caused by the lower pressure zone.

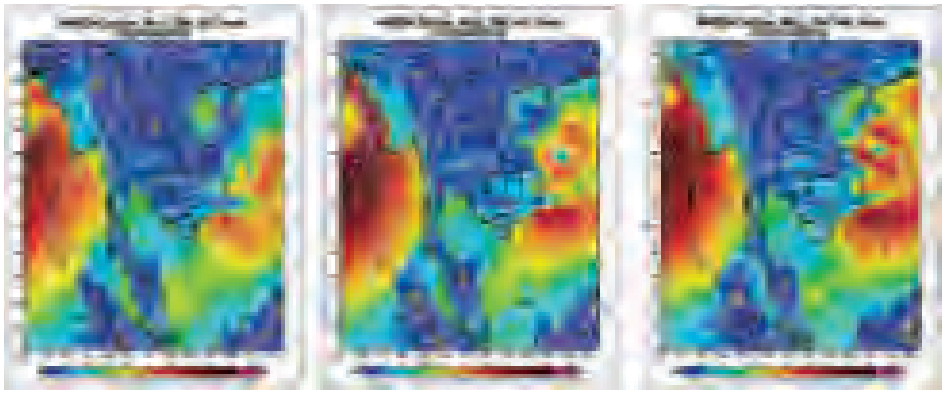
Due to the low pressure, squalls with rough seas can occur occasionally off and along Myanmar coasts, with surface wind speed reaching 40 miles per hour, the announcement said. Meanwhile, Dr Tun Lwin, the prominent weather expert of Myanmar and former director-general of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, forecasts that waves can reach 15 to 20 ft of high with surface wind of 35 to 40 miles per hour due to the low pressure zone.

Meanwhile, the monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, the weather bureau said.

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayayarwady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining regions and states on Saturday.

The weather bureau forecasts that isolated heavy fall is expected over Mon State on Saturday, with 80 percent degree of certainty.— *GNLM*

Maps show wind speeds above 10 metres of ground



Press Release

Myanmar hands over verified Bangladeshi nationals among those rescued by Myanmar Navy

1. On 8 June 2015, Myanmar officially handed over 150 persons who are verified as Bangladeshi nationals among the 200 boat people rescued by the Myanmar Navy on 21 May 2015. To officially hand over 37 persons from rest of the said boat people, the flag meeting followed by handing over ceremony was held in the afternoon of 19 June 2015, in Taung Pyo (Let We) nearby the friendship bridge between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

2. At the said event, Deputy Director U Saw Naing, Maungtaw District Immigration Officer, and acting Police Colonel Kyaw Tay Za from Myanmar and the Consul from the Bangladeshi Consulate in Sittway, the Commanding Officer of No 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox's Bazar, a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two representatives from the Border Guard Battalion from Bangladesh were presence as special guests and observers. U Tun Tun, Assistance Director and Deputy District Immigration Officer, handed over (37) Bangladeshi nationals to Major Inmara, Deputy Commanding Officer of No 17 Border Guard Battalion, and they proceeded to Bangladesh accordingly.

3. Myanmar and Bangladeshi authorities have continued verifying remaining (13) persons, the rest of the 200 boat people, and over 700 boat people who were rescued on 21 and 29 May 2015, respectively. They will be handed over to the country of origin after completion of the verification process.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Yangon Region Parliament gives green light to seven modern housing projects

By *Aye Min Soe*

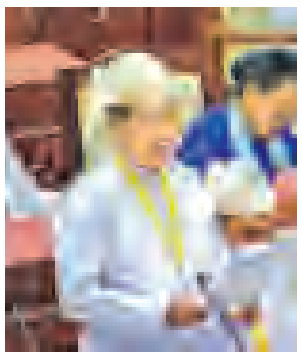
YANGON, 19 June — Seven modern housing projects of the Greater Yangon Development Strategic Plan-2040 were unanimously given the go-ahead by the Yangon Region parliament Friday.

The Yangon Region parliament in a 113-to-2 vote approved the seven modern housing projects of the plan designed by the Yangon Region Government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan's foreign aid agency.

(See page 9)

Pyithu Hluttaw

No plan to return nationalized buildings to original owners: Ministry of Cooperatives



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The 67th day meeting the 12th regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held on Friday, with members of Union-level organizations responding to questions parliamentarians.

On a question by Mahlaing Constituency representative U Aye Mauk on whether a plan to return the apartments which have been nationalized to owners in accord with the provisions of the Constitutions and a document released by the government, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun replied that the President, in accord with the law, is unable to hand over the apartments and buildings that have been taken for public purpose in the time of the new government and the ministry has no plan to return the nationalized apartments to the original owners in accord with the document.

The original owners are being given priority to buy back the nationalized property and buildings as the property of the State go on sale by a property management committee in accord with rules and regulations, he added.

New Myanmar Territorial Sea and Maritime Zones Law is currently in draft form and seeking comments from the Attorney-General's Office of the Union, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin answered a question of Pyinmana Constituency Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Myint Oo.

Upon completion of the new legislation, submission of the draft law will be made for the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the rules and regulations, the deputy minister added.

During the session, U Khin Maung Shwe, member of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, informed the MPs of acceptance of the Protection and Preservation of Ancient Artefacts draft law sent back by Amyotha Hluttaw with some amendments. —*MNA*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office refutes accusations of media restrictions

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — Covering parliament news has never been prohibited since the establishment of the current Hluttaws, but some measures were taken for proper coverage of news and other developments including security concerns, according to a statement dated 16th June, 2015, released by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The statement also said that international guests, local and international organizations, tourists and the public have been allowed to visit Hluttaw buildings and sessions and the media is allowed to cover news in accordance with rules and regulations, the statement said.

In conclusion, the statement urged all to cooperate for successful democratic reform process.—*GNLM*

Ahka National Development Party applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the application for registration as a political party. Ahka National Development Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on 19 June 2015.—*MNA*

Information for Public Remonstration

1. Akha National Development Party headquartered at No 3/10 on 3rd street in Meikong Ward, Tachilek, Shan State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 19-6-2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.
2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Akha National Development Party

Emblem of Akha National Development Party

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw undertakes amendments of draft laws

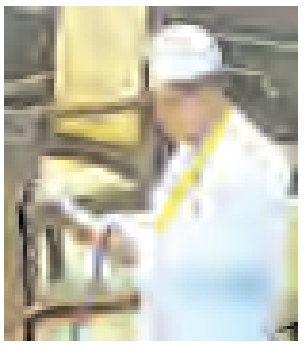
NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) continued for 64th day on Friday, with a question and answer session, amendment of two draft laws and invitation to interested MPs to discuss a draft law.

During the Q & A session, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said Kaladan river crossing bridge on Kyauktaw-Paletwa road is set to be built in the fiscal year 2016-2017 following the a bridge design is completed and the cost of the bridge is estimated.

On a question about farmland compensations, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that there is no plan to pay compensation for farmlands in the area of building the irrigation channels from Khabaung Dam as the dam was built before Farmland Law and bylaws were enacted on 30 August 2012.

During the today's session, interested MPs were invited to discuss a Bill on Television and Broadcast Law sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) with amendments.

Next, MPs at Amyotha Hluttaw amended four sections and deleted one section stated in the Bill on National Races Development which is in second draft form. Likewise, amendment of 39 sections, deletion of four sections and inclusion of new section in Myanmar Red Cross Society Bill were made.— *MNA*



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.—MNA

Yangon Region Police Force opens media team office

YANGON, 19 June— The Yangon Region Police Force opened a new office for its media team here Thursday as part of its efforts to improve communication between law enforcement and the press.

The office will disseminate correct information to the people, Pol Col Win Naing, Commander of Yangon Region Police Force, said at the opening ceremony.

Mr Andreas Magnusson, first secretary of the EU Embassy to Myanmar, said the police media team must not be used for propaganda and should provide accurate information to the people.

Plans are under way to open similar offices in the region and state police forces including Nay Pyi Taw Police Force. The office of Yangon Region Police Force is first of its kind among the regions and states.

Min Thit

EU and police officials open Yangon Region Police Force's media team office.—MIN THIT

Vice President U Nyan Tun expects SPIEF to counter global challenges to energy, economy, geopolitics

St. Petersburg, 19 June— The forum's theme reflects the challenges facing the global financial system and current integration processes and collaboration between oil, gas and energy industries, Vice President U Nyan Tun on Friday told the 19th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum under the theme "Time to Act: Shared Paths to Stability and Growth".

He expressed his belief that the forum will come up with an engaging platform for pressing issues of global economic downturn, financial instability, integration processes of international trade, infrastructural projects and geopolitics.

Vice President U Nyan Tun attends 19th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.—MNA

Myanmar has become a new economic hub of Asia as the country is sandwiched between two Asian giant economies, China and India, with the vice president adding that the government is putting more effort into transparency and accountability in the systematic exploitation of natural resources.

Effective legal support mechanisms have become a magnet for more foreign investments, he said, citing natural gas, electricity, minerals and tourism as attractive industries for foreign investors.

On the sidelines of the forum, Myanmar and Russia signed a cooperation deal for peaceful use of nuclear energy.

MNA

UEC seeks cooperation for successful compilation of voters' lists

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June —The Union Election Commission urged administrative bodies, political parties, civil society organizations, and voters to cooperate for compilation of correct and complete voters' lists and welcomed all constructive engagements of them, according to a statement dated 19th June released by the UEC.

As there were weaknesses in voters' lists in 2010 General Election and 2012 by-elections, the commission has started tasks for compilation of voters' lists earlier in the entire country since November, 2014 and voters' lists were announced through four phases from April to June, the statement said.

Voters' lists were compiled based on family members' lists of the Immigration and National Registration Department, according to the statement.

Voters are allowed to apply for inclusion of their names in voters' lists if their names are not stated there with form-3 while they can reject inappropriate persons in the voters' lists with form-4 and make corrections with form-4 (c), the statement said.

After such process, the commission has stored the correct information in the main server and will make the voters' lists available online, according to the statement. —*MNA*

Myanmar, Thai officials discuss construction of No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge

Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin addresses meeting on construction of No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June—A meeting on stake driving for construction of No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge and roads linking two countries was held at the Ministry of Construction, here, Friday, with an address by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin.

Officials of Ministry of Construction and Department of Highways from Thailand discussed handover of completed Myawady-Thingan Nyinaung-Kawkareik road, matters related to Thanbyuzayat-Phayathonzu road with assistance Neda, the route to link with Dawei deep sea port and Punaram of Thailand, Myeik-Taninthayi-Mawtaung road, and the route from Mae Hong San of Thailand to Nay Pyi Taw passing BP 13.

MNA

Crop prices and information to be available at TV channel, radio and newspapers

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June _ Internews Group has announced to form a team to cover news about prices and information of agricultural produces at Bayintnaung, Wardan, Thirimingalar Market and Mandalay brokerages and to report them in Myanmar Television, Myanmar Radio and daily newspapers every day. In addition, the news and information will also be available at 1883 at call centre.

Internews is an organization working for value chain rural development in Myanmar.

MNA

Nationwide survey on nutrition conducted before end of year

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

Yangon, 19 June— Myanmar's Ministry of Health plans to carry out a nationwide survey on nutrition by the end of this year, according to the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) of the ministry's Department of Health.

"The country-wide survey will be done by the ministry in cooperation with related departments and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)," said Dr May Khin Than, Director/ Nutrition Program Manager at the NNC.

"Currently, necessary preparations for the survey are being made by the NNC,

"Since 1954, the Ministry of Health has been working on nutritional development, with the result that Myanmar could deal with health problems such as deficiencies of protein, vitamins and iodine. But anemia remains the country's major health problem."

According to previous surveys conducted in 2003 and 2005, seven in ten pregnant women and children under age five were found to be anemic.

Young females should eat iron-rich foods or take iron supplements for preventing and treating low levels of iron, Dr May Khin Than suggested, adding that people's participation plays a vital role in the success of nutritional development schemes.

"Myanmar still has a long way to go in terms of helping children thrive as the rate of stunting is 35 percent among children under the age of five, said Elizabeth Whelan, nutrition program manager of the Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition (LEARN) Project.

"That means 1 in 3 Myanmar children are malnourished and shorter than they should be, based on international growth standards," she added.

According to a 2013 household survey by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a multi-donor fund established in 2009 to improve the lives and prospects of poor and vulnerable people in rural Myanmar, only one in three Myanmar children aged two and under eat sufficiently diverse diets. Myanmar people rely on rice as their main food, with the consumption of body-building and protective foods being low compared to other countries.—*GNLM*

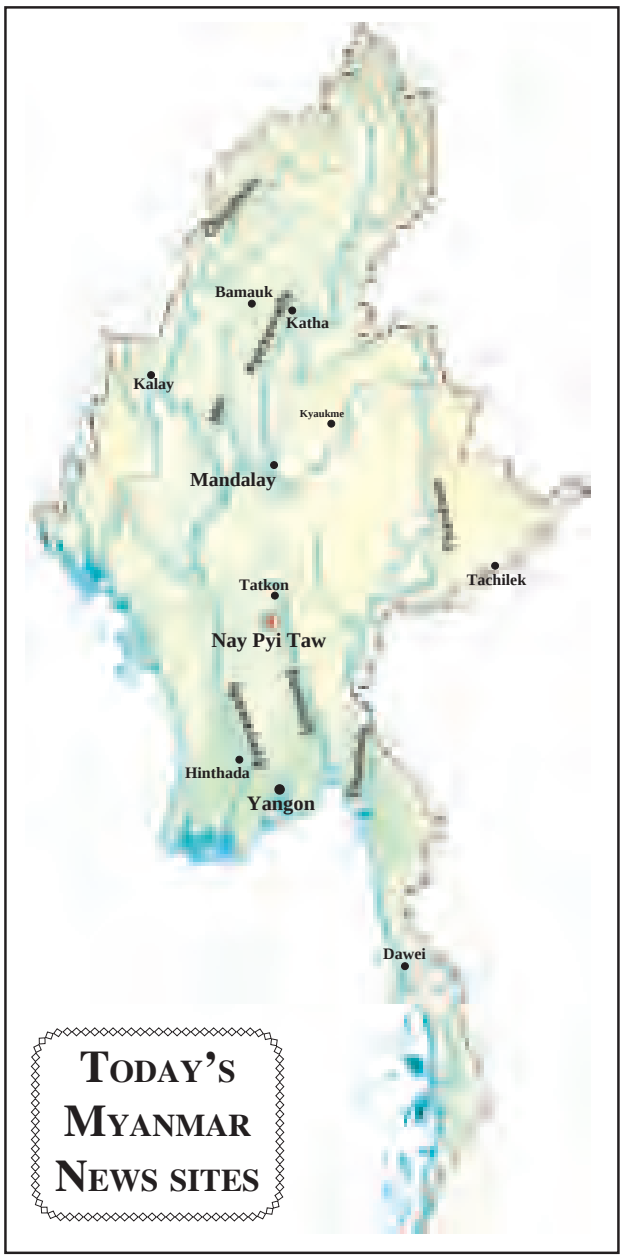
New power line installed in Zalokgyi Village-tract in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 19 June — Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung on Wednesday attended the launching of new power line in Zalokgyi Village-tract in Myanaung Township in the region.

At the ceremony, Region Minister or Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing formally opened the new facility before the chief minister unveiled the signboard.

The chief minister then met with local people living in Zalokgyi Village and pledged to fulfill their needs.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



Mandalarians get another one month to receive citizenship scrutiny card

MANDALAY, 19 June — The Immigration and National Registration Department extended one more month of the project to issue citizenship scrutiny card to local ethnic people in Mandalay Region, an official reported on Thursday.

To have a right to vote the 2015 general election, the department continues its services for residents without citizenship cards through a one-stop service.

Since the new government, the Immigration and National Registration Department has been issued the citizenship cards through its Moepwint projects, with easing restrictions in the citizenship rules.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

People seek education and job opportunities at fair

YANGON, 19 June— The Myanmar International Education and Career Fair 2015 kicked off at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall, here, on Friday.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Than Myint, Director Takashi Kawasaki of Metro Computer Myanmar Co., Ltd. and Director U Aung Aung of Dagon Exhibitions Ltd cut the ribbon to open the fair.

The chief minister and party visited the booths of the fair. Under the arrangement of Dagon Exhibitions Ltd, more than 60 local and foreign companies showcase facilities of education and career at 90 booths that will run from 9 am to 5 pm daily till 21 June.

Kyemon

Fort Hsinkyon attracts increasing number of visitors year by year

MANDALAY, 19 June— Number of local and foreign visitors is higher at Fort Hsinkyon in ancient Inwa city, TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, this year, compared with the number of tourists last year.

"The guests visit the fort not only to view round the location of the fort but to enjoy scenic beauty of Ayeyawady River as it was built by Myanmar kings," said a local resident.

The fort is located west of Hsinkyon Village in ancient Inwa city, south of Ayeyawady River. It was built by King Mindon on the place of a stockade in 1874.

Forts Minhla, Gwaychaung, Hsinkyon, Thabyedan and Asaykhan were built in the late Konbaung dynasty based on experiences of Kinwun Minister on his tour of western countries. The fort is formed with three walls and one moat.—*Than Zaw Min (IPRD)*

MPT offers new rates for International Direct Dialing, with minimum fee of 200 K/minute

YANGON, 19 June — MPT has lowered its International Direct Dialing (IDD) rates as part of its efforts to provide better and cheaper services to its customers.

New rates for international calls are now set at 5 price points based on country zones, ranging from 200~800 K/minute. Most notably, the ASEAN + 8 zone (consisting of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam) is now set at only 200 K/minute, offering the widest range of countries for this low price point.

All MPT customers (GSM, WCDMA and CDMA) can start to enjoy these new rates right away from 22 June 2015 without prior subscription or registration. IDD is defined as voice calls made from Myanmar to foreign fixed and mobile numbers. All calls to a country will be billed at the same rate irrespective of destination operator.—*MPT*

Local farmers sow monsoon paddy seeds

TACHILEK, 19 June— The sowing ceremony for 2015-16 cultivation season was held on the farmland of U Kya Law in Wamlon village-tract in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State, recently, with a speech by Township Management Committee Chairman U Tun Tun Win.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Sai Khin Zaw Latt spoke about advantages of sowing and nurturing the paddy on small dikes through good agricultural pattern.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials and local farmers from five village-tracts totalling 50.

Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)

Villagers tap natural spring to ensure water supply

BAMAUK, 19 June — Facing regular water shortages, residents in Ashaegon Village in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, are creating infrastructure to obtain water from a nearby natural spring.

The village's 700 residents have faced shortages of drinking water for many years. They have built a 20-foot-long and six-foot-wide water tank and installed two 3-inch-diameter water pipes at Waimahi natural lake at the foot of Sawbwa Hill, more than 3 miles west of the village.

The local people will construct a reinforced concrete tank 40 feet in length and 20 feet in width near the village to store water.

"The village needs potable water for consumption and fire prevention," a villager said. "Water from tube-wells is not fit for consumption."—*Cyclone*

Earthen road to improve smooth transport of residents

HINTHADA, 19 June— Hinthada Township Rural Development Department constructs a 4-mile Aukkyin-Inma-Thakhukkwin earthen road, spending a capital expenditure in 2015-16 fiscal year.

District and township officials supervise construction tasks for timely completion for enabling local people to use the road in the rainy season.

Upon completion, the earthen road will improve transport sector of local residents residing in Aukkyin, Inma, Thakhukkwin and other villages along the road.—*District RRD*

Township officials check sales of fresh meat, fish and vegetables

DAWEI, 19 June — Officials checked shops of meats, fish and vegetables in the township development market in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 18 June.

Township Administrator U Lin Thant led the departmental officials in checking 15 chicken shops, five fish shops and 15 vegetable shops at the development market and the strand market in Dawei.

The township administrator urged the shopkeepers to give priority to sales of fresh meat, fish and vegetables to the people.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Election sub-commissions hand over voter list to local authorities

KYAUKME, 19 June — A ceremony to hand over voter list to wards and villages was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Namsang Township, Palaung Self-Administered Zone, northern Shan state, on 18 June.

Chairman of the zone election sub-commission U San Aung called for cooperation of political parties and civic society organizations in announcement of the voter list while Chairman of the township sub-commission U Kyin Sein outlined arrangements for announcement of the list.

The chairman of the leading body of the zone and officials presented forms for voter lists to local authorities.

Namsang Township is home to 50,415 eligible voters in total.

Myint Aung (Ka Ma)

Green gram plantations thriving in farmlands in Tatkon Township.

Farmers use tube-wells for irrigating farmlands

TATKON, 19 June—Nay Pyi Taw Water Resources Utilization Department is sinking tube-wells in rural area for irrigating the farmlands in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The department has sunk 10 tube-wells in Shaukkon Village-tract in Tatkon Township from 2013 to 2015.

Local farmers use irrigation facilities from tube-wells on their farmlands by growing green gram.

In Shaukkon Village, the tube-well is limited to irrigate 30 acres of farmland but farmer must spend the cost for fuel. "I use 18 gallons of fuel for supplying water from tube-well to 2.5 acres of green gram farm," said a local farmer.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Thailand took four days to confirm first MERS case; scores monitored

A Thai Airways worker cleans the cabin of an aircraft of the national carrier at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand, on 18 June, 2015.
REUTERS

BANGKOK, 19 June — Thai authorities took nearly four days to confirm the country's first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), the health ministry said on Friday, a time lag likely to raise fears of a further spread of the deadly virus in Asia.

Thailand confirmed its first case of MERS on Thursday, a 75-year-old businessman from Oman, just as an outbreak in South Korea that began last month and has infected 166 people, and killed 24 of them, appeared to be levelling off.

The infected man arrived in the Thai capital, Bangkok, on Monday on an Oman Air flight for medical treatment for a heart ailment at a private hospital.

Public Health Minister Rajata Rajatanavin declined to identify the hospital and said the patient had been put in quarantine at an infectious diseases institute in Bangkok on Thursday. "It took about four days to diagnose this case and two lab tests," Rajata told *Reuters*.

Authorities wanted to monitor all 106 people on board the man's flight, he said, though it was not clear how everyone could be traced. Among those being monitored were the man's two sons, who were considered at high risk because of their proximity to their father. The two had been tested and results were due later on Friday, Rajata said.

Most of those under observation had been told to stay at home for 14 days.

The Thai case will compound fears in Asia of a repeat of a 2002-2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARIS), which began in China and killed about 800 people globally. Shares in Thai aviation companies and hotels fell on Friday with hotel operator Central Plaza Hotel (CENTEL.BK) plunging 6.6 percent. Airports operator Airports of Thailand (AOT.BK) dropped 4.2 percent to a more than three-week low.

MERS was first identified in humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and the majority of cases have been in the Middle East.

Isolated cases have cropped up in Asia before South Korea's outbreak began last month, and Thailand is the fourth Asian country to register a case.

China has had one case recently, that of a South Korean man who travelled to China via Hong Kong despite authorities suggesting he stay in voluntary quarantine at home. South Korea's outbreak, the largest outside Saudi Arabia, has been traced to a 68-year-old man who returned from a business trip to the Middle East in early May. It has spread through hospitals with all of its infections known to have occurred in healthcare facilities. The outbreak in South Korea appeared to have peaked, with just one new case reported on Friday and the number of people in quarantine down 12 percent to 5,930, though authorities were taking no chances.

"Given the current developments, we have judged that it has levelled off, but we need to watch further spread, further cases from so-called intensive control hospitals," the South Korean health ministry's chief policy official, Kwan Deok-cheol, told a briefing in Seoul.

As part of those efforts, South Korean authorities were contacting nearly 42,000 people who had visited a hospital in the capital, Seoul, which is at the centre of the outbreak, with half of the country's infections happening there.

Thailand was screening passengers from countries seen at risk of MERS and stepping up public information about the virus, another health official said.

The Middle East is an important source of tourists for Thailand with arrivals from the region up by nearly 50 percent in January, according to the tourism office.

Bangkok is also one of the region's main aviation hubs. The vast majority of MERS infections have been in Saudi Arabia, where more than 1,000 people have been infected since 2012, and about 454 have died. There is no cure.—*Reuters*

WEF 2015 Pre-conference Side Event Reaffirms the importance of GCED

SEOUL, 19 June — Prior to the opening of the 2015 World Education Forum, Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) organized a pre-conference side event on 19 May 2015 with the title, "Global Citizenship Education (GCED): Lessons and Visions from South Korean Experiences at the National, Regional and Global Levels." In partnership with JoongAng Ilbo, this event was held in support of the UN Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) and sponsored by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea.

With the attendance of 350 interested stakeholders from various countries, including 150 WEF participants, the forum attracted the biggest audience among all ten pre-conference side events and successfully promoted the general public's better understanding of GCED, particularly in reference to Korean cases. Along with the parallel group session, entitled "Educating and learning for peaceful and sustainable societies" co-convened by APCEIU, UNESCO HQs and the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) on 20 May 2015, the event is considered to have contributed to the main discussion on GCED, one of the key global agendas at WEF 2015.

The first half of the event entitled, "Envisioning Global Citizenship Education in the Post-2015 Era", started off with opening remarks and a keynote presentation. Mr. Utak Chung, Director of APCEIU, and Ms Min Jeong Kim, Head of the UN Secretary-General's GEFI Secretariat, stressed the significance of discussing GCED in depth at this turning point, for 2015 is the year in which the new development and education goals will be set for the next 15 years. HE Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia stated, "We must promote some adequate changes in education, especially to allow our young generation to live together in peace and harmony."

GNLM

Hijacked Orkim Harmony tanker released, pirates escape

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 June — The hijacked oil tanker *Orkim Harmony* has been released by pirates, who fled in the ship's rescue boat, Malaysian navy and maritime officials said on Friday.

The *Orkim Harmony*, hijacked on 11 June off the Malaysian coast by pirates reportedly armed with pistols and machetes, was now being escorted by the navy to Malaysia's Kuantan Port.

Officials said only one member of the 22 crew was injured, suffering a gunshot wound to the thigh. Three Malaysian navy ships and two aircraft were hunting the fleeing pirates. The hijacking is the second seizure of a tanker by pirates in Southeast Asia this month, raising further concerns over piracy in the region. The 7,300 deadweight tonne (DWT) Orkim Harmony was hijacked about 30 nautical miles from the Malaysian port of Tanjung Sedili carrying around 50,000 barrels of RON95 gasoline. The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) said the gasoline on the ship was owned by state-controlled oil and gas company Petronas.

The *Orkim Harmony* is operated by Malaysia's Orkim Ship Management. On board is a crew of 22, including 16 Malaysians, five Indonesians and one Myanmar national. After the tanker was hijacked, the pirates repainted the ship and changed the name to Kim Harmon. Malaysia's Chief of Navy Admiral Abdul Aziz Jaafar says eight pirates were involved. The Malaysian naval vessel shadowing the tanker in Vietnamese waters on Thursday was trying to persuade the hijackers to surrender, says Jaafar.

Early on Friday, Malaysia said the hijacked ship was still being shadowed by a navy ship and had been redirected to Indonesia's Natuna Island, where it was expected to arrive on Saturday.

A subsequent MMEA report said the pirates had fled the ship. Earlier this month, a 7,100 DWT oil tanker, Orkim Victory, carrying diesel loaded from Petronas was hijacked on 4 June in the same area and on the same route. The *Orkim Victory* was later released by the hijackers after about 770 metric tonnes (6,000 barrels) of its cargo had been siphoned off.—*Reuters*

South Korea MERS outbreak has 'levelled off'; one new case

SEOUL, 19 June — An outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in South Korea appears to have levelled off, a health official said on Friday, as the country reported just one new patient, a day after Thailand reported its first case.

A total of 166 people have been infected in the South Korean outbreak, the largest outside Saudi Arabia. It has been traced to a 68-year-old man who returned from a business trip to the Middle East in early May.

It has spread through hospitals, killing 24 people.

The Thai case, a 75-year-old businessman from Oman, does not appear to be linked to the South Korean outbreak but will spread anxiety in the region, even though the worst appears over in South Korea.

"Given the current developments, we have judged that it has levelled off, but we need to watch further spread, further cases from so-called intensive control hospitals," the South Korean health ministry's chief policy official, Kwon Deok-cheol, told a briefing. As part of those efforts, South Korean authorities were contacting nearly 42,000 people who had visited a hospital in the capital, Seoul, that has been at the centre of the outbreak, with half of the country's infections happening there.

Authorities said they aimed to contact people who had been at the hospital, the Samsung Medical Center, between 27-29 May and 2-10 June, and they raised the number of those who may have been in contact with MERS cases there to about 7,000 people.

Employees from a disinfection service company sanitize the interior of a theater in Seoul, South Korea, on 18 June, 2015. — REUTERS

MERS was first identified in humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and the majority of cases have been in the Middle East.

Isolated cases have cropped up in Asia before South Korea's outbreak began last month, and Thailand is the fourth Asian country to register a case.

The current cases in Asia have stirred fears of a repeat of a 2002-2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which began in China and killed about 800 people globally.

MERS is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered SARS, though MERS does not spread as easily as SARS.

South Korea's single new case reported on Friday was the smallest number since 3 June, and marks a sharp drop from double-digit increases on some days last week.

The South Korean outbreak has taken a toll on Asia's fourth biggest economy, with tourists cancelling visits and consumers staying at home, and has dented the popularity of President Park Geun-hye, whose government was criticised for its initial response. Park's approval rating fell to 29 percent in a weekly poll released on Friday by Gallup Korea, the lowest since she took office in 2013. All of the infections known to have occurred in South Korea have taken place in healthcare facilities. The vast majority of MERS infections and deaths have been in Saudi Arabia, where more than 1,000 people have been infected since 2012, and about 454 have died.

Reuters

Waterloo handshakes as Europe marks bicentenary united

Re-enactors perform during the opening show "Inferno", by artistic director Luc Petit, for the bicentennial celebrations for the Battle of Waterloo in Waterloo, Belgium on 18 June, 2015. REUTERS

WATERLOO, (Belgium), 19 June — Descendants of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Duke of Wellington shook hands at Waterloo on the 200th anniversary of a battle that ended French imperial hegemony over Europe and ushered in a century of fragile peace. Belgium's king and prime minister, hosting the celebrations, used the occasion on Thursday to hail the European Union, based a few miles away in Brussels, and characterised Waterloo, fought with great loss on 18 June, 1815, as a turning point in the development of systems to manage the continent's many states.

In a symbolic gesture, descendants of the French, British, German and Dutch commanders shook hands: Jean-Christophe Napoleon Bonaparte, a London financier; Arthur Wellesley, son of the current Duke of Wellington; Nikolaus Prince Bluecher, a descendent of the Prussian marshal; and King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, whose ancestor led Wellington's Dutch allies. "Those who yesterday were enemies have become the closest of allies," said Belgian premier Charles Michel. "It is not so much a battle, it is a reconciliation I want to celebrate today."

He spoke on day when the European Union, already stressed by confrontation with Wellington's old ally Russia and by fears of Britain quitting the EU in a referendum, found itself facing a "Waterloo" of its own as Greece refused to cut its budget to qualify for EU loans it needs to avoid looming bankruptcy.

King Philippe of the Belgians, whose state was created through the diplomatic system set up in the wake of Waterloo, recalled how the final defeat of a post-revolutionary Napoleonic French empire stretching from Iberia to the Russian frontier led to a "concert of Europe" aimed at settling disputes in peace.

"Today, the European institutions are firmly established in Brussels, a few kilometres from Waterloo," he said. "Certainly, it is not always easy to get along. But it is always better to meet around the negotiating table than on the battlefield."

France sent its ambassador to the ceremony, making it the first major anniversary at the site to be marked by all sides.

A music-and-fireworks spectacular, featuring several hundred of the 5,000 battlefield re-enactors gathering for the weekend, marked the end of the bicentenary day on Thursday. Some 200,000 visitors are expected at Waterloo over the coming few days to watch vivid evocations of the bloody summer Sunday 200 years ago when tens of thousands of men died on the field.—*Reuters*

Abe unlikely to attend anniv event to mark Japan-S Korea relations

TOKYO, 19 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is unlikely to attend an event in Tokyo next week to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea, a senior lawmaker said on Friday, as the neighbours continue to suffer strained bilateral ties.

Abe was quoted by former Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura as saying during a meeting that it would be "difficult (to attend) due to Diet schedules." The prime minister needs to attend deliberations on bills at parliament.

Kawamura made the remarks after he and former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori met with Abe at the prime minister's office, during which Mori urged Abe to attend the reception at the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo on Monday. Earlier this month, Mori and Kawamura met South Korean President Park Geun-hye during their visit to Seoul.

Issues such as differing perceptions of history and a territorial row have kept Abe and Park from holding a bilateral summit since they took office in 2012 and in 2013 respectively. Abe has maintained that the door for dialogue with Park is always open.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se is slated to attend the commemorative event on Monday during his two-day trip to Japan from Sunday, which marks the first visit by South Korea's top diplomat to Japan in four years. A similar commemorative event will be held the same day at the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. The Asian neighbours' anniversary will come amid strained bilateral ties due to a spat over a South Korea-controlled, Japan-claimed group of islets in the Sea of Japan and conflicting views on Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The issue of the so-called Korean "comfort women," who were made to work in wartime brothels for the Imperial Japanese Army, also remains a thorny bilateral issue. The Japanese government dispatched a senior Foreign Ministry official on Friday, continuing efforts to resolve the issue and also seek South Korea's understanding of the proposed UNESCO World Heritage listing of historical industrial sites in Japan, which Seoul opposes by saying some 60,000 Koreans were conscripted to work at some of the 23 proposed sites during World War II.

Kyodo News

India top court sets terms for Sahara chief's release from jail

The Sahara group chairman Subrata Roy (C) arrives at the Supreme Court in New Delhi on 4 March, 2014. REUTERS

MUMBAI, 19 June — India's Supreme Court on Friday set fresh terms for releasing troubled conglomerate Sahara's founder Subrata Roy, jailed for more than a year in a long-running dispute over issuance of illegal bonds. The court said Sahara, which has assets ranging from a Formula One team to TV channels, will have to pay 360 billion rupees (£3.6 billion) in nine instalments after Roy's release from jail.

Roy will also have to submit his passport to the court after his release on bail, the court said. Roy was arrested in March last year after the company failed to comply with a court order to refund money it had raised from millions of small investors by selling them bonds later ruled to be illegal. The court on Friday said Sahara owes as much as 360 billion rupees to the bond investors. Sahara previously said it had repaid 95 percent of the amount due to the investors.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 20 June, 2015

Inequality is the greatest threat to justice

By *Kyaw Thura*

Politically, inequality can be described as a side effect of intentional systems, structures and policies that discriminate in favour of a few and against many others.

Transparency and accountability in systems, structures and policies should be regarded as crucial to the future of our country as a nascent democracy.

Every democracy around the world depends on a system of checks and balances, in which the government, the parliament and the judiciary have some control over one another. These three branches are also referred to as executive, legislative and judicial powers.

These terms confuse people. Simply put, the executive power is another word for the government, the legislature or legislative power for the parliament, and the judicial power for the judiciary. Although they are separate institutions with different functions, they are to work closely together to enact laws.

Although the government runs the country by developing policies and drafting laws, the parliament has the power to check and scrutinize the activities of the government and question its ministers, apart from examining, debating, amending and approving laws. The judiciary is to put those laws into effect and enforce them, while remaining impartial.

Since the government is voted into power by the people, it must act in the interests of none but the people and the country. The changing balance of power among the three pillars can be interpreted as inequality, which will no doubt become the greatest threat to the rule of law to the detriment of justice, the stability of peace and prosperity.

Write for us

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

Love The Motherland

Kyi Mun

Motherland, Motherland; we all love you! We love you with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our strengths.

We wish you: Long Live Our Motherland!

L *for* **Love & Serve the Motherland**
O *for* **Obey thy Heart; Give All To Love**
V *for* **Value the Motherland With All Your Heart**
E *for* **Enjoy Living In the Motherland**
the
M *for* **Main Source of Milk, Love & Care**
O *for* **Object of Our Dependence & Reverence**
T *for* **Timeless Protector**
H *for* **Hope & Courage Giver**
E *for* **Energetic Worker**
R *for* **Responsible Educator**
L *for* **Living Place**
A *for* **A Place For Our Survival & Success**
N *for* **Name & Fame Getting Place**
D *for* **Devoted Land**

LOVE & SERVE THE MOTHERLAND

It is our Karma/ Kamma / Fate that we have become human beings in Myanmar. Since we have been born and brought up in Myanmar, it is our Motherland. It is needless to say that we must love and serve our Motherland with all our heart, with all our mind and with all our strength. We have got to live and move and have our being in our Motherland with unbounded love, sincerest service and tremendous gratitude. We all must love our Motherland until our last breaths.

OBEY THY HEART; GIVE ALL TO LOVE

It is said that to live is to fight, to suffer and to love. In our struggle to live and move and have our being, we gradually accumulate in our nature the defilements of greed (lobha), ill-will (dosa), delusion (moha), pride (mana), false view (ditthi), doubt (vicikiccā), jealousy (issā), niggardliness (micchariya), lack of moral shame (to do all evil) (ahirika) and lack of dread (to do all evil) (anottappa). Our original human nature is love and peace. Love and peace are the inside-out natural, original human instinct and feeling. Greed, Hatred and Delusion are the outside-in forces of selfishness and egoism. So, we should nurture, cultivate and strengthen the natural force of our love. We should go all-out to keep love fully alive in our heart. And, we must adore our Motherland with more and more love.

VALUE THE MOTHERLAND WITH ALL YOUR HEART

As you value your own flesh and blood biological mother, you should also value your Motherland with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength. Valuing the Motherland means esteeming, admiring, adoring, cherishing, holding high in regards the Motherland. Actually, we can't value our Motherland high enough. Oh dear Motherland! How do we value thee? Let us count the ways!

ENJOY LIVING IN THE MOTHERLAND

For a human being, the bosom of the mother is the most ideal place of refuge or haven in the whole wide world. Enjoying the milk at the mother's bosom is the most delightful and exciting experience in the life of a human being. There is a Myanmar saying to the effect that: "Discarding and leaving the creek for a river usually results in finding more voluminous water but no fish at all". You can kiss and cherish your mother "until death do us part", but you should never leave your mother while you are alive! Love your Motherland, value your Motherland and fully enjoy your life and living in the dearest Motherland!

MAIN SOURCE OF MILK, LOVE & CARE

For every human being, the mother is the main source of milk, love and care. There is an in-depth saying in Myanmar to the effect that: "We can't fully repay the value of our mothers milk; we can only repay the value of our mothers' milk only from one of her two breasts." Mother's milk is fully imbued with unbounded love, unlimited care, and a sense of untold self-sacrifice and self-denial.

OBJECT OF OUR DEPENDENCE & REVERENCE

Our mother is the object of our dependence & reverence. In mother's love and care, we can find reliable and sustainable refuge. Mother's love is the best haven for us. There is a saying in Myanmar to the effect that: "When you happen to trip, and fall, you exclaim for your mother's help". I think our Motherland is the same as our mother. Just as there is a saying: "Home Sweet Home", I would like to say: "Motherland Sweet Motherland".

TIMELESS PROTECTOR

The word "Mother" denotes life giver and protector. The mother carefully protects her children to be able to live care-freely. The mother may go hungry, but she bends over backward to feed her children. Our Motherland is like our mother; it always protects us from various harms and dangers. With one's own mother, one can live and move and have one's being without a care in the world. The same is true to live in the Motherland.

HOPE & COURAGE GIVER

The mother is the shield as well as the sword for her children. For her children, the mother is the source of hope and courage. So long as the mother is alive, her children always hope for her protection as a timeless refuge or haven. We always feel safe in the care of our mother. We feel the same to live in the Motherland!

ENERGETIC WORKER

The mother is usually the model of diligence for her children. The mother always goes beyond due diligence for her off-springs. She has the habit of doing beyond the call of duty. She never hesitates to go the extra mile for the sake of her children. She dares to struggle to surmount all difficulties on behalf of her children. The same is true with our Motherland!

RESPONSIBLE EDUCATOR

The mother is always ready to educate her children. It is said in Myanmar that parents are the first or initial teachers in their children's lives. The mother is the example, the model. It is famously said that: "The Hands that rock the cradle rule the world." So is our Motherland that enables us to be educated.

LIVING PLACE

The Motherland is the place where we live and move and have our being. The Motherland is the place where we are born; it should also be the place where we die. The Motherland should be our rightful place, for better or for worse. Hail to the Motherland. Long live the Motherland!

A PLACE FOR OUR SURVIVAL & SUCCESS

The Motherland is the battlefield of our struggle for survival and success. We should invest all our time and all of our resources in the Motherland, come what may. The Motherland gives sustenance to our lives, and so we must give sustenance to our Motherland, with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our souls and with all our strengths.

NAME & FAME GETTING PLACE

Our Motherland is the place where we can make a name and earn some fame by proving ourselves as her humble servants. We must go all-out and give every bit of ourselves in serving our Motherland. If we can prove to be the true and able sons and daughters of our Motherland, she cannot but reward us according the measure of our contributions in her service.

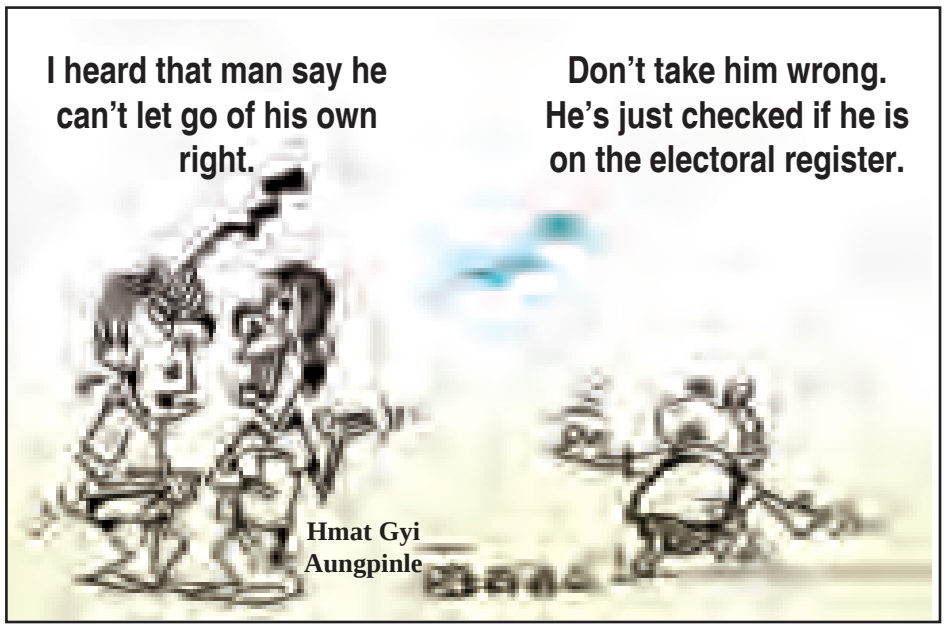
DEVOTED LAND

Our Motherland is the only true citadel where we should devote our whole lives with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our strengths.

CONCLUSION

Long Live the Motherland!

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



UEC releases dates for electoral roll announcements

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The Union Election Commission on Friday issued a statement listing dates and locations for the announcement of electoral rolls for the 2015 general elections.

Voter lists will be announced for the fourth time at the offices of ward and village election sub-commissions in all districts in Kachin, Rakhine, Shan (North) and Shan (East) States and Ayeyawady Region, Meiktila, NyaungU and Yamethin districts in Mandalay Region, Toungoo, Thayawady and Pyay districts in Bago Region, Katha, Kalay, Mawlaik and Hkamti districts and Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region and Kawthoung district in Taninthayi Region and remaining 21 townships in Yangon Region from 22 June to 5 July 2015.

Voters whose names are absent from rolls must submit form No. 3, the statement said, while those listed with incorrect information must use form No. 4-C. People may contest the nomination of unsuitable persons, such as those who are deceased or imprisoned, with form No. 4.

Visitors' names will be included in voter list of permanent residences provided they submit household registration form No. 66/6. Political parties should cooperate with the Union Election Commission in assisting voters to be properly enrolled and to have comprehensive voter lists, the statement said.—*MNA*

Maha Thakyayanthi Buddha Image conveyed to Aungmawli Hill

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — Maha Thakyayanthi Buddha Image was conveyed from ACE Workshop by car onto Aungmawli Hill in Ottarathiri Township Friday.

The image was conveyed by heavy modular trailer of Two Elephant Family Company to the foot of the hill.

A plan is underway to lift the image onto the hill by heavy machinery. The consecration and merit sharing ceremony will be held on the hill.

Tin Tun Aung

***Maha Thakyayanthi Buddha Image being conveyed to Aungmawli Hill in Ottarathiri Township.*—MNA**

Yinmar Project gaining momentum in anti-drug campaign

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The special anti-drug campaign (Yinmar) project with public activities was implemented in lower and upper Myanmar areas and Shan State.

Region and State Committees for Drug Abuse Control erected signboards of anti-drug campaign in 56 townships, gave educative talks in 48 places and distributed pamphlets in 16 townships.

Alternative development committee handed over two new school buildings to Ministry of Education in Kyain-Seikkyi Township while the cultivation of alternative development committee distributed fertilizers, paddy and maize seeds to local farmers in three townships and conducted the good agricultural pattern course in Tangyan Township.

Livestock breeding committee opened livestock and veterinary courses in 12 townships and vaccinated animals free of charge in six townships.

Medical treatment committee provided health care services in three townships while rehabilitation committee gave talks on danger of drugs in 39 townships.

The public educative committee organized mobile library activities in 13 townships, distributed pamphlets in seven townships and showed wall magazines in 13 townships and gave talks in 18 townships. The prohibited chemical supervisory committee checked the chemicals in four townships and gave lectures in four townships.

Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association held the competitions to mark the anti-drug campaign and destroyed 1.85 acres of Mitragyna plants worth K16.995 million in Taninthayi Township.

MNA

Ministry of NPED, LIFT Fund sign framework agreement for implementation of development projects

***Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein and Mr. Sanjay Mathur, Director & Representative of UNOPS Myanmar sign framework agreement.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT Fund) under the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) signed a framework agreement at Thingaha Hotel on Thursday.

The agreement was inked by Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein and Mr. Sanjay Mathur, Director & Representative of UNOPS Myanmar.

According to the agreement, there will be separate signing of annual work plans between ministries concerned and LIFT Fund to implement development projects in respective sectors.

Also present were officials from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Border Affairs, Information, Religious Affairs, Cooperatives, Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Agriculture and Irrigation, Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Commerce, Finance, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and LIFT Fund and UNOPS.

MNA

Yangon Region Parliament gives...

(from page 1)

The seven modern housing projects will be established on more than 100,000 acres of land on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, and accommodate more than 10 million people.

According to MP U Win Naing of Lanmadaw constituency No. 1, the Yangon North-East new town project will be established on 17,375 acres, the Yangon South-West new town project on 21,716 acres, the Yangon-Thanlyin new town project on 21,193 acres, the Yangon-Dala new town project on 15,173 acres, the Yangon-Htantabin new town project on 24,748 acres, the Yangon-Hmawby new town project on 11,594 acres and the Hlegu new town project on 6,993 acres.

During the debate, MP U Win Naing seconded the plan, urging the Yangon Region Government to establish low-cost housing or new towns for poor people, which make up 2.6 percent of Yangon's population of more than 5 million .

Yangon, which additionally has a floating population of about 1 million people, is experiencing an annual population increase of 2.6 percent.

MP Dr Nyo Nyo Thin of Bahan Township Constituency, who objected to the plan during the debate in parliament, expressed her concerns that the strategic project could destabilize the country's financial situation if it is not managed with law enforcement because of possible ties to money laundering.

GNLM

YUFL receives Casio 88 Japanese-English electronic dictionary

YANGON, 19 June — Chairman of Brain Group & President of Brain Co., Ltd. Mr Toshihide Maeda and Managing Director U Than Kyaw Tun of Brain Myanmar Co., Ltd. donated 88 Casio Japanese-English electronic dictionary worth US$200 each to Yangon University of Foreign Languages at the international relations office of the university recently.

Rector Dr Lwin Lwin Soe accepted the donations and returned the certificates of honour.

The company has donated 50 Casio Japanese-English electronic dictionary, one Casio data projector and video tapes to the university for the first time.

YUFL

White man arrested in slaying of nine blacks at South Carolina church

CHARLESTON, (SC), 19 June — A young white man suspected of shooting nine black people dead after spending an hour with them in Bible study at a historic African-American church in South Carolina was arrested on Thursday, a day after a massacre authorities say was motivated by racial hatred.

The mass shooting set off an intense 14-hour manhunt that ended with 21-year-old Dylann Roof arrested in a traffic stop in a small North Carolina town, 220 miles (350 km) north of Charleston, where the church rampage occurred, officials said.

Roof, who an uncle said received a gun as a 21st birthday present in April and whose social media profile suggests a fascination with white supremacy, waived his right to extradition and was flown back to South Carolina hours after his arrest.

Police lead suspected shooter Dylann Roof, 21, into the courthouse in Shelby, North Carolina on 18 June, 2015.—REUTERS

He is due for a bail hearing on Friday but will appear by video link from the Charleston-area detention centre where he was jailed, said Major Eric Watson, a Charleston County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

Wednesday's gun violence at the nearly 200-year-old Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church follows a year of turmoil and protests over race relations, law enforcement and criminal justice in the United States, stemming from a string of police slayings of unarmed black men.

Four pastors, including Democratic state Senator Clementa Pinckney, 41, were among the six women and three men shot dead at the church nicknamed "Mother Emanuel."

The church was burned to the ground in the late 1820s, after plans of a slave revolt drafted by one of its founders were discovered. It was later rebuilt.

The gunshot victims ranged in age from 26 to 87. Three who were present survived the rampage unscathed, including a 5-year-old who, according to CNN, avoided being shot by playing dead.

CNN also broadcast a Snapchat video taken from inside the church during the study session, which appeared to show Roof before the massacre.

"The fact that this took place in a black church obviously raises questions about a dark part of our history," said US President Barack Obama. "Once again, innocent people were killed in part because someone who wanted to inflict harm had no trouble getting their hands on a gun."

The United States has been shaken by a string of shootings in recent years, including the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, where a gunman killed 20 children and six adults. But Democratic-led efforts to tighten the nation's gun laws failed after that incident.

Reuters

Dacic: EU offered Russia to build pipeline bypassing Serbia

SAINT PETERSBURG, 19 June — Ivica Dacic, Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, stated in Saint Petersburg he had learned that the EU officials offered Russia to build a gas pipeline dubbed "Eastern Ring" through Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia, but to bypass Serbia.

Ivica Dacic, Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

"If what I heard today is true, this calls for very serious talks with the European Commission on their attitude towards Serbia, its interests and the interests of its citizens," Dacic told Serbian journalists after meeting Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller.

Brussels did everything for the South Stream project, according to which Serbia would have been a transit country, to fail, he noted.

"When Russian gas should go to Serbia, this is a political problem, but when it should go to Western and Northern Europe, than this is economy which has nothing to do with politics," Dacic pointed out.

He also said that in talks with Miller he once again stressed Serbia is committed to continuing cooperation with Russia's energy giant.

Dacic is taking part in St Petersburg Economic Forum that will last until 20 June.—*Tanjug*

Danish centre-right opposition wins election, PM quits party

COPENHAGEN, 19 June — Danish voters ousted Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt in an election on Thursday and handed power to an opposition centre-right alliance including huge gains for a eurosceptic, anti-immigrant party.

Opposition leader Lars Lokke Rasmussen said he would try to form a government but is likely to have to make big concessions to ensure support from the right-wing Danish Peoples' Party (DF), which ended up with more votes than his Liberal Party.

With all of the votes counted on the mainland, the centre-right won 90 seats in parliament to 85 seats for the centre-left bloc of Thorning-Schmidt, who wrongly gambled that an economic upturn would win her re-election.

Denmark's first female prime minister, elected in 2011, Thorning-Schmidt conceded defeat and quit as party leader after the vote.

DF, the second-biggest party behind Thorning-Schmidt's Social Democrats, has supported the Liberals in government before and its backing gives the centre-right led by Rasmussen its overall majority.

"Tonight we have been given an opportunity, but only an opportunity, to take leadership in Denmark," Rasmussen told supporters in parliament.

"We take that upon ourselves and I take that upon myself ... What I offer today is to put myself at the head of a government," he said.

DF's strong results were expected, but the party has been coy throughout the campaign about whether it would join a government for the first time in its 20-year history. It could leave the Liberals to form a government by themselves but support their policies in parliamentary votes, as it has done before.

"What we have said before the election is also what we will follow after the election — that we will be where the political influence is greatest," said DF leader Kristian Thulesen Dahl.

Reuters

Despite deadlock, Greek PM sees solution to debt crisis

ATHENS, 19 June — There will be a solution to the Greek debt crisis that will allow the country to return to growth while staying in the euro zone, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Friday, as the country moved closer to the brink of default.

Tsipras's tone was strikingly upbeat given that talks over a cash-for-reforms deal for Greece remained deadlocked after a meeting of euro zone finance ministers, and bank withdrawals from Greek lenders have accelerated in the past week.

The leftist leader, who has refused to make concessions over tax hikes and pension reforms demanded by Greece's creditors, welcomed a planned euro zone emergency summit on Monday and dismissed those predicting catastrophe.

"The leaders summit on Monday is a positive development on the road toward a deal," Tsipras's office said in a statement. "All those who are betting on crisis and terror scenarios will be proven wrong."

"There will be a solution based on respecting EU rules and democracy which would allow Greece to return to growth in the euro."

A man reads a newspaper front page bearing a picture of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in Athens on 18 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Time is running out for Greece to strike a deal and avoid defaulting on a 1.6 billion euro loan to the International Monetary Fund by the end of June - the first in a series of looming payments for the cash-strapped country.

The IMF chief raised the stakes on Thursday by telling Greece there would be no grace period or delay permissible in repaying the money. The ECB's governing council will hold a telephone conference on Friday to discuss extending emergency liquidity for the lenders, sources said.

With the health of Greek lenders increasingly in peril, one executive board member of the European Central Bank questioned on Thursday whether Greek banks would be able to open next week.

European Council President Donald Tusk has convened Monday's emergency euro zone summit to discuss Greece "at the highest political level".

Greek savers pulled out some 2 billion euros between Monday and Wednesday after weekend negotiations collapsed in Brussels, senior banking sources told *Reuters*. That is double the amount that the ECB granted Greek banks in extra emergency liquidity assistance (ELA) only on Wednesday.

If deposit flight continues to outpace ELA, it could force Greece to impose capital controls, as Cyprus did in 2013, to ration cash withdrawals.—*Reuters*

Melee erupts at Yemen peace talks, underscoring rifts

GENEVA / SANAA, 19 June — A fistfight erupted on the sidelines of peace talks in Geneva on Thursday between supporters of different warring factions in Yemen, underlining the divisions that have thwarted United Nations efforts broker a truce in the near three-month conflict. Yemeni opponents of the Houthi forces that drove the government into exile interrupted a news conference by Houthi officials, throwing shoes and insulting them as "criminals" and "dogs" who were "killing the children of south Yemen".

A Saudi-led coalition has been launching air raids against the Iran-allied Houthis since late March in a campaign to restore the exiled government and back its armed supporters.

The fighting continued on Thursday, with around 30 killed in clashes between Houthis and tribesmen in the central province of Mareb, tribal sources said, while the capital Sanaa was hit by air strikes targeting Houthi military sites. The peace talks are struggling to bring together the rival factions and, with discussions due to conclude on Friday or Saturday, delegates have reported little progress toward the ceasefire the UN has requested.

Hamza Al-Houthi, head of the Houthi delegation to the UN-sponsored talks, stayed composed throughout the brawl that began when a woman in a pink headscarf went to the podium and threw a shoe at him, a particular insult in the Arab world.

A fistfight then broke out between Houthis and protesters before the latter were escorted out.

A representative of Yemen's General People's Congress, which is allied to the Houthis, said they supported a pause to let humanitarian aid into Yemen but doubted others would do the same. "We are absolutely in favour of a humanitarian truce. I don't think this pause receives the approval of Saudi Arabia, after all they are aggressing us, it is up to them," Yasser Al Ewady told reporters in Geneva.

But Khaled Bahah, Yemen's Vice President in exile, suggested the Houthis would use a ceasefire to expand their reach.

"We are hoping for a permanent humanitarian ceasefire, not a temporary truce. Because a temporary truce is exploited to spread the battlefield and as a tactical measure by some parties," he told reporters at the Arab league in Cairo.

A boy looks at the wreckage of a car at the site of a car bomb attack in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 18 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Four car bombs that struck mosques in Sanaa and the Houthi headquarters on Wednesday killed two people and wounded 60, a medical source told state news agency *Saba* on Thursday.

Coming on the eve of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the bombings were claimed by Islamic State. Saudi Arabia sees a growing Iranian influence in the Arabian Peninsula, but the coalition has yet to reverse the Houthis' control over the capital and upper hand in battles against opponents nationwide. The sectarian-tinged conflict, pitting the Shi'ite Muslim Houthis against mostly Sunni tribes and militias in the country's south and east, has given Sunni militant groups al-Qaeda and Islamic State greater space to manoeuvre.

The country also faces a humanitarian crisis as many areas are caught between the warring sides. A near blockade imposed by the coalition has cut off supplies of food, fuel and medicine.

Medical sources in the frontline southern city of Aden said around 20 people, including a doctor, died of dengue fever in the Crater district on Wednesday, amid a spreading outbreak caused by poor sanitation and lack of water. The UN agency OCHA said on Wednesday that 19 of Yemen's 22 provinces faced a food crisis or an emergency. "Yemen desperately needs a pause in fighting," it said.

The country previously imported the majority of fuel and 90 percent for its population of 26 million, most of it by sea, but the alliance has maintained a blockade in a bid to cut off arms supplies to rebel forces.

More than 2,600 civilians and combatants have been killed since the conflict began.—*Reuters*

15 killed in mortar attacks, air strike in Iraq's Anbar

RAMADI, (Iraq), 19 June — A total of 15 people were killed and 36 others were wounded on Thursday in mortar attacks and an air strike targeting a position of the Islamic State (IS) militants in the volatile province of Anbar, a provincial security source told *Xinhua*.

A military chopper pounded an IS position at a village near the town of Saqlawiyah, just north of the militant-held city of Fallujah, which itself located some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, leaving five killed and 12 others wounded, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Separately, mortar barrage by IS militants hit the town of Ameriyat al-Fallujah, some 40 km west of Baghdad, killing three policemen and a civilian and wounding 12 people, the source said.

Four soldiers were killed and five others wounded when the IS militants fired mortar rounds on al-Mazraa military camp, in east of Fallujah, the source added.

In addition, another mortar barrage struck several districts in Fallujah left two people killed and seven others wounded, the source said.

The IS group has seized most of Anbar Province and tried to advance toward Baghdad during the past few months, but several counter attacks by security forces and Shiite militias have pushed them back.

The security situation in Iraq has drastically deteriorated since June last year, when bloody clashes broke out between Iraqi security forces and IS militants, who took control of the country's northern city of Mosul and later seized swathes of territories after Iraqi security forces abandoned their posts in Nineveh and other predominantly Sunni provinces.

Xinhua

Militant group denies US air strike killed Algerian Belmokhtar

NOUAKCHOTT, 19 June — The Sahara-based Islamist group al-Mourabitoun on Thursday denied reports that veteran Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar, one of its leaders, was killed in a US air strike in eastern Libya last week.

Libya's government first announced on Sunday that Belmokhtar, blamed for a deadly assault on an Algerian gas field in 2013 and a major figure in insurgencies across North Africa, had died alongside other militant leaders. While Washington confirmed that he had been the target of the strike, it has yet to say if he was killed.

In a statement received by the Mauritanian news agency *Alakhbar*, al-Mourabitoun denied Belmokhtar was present in the area targeted by the raid.

"We announce to our mujahideen brothers everywhere in the world that the news of the death of commander Khaled Abou El Abbas in an American air strike is false," the statement said, referring to Belmokhtar by one of his aliases. *Reuters* could not immediately verify the authenticity of the statement, which was published in Arabic on Alakhbar's website. The agency has been used in the past by Islamist militant groups including al-Mourabitoun to publicise their statements.

Reuters

ICRC aid reaches isolated Syrian town near Damascus, conditions "dire"

BEIRUT, 19 June — The International Committee of the Red Cross on Thursday described living conditions in a Syrian town cut off near Damascus as dire after delivering aid there this week for the first time in six months.

The ICRC entered the insurgent-held town of Mouadamiya, southwest of Damascus, along with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and delivered medicines for chronic diseases to treat around 5,000 patients.

It also brought in medicines for children and medical equipment to help pregnant women during delivery. But it said around 40,000 people inside were still in urgent need of basic services including water and electricity.

It was the first time the ICRC had been able to deliver aid to the besieged town since December.

"The humanitarian situation is desperate," Marianne Gasser, head of the ICRC in Syria, said in a statement. She said the streets were empty and shops shuttered in a town that has had no electricity for two years.

"There is virtually no water and food is hard to come by...There is virtually no access to proper health care." It was a snapshot of the human disaster wrought by four years of uprising and civil war in Syria. A UN report issued last month said the conflict had killed over 220,000 people and left 12.2 million of the 22 million population in need of humanitarian aid as well as a third of the population homeless.

The ICRC said it had also been able to deliver food to collective kitchens run by SARC and other charities in and around Aleppo in Syria's north and to airlift medical equipment with SARC from Damascus to Hasaka in northeastern Syria, which it said was inaccessible by road.

The ICRC's president said in March that the group had "well-established contacts" with the Syrian government and "reasonably good cooperation" in terms of it granting permission for convoys, visas and imports.

Aid groups have to work carefully in Syria alongside the government or local aid organizations and have been pushing to reach populations across conflict lines. This week Oxfam said it was seeking greater access for its water projects in the country after a visit to Damascus.

Reuters

Clinton — US must face 'hard truths' after South Carolina shooting

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton

LAS VEGAS, 19 June — Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton said on Thursday after a deadly shooting at a historic African-American church in South Carolina that the United States must face "hard truths" about race and gun violence.

"We have to face hard truths about race, violence, guns and division," Clinton said at the beginning of scheduled remarks at the annual National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference in Las Vegas.

"How many innocent people in our country from little children, church members to movie theatre attendees, how many people do we need to see cut down before we act?" Clinton asked.

Clinton was responding to the shooting late Wednesday at a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston that left nine dead. She was also referring to the 20 children and six adults killed during the 2012 shooting spree at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, and a rampage at a Colorado movie theatre the same year that left 12 dead.

"So as we mourn and as our hearts break a little more, we will not forsake those who have been victimized by gun violence, this time we have to find answers together," Clinton said.

"I pledge to you I will work with you," Clinton told the room of elected officials. "Let's unite in partnership, not just to talk but to act."

Clinton has a second campaign stop in Nevada on Thursday at a veterans' centre in Reno.—*Reuters*

People attend the funeral of ex-ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) chief and Senate President Chea Sim in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 19 June, 2015. Cambodia cremated the body of Chea Sim on Friday.—XINHUA

Indonesia sets minority stake for Inpex, Total in oil, gas field

JAKARTA, 19 June — The Indonesian government announced on Friday that state-owned oil and gas company PT Pertamina and local authorities will control a 70 percent stake of the gas-rich Mahakam Block in 2018, leaving Japan's Inpex Corp and French energy giant Total E&P Indonesie and with minority shares.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Sudirman Said said in a statement Total and Inpex, which have been involved in the project for almost 50 years as operators and investors, will only get a combined 30 percent stake.

Pertamina and regional state-owned companies in East Kalimantan Province on the Indonesian part of Borneo Island will later discuss their portions in the country's biggest gas block.

Total and Inpex currently have a 50-50 share in operating the project.

Amid nationalistic sentiments that run high in the country, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said early this year that his administration will put expiring contracts of the country's natural resource management under bigger control of national companies.

Starting its first production in 1974, the 2,740-square-kilometre gas field's current annual production is 1,750 million metric standard cubic feet per day of gas, or 25 percent of the country's total gas production of around 6,963 million metric standard cubic feet per day.

The block also currently produces 69,186 barrels of oil per day of oil and condensate. The government's current contract with Total and Inpex will end on 31 December, 2017.

Kyodo News

Volcano on southwestern Japanese island erupts for 2nd day

Photo taken on 19 June, 2015, shows Kuchinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 19 June — A volcano on a tiny southwestern Japan island vacated by inhabitants due to its eruption three weeks earlier erupted again on Friday for the second day in a row, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Mt Shindake on Kuchinoerabu Island, about 1,000 kilometres southwest of Tokyo in Kagoshima Prefecture, ejected a plume of smoke about 200 metres above the vent around 9:43 am, the agency said. It came on the heels of Thursday's eruption that lasted for about 30 minutes from 12:17 pm and another one at 4:31 pm the same day.

The weather agency warned that an eruption similar to the 29 May "explosive" one that sent black smoke over 9 km above the crater and caused all the 137 islanders to evacuate could occur again.

Kyodo News

At least three dead as Tropical Depression Bill lashes central US

OKLAHOMA CITY, 19 June — Tropical Depression Bill pelted the central United States with heavy rain on Thursday after causing at least three deaths in the region, including a toddler in Oklahoma who was swept out of his father's arms by raging waters, officials said.

In the southern Oklahoma city of Ardmore, emergency workers on Thursday found the body of the 2-year-old boy who died in flooding the day before after he and his father were swept into a creek, said Ardmore Police Captain Eric Hamblin.

One person in neighbouring Missouri was killed this week by flooding caused by rains from the storm hitting the region and a woman died in central Texas when she lost control of her car while driving through the storm, officials said. Broadcaster KOTV, citing police, reported on Thursday the body of an 80-year-old woman also was discovered in a submerged vehicle near Tecumseh, Oklahoma, about 45 miles (72 km) southeast of Oklahoma City.

Reuters could not independently confirm the report as local officials could not be reached for comment.

Bill, the second named tropical storm of the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season, was on a path to the northeast, through Arkansas and Missouri into West Virginia. Some areas could see as much as 12 inches (30 cm), the National Weather Service said.

By Friday, the centre of the storm is expected to be over southern Missouri and weaken over the next few days, the National Weather Service said.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency, due to floods.

"With more heavy rain in the forecast, we will continue to remain in direct contact with law enforcement and local officials as we work to protect lives and property," Nixon said in a statement.

The storm, which came ashore in Texas on Tuesday, lashed an area from Houston to Dallas with heavy rain.

In late May, severe weather killed nearly 40 people in Texas and Oklahoma with storms causing flooding that damaged thousands of structures.

Tropical Depression Bill could cause rivers already swollen by those torrential rains to spill over their banks again, the National Weather Service warned.

Reuters

Flooding is pictured from a Coast Guard Air Station Houston MH-65 Dolphin helicopter as it flies over Galveston, Texas after Tropical Storm Bill made landfall in this handout photo provided by the US Coast Guard and taken on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (132N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (132N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCOS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BAO JI VOY NO (1503)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO JI VOY NO (1503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (7) 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 2301186

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 20th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

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

(10/2015)

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

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

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15-7-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Heavy trucks fall under a highway after a ramp of the Guangdong-Jiangxi Highway collapses in Heyuan, south China's Guangdong Province, on 19 June, 2015. The accident, which killed one person and injured four others, happened at 3:40 am on 19 June (1940 GMT on 18 June) in Heyuan City when a bridge ruptured with four heavy trucks loaded with porcelain clay on it, according to an investigation. The highway, opened to traffic in December of 2005, connects Guangdong with east China's Jiangxi Province.—Xinhua

US Senate backs Japan's use of collective self-defence right

WASHINGTON, 19 June — The US Senate, in a defence bill passed on Thursday, supported Japan's proposed policy of enabling the country help allies militarily even when Japan is not directly attacked.

The move comes as debate heats up in Japan on whether legislation put forward to parliament by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government to allow the country to exercise the right to collective self-defence violates the country's war-renouncing Constitution.

"The United States supports recent changes in Japanese defence policy, including the adoption of collective self-defence," says the Senate's bill for the National Defence Authorization Act for fiscal 2016.

The House of Representatives cleared the bill last month.

Last July, the Abe administration lifted Japan's self-imposed decades-old ban on exercising the right to collective self-defence by reinterpreting Article 9 of the Constitution, which previous governments had long said only allows the country to use force to defend itself. Legislation now in parliament is aimed at amending relevant laws.

The legislative change would enable Japan's Self-Defence Forces to help the US military and the armed forces of other countries Tokyo considers to be its close allies.

US government officials have voiced hope for Japan's bigger role in future security operations, but the legislation has spurred intense debate in and outside Japanese parliament over its constitutionality.

Kyodo News

India, France to hold joint naval exercise in Bay of Bengal

NEW DELHI, 19 June — India and France will hold a joint naval exercise off the coast of the port city of Visakhapatnam in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, defence sources said on Friday.

"The naval exercise will be held in the Bay of Bengal on 21 June and 22 June. Ships from the eastern naval command on the Indian side and two French naval vessels — Dixmude (a landing helicopter dock) and Aconit, a stealth frigate — will take part in the two- day event," the sources said.

France has said that the naval exercise is aimed at bolstering bilateral strategic ties with India.

The French Navy has been looking forward to more joint exercises with India to expand and deepen strategic and defense links between the two countries, Jean-Marc Sere Charlet, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of France in India, told the media on Thursday.

The Indian Navy and French Navy had last month participated in a series of naval exercise off the coast of the western state of Goa.

Xinhua

Three Vietnamese arrested on suspicion of operating underground bank

TOKYO, 19 June — Three Vietnamese have been arrested on suspicion of operating an underground bank to remit money from Japan to Vietnam, police said on Friday. One of the three suspects was identified as Dinh Thi Thanh Hang, 27, a school worker in Ageo, Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo. The group may have transferred more than 1 billion yen (about $8 million) over three years up until the end of last year, according to the police. Rather than wiring the money, the group apparently exported home electrical appliances and heavy machinery from Japan and sold them in Vietnam to move the funds.

The suspects are alleged to have transferred around 1.36 million yen to Vietnam between 2012 and 2013 that they had received from a Vietnamese man, a violation of the Japanese banking law. Dinh has denied the allegation, the police said.

Kyodo News

33 die after consuming spurious liquor in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 19 June — At least 33 people have died after consuming spurious liquor in Mumbai, a senior police official said on Friday. "Nearly 50 people consumed spurious liquor at a slum in Malad late Wednesday night. They were all admitted to a hospital after they complained of vomiting and stomach pain," he said.

While 20 people died within hours, 13 more succumbed late Thursday night, the official said, adding that 10 more are in a critical condition at hospitals.

Police have so far arrested three persons in connection with the tragedy and started a manhunt to nab others involved, he said.

Devendra Fadnavis, the Chief Minister of the western Indian state of Maharashtra, the capital of which is Mumbai, has ordered a probe into the incident.

Hundreds of people die in India every year after consuming hooch or spurious liquor that is available at cheap rates.—*Xinhua*

Selena Gomez teams up with ASAP Rocky

Selena Gomez & ASAP Rocky

LOS ANGELES, 19 June — Pop star Selena Gomez has teamed up with ASAP Rocky for her new single "Good for You". The 22-year-old singer confirmed the collaboration on Instagram, where she also shared a snippet from the recording of the track.

"Good for You" is expected to premiere on 22 June. ASAP Rocky recently released his new album, which features Rod Stewart, Kanye West, Mark Ronson and Rita Ora.—*PTI*

Justin Bieber, Usher ordered to face copyright lawsuit

NEW YORK, 19 June, — Justin Bieber and Usher were ordered by a US appeals court on Thursday to face a $10 million lawsuit claiming the singers illegally copied parts of a song composed by two Virginia songwriters.

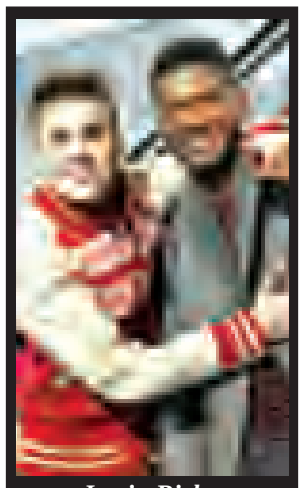
By a 3-0 vote, the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond revived a May 2013 lawsuit by Devin Copeland, an R&B singer known as De Rico, and his songwriting partner Mareio Overton, saying a lower court judge was wrong to dismiss it.

The plaintiffs claimed that three versions of the song "Somebody to Love" recorded by Bieber, Usher or both shared the beat pattern, time signature, and similar chords and lyrics with their song with the same name.

"After listening to the Copeland song and the Bieber and Usher songs as wholes, we conclude that their choruses are similar enough and also significant enough that a reasonable jury could find the songs intrinsically similar," Circuit Judge Pamela Harris wrote for the appeals court.

Among the other defendants were publishers such as Vivendi SA's Universal Music Publishing Group and Sony Corp's Sony/ATV Music Publishing. Defence lawyers did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Duncan Byers, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, in an interview said the panel "recognized what my clients have said all along: it's the same melody and the same chorus."—*Reuters*



Justin Bieber & Usher (R)

China cinema boom excites Shanghai film festival

SHANGHAI, 19 June — The sense of excitement at the Shanghai International Film Festival is understandable — these are boom times for the Chinese film industry, as cinema box office soars and capital pours in.

"It's only a matter of time before China surpasses the United States to become the world's largest movie market," said Shi Chuan, deputy chairman of the Shanghai Film Association, on the sidelines of the festival.

After 11 years of gradual growth in the number of cinemas in China, the country reached 10,000 screens in 2011. But that had doubled within three years. As of the end of May, China had 28,000 cinema screens.

The United States has 40,000 but the number has remained almost unchanged over recent years.

China is on course to overtake the United States within three to five years, said Shi.

US moviegoing among Hollywood's key 18- to 39-year-old audience fell to its lowest level in five years in 2014, as overall attendance in most markets around the world was flat or declining, according to a report released in March by the Motion Picture Association of America.

The notable exception was Asia and in particular China, in which growth in the number of theaters continued to be robust. Box office reached 29.6 billion yuan (around 4.8 billion US dollars) in 2014, more than 30 times that of 2002.

"Furious 7" reaped more than 2 billion yuan in April in China and became the country's most successful movie ever, overshadowing the US market. China's box office so far this year has surpassed 17.5 billion yuan, up 55 percent year on year.

"Several years ago, we were proud of a theater chain taking a billion yuan in a year. Now, one billion is just the box office of a single film," said Lu Yang, a manager with Wanda Cinemas, the film arm of the Wanda Group conglomerate.

Wanda Cinemas has more than 1,300 screens across China and accounted for 14.5 percent of the country's box office in 2014.

Seeing the bright prospects, big names like e-commerce giant Alibaba have been investing heavily in the film industry.

Alibaba paid 6.24 billion HK dollars last year for 59.32 percent of Hong Kong-listed China Vision Media Group Ltd and renamed it "Ali Pictures". In March, Alibaba acquired an 8.8-percent stake in Enlight, one of China's leading film and TV production companies. It announced at the film festival that a Netflix-style video streaming service will be launched within two months.

The lucrative market has also attracted global movie mainstays like DreamWorks to open studios in Shanghai. Major movie academies, including the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and Vancouver Film School, have established branch schools in China.

Xinhua

'Veep' production moving from Washington's backyard to California

WASHINGTON, 19 June — The HBO comedy "Veep," which depicts the inner workings of the White House from the perspective of a female vice president elevated to the presidency, is moving production to California from Maryland, a spokesman for the show said on Thursday.

The Time Warner Inc unit is shifting the Emmy Award-winning show because of better tax incentives, HBO spokesman Quentin Schaff said in a statement. "The producers and HBO would like to thank Maryland for making the last four seasons of Veep such a success," Schaff said. "We look forward to returning with another production in the future."

HBO, which has filmed several projects in Maryland over the years, including "The Wire," "The Corner" and "Game Change," had long been considering the move for tax incentive reasons.

"Veep," starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus as Vice President Selina Meyer, who takes over for the president when he resigns, is one of four shows selected to receive tax credits for relocating production to California, according to the California Film Commission. The panel earmarked $6.5 million in film tax credits to "Veep" if the show moved to California, according to the commission's executive director, Amy Lemisch.

"Veep" has been filmed in Maryland for four years, primarily in Columbia, Baltimore and Sykesville. It received $13.9 million in tax credits in its first three seasons, said Karen Bell Hood of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development. —*Reuters*

Hilary Duff dives back into music with 'Breathe In. Breathe Out'

NEW YORK, 19 June — After an eight-year absence from the music industry, actress and singer Hilary Duff released her fifth studio album this week, "Breathe In. Breathe Out," an upbeat dance album that touches on themes of self discovery, romance and failed love.

The former child star who shot to fame as the titular character in the Disney Channel's "Lizzie McGuire" in 2001, has married, had a son and split from hockey player Mike Comrie since the release of "Dignity" in 2007.

"Metamorphosis," her second album released in 2003, sold nearly 4 million copies in the US and topped the Billboard 200.

Despite a lengthy break and starring in the comedy/drama "Younger" on the cable network TV Land, Duff, whose record sales top 15 million worldwide, said she always knew she would go back to making music.

"It wasn't the right time until it was, until I was inspired and felt like I had something to say," she said in an interview.

With 12 tracks and collaborations with English singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran and Swedish pop star Tove Lo, Duff, 27, said "Breathe In. Breathe Out" is her most personal album to date. The Texas native spent a year in the studio trying to find the right sound for the album that started out as more of a folksy pop record and changed just as she did.

"I feel like it was a big growing process. It took a lot to find myself in the studio again," she said. "I'm an adult now and I was a kid before."

"Sparks," the first single from the album, is a catchy pop song with a repeating whistle sound.

"You can promise castles, treasures, babies. I don't care. Cause right now you're just enough for me I want you near," she says in the lyrics. Duff regards the title track, "Breathe In. Breathe Out," as sort of her mantra. "It's something that really helps me and I think we all should remember to make all of those breaths count, through the good times and the bad times," she explained. Every song on the album, from the hopeful love tune "Night Like This" to the break-up song "One in a Million" and the love tune "Confetti," have a special meaning for her.

"Everything on the record I connect to, whether I wrote it or I didn't, it grabbed me in a certain way and I wanted to tell the stories," she said.—*Reuters*

GENERAL

Here comes the bride, all dressed in ... toilet paper?

New York, 19 June — The wedding dresses have it all — long trains, full layered skirts, floral appliqués, ruffles and sparkling bodices. Their detailing is the kind you see on designer gowns made of silk and lace. But they're not. They're all made out of toilet paper.

The gowns were showcased at the finale of the annual Cheap Chic Weddings Toilet Paper Wedding Dress Contest in New York on Wednesday. Ten designers vying for a $10,000 prize painstakingly putting them together from the most basic materials. The rules were simple, contest co-creator Laura Gawne told *Reuters*. "They have to use Charmin toilet paper, any kind of tape, any kind of glue and they can use needle and thread," she said. "No closures, no Velcro, nothing. No attachment of fabric, nothing," said her co-creator, Susan Bain.

Carol Touchstone (R) prepares her dress entry 'Garden Party' for the 11th annual toilet paper wedding dress contest at Kleinfled's Bridal Boutique in New York on 17 June, 2015. **Reuters**

The sisters Bain and Gawne began the competition to promote their wedding site. The contest, now in its 11th edition, is held in conjunction with toilet paper brand Charmin.

This year, it was held at bridal store Kleinfeld, which will turn the winning dress into a ready-to-wear gown. Before the show began, designers applied the final touches as models held onto toilet rolls needed for the add-ons.

"We have 4,585 petals that were all hand-cut and traced," Carol Touchstone, who came in third place, said of her floral dress. "We used tape, glue and Charmin." The winner was a tuxedo-style halterneck dress with a removable jacket, accessorised with a top hat and bow tie, by Donna Pope Vincler. She said it took her about three months, 22 rolls and lots of tape and glue to make.

"It's amazing how strong glue and toilet paper can be. After I made it I was hitting on it like a drum ... it's very sturdy," she said. "I don't even know how many layers (there are)- I just did it until I thought it would stay together."—*Reuters*

Peru beat 10-man Venezuela, Group C all square

Valparaiso, 19 June — Peru beat 10-man Venezuela 1-0 at the Copa America on Thursday to leave all four Group C teams level on points with one more first-round match left to play.

Peru captain Claudio Pizarro scored the winner after 72 minutes, slamming a powerful shot into the net off the underside of the crossbar. Venezuela played most of the match with 10 men after defender Fernando Amorebieta was sent off in the 29th minute for stamping on Paolo Guerrero, leaving the Peruvian striker with bleeding stud marks on his left thigh.

From then on the Peruvians dominated possession but, untilPizarro's late strike, struggled to break down an orderly Venezuelan defence.

Peru face Colombia in their final group match on Sunday while Venezuela face Brazil, with all four in the hunt for a place in the last eight of the competition.

Venezuela made the brighter start and Salomon Rondon, the goalscorer against Colombia in their first match, almost put them ahead after six minutes but fired his close range volley into the arms of goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

The match changed with Amorebieta's dismissal. The defender tugged Guerrero to the ground and then stood on his thigh in an ugly and unnecessary challenge on the touchline.

Despite the numerical advantage, it took Peru a further 40 minutes to make the breakthrough.

Guerrero and Christian Cueva combined well on the edge of the box to put Pizarro through on goal to score, sealing Peru's fifth victory over Venezuela in seven meetings at the Copa America. Both sides defied expectations by reaching the semi-finals at the last Copa America in 2011 and both still have hopes of making at least the quarter-finals this time.—*Reuters*

Peru's Carlos Lobaton (R) fights Venezuela's Juan Arango for the ball during their first round Copa America 2015 soccer match at Estadio Elias Figueroa Brander in Valparaiso, Chile, on 18 June, 2015. **Reuters**

Jeralean Talley, world's oldest-known person, dies at 116

Jeralean Talley, the world's oldest-known living person, is escorted down the aisle following a church service and celebration for her 116th birthday in Inkster, Michigan on 24 May, 2015. **—Reuters**

Detroit, 19 June — Jeralean Talley, the world's oldest-known person, has died in Michigan 26 days after her 116th birthday, a family spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Born on 23 May, 1899, Talley climbed to the top of a list kept by the Gerontology Research Group, which validates the ages of the world's longest-living people, after Gertrude Weaver died at 116 in Arkansas in April.

Talley died on Wednesday night in her home in Inkster, a Detroit suburb, which she shared with her daughter, Thelma Holloway, 77, said Christonna Campbell, a family spokeswoman.

"She was just a beautiful woman," Campbell said. "We enjoyed her words of wisdom." Talley was born in Georgia and moved to Michigan in 1935 with her husband, Alfred Talley, for his job at a Ford plant. He died in 1988.

Robert Young, director of the Gerontology Research Group's Supercentenarian Research and Database Division, said Talley's death came as a surprise as she lived an active lifestyle.

"She was walking around as of a few weeks ago," Young said.

The next person who could possibly claim status as the oldest in the world is Susannah Mushatt Jones, who is 115, Young said. Born in Alabama, she is living at the Vandalia Senior Centre in Brooklyn, New York, a representative for the centre confirmed on Thursday. Talley was an active member in the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Inkster. Services for Talley will be held on 27 June at the church.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(20-6-2015 07:00 am~ 21-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(20-6-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am
- Physical Exercise

7:00 am
- News / Weather Report

7:35 am
- Hyper Sports

8:00 am
- News / International News

8:35 am
- Documentary

9:35 am
- MRTV's Youth programme

10:30 am
- Head Line News

10:35 am
- Science and Technology Programme

11:35 am
- Game for Children

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Hluttaw Image

12:50 pm
- Round up of the Week's Local TV News

1:20 pm
- Round up of the Week's Hluttaw News

2:35 pm
- Teleplay

3:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

3:35 pm
- Hyper Sports

4:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Physics)

5:00 pm
- News

5:35 pm
- Documentary

6:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

6:30 pm
- Head Line News

6:35 pm
- MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

7:35 pm
- Business News

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Teleplay
- Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

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Saturday, 20 June, 2015

Johnson, Stenson share Open lead, Tiger cards 80

University Place, Washington, 19 June — Dustin Johnson and Henrik Stenson set the first-round pace at the US Open on Thursday on a day of remarkable highs and lows as Tiger Woods shot an 80, his fourth-worst score as a professional. American Johnson and Swede Stenson fired matching five-under-par 65s on a firm and fast-running Chambers Bay layout while Phil Mickelson made an encouraging start with a 69.

The long-hitting Johnson piled up six birdies and a lone bogey to finish level with Stenson, who birdied four of his last five holes at the British Open-style venue in the year's second major, being played for the first time in the Pacific Northwest.

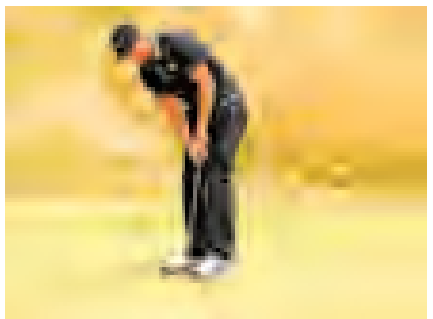
They were one stroke ahead of American Patrick Reed, while Americans Matt Kuchar, Ben Martin and amateur Brian Campbell trailed by two.

"I hit the ball really well ... had a lot of good looks at birdie all day," Johnson, who like Stenson is seeking a first major title, told reporters.

"It's firm but you could control your golf ball, for sure. Today I controlled my ball very well. The confidence is definitely there. I feel really good about where I'm at and going into tomorrow."

Stenson joined Johnson at the top after draining a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th for a homeward nine of four-under 31.

"It was a good day," said the Swedish world number six. "I was striking it nicely, which led to a lot of birdie opportunities for me. "I felt like I was really keeping my patience and a level head out there. I hit some beautiful putts and managed to slip a few in there. It was a good way to finish the day."



Dustin Johnson putts on the 6th green in the first round of the 2015 US Open golf tournament at Chambers Bay.
Reuters

Mickelson, who is yearning to complete a career grand slam of the four majors by winning his first US Open, was "very pleased" after a round that included four birdies and three bogeys. "I hit a lot of good shots today," Mickelson, a runner-up at the US Open a record six times, said. "I shot under par the first day of the US Open.

"The first round was the round I was going to be most nervous at, getting started. You don't want to have to fight to come back all the time. You want to get off to a solid start around par. I'm very pleased with the way the round went."

Reuters

No lapses if Williams wants Serena Slam — Evert, McEnroe

New York, 19 June — Serena Williams has a great chance to sweep to victory at Wimbledon and hold all four grand slam titles at the same time but she must raise her consistency, former champions Chris Evert and John McEnroe said on Thursday.

USA's Serena Williams celebrates infront of the Eiffel Tower with the trophy after winning the French Open.
Reuters

Williams is one Wimbledon title away from completing what she calls the Serena Slam for the second time in her career — having followed up her 2014 US Open success with victories at this year's Australian and French Opens — but must overcome her recent lean spell on grass.

After winning the last of her five Wimbledon titles in 2012, the American world number one has fallen before the quarter-finals in her last two outings at the grasscourt major.

"I think Serena's got a great shot," Evert, winner of 18 grand slam singles, said on a conference call arranged by ESPN.

"To me, her game is better suited to the grass courts than it is to the clay. She struggled through the French, remarkably winning it."

Three-times Wimbledon champion McEnroe said it was there for the taking for Williams, who is bidding to win her 21st grand slam singles title.

"Serena's ... chasing history in terms of her grand slam titles," McEnroe said. "Even though she's still playing arguably her best tennis, you have to wonder at a certain point how long that can keep up."

The American commentators agreed that the lapses of concentration that hampered her at Roland Garros could prove more costly at the All England Club. "When she is at her best she is better than anybody else," Evert said. "But at the same time we've seen some hiccups and we've seen some drama, like at the French Open. She can't afford to have any more drama like at the French Open."

Williams battled flu during the second week of her run at Roland Garros, where she survived five three-set battles to win the title, beating Lucie Safarova in the final. "On grass, a couple bigger hitters ... (could) win more points on the serve than they would on a clay court or a hard court," McEnroe said.

"They're not as easily attackable because of the nature of the grass being a little bit more difficult to gauge where the ball's going to be..." Evert concurred.

"On the clay, you have the luxury of playing your way into a match a little bit more," she noted. "Even when she was a set and a break down, she could still play her way back into it.

"As John says, she gets a (Sabine) Lisicki, who has a big serve, (Petra) Kvitova, (Victoria) Azarenka, somebody who is hot that day, grass is not the same surface as clay. You can't play your way into it as easily."

Reuters

Nishikori advances to Gerry Weber quarterfinals

Halle, (Germany), 19 June — Kei Nishikori advanced to the quarterfinals of the grass-court Gerry Weber Open on Thursday with a 7-5, 6-1 victory over German wildcard Dustin Brown. Nishikori, the second seed, was troubled at first by Brown's serve and drop shots, but gradually got a feel for the 114th-ranked German's serves and managed the match's first break in the 11th game to go up 6-5 before serving out the set.

With his return game at full speed, Nishikori's shot accuracy also improved dramatically and he was able to send Brown racing along the baseline from one side to another. Nishikori didn't face a break point until the fourth game of the second set, when he held serve to go up 3-1 and dropped just five more points the rest of the way.

A semifinalist in the Wimbledon warm-up event last year, Nishikori will face Jerzy Janowicz in the quarterfinals. The 51st-ranked Pole defeated Colombia's Alejandro Falla 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Kyodo News

FIFA U-20 World Cup Match Schedules for 20 June 2015 (all times local)

Final			
Brazil	–	Serbia	11:30
Third place			
Senegal	–	Mali	07:30

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