

President U Thein Sein receives U.S. media, industry delegations

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MPs set to vote on constitutional amendment bill

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — After three days of debate, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will vote Thursday on an amendment bill for the 2008 Constitution that proposes altering eligibility requirements for the presidency and removing the military's effective veto over constitutional reforms.

During the second day of parliamentary debate Wednesday, 17 lawmakers discussed key changes to the procedures for amending the constitution, as well as current restrictions on eligibility for the presidency.

The constitutional amendment bill deals with Section 436 (a) which currently stipulates that amendments of some key provisions must be agreed upon by more than 75 percent of MPs in addition to more than 50 percent of eligible voters in a referendum.

The amendment bill



MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate amendment of provisions in Constitution.—MNA

proposes a change to at least 70 percent of MPs at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and over 50 percent of the eligible voters in the referendum respectively.

Article 436 of the constitution guarantees the military a quarter of the seats in parliament through appointment, giving them an effective veto over pro-

posed charter reforms.

Other sensitive sections such as 59(f), 59(d) and 60(c) dealing with eligibility to become president and requirement for

running the presidency, will also be put to the vote on the same day.

Brig-Gen Tin Soe, a military MP in the parliament, argued against amending Section 59 (f) which bars non-citizens from becoming president or vice-president, as well as anyone with a spouse, "legitimate child," or child's spouse who holds foreign citizenship.

If family members of the head of a country are loyal to a foreign power, the country could fall into servitude of that foreign country, Brig-Gen Tin Soe said.

Meanwhile, two MPs from the National League for Democracy party said they and other parties share a desire to amend the constitution, although their specific position on the amendments may differ somewhat.

During the debate, NLD MP U Aung Kyi Nyunt said an amendment to Section 59 (f) proposed

by the ruling USDP that excludes just "one of the legitimate children or their spouses" from the section could be deceptive.

He continued to say that the Section 436 (a), which states that the constitution shall be amended with approval of more than 75 percent of all MPs of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, means nothing can be done without the consent of military MPs and called for its amendment. U Jay Yaw Wu of the National Unity Party said the section should not be amended.

Some MPs from the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party supported the amendment to the Section 60 (c) dealing with the eligibility for the presidency, stating that the president shall be selected from elected MPs.

Two MPs from the National Democratic Force party objected to the amendment of Section 60 (c) and the Section 436 (a).

GNLM

KBZ Bank unveils Myanmar's first domestic credit card

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 July — Kanbawza Bank on Wednesday unveiled its new credit card, the first to be offered by a Myanmar

financial institution since the government's relaxation of offering the service.

At a press briefing in Yangon, KBZ Bank's head of cards and electronic payments Mr Ashis Kumar

Sharma said the card will initially be limited to existing domestic customers of the bank.

"Later on, we will start issuing better credit cards to all customers following the establishment of a credit bureau in the country and rules and regulations of Myanmar Payment Union (MPU)," Mr Sharma said.

The bank has invited its customers to apply for five difference types of credit cards— platinum, diamond, gold, silver and classical—since last month after getting the green light from the Central Bank of Myanmar to begin the service.

According to the bank, platinum card users can be eligible for a credit limit of (See page 2)



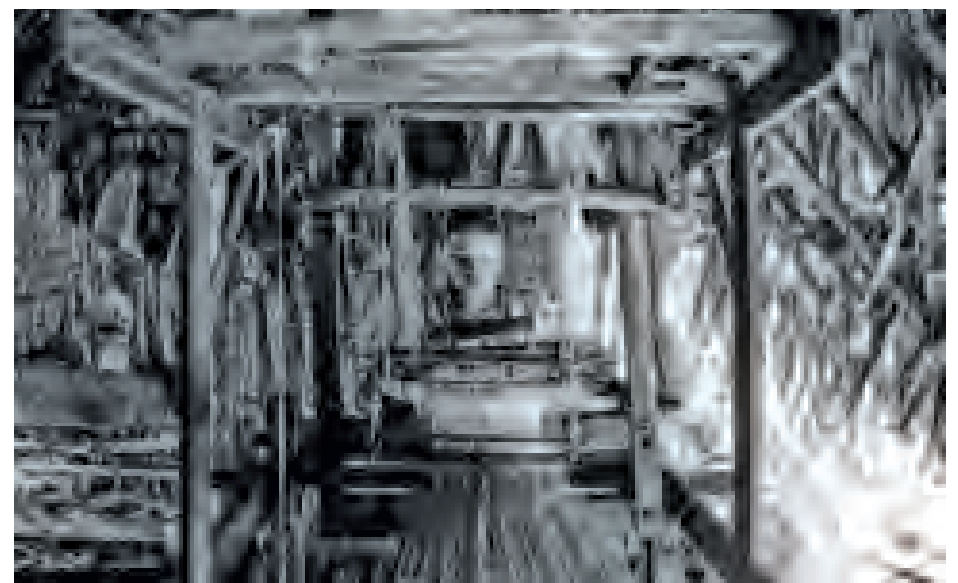
Mr Ashis Kumar Sharma, KBZ Bank's head of cards and electronic payments, displays the new KBZ Bank credit card at a press briefing Wednesday in Yangon.— PHOTO: YE MYINT

Photographic fundraiser aims to improve lives of Myanmar girls

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 June—A proving the lives of girls in Myanmar is preparing to charity dedicated to im-

host an exhibition and auction of works by an accomplished U.S. photographer (See page 2)



A girl works a loom in a village west of Mandalay. The girl, a Girl Determined participant, left school to work full time to support her family.

PHOTO: ANDREW STANBRIDGE.

New aircraft enter service with Myanmar Air Force

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — A range of new aircraft acquired recently by the Myanmar Air Force will strengthen air power and defence capacity, the commander-in-chief of the nation's armed forces said Wednesday.

During a visit to a flight training base in Meiktila, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said geopolitics has prompted the country to modernize its defence services to ensure a strong defence system.

Defence modernization involves equipping the army with sophisticated weaponry, he added. He also stressed the need to provide service personnel with training in how the new aircraft are operated.

The new aircraft include Beech-1900 D, Grob-120 TP, Mi-35, Eurocopter and Bell-206. The Beech-1900 D can be used



Photo shows newly-commissioned aircraft for Defence Services (Air).

MYAWADY

in transportation of passengers, patients, troops and cargo, as well as in rescue works and patrols.

The Grob-120 TP is a single-engine modern military trainer aircraft and will be used to produce com-

petent fighter pilots, while the Mi-35 is a combat helicopter used worldwide, equipped with state-of-the-art electronic weapons systems.

The Eurocopter is a medium transport helicopter

while the Bell-206 is a light general utility helicopter.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with the commander-in-chief (Air), observed flight manoeuvres by the new squadron.—Myawady

New hostels opened for veterinary students

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — The University of Veterinary Science in Yezin opened three new dormitories Tuesday to accommodate an increasing number of students.

Union Minister U Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Aung Myat Oo attended the opening at the university under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. The university began increasing enrolments in the 2011-2012 academic year, creating a need for more student facilities. The three two-storey dormitories can



accommodate a total of 600 students.—MNA

The opening ceremony of three new dormitories in progress at University of Veterinary Science.—MNA

KBZ Bank unveils Myanmar's first ...

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up to K 5 million while the classical card can have a credit limit of up to K300,000.

Users are allowed to

make cash withdrawals at any ATMs that can process Myanmar Payment Union cards across the country and payments at point of sales terminals and en-

joy online shopping with the use of the credit cards, it said. Customers must settle payments within 45 days of the purchase date, after which purchases will attract a 13 percent interest rate. KBZ Bank has introduced

internet and mobile banking services for customers, and has nearly 450 ATMs around the country. The bank was granted an authorized dealer license (ADL) to operate foreign banking business in 2011.—GNLM

Free cochlear implant surgery offered for children with hearing loss

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 June — A community-funded program for children with congenital hearing loss is looking for two candidates to undergo free cochlear implant surgery in mid-July, the group said Tuesday.

"Currently we are

looking for two children under the age of six, planning to perform the operations on 18 July at Yangon's Victoria Hospital with the assistance of an experienced medical team," Cochlear Implant Program chairman Prof

Soe Tin told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

The cochlear implant is a small electronic device that can provide a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing.

"The price for a pair of cochlear implant devices is US \$8,500 and the cost for the whole oper-

ation amounts to around K1 million," said Prof Soe Tin, who welcomes support and contributions from both local and international well-wishers.

Seven hearing-impaired children from low-income families have undergone the surgery since the programme began in 2014, with the aim of creating a better life for children born deaf or with hearing loss.—GNLM

Union Minister meets Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — U Hla Tun, Chairman of the Shan State's Kokang Self-Administered Zone Rehabilitation Management Committee as well as Union Minister at the President Office received Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien at the hall

of the President Office, here, Wednesday.

They discussed humanitarian aid for rehabilitation of Kokang Self-Administered Zone, present security measures, rule of law and assistance provided by the government for local residents who returned home.

MNA

Photographic fundraiser ...

(from page 1)

who has documented the organization's projects.

Mr Andrew Stanbridge spent three years covering the work of the charity, Girl Determined, and has contributed 33 works for the exhibition to be held 28 June at Goethe Villa from 4-7 p.m.

All exhibited photos will be available to purchase through auction, with all proceeds going to Girl Determined, according to the founder of the charity, Ms Brooke Zobrist.

"These images capture the full spectrum of Myanmar girls' lives, their joys and struggles as well as their achievements, and we hope they show people how important these girls are to the future of Myanmar," Ms Zobrist said.

Since its establishment in 2010, Girl Determined has helped girls aged 12 to

17 across the country by teaching them about their rights and providing leadership, communication and decision-making skills.

Most of the girls helped by the charity are from rural communities and had been at risk of child labour, gender-based violence, early marriage and human trafficking.

Some of the girls pictured in Mr Stanbridge's photography will attend the event to share their experiences with the organization.

The free exhibition will be open to the public and feature live music, a raffle and photography lessons.

Goethe Villa is located at No. 8 on Komin Kochin Road in Bahan Township in Yangon. For more information, visit <http://www.girletermined.org>.

GNLM



Course on International Media Law and Standards kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — Ministry of Information and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) of Germany jointly organized the opening of International Media Law and Standards at the ministry on Tuesday.

Permanent Secretary of the ministry U Tint Swe and Resident Representative Mr Konstantin Barwaldt of FES of Germany and international media law adviser

Professor Mr Venkat Iyer spoke on the occasion.

International media law adviser Professor Mr Venkat Iyer gave lectures to 40 trainees from the office of the Attorney-General of the Union and Ministry of Information.

FES has been cooperating with the Ministry of Information for 2008 in media development tasks.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Slovenia, Croatia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, and His Excellency Mr Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the republic of Slovenia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia, which falls on 25 June 2015.

President U Thein Sein also sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of the Republic of Croatia, and His Excellency Mr Zoran Milanovic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June 2015.

MNA

President U Thein Sein to pay official visit to Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay an official visit to Mongolia in the near future.—MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr Matthew Armstrong, Governor of U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors.—MNA

Union FM sends messages of felicitations to Slovenia, Croatia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Karl Viktor Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia, which falls on 25 June 2015.

The Union Minister also sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr Vesna Pusic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June 2015.

MNA

Union Commerce Minister meets Japanese, Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held talks with Mr. Yoshito Sengoku, former MP and Vice Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association, and party at the ministry,

here, Wednesday.

The Japanese guests discussed cooperation of the association with Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to train enthusiasts

from Myanmar to join the accountancy course in Japan.

The union minister also held a meeting with Secretary of Communist Party of Dehong Prefecture of Yunnan Province Mr

President U Thein Sein receives U.S. media, industry delegations

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—President U Thein Sein received two delegations from the United States at the Presidential Palace here Tuesday.

During a meeting with members of the U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors led by Governor Mr Matthew Armstrong, U Thein Sein discussed broadcasting services and the development of the Myanmar media industry.

dia industry.

The meeting was attended by union ministers and U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell. In the afternoon, the president met a delegation of U.S. firms led by US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr Alexander Feldman.

The delegates discussed electricity generation, transport, food pro-

duction and creation of employment opportunities in the Myanmar.

The meeting was attended by senior ministers and representatives from U.S. firms AIG, Chevron, Coca-Cola, General Electric, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Archer Daniels Midland, Baker & McKenzie, Citi, Deloitte, Ford, Intel, Jhpiego, Time Warner and Visa.—MNA

Gems emporium kicks off in capital



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views jade lots displayed at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — The 52nd Myanma Gems Emporium started here on Wednesday.

The event will display 8,943 lots of jade and 323 lots of gems at Mani Yadana Jade Hall until 6 July. Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited the opening of the emporium and viewed video presentations on preparation of the event and community works of the Myanma Gems and Entrepreneurs Association.

He also looked around

the display of jade and gem wares of private companies at the ground floor of the hall.

A total of 6,072 foreigners and local merchants were invited to the event, which is expected to attract 5,000 visitors.

The emporium will exhibit raw jade and gems, finished products, jewelry, carvings and sculptures, according to the announcement of the Emporium Central Committee.—MNA

Wang Junqiang and party of China at the ministry.

They focused on border trade promotion between Myanmar and China, improvement of road transport and cooperation in establishment of Ruili-Muse special economic zone.—MNA

Rural residents dredge drain to improve farm irrigation



KANBALU, 24 June — Local residents are dredging a drain between Thabyetha and Min-bar villages in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, as part of a self-funded project to improve farmland irrigation.

The drain will carry water from the feeder canal of Karboe Dam to a 700-acre expanse of farmland. The villagers provided K40 million for the dredging, a local resident said.

A 7,500-foot section of the 12,500-foot drain has so far been completed.

Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu)



Athletes from first prize winning Defence Services (Navy) and second prize winning Defence Services (Air) seen with general secretary U Khin Maung Latt in hockey tournament to mark Olympic Day on 23 June at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch.

REPORTER THAN SWE
(PABEDAN)



Farmers buy agricultural machinery, motorcycles through hire purchase system



Local people waiting for signing contracts to purchase agricultural machinery and motorcycles in Pobbathiri Township.

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June — Pobbathiri Township Cooperative Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area handed over agricultural machinery to local farmers who bought the machinery through a hire purchase system run by EXIM Bank of China, on 23 June.

Department staff officer U Khin Maung Lwin

spoke about farming machinery and vehicles.

He then handed over eight agricultural machines and 77 motorcycles worth K75.37 million to 85 members from 17 cooperative societies. The farmers must pay back the value of the vehicles within 24 months.

Shwe Ye Yint

Cargo ships resume transport as Chindwin River rises

MONYWA, 24 June — Cargo ships have resumed using the Chindwin River as a transport route following rains that have raised the water level of the parched tributary.

The 750-mile-long river originates at Patkoi and Kumon hills near the India-Myanmar border and

flows into the Ayeyawady River upstream of Pakokku.

Water levels remained too low for cargo ships until later than in previous years, an official of a shipping company said.

“The river usually rises in mid-May,” the official said. “Last summer, cargo ships suspended their runs

due to difficulties traveling upstream on the river area and its tributary Uru Creek.”

He added, “Speed boat ferries still ran along the river despite the declining water level, but merchants transported their goods on land in summer.”

Following the rains, cargo ships have resumed

transporting commodities and foodstuffs from Monywa to upstream regions.

The official said, “A total of 452 cargo ships and 134 speed boats are running along the river for smooth transport of commodities and passengers.”

Po Chan (Monywa)



REGIONAL

Australia to become founding member of China-led AIIB

SYDNEY, 24 June — Australia will join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as one of its founding members, Treasurer Joe Hockey said on Wednesday.

Hockey said in a joint statement with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop that Australia will contribute about A\$930 million (about \$718 million) over five years, becoming the sixth biggest shareholder in the infrastructure development bank with 57 prospective founding members. The Australian treasurer is scheduled to

travel to Beijing to attend the signing ceremony for the AIIB articles of agreement, scheduled at the Great Hall of the People on Monday.

“Joining the AIIB presents Australia with great opportunities to work with our neighbours and largest trading partner to drive economic growth and jobs,” Hockey said.

“The AIIB will work closely with the private sector, paving the way for Australian businesses to take advantage of the growth in infrastructure in the region,” he added.

On concerns about the bank’s governance, which has been raised by countries such as the United States and Japan, Hockey said it will be “based on best practice, ensuring that all members will be directly involved in the direction and decision making of the bank in an open and transparent manner.”

The new investment bank with an initial capital of \$100 billion is expected to be set up by the end of this year in a bid to address the infrastructure financing gap in the Asian region.—Kyodo News



Farmers carry tea leaves in Tan Uyen District, Lai Chau Province of northern Vietnam, on 23 June, 2015. In the first five months of 2015, exports of Vietnamese tea saw a decrease of 2.5 percent in volume and 0.6 percent in value compared to the same period in 2014, according to Vietnam’s General Statistics Office.—XINHUA

Solar Impulse 2 delays flight from Japan as weather window closes

TOKYO, 24 June — A solar-powered plane circumnavigating the globe called off a Hawaii-bound flight from Japan early on Wednesday morning as the weather window favourable for its longest five-day trip appears to have closed.

Solar Impulse 2, carrying pilot Andre Borschberg, was to take off from Nagoya airport, where it made an unexpected landing from China more than three weeks ago to avoid bad weather.

“The flight is postponed due to worsening weather conditions,” the Swiss organization that operates the flight said on its website.

The date for the next potential flight has not been decided. “We are now looking for a weather window,” the organization

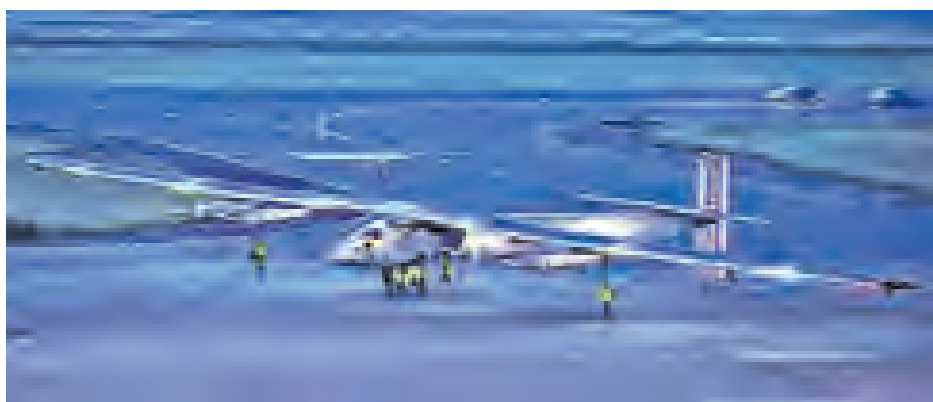


Photo taken on 24 June, 2015 shows the sun-powered Solar Impulse 2 plane at Nagoya airport in central Japan. The plane, circumnavigating the globe and carrying pilot Andre Borschberg, called off a Hawaii-bound flight from Japan as the weather window favourable for its longest five-day trip appears to have closed.—KYODO NEWS

said. Borschberg was to make the never-before-attempted flight without a drop of fuel. The duration of the flight is expected to be 120 hours — five days and nights.

The plane was forced to land in Nagoya on 1 June, cutting short what

was to be an up to six-day flight from Nanjing, China, to Hawaii, the longest leg of the global trip.

The Swiss organization said in Nagoya that the right wing of the plane had been damaged by winds after landing at the airport, but it was later repaired.

The aircraft, operated by two pilots alternatively, began its journey from the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi in March, and landed in countries including India and Myanmar before arriving in Nanjing on 21 April.

Kyodo News

Indonesia considers tax amnesty for financial crimes — tax office head

JAKARTA, 24 June — Indonesia’s tax office is considering a tax amnesty for financial crimes, in a move that could bring back at least 100 trillion rupiah (\$7.5 billion) to the state coffers, the director-general of taxes said on Wednesday.

Southeast Asia’s biggest economy is grappling with the weakest economic growth in six years and a huge budget deficit, while its tax collection rate is one of the lowest in the region as a proportion of gross domestic product.

Under the tax office’s proposal, the perpetrators of financial crimes including corruption and money laundering can pay a

10-15 percent tax on the assets they bring back to Indonesia, in return for a pardon from criminal prosecution, Sigit Priadi Pramudito told reporters.

The plan would need parliamentary approval.

“Our priority is to pull back overseas funds. If we don’t do anything, who benefits? It’s Singapore,” Pramudito said. “There’s no other way to take back those funds. The money has been stored in Singapore for decades.”

A bill on the tax amnesty is expected to be deliberated as soon as this year, Finance Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro told *The Jakarta Post* on Sunday.—Reuters

Ex-Thai police official arrested for gun possession

CHIBA, 24 June — A former senior Thai police official has been arrested at Narita airport for possessing a loaded gun, Japanese police said on Wednesday.

Kamronwit Thoopkrachang, identified as a former Bangkok police chief by the Thai Embassy in Japan, was sent to prosecutors after police officials found him in possession of a revolver with five live bullets inside a suitcase at the airport on Monday as he was on his way back to Bangkok. The 60-year-old

told investigators the gun was his own and a gift from a friend, and that he had forgotten he had put it inside the suitcase, according to the police.

Kamronwit said he came to Japan to visit a waste incineration plant, and the police believe he entered Japan on Friday as part of a group of about 80 people, they said.

The gun and bullets were found by an X-ray inspection of baggage to be checked in, the police said.

Kyodo News



Cambodian Health Minister Mam Bunheng (C) inspects a thermoscan machine at Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 23 June, 2015. Cambodia has been tightening health checks at international airports and major border checkpoints after its neighbouring Thailand found the first case of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) last week. XINHUA

Heat wave deaths in Pakistan's financial hub reach 780

KARACHI, 24 June — Pakistan's financial capital of Karachi is wilting in a four-day heat wave that has killed more than 780 people, a health charity said on Wednesday, as the government declared a holiday in the city to encourage people to stay home and cool off.

The heat wave has coincided with severe electricity cuts and the holy month of Ramadan, when most Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. Many of the deaths, among the elderly and poor in the southern city, were caused by dehydration.

"The heat wave death toll has reached close to the 800 mark in the last four days," An-



A man cools off from a public tap after filling bottles during intense hot weather in Karachi, Pakistan, on 23 June, 2015. — REUTERS

war Kazmi, a senior official of the private charity,

the Edhi Foundation, told Reuters.

"We are planning to expand the Edhi morgue to

cope with a situation like this in future."

The charity runs a network of ambulances, clinics and morgues to bridge the gaps in an overburdened and poorly funded public health system in the city of 20 million people, home to Pakistan's main stock market, central bank and biggest port.

Government health officials did not return calls seeking comment.

Many of Karachi's wealthy have generators to run air conditioners or are gathering in upscale, air-conditioned malls to beat the heat, which reached 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) over the weekend.

A sea breeze slightly cooled parts of the city on Wednesday but rains pre-

dicted by weather officials did not arrive.

Many residents are furious with the civilian government over the electricity cuts and the poor state of the public hospitals treating many of those who have fainted from the heat.

Public services in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of 190 million people, are starved of resources because almost all its wealthy evade taxes. Fewer than 0.5 percent of citizens pay income tax; many legislators are among the tax dodgers.

The military, which receives the lion's share of the budget, has set up 22 health centres, where it also hands out water and rehydration salts.

Reuters

Australian government to strip extremists' children of citizenship

SYDNEY, 24 June — The Australian government will be able to strip the children of extremists fighting overseas of Australian citizenship under controversial legislation introduced into parliament on Wednesday.

Details of the so-called Allegiance to Australia bill were unveiled as the mother-in-law of one man believed killed in Iraq while fighting for Islamic state pleaded for his wife and children to be allowed to return home.

Karen Nettleton, the mother of Khaled Sharrouf's wife Tara, said her daughter had made the "mistake of a lifetime." "Today she is a parent alone in a foreign and vicious land looking after a widowed 14-year-old and four other young children," Nettleton said in a statement released by her lawyer.

Sharrouf and his best friend Mohamed Elomar shot to infamy last year after they and Sharrouf's 7-year-old son were pictured holding the severed heads of Syrian soldiers. Prime Min-

ister Tony Abbott said the government had a "high degree of confidence" Elomar had been killed but was less sure about the fate of Sharrouf, following reports they both perished in a missile strike last week. Under the proposed legislation, dual nationals like Sharrouf and Elomar would automatically lose their Australian citizenship on the grounds of fighting for a terrorist organization overseas.

A terrorist organization is determined as such by the government as one that is "opposed to Australia, or Australia's values, democratic beliefs, rights and liberties." Civil libertarians have objected to the automatic stripping of nationality based on government definitions of what constitutes terrorism and terrorist activity. The government said decisions would be open to a review by the courts, although this avenue of appeal is not stated explicitly in the bill.

The law can also be

used retrospectively on people already in jail on terrorism offences. Children of outcast dual nationals can also be banished, although they may claim their Australian nationality via another "responsible" parent.

Nettleton said her daughter and grandchildren, one of whom she says was forced into an arranged marriage with Elomar, were desperate to come home. Abbott said the children would be "dealt with in the same way that the family of criminals are normally dealt with." He did not rule out laying charges against minors. The rights of people holding Australian citizenship only are still under consultation.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalised Muslims or by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East, having raised its threat level to "high" and unleashed a series of high-profile raids in major cities.

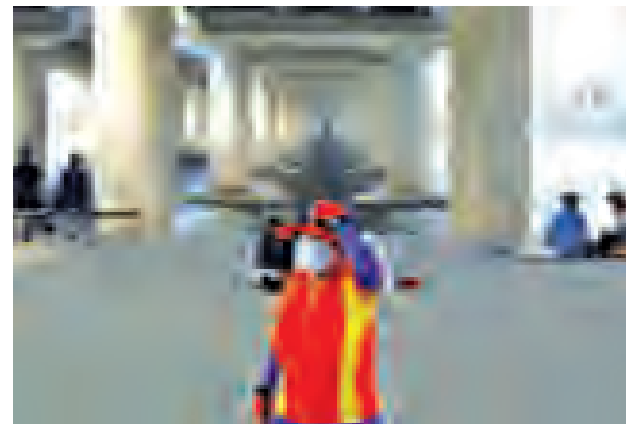
Reuters

South Korea reports four new MERS cases, total rises to 179

SEOUL, 24 June — South Korea's health ministry reported four new cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) on Wednesday, bringing the total number of cases to 179.

The health ministry also said 67 people who had tested positive for the MERS virus had recovered and been discharged from hospital since the outbreak started in May.

South Korea's outbreak of the virus is the largest outside Saudi Arabia.—Reuters



A woman wearing a mask to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) rests under a bridge at the Han river park in Seoul, South Korea, on 22 June, 2015. — REUTERS

S Korea, Japan to boost defence ties this year

SEOUL, 24 June — South Korea and Japan plan to boost their defence relations this year by increasing exchanges and cooperation in defense fields, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Wednesday.

"The recent amiable mood is expected to allow us to work closer with Japan, facing growing nuclear and missile threats posed by North Korea," an unnamed South Korean defence ministry official was quoted as saying.

In signs of improvement in strained bilateral

relations, Japan and South Korea marked the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations on Monday, with the leaders of the two neighbours calling for building a future-oriented relationship in the next half century.

"Working-level talks for policy coordination between officials of the defence ministries are planned this fall," another ministry official was quoted as saying. "The planned meeting is meant to assess security threats posed by North Korea and how to

boost defence cooperation for next year," the official said.

In October, the two countries also plan to hold joint naval search-and-rescue exercise in Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, according to yet another ministry official.

The biennial Search and Rescue Exercise, known as SAREX, has been held since 1999, with the previous one having taken place in December 2013. It is aimed at boosting cooperation in humanitarian missions.—Kyodo News

JAL group carrier flies aircraft without inspections for six months

TOKYO, 24 June — J-Air Corp, a passenger airline wholly owned by Japan Airlines Co, flew some of its aircraft for half a year without inspections being carried out on engine-related parts, JAL officials said on Wednesday.

The group carrier is conducting an emergency inspection on three Bom-

bardier CRJ200 jets in its fleet, forcing 23 flights linking such airports as Osaka and Aomori to be canceled for the day and affecting about 800 passengers, they said. According to JAL, the components used to attach the engines to the fuselage should have undergone an inspection six months ago.

Company regulations require the first such inspection about 7 years after the aircraft's introduction.

The three planes never went through the examination. They made between 1,580 and 2,178 flights during the six-month period without the required inspection.—Kyodo News

Panasonic ends fluorescent light production in Indonesia

OSAKA, 24 June — Panasonic Corp ended the production of fluorescent light tubes in Indonesia at the end of May as part of its move to shift from fluorescent light to light-emitting diodes, sources familiar with the matter said on Wednesday. The company plans to lay off about 650 out of roughly 780 employees hired in Indonesia, the sources said.

The company started fluorescent light production in 1997 in Indonesia, where most of the products made are sold in Japan.—Kyodo News

WORLD

NSA spied on French presidents: WikiLeaks

PARIS, 24 June — The United States National Security Agency spied on French presidents Jacques Chirac, Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande, WikiLeaks said in a press statement published on Tuesday, citing top secret intelligence reports and technical documents.

The revelations were first reported in French daily Liberation and on news website Mediapart, which said the NSA spied on the presidents during a period of at least 2006 until May 2012, the month Hollande took over from Sarkozy.

WikiLeaks said the documents derived from directly targeted NSA surveillance of the communications

of Hollande (2012–present), Sarkozy (2007–2012) and Chirac (1995–2007), as well as French cabinet ministers and the French ambassador to the US. According to the documents, Sarkozy is said to have considered restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks without US involvement and Hollande feared a Greek euro zone exit back in 2012.

These latest revelations regarding spying among allied Western countries come after it emerged that the NSA had spied on Germany and Germany's own BND intelligence agency had co-operated with the NSA to spy on officials and companies elsewhere in Europe.

"The French people

have a right to know that their elected government is subject to hostile surveillance from a supposed ally," WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said in the statement, adding that more "important revelations" would soon follow.

The documents include summaries of conversations between French government officials on the global financial crisis, the future of the European Union, the relationship between Hollande's administration and Merkel's government, French efforts to determine the make-up of the executive staff of the United Nations, and a dispute between the French and US governments over US spying on France.

The documents also contained the cell phone numbers of numerous officials in the Elysee presidential palace including the direct cell phone of the president, WikiLeaks said.

Last week, WikiLeaks published more than 60,000 diplomatic cables from Saudi Arabia and said on its website it would release half a million more in the coming weeks.

Former NSA employee Edward Snowden created an uproar in Germany after he revealed that Washington had carried out large-scale electronic espionage in Germany and claimed the NSA had bugged Merkel's phone.

"While the German disclosures focused on the



French President Francois Hollande (L) and former French President Jacques Chirac

isolated fact that senior officials were targeted by US intelligence, WikiLeaks' publication today provides much greater insight into US spying on its allies," WikiLeaks said.

This includes "the ac-

tual content of intelligence products deriving from the intercepts, showing how the US spies on the phone calls of French leaders and ministers for political, economic and diplomatic intelligence".

Reuters

France's Hollande says US spying unacceptable

PARIS, 24 June — French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday branded as "unacceptable" reported spying by the United States on French senior officials and warned Paris would not tolerate actions that threaten its security.

Hollande released the statement after an emergency meeting of ministers and army commanders on Wednesday, following WikiLeaks revelations that the United States National Security Agency (NSA) had

spied on the last three French presidents.

"France will not tolerate actions that threaten its security and the protection of its interests," the president's office said, adding the spying allegations on French interests had been revealed in the past.

"Commitments were made by the US authorities. They need to be recalled and strictly respected."

The French Foreign Ministry summoned the US ambassador to discuss the

matter, a French diplomatic source said.

The revelations were first reported in French daily Liberation and on news website Mediapart, which said the NSA spied on presidents Jacques Chirac, Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande during the period of at least 2006 until May 2012.

Hollande is due to meet members of parliament at his Elysee Palace offices later on Wednesday.

"We find it hard to un-

derstand or imagine what motivates an ally to spy on allies who are often on the same strategic positions in world affairs," French government spokesman Stephane Le Foll told i>TELE television.

US media cited a statement from the US National Security Council saying it was not targeting and will not target Hollande's communications. The statement did not deny spying had taken place in the past.

Claude Gueant,

Sarkozy's former chief of staff and one of the reported targets of the NSA, told RTL radio: "Considering the very close relationship we have with the United States, considering the fact we are extremely loyal allies, I feel like trust has been broken."

"These are scary revelations which require explanations from the United States and guarantees that it won't happen again," Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said on France 2 television.

Reuters

Greek minister says two or three issues remaining in debt talks

ATHENS, 24 June—Greek economy minister George Stathakis said on Wednesday "two or three" items remained to settle with international lenders on a package of proposals put forward by Greece to break a deadlock in negotiations a cash-for-reforms deal.

"There are two or three very specific issues, and as you appreciate it's the last part, three out of the fifty measures that have been agreed," he told Greece's Mega TV.

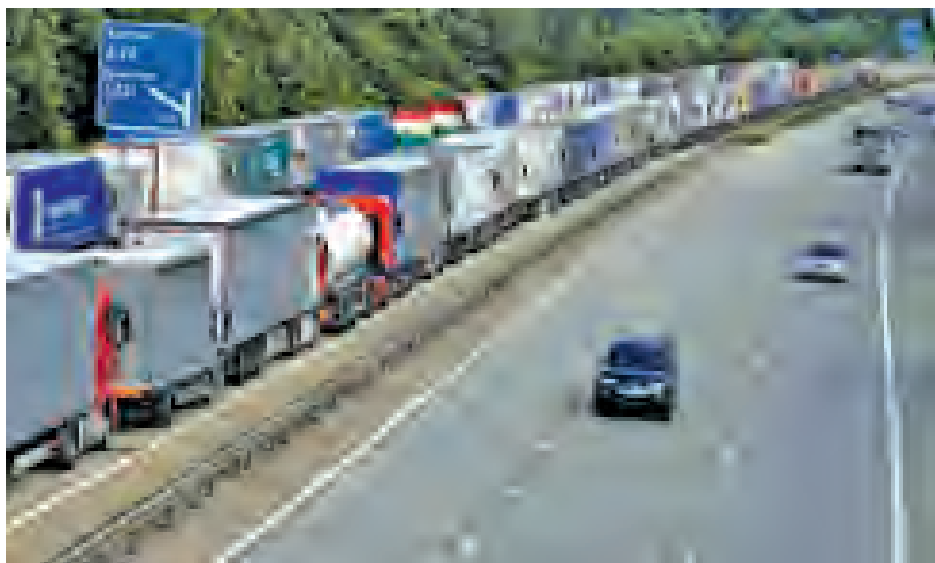
He said those issues included long term debt relief and VAT exemptions in the Greek islands, a very sensitive issue for the right-wing Independent Greeks party that supports Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' coalition government.

However he said he was confident a deal would be reached at a European Union summit on Thursday and that it would be supported by Tsipras' leftist Syriza party, despite objections expressed by some in the party.

"I think this balanced deal is defensible to Syriza, and in Greek society too," he said.

Reuters

Strike halts Channel Tunnel traffic, migrants try to board vehicles



Lorries are backed up on the M20 motorway which leads from London to the Channel Tunnel terminal at Ashford and the Ferry Terminal at Dover, on 23 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LILLE, (France), 24 June — Traffic was halted through the Channel Tunnel linking Britain and France on Tuesday after striking French ferry workers set fire to tyres, while Britain's Foreign Office warned of migrants trying to get into vehicles queuing to enter the tunnel.

Television images showed large crowds of migrants trying to board

waiting lorries. Others were held back by riot police.

Around 400 workers blockaded the port of Calais to protest restructuring at its MyFerryLink division, the Syndicat Maritime Nord trade union said. Shipping was halted early in the day and both Eurotunnel and Eurostar later suspended their services because of the disruption.

"Traffic in the tunnel

is suspended because of burning tyres, which are the result of port workers," a Eurotunnel spokeswoman said of an incident at the terminal entrance.

The union opposes plans by Eurotunnel to sell two of MyFerryLink's three passenger vessels to Denmark's DFDS and convert the third to freight, cutting jobs.

The day of action was

due to end at 7 pm local time (06:00 pm BST) but Eurostar said it had been informed by Eurotunnel that the tunnel would remain closed all day. "We expect normal service to be resumed tomorrow," it said in a statement.

Earlier, French strike police were deployed to remove protesters blocking motorway access to the tunnel, which had created a 10-km (six-mile) tailback. A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said it understood the concerns of the port workers.

"We hope that there will be suitable job proposals tomorrow," she said of a meeting planned for Wednesday. A spokeswoman for British Prime Minister David Cameron said Britain was in close contact with French authorities. Britain issued travel advice that said migrants were using the disruption to try to board queuing vehicles.

"There are large numbers of illegal migrants in and around Calais who may seek to enter the UK

illegally. Although local police patrols have been reinforced, you should keep vehicle doors locked in slow-moving traffic and secure your vehicle when it is left unattended," the Foreign Office said.

"We are seeing the usual phenomenon - some migrants are trying to climb into lorries stopped in traffic jams on the motorway leading to the tunnel," the police press office in Arras said. "They're trying to hide in lorries in particular."

The incident is the latest flare-up involving migrants who have amassed around Calais port, hoping to get into Britain.

That is part of a wider migration crisis facing Europe, the target of tens of thousands of would-be refugees fleeing conflict in the Middle East and Africa or of others trying to escape poverty in their home countries.

The issue is due to be discussed at a summit of European leaders in Brussels from Thursday.

Reuters



Thursday, 25 June, 2015

Ballot box can provide path to better future

By Kyaw Thura

Our country will see its second general election in late October or early November this year, as promised by the Union Election Commission. With the big day approaching, the

electorate is itching to grasp the once-in-five-years chance to create a more reliable and responsive government.

The UEC has urged eligible voters to ensure they are on the electoral register in their respective constituencies, advocating that voting be treated as a right rather than a privilege.

Truly, every citizen over the age of 18 should keep in mind that the election is a time to decide the fate of the country. In addition, the election is a time to choose candidates who can take the country to a new level of prosperity. It is also a time to vote against candidates who seek to maintain the status quo. We should not lack that level of common sense.

Soon, candidates will canvass for votes through

mass media and political broadcasts. We should take a hard look at their election promises and determine who deserves our bet best. At this juncture, we cannot afford any missteps that may hinder the upcoming elections. After all, we should come together and use the ballot box to create a better future.

Write for us

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

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

The Power of FM Radio Stations

By Myo Myint

One of the delights of retirement is being the boss of one's time, and one of its adversities is having to think of how to put to use all the extra time one owns after devoting some of it to prayer, meditation and religious studies. With so many TV channels now available, the easiest way to keep occupied is to watch TV, but having to use one's eyes and ears both at the same time, and to remain immobile for long stretches of time can become quite taxing for an aged person. A better alternative I found is listening to the radio. It requires only one sense - one's hearing, and if one wishes, one can ignore the sound and can do some other tasks, or let one's mind wander. Moreover, unlike a TV set, with the emergence of better quality and smaller sized transistors that provide high fidelity sound, one can take it along like a book to wherever one moves to, or goes to - from the sitting room to the bedroom, or to the garden, and in the countryside, even take it to the paddy fields and plantations. The radio broadcasting service also rivals TV stations in the offer of a wide choice of programmes and stations. In addition to Myanmar Radio with its four services, Yangon Service, National Service, National Races Service, and Distance Learning, there is a wide choice of Myanmar FM radio stations to choose from, if you are living in Nay Pyi Taw or Yangon.

FM broadcasting was patented in 1933 and the first commercial FM broadcasting began in the late 1930s in the United States. The BBC began FM broadcasting in the United Kingdom about two decades later in 1955. Today, nearly every

country has FM stations, but most stations tend to focus on certain regions as their outreach can be limited. In Myanmar, the first FM radio station, City FM, was established in 2001. It was followed by Mandalay FM in 2008 and Pyinsawaddy FM in 2009. Today, according to the information available on the Internet, there are altogether 8 stations in the country with each focusing on certain regions or states. For instance, Mandalay FM covers such areas as Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon, Toungoo, and Magway; Cherry FM covers such places as Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, Pyinmana, Tachilek, Yangon, and Loi-kaw, and Padamya FM covers such towns and cities as Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Bhamo, Kantbalu, Katha, Mandalay, Monywa, Myitkyina, Nanmar, Popa, Pyay, and Yangon. While the national broadcasting station is more formal in its presentations, even though it is trying to lose its staidness, FM stations tend to be more informal and try to attract a younger audience by hiring young dynamic presenters and offering a medley of pop songs, interviews with celebrities, sports news and listener phone-in programmes.

Despite its apparent slant towards younger listeners, since my retirement, I have become addicted to FM radios due to the large choice available in terms of station and programme. This means that if the music is too rock sounding, I can always switch to a station offering tamer music and if there are too many songs being played successively on a station, I can always switch to a station which is interviewing a celebrity, or one that is offering sports news. While all FM stations apparently seek to entertain, inform, educate, amuse and

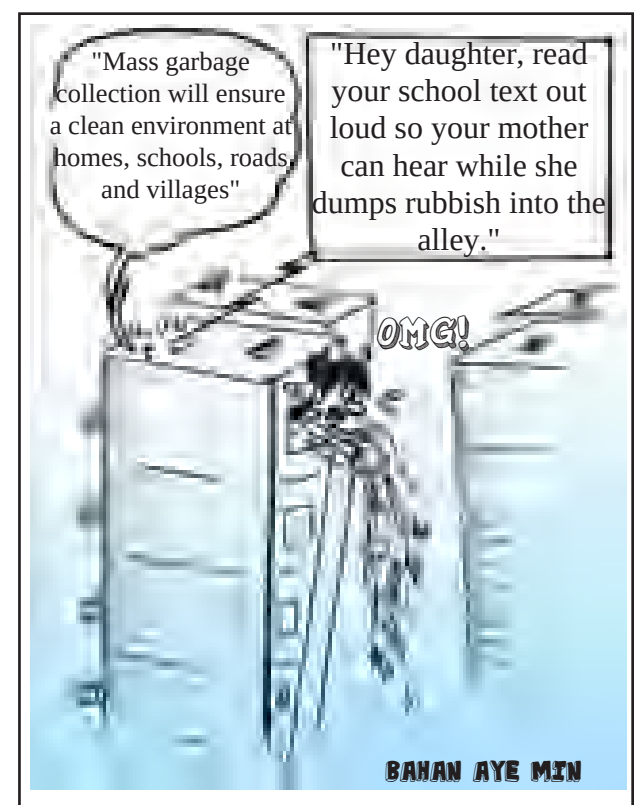
sell, their composition of programmes and focus vary. Most broadcast standard programmes that inform, like local, international, sports and weather news, programmes that educate such as talks by specialists on health matters, or promotion of English language skills, programmes that entertain, such as, songs and radio plays, and programmes that amuse, such as, inviting people to phone in to talk about funny incidents in one's life, or take part in quizzes. However, there are also some stations that offer innovative programmes. One FM station provides traffic news during rush hours through their programme called Traffic Hotline to which taxi drivers and others phone to provide reports on traffic conditions voluntarily. Another station provides information on job vacancies. Still another gives knowledge on improving business management skills. One programme I thought most useful is the lost and found programme which brings together finders and people who have lost things. Some FM stations also have programmes devoted to literature such as poetry recitation, and book introduction by authors. Some stations include programmes of discussions of controversial, or topical interests such as, "Living together", "How parents should not behave in front of their children", "Use and abuse of Facebook", etc. by two, or three regular discussants or invited guests, some of which are moderated by the programme hosts. Programmes of interviews, either conducted at the studio, or by phone, are made more attractive by not just interviewing celebrities like film stars, directors, writers, and artists but also ordinary people with unusual careers like women taxi drivers. Present-

ers try to make their programmes more interesting by interspersing their programmes with tidbits of international film, the local music scene, information on local music and art events, etc. In addition, with the intention to draw a larger audience, some stations have programmes in national languages and some are collaborating with foreign radio stations and accepting programmes from them. One station even has a DJ presenter of international music who regularly sends programmes of songs that have reached the top of the chart presented in English and sent from abroad. Programmes of most TV stations are interrupted by advertisements which no doubt generate much needed income for the radio station concerned but can sometimes be an annoyance for those listeners to whom the ads have no relevance.

True to their mission, Myanmar FM stations entertain, inform, educate, engage with audience, promote product sales and provide companionship to lonely listeners. But in order to do so, they should not just be focusing on the latest COUNTRY, HIP-HOP, ROCK, ROT, etc. music, the singers and the song writers to sell their programmes. They need to realize that in a country where about 70 percent of the population live in rural areas, they, as regional stations, know the need of their regional and can cater to local needs. Therefore, they play a vital role in society in reaching out to regional audiences and disseminating knowledge, information and skills they need, especially, at an important time when the nation is trying to narrow development gaps among different regions and striving to catch up with fast-paced developments taking place in its neighbouring countries. They

need to broaden audience appeal by taking into account the interest of other age groups in addition to young people. There are so much knowledge and information that need to be delivered to the people. They need to think of not just what their listeners want, but also what their listeners really need for them to become more competitive and successful in this world. They need to provide the kind of social knowledge that will make them more responsible and less self-centred citizens who are capable of taking care of their environment. All citizens, both young and old, need to vastly improve their health knowledge, from simple matter of keeping their surroundings clean to more complex one of improving the quality of life of their family. They need to contribute to build a more united, harmonious, peaceful and inclusive nation. They need to inform their listeners about the many developments taking place in other parts of the world so that they will want to work harder. On the other hand, farmers need better knowledge about modern agricul-

tural practices and what facilities are available to them. Managers need to be informed about better management practices. Teachers need to be updated with new teaching techniques. People need to be reminded about the need to take pride in their rich cultural heritage and also individually and nationally work to preserve it. Special attention need to be paid to the next generation. Young people need to be constantly reminded that life is not just fun, frolic and falling in and falling out of love. Young people need to be awakened to become more ambitious and dynamic and to be provided with information on what needs to be improved and how they can be improve. They need to be reminded that they are the future leaders, protectors, movers, changers and innovators of the country. I believe that only when the Myanmar FM stations also fulfil such responsibilities in addition to entertaining people with music, will they reach the goal of becoming truly the media of the people, about the people and that is working on behalf of the people.



LOCAL NEWS

Wushu contest marks International Olympic Day



MANDALAY, 24 June — Wushu enthusiasts from basic education schools, Mandalay's Sports and Physical Education Institute and Central Command Headquarters participated in the Taolu and Shanshou events to mark World Olympic Day at the Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay recently.

The contest was jointly organized by Mandalay Region Wushu Sub-committee and United Pharmaceutical Co.

Among the spectators were principal of the institute U Myo Myint Aung, Deputy Director U Wai Zin of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department, Deputy Consul General of the Chinese Embassy Mrs Jin Yilin and officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

US Embassy marks 239th Independence Day

MANDALAY, 24 June — U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell hosted an Independence Day event and dinner at the U.S. Embassy information branch in Chanayethazan Township on 23 June.

Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, officials of political parties and social organi-

zations, rectors and media joined the gathering, held ahead of the 239th U.S. Independence Day on 4 July.

The ceremony opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the United States of America.

After delivering an address, Mr. Mitchell and his wife hosted the dinner.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



New power lines, transformers light up villages

YENANGYOUNG, 24 June — Local residents recently celebrated the commencement of self-reliant electricity supply in Phayagon, Thabyebin and Pinwa villages in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region.

Chief Minister of the

region U Phone Maw Shwe and officials switched on the supply of electricity to the villages.

Local residents provided K70.5 million for installation of a 315-kilovolt transformer in Phayagon Village, K34 million for a 200-kV transformer in

Thabyebin village and K36.5 million for a 160-kV transformer in Pinwa village. Electricians from the Township Electrical Engineer's office installed power lines and transformers in the respective villages under the supervision of engineers.—*Mon Mon (IPRD)*



Monywa District police to provide security for 440 polling stations

MONYWA, 24 June — Police officers in Monywa District have undergone briefings about security measures for the upcoming general elections.

Monywa District will have about 440 polling stations, with district commander Police Major Chin Sein assigning one officer per station.

A total of 158 polling

stations will be set up in Monywa Township, 71 in ChaungU Township, 85 in Budalin Township and 128 in Ayadaw Township.

Qualified firefighters will be assigned as special police members at the polling stations during the electoral process, the Police Major said.

Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Rural area in Namsang Tsp receives dispensary

KYAUKME, 24 June — A dispensary building was recently inaugurated in Mantmai Meinkwan village in Namsang Township, Palaung Self-Administered Zone, northern Shan State.

Local people provided K700,000 for the K9 million project.

Staff Officer U Myint Htwe Win of Rural Development Department and local authorities cut the ribbon to open the dispensary.

"Now, we have the opportunity to enjoy health care services at the dispensary with the assistance of health workers," a local resident said.

Myint Aung (Ka Ma)



Myanmar's media persons join meeting of UMA

MAE SOT, (Thailand), 24 June — Media persons of Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia from the Union Media of ASEAN (UMA) held a meeting at Queen Paris Hotel in Mae Sot, Thailand, on 23 June.

A 6-member media team led by reporter Tun Tun Oo (the Myanma Alinn) from Myawady attend-

ed the media get-together, with a speech by Prasit Sangrungrueng, Secretary-General of UMA.

An officials presented Best News Awards to Tun Tun Oo (the Myanma Alinn) from Myawady of Kayin State and Ko Ko (Hmukhin Shudaunt).

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)

US response to Kurdish advances in Syria tempered by caution

WASHINGTON, 24 June — The Obama administration on Tuesday touted Kurdish-led advances against Islamic State in Syria as a model for the US-backed effort to retake territory from the jihadist group, but US officials cautioned that the insurgents remained resilient and could strike back.

By highlighting battlefield gains in northern Syria by a reliable partner on the ground, the White House sought to further justify President Barack Obama's policy of limiting US military involvement in the fight to reverse Islamic State's conquests there and in neighbouring Iraq.

But it was also a stark reminder of Washington's stumbling bid to turn moderate Syrian Arab rebels into a viable fighting force as well as a pointed message to the Iraqi government, which is struggling to rebuild its fragile military.

Kurdish YPG-led fighters captured a town held by Islamic State on Tuesday, inching closer to



A Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) fighter walks near residents who had fled Tel Abyad, as they re-enter Syria from Turkey after the YPG took control of the area, at Tel Abyad town, Raqqah governorate, Syria, on 23 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Raqqah, the hardcore Islamist group's de facto capital of a self-declared "caliphate."

The apparent blow to Islamic State's momentum there was achieved with the aid of stepped-up US air strikes and intelligence sharing, US officials said. The US military had air-dropped weapons to YPG

fighters inside Syria during an earlier campaign on the Turkish border.

"This is, I think, an indication of how critically important it is for the United States to have a capable, willing and effective partner fighting ISIL on the ground," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, referring to Islamic

State by one of its alternative names.

But US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, tempered that view, citing Islamic State's proven ability to adapt and quickly recover from setbacks. Kurdish forces, they said, may also need more time to consolidate their gains, "ISIL has proven a

resilient force," a US intelligence source said. "In the past, it has sought to offset losses with attacks elsewhere."

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Kurdish fighters' seizure of a north-south highway between Raqqah and the Turkish border would make it harder for Islamic State to keep up the flow of arms and foreign fighters into the heart of the territory it holds.

But another US official acknowledged that Islamic State had other routes and was not at immediate risk of being cut off.

The capture of Ain Issa on Tuesday brought Kurdish forces and their allies within 50 km (30 miles) of Raqqah, but a YPG spokesman said an assault there was not currently "in our agenda."

When asked whether Raqqah might be the next target, Warren told reporters in Washington: "We're not going to say specifically what our immediate plans are. Obviously our

ultimate objective is to expel ISIL completely."

Earnest credited the Kurdish-led gains in part to Washington having convinced Ankara last year to allow US-armed Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters to cross Turkish territory to help Syrian Kurds retake the border town of Kobani, a key defeat for Islamic State after it had seized a third of Syria and Iraq.

It was unclear, however, how Kurdish forces in Syria were replenishing their arms supplies.

Obama has ruled out sending advisers or trainers into Syria, where Washington shuns President Bashar al-Assad. But he has deployed a nearly 3,500-strong contingent in Iraq, where Islamic State recently captured the provincial capital of Ramadi.

While Kurds have united against Islamic State, Washington faces a formidable challenge in Iraq of melding rival Shi'ite and Sunni Arabs into a fighting force.

Reuters

Int'l aid delivered to Yemen to cope with health crisis

UNITED NATIONS, 24 June — The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that health kits, IV fluids and other essential medicines have been delivered to health facilities in four governorates in Yemen in the past week, for the treatment of more than 438,000 people, including treatment of patients with dengue fever, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here Tuesday.

A new analysis released by OCHA showed that in the first three weeks of June, only 11 percent of

the estimated total monthly fuel requirements for Yemen have been delivered, Dujarric said at a daily news briefing. "This compares to 18 percent for May, 1 percent for April, and 23 percent for March."

"Commercial shipping is slowly increasing, but remains constrained by port congestion, uncertainty over coalition searches, and high fees related to the time spent by ships waiting to dock," he said. "This is contributing to massive food insecurity."

The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is flying regularly from Djibouti to Sana'a every Sun-

day, Tuesday and Thursday, he noted.

Thousands of suspected cases of the mosquito-borne viral infection Dengue fever have been reported in conflict-ravaged Yemen, where a major health crisis is unfolding, the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Tuesday.

WHO said that more than 3,000 suspected cases of Dengue had been reported in Yemen since 20 March with some non-governmental organizations flagging more than 6,000 cases. The latest development comes just days

after WHO said Yemen's health system is on the verge of breakdown. Hospitals have been destroyed, health workers killed, and critical shortages of food, medical supplies and fuel are causing large-scale suffering.

Dengue fever is a severe, flu-like illness that affects infants, young children and adults, but seldom causes death, according to a WHO factsheet, which also says there is no specific treatment for dengue fever but early detection and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates below 1 percent.

Xinhua

Israel arrests Druze suspects in Syria ambulances attacks

JERUSALEM, 24 June — Israel has carried out a "wave of arrests" of Druze Arabs suspected of two attacks, one of them fatal, on ambulances bringing casualties from Syria's civil war to Israeli hospitals, police said on Wednesday.

Monday's attacks in northern Israel and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights drew strong censure from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose government is trying to prevent a spillover of sectarianism from Syria while offering limited humanitarian aid. Inflamed by media reports suggesting some of the hundreds of wounded Syrians admitted to Israel for medical care belong to jihadi rebel groups fighting the Druze in Syria, the crowds of Druze blocked two army ambulances for inspection. One ambulance managed to escape with crew and patients unharmed. In the other, a Syrian casualty was killed and another seriously wounded in what Israeli officials described as a lynching. Two troops accompanying them were also injured.

Radical Islamists see the Druze, whose religion is an offshoot of Islam, as

apostates to be combated. Druze in Syria and many in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967, have long been loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. Israeli media said around 10 Druze suspects were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the ambulance attacks. Security forces were reported to be probing whether army sources leaked details about the ambulances to the Druze protesters. The Druze are an important minority in Israel and have influence within the government and the military. A police spokeswoman said only that there had been a "wave of arrests" within the Druze communities and that a gag order prevented the publication of further details. Netanyahu's office said in a statement he would convene Druze leaders on Wednesday with a call "to calm tensions and to say to every Druze citizen of Israel to respect soldiers, law and order and not to take the law into their own hands". Israel has also signalled it would intervene to prevent a massacre of Syrian Druze, with local media suggesting it might offer refugees from the community safe haven on the Golan.—*Reuters*

Islamic State suicide bombers attack Hasaka, 10 killed

AMMAN, 24 June — Islamic State suicide bombers killed at least ten people and injured dozens in two coordinated attacks on Tuesday in the heart of the northeastern Syrian city of Hasaka, a monitor and a resident said.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least three bombers targeted a key Syrian army security compound in the heart of the government-held

portion of the city while a bomber blew himself up in the Kurdish portion of the city at a police station run by the Kurdish Peoples Protection Units (YPG).

The ethnically-mixed city is divided into separate zones run by the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and a Kurdish administration with a well-organized militia.

The Observatory,

which tracks violence across the war-torn country, said both the Kurds and the Syrian authorities were keeping a tight lid on the numbers of casualties.

A resident of Hasaka contacted by *Reuters* said the Kurds and Syrian forces cordoned off the main arteries within the city after the explosions.

Syria's state news agency SANA confirmed that two explosive-laden cars were detonated

in twin bombings near a main roundabout in the city and close to a children's hospital, but gave no details. Earlier this month, the ultra-hardline Islamic State militants were repelled by the Syrian army after they made lightning advances south of the strategically located city by conducting around a dozen suicide attacks using explosives-filled trucks at military checkpoints there.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Nikkei ends at 18-yr high as Greek deal hopes boost sentiment

TOKYO, 24 June — The Nikkei index closed at an 18-year, six-month high on Wednesday amid improved investor sentiment drawing from perceptions that Greece is likely to seal a deal with its creditors to avert a default and an exit from the eurozone.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 58.61 points, or 0.28 percent, from Tuesday at 20,868.03, a closing level last seen 5 December, 1996. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 3.49 points, or 0.21 percent, higher at 1,679.89.

Stocks opened higher, underpinned by optimism over Greece's debt negotiations and broad gains in European and US stocks overnight. The Nasdaq index closed at a record high

in New York on Tuesday.

Earlier concerns that talks between Greece and its international creditors were heading south, raising the specter of a Greek default, had ebbed amid speculation the eurozone member will make compromises on fiscal reform in time to be able to repay its debts, said Tsutomu Yamada, market analyst at kabu.com Securities Co.

"With fears of a Greek default clearing, there are plenty of incentives for investors to buy Tokyo stocks, including central bank policy, demand from Japanese institutions and expectations for strong performances by listed firms," Yamada said.

A revised US trade bill seen as crucial to the outcome of the 12-party Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations

cleared the US Senate on Tuesday and was hoped to pass Congress on Wednesday, spurring expectations for the TPP's eventual success.

The Nikkei and Topix zigzagged in the afternoon amid a sense of temporary overheating, but with the yen stable against the US dollar there is every reason to expect the Nikkei will top the 21,000 line in the near future, said Yutaka Miura, senior technical analyst at Mizuho Securities Co.

On the First Section, advancing issues outnumbered declining ones 1,048 to 682, while 156 ended the day unchanged.

Major gainers included shipping, led by Kawasaki Kisen, which rose 7 yen, or 2.5 percent, to 290 yen.

Securities, glass and ceramics, and warehousing

issues followed as major gainers. Warehousing firms were seen as likely to benefit from enhanced trade under a successful TPP agreement, brokers said, with Nissin up 17 yen, or 4.7 percent, at 382 yen.

Furukawa Electric gained 5 yen, or 2.2 percent, to 236 yen after the Nikkei business daily reported late Tuesday the firm will set up a communications cable factory in Morocco to meet African demand.

Itochu went up 45.00 yen, or 2.7 percent, to 1,715.50 yen as investors received positively reports that the trading house has pulled out of its struggling US shale gas business.

Trading volume on the main section fell to 2,629.45 million shares from Tuesday's 2,831.27 million shares.

Kyodo News

Toyota chief earned \$2.84 million last year after bonus doubles



Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda attends a news conference on the arrest of the company's Managing Officer and Chief Communications Officer Julie Hamp in Tokyo on 19 June, 2015.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 24 June — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) President Akio Toyoda earned 352 million yen (\$2.84 million/£1.8 million) in total compensation last year after his bonus doubled to about \$2 million, the Japanese company said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday.

Toyoda, head of the world's best-selling automaker, received a bonus of 249 million yen in the year ended March, up from 127 million yen in the previous year. His base salary was unchanged.

Toyoda's compensation is roughly a third of what Nissan Motor Co (7201.T) paid Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn in the same period. Ghosn told shareholders on Tuesday he splits his time equally between Nissan and French alliance partner Renault SA (RENA.PA), which he also heads.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV (FCHA.MI) CEO Sergio Marchionne was the top-paid automotive executive in 2014, making about 31.3 million euros (\$35 million).

Toyota in May reported a 19 percent rise in net profit to 2.17 trillion yen for the business year through March, and forecast a third consecutive year of record profit.

Nissan's net profit grew 18 percent to 457.6 billion yen.—Reuters

Plugging the tear ducts helps some with dry eyes

NEW YORK, 24 June—Tiny plugs inserted into the tear duct may safely curb the annoying and damaging effects of dry eyes, according to a new analysis of previous research. "Plugs are generally well tolerated," said Dr Marcus Marcet, an ophthalmologist at the University of Hong Kong and the study's first author. "Overall the extent of relief depends on both the type of dry eye and the type of plug." Patients with dry eyes who might benefit from plugs are those who have already tried eye drops and gels but still have itchy, red, painful eyes, blurred vision and the sensation of a foreign body in the eye, Marcet and his team note in the journal *Ophthalmology*.

About 20 to 30 million people in the US suffer mild dry eyes and 9 million have moderate to severe dry eyes, Marcet notes. "Studies have shown that dry eye significantly impacts patients' quality of life," he told Reuters Health in an email. "If untreated, more severe cases of dry eye can result in vision loss due to corneal scarring."

His team's review, sponsored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, looked at data on tiny semi-permanent punctal plugs (which are placed in the tear duct) and intracanalicular plugs (inserted deeper into the eye duct channel), and dissolvable plugs.

Punctal plugs are usually made from silicone or acrylic polymer, while dissolvable plugs are made from collagen or synthetic material.

Both types of semi-permanent plugs offered long-term help for dry eyes, though a higher percentage of people in studies with intracanalicular plugs had more infections near the inner corner of the eyelid than did the people in punctal or dissolvable plug studies.—Reuters



An employee places ingots of 99.99 percent pure gold onto a cart at the Krastsvetmet Krasnoyarsk non-ferrous metals plant in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Russia, on 5 June, 2015.—REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 24 June — Gold slid to a one-week low on Wednesday, down for a fourth consecutive session as the dollar strengthened and global stock markets continued to rally on expectations of a Greek debt deal.

Asian shares were near to eking out a sixth session of gains on Wednesday as investors strove to stay optimistic on the chance of a Greek debt deal, while the dollar held firm as the prospect of US rate rises swung back into view.

"Investors reacted to

enhanced hopes of a Greek debt deal by liquidating or shorting gold," HSBC analyst James Steel said in a research note.

"Gold has absorbed a lot of 'bad' news recently and we wonder just how much lower the market is likely to go. Physical EM (demand in emerging markets) still appears sluggish, notably but not exclusively in India, an important gold-consuming country. This opens the way for lower prices but we think declines may be modest."

Spot gold fell 0.2 per-

cent to \$1,176 an ounce by 0715 GMT, after losing 0.6 percent on Tuesday. It hit a session low of \$1,174.7, the weakest since 17 June.

The precious metal, often seen as an alternative investment during times of financial and economic uncertainties, has come under pressure after Greece's leftwing government expressed confidence that parliament would approve a debt deal with lenders.

Gold is vulnerable to pressure from other factors such as the prospect of the first US interest rate

rise from the Federal Reserve in nearly a decade. That would boost the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.

Fed Governor Jerome Powell said on Tuesday he was prepared to raise interest rates twice this year, once in September and once in December, as long as the economy performs as expected.

Later in the day, the Atlanta Fed's GDPNow forecast model showed the US economy is on track to grow 2 percent in the second quarter.

Strength in the dollar, which is benefiting from upbeat US data, further dragged on gold, which is priced in the greenback and tends to gain when the currency is weak.

Physical demand in top consuming region Asia has been sluggish as monsoon concerns weighed on demand in India and a better-yielding stock market kept buyers away in China.

In other news, China is expected to receive approval from its central bank for a yuan-denominated gold fix "anytime now", with more details about the scheme potentially set to emerge at a major industry conference this week, sources told Reuters.

Reuters

Japan to boost medical preparedness for nuclear disasters

TOKYO, 24 June — Learning lessons from the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns, Japan's regulator decided on Tuesday to boost medical preparedness for nuclear disasters.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority plans to oblige local municipalities hosting nuclear plants to designate up to three hospitals as medical institutions for providing emergency treatment for radiation exposure.

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, which led to the massive leakage of radioactive materials, exposed the vulnerability of hospitals and medical networks in the event of a nuclear emergency, with many evacuees not given proper treatment.

The NRA said it also plans to set up facilities for treatment of people exposed to high levels of radiation and for providing advanced education on radiation treatment. It will also call on universities and corporations to take part in enhancing medical preparedness for nuclear accidents.

The regulator said it will revise a guideline on measures against nuclear emergency by the end of August, after soliciting opinions from the public for one month.

At present, all of Japan's commercial nuclear reactors remain offline pending the regulator's safety screening.

Kyushu Electric Power Co's Sendai nuclear plant, located in southwestern Japan, is expected to go back online possibly in August, becoming the first nuclear facility to be reactivated under a set of new safety requirements adopted following the Fukushima crisis.—*Kyodo News*

For Kerry, Iran deal would be a legacy hit after many misses



US Secretary of State John Kerry

WASHINGTON, 24 June — If US Secretary of State John Kerry pulls off a nuclear deal with Iran, it will be a singular achievement in a long career in which the grand prize has eluded him.

His 2004 presidential election loss, lack of legislative monuments despite 28 years in the Senate, and failure, like many before, to bring peace to Israelis and Palestinians have contributed to a view that he struggles to seal major successes.

The 71-year-old has expended remarkable energy

in pursuit of what would be an historic agreement with Iran, flying tens of thousands of miles and holding dozens of meetings with his Iranian counterpart. He plans to attend the possible last stage of the nuclear talks in Vienna ahead of a 30 June deadline, despite breaking his leg late last month.

Kerry's negotiating style with Iran is a cocktail of boundless energy, tactical flexibility and occasional hardball, according to officials involved in the talks.

Still, critics say he has broken some classic rules of

negotiation, overshadowing the principal US negotiator Wendy Sherman; meeting Iranians regularly rather than holding himself in reserve; and exuding an air of eagerness for a deal.

Supporters say no one will work harder for an accord and that his unsuccessful efforts to end Syria's civil war or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict shows he is willing to risk failure while tackling the hardest problems.

Kerry's determination to headline the talks is obvious from his travel schedule.

In the last six months, he has met his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Jawad Zarif everywhere from Geneva, Paris, Davos, Lausanne, Montreux and Munich to New York City.

Veteran negotiators say Kerry's willingness to meet the Iranians so often makes it look like he is chasing a deal, rather than intervening only when the toughest issues remain.

"Being secretary of state by odometer is a very

false measure," said Richard Armitage, a deputy secretary of state under Republican President George W Bush.

"The administration is too eager," added Armitage. "Iranians can smell this. And if the secretary of state is willing to airmail himself in at the 11th and a half hour every time, what incentive is it for the Iranians to give you their bottom line?"

Armitage reserved judgment on the nuclear deal, stressing the need for short-notice inspections of Iranian facilities to ensure Teheran is not cheating.

Under a deal, Iran would curb its nuclear work in return for sanctions relief. Crucial differences remain between six major powers and Iran, even after a framework deal was agreed on 2 April.

Senior US officials disputed that Kerry has undermined Sherman, saying the two work extremely well together and that some issues can only be resolved at the highest levels.

They also said Kerry had shown himself willing to play hardball.

With a deadline looming in Lausanne on 27 March, Kerry paid a late-night visit to Zarif's hotel room to say that if the Iranians didn't show flexibility, he would tell foreign ministers flying in to finalize the interim accord not to turn up, the officials said.

The next morning, Iran raised an issue it previously refused to negotiate, the officials said, declining to identify it. An Iranian official declined comment.

Kerry became secretary of state in 2013 after a long Senate career in which he was not known as a deal-broker.

He was credited with helping normalize US relations with Vietnam and investigating the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. He poured his heart into long-shot bipartisan climate change legislation that failed in 2010.

Some who watched Kerry up close describe a senator eager to take on complex, sometimes arcane issues and doggedly pursue them even when it became clear to others they were lost causes.—*Reuters*

New UN goals lack focus, global health experts warn

WASHINGTON, 24 June — Shrinking aid dollars threaten the major advances made over the past decade in fighting disease and preventable deaths, a task that will grow even more difficult under new United Nations' development goals, experts in global health said.

Child mortality has plunged since the UN set a development goal of reducing under-five deaths worldwide by two-thirds, and the spread of HIV/AIDS infections have fallen 44 percent in the last decade.

These achievements reflect the \$200 billion invested over the last 15 years in improving health in lower income countries after

the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set global health targets.

But the new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the UN is expected to adopt in September are more diverse, and lack the clarity and focus brought by the MDGs, experts say.

"Health is one piece of a much more crowded space that will compete for attention and finances, when we still haven't finished the job," Jen Kates, Kaiser Family Foundation director of global health and HIV policy, said at a Center for Strategic and International Studies forum on Tuesday.

Development finance for health swelled to \$36

billion globally in 2014 from \$7 billion in 1990, as the United States invested heavily to control the spread of HIV/AIDS and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation embraced global health issues.

But global health finance stagnated between 2010 and 2014, and could decline in the years ahead, presenting new challenges for the health agenda, the experts at the CSIS forum said.

"You don't hear a lot of discussion today about people increasing their spending," said Charles Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, who presented an interactive tool to mon-

itor shifts in development assistance for health.

That means health dollars must be wisely spent where they have the greatest impact, or achievements to date could slide.

For example, maternal mortality has declined by 45 percent since 1990, but remains far short of its MDG target of falling by three-quarters by 2015, and universal access to reproductive healthcare remains out of grasp.

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which has killed more than 11,000 people, also highlighted how controlling infectious diseases remains a challenge, despite major gains made on other diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and

HIV/AIDS, Kates said.

In the wake of the Ebola crisis, development officials are discussing investing more money in clinics, hospitals and research centers, which could siphon funds from disease-specific projects.

"There is competition for the health dollar," said Howard Bauchner, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Murray said there are some glimmers of hope on the health funding front. As more countries graduate from the ranks of the poorest, it will free up World Bank loans that can be invested in healthcare, a priority for its president Jim Yong Kim.

Reuters

Meeting of Vucic, Mustafa, Mogherini begins in Brussels

BRUSSELS, 24 June — A meeting of EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo's Prime Minister Isa Mustafa has started in Brussels.

Previously, Mogherini had separate meetings with Vucic and Mustafa.

Four topics are on the agenda of today's meeting-

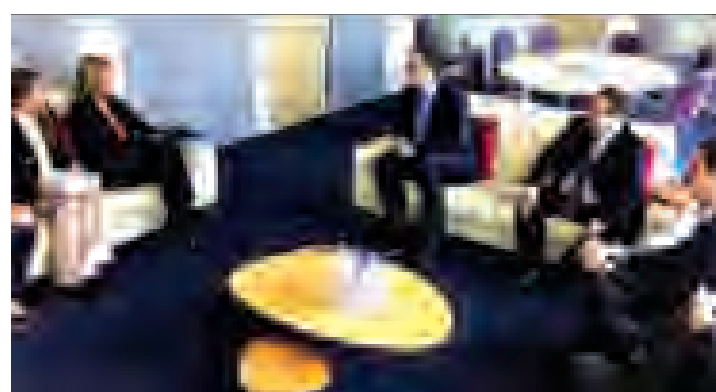
the community of Serb municipalities (ZSO), energy sector, telecoms and the Peace Park on the bridge in Kosovska Mitrovica.

In the meeting with Mogherini, Vucic said that reaching a thorough agreement on the community of Serb municipalities, as well as the issues of energy, telecoms and the Peace Park, is important to the

Serbian government, but that Serbia will not tolerate that its people be humiliated or its state interests undermined.

The government's media relations office stated earlier that the issues are expected to be resolved in line with the Brussels agreement and the adopted implementation plan.

Tanjug



A meeting of EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo's Prime Minister Isa Mustafa has started in Brussels. TANJUG

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO
VOY NO (105N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (105N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J034R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J034R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (410N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (410N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Draft Myanmar Companies Law

In order to modernize the Myanmar Companies Act 1914, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing the new Myanmar Companies Law with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Please be advised that the draft Myanmar Companies Law has now been published in both English and Myanmar languages on DICA's website (www.dica.gov.mm) for review by interested parties.

Directorate of Investment and
Company Administration

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WEATHER REPORT

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (12:30)hrs MST today, the tropical storm (Kujira) over Gulf of Tonkin (South China sea) is crossing Northern Coast (Vietnam).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th June, 2015: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States, isolated heavy falls in Bago Region, Chin and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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) mph.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the Coastal areas.

DECLARATION FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF TRADEMARK OF COMPANY

INTEGRATED SWANYEE SOCIAL BUSINESS CO., LTD., situated at Bldg. No. (138/ B-1), Room No. (A-8), New University Avenue Road, Sayarsan Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, have already been registered the following Trademark as Exclusive Right of Company in Deeds Registration Office, Yangon, under Registration No. (4/6286/2015).



Such "SWANYEE" Trademark will be used in producing, distributing and selling the various kinds of Machineries used in Agriculture, Materials related to the Agricultural Business, Fertilizers, Natural Fertilizers and other related Materials and such Trademark shall be used, after making such Trademark into various sizes, colors and designs, on the glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic bags, paper sheets, paper boxes, paper covers, paper bags, parcels, inserting and packaging materials which the said various kinds of products are put, by pressing/sticking/embossing the said Trademark and such products in that Trademark will be stated on the documents, advertisement, pamphlets, in radio, online, internet, on website design, seal, cash receipt, chalan, etc. and it will be distributed and used in Yangon and the whole Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Therefore, with effect from the registration date of above mentioned Trademark as Exclusive Right of **INTEGRATED SWANYEE SOCIAL BUSINESS CO., LTD.,** if the persons who are using the said Trademark directly (or) indirectly by making partly similarization (or) imitation are found out in future, such persons shall be taken legal action, claimed compensations for losses of Company's benefit and to delete the such Trademark made fraudulently at any competent Court in Republic of the Union of Myanmar, by civil nature or criminal nature.

Under the directive,

Daw Thida Ma Ma (LL.B, D.M.L, D.I.L), Advocate

Daw Win Lei Lei Naing (Higher Grade Pleader)

No. (44), First Floor, Room (10), 36th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Tel: 09 73121573, 09 254130074

**Australian
Air Force
drone flies
in civilian
airspace for
first time**

SYDNEY, 24 June — Australia's air force has remotely piloted a military-grade drone in Australia's civilian airspace for the first time as part of preparations for the joint Australia- United States Talisman Sabre military exercises in July.

Australia currently has two of Israeli-built unmanned aircraft systems, called *Heron*, which have completed more than 27,000 mission hours in southern Afghanistan, providing real-time surveillance capabilities for Australia's military and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Australia's national broadcaster reported on Wednesday.

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Wing Commander Jonathan McMullan said it was a historic week as it was the first time an unmanned aircraft had flown in Australian civilian airspace without interrupting civilian aircraft.

"Our intent is to integrate, not accommodate... and that allows us to expand our operations outside of defence restricted airspace in Australia and allows us to participate more fully in ADF exercises," McMullan said. "What it will do is allow the army commanders to integrate the heron system into the battlefield to provide enhanced battlefield awareness."

Kyodo News

Xinhua

S Korean court orders Japan firm to pay Korean women for forced labour

GWANGJU, (South Korea), 24 June — A South Korean high court on Wednesday upheld a lower court ruling that ordered Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd to pay compensation to four Korean women who were forcibly conscripted as labourers during World War II, when Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula.

The Gwangju High Court told the Japanese company to pay three of them 120 million won (about \$108,000) each and

the other 100 million won in compensation.

The court in the southwestern city of Gwangju also ordered Mitsubishi Heavy to pay about 102 million won to a fifth plaintiff whose two deceased family members, both of them women, were forcibly conscripted into labour for the Japanese.

In the lower court ruling in November 2013, the company was ordered to pay four plaintiffs 150 million won each and the fifth one 80 million won.

The plaintiffs, including 84-year-old Yang Gum Dok, sought compensation for being forced to work at Mitsubishi Heavy's factories in places such as Nagoya, central Japan from 1944 when they were aged 13 to 15.

They had earlier sued Mitsubishi Heavy and the Japanese government in a Japanese court, but the Supreme Court in Japan eventually threw out their case in 2008, saying the time limit for seeking personal compensation

had expired.

In a landmark decision in May 2012 that reversed previous court decisions, the South Korean Supreme Court ruled that the right of former forced workers and their families to seek withheld wages and compensation was not invalidated by the 1965 treaty that normalized bilateral ties, prompting the plaintiffs to seek damages in South Korea.

Japan maintains that all individual compensation claims were set-

tled with that treaty, and Mitsubishi Heavy argued during the trial in South Korea that the plaintiffs' claim should be rejected based on this idea.

The South Korean top court ruling resulted in a string of lower court rulings that ordered Japanese companies to pay compensation to those forced into labour for the Japanese. Wednesday's ruling was the third such decision by a South Korean high court.

English teen Tom Holland is Marvel's new 'Spider-Man'

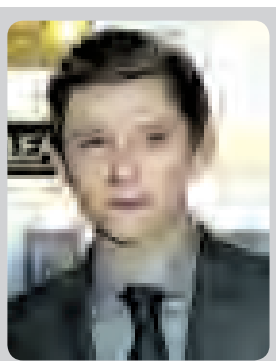
NEW YORK, 24 June — Little-known English actor Tom Holland has been picked to play the web-slinging superhero in the next "Spider-Man" film, which is due for release in July 2017, Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios said on Tuesday.

Holland, 19, will play Spider-Man's teenage alter ego Peter Parker as a high-school age student in the upcoming, yet-to-be titled film.

He follows in the footsteps of Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield, who have portrayed the comic book superhero at older stages of his life in the five previous movies.

Holland played Naomi Watt's son in the 2012 tsunami drama "The Impossible" and recently appeared in the British television miniseries "Wolf Hall."

He was selected after a worldwide casting search to



Actor Tom Holland

the film with Sony. Under the agreement announced in February, Spider-Man will appear in the Marvel film, and Marvel characters, such as Iron Man, Thor and Captain America, can appear in later Spider-Man films.

Holland is expected to make his first appearance as Spider-Man in "Captain America: Civil War," which is due for release in summer 2016.

Sony Pictures Entertainment, a division of Sony Corp, will continue to own the cinematic rights to Spider-Man.

Writer Stan Lee and writer/artist Steve Ditko created the fictional superhero character, who first appeared in comics in 1962.

The "Spider-Man" franchise has earned more than \$4 billion at the box office worldwide, making it the most successful franchise in the history of Sony Pictures.—Reuters

appear in the film that will be directed by Jon Watts." We saw many terrific young actors, but Tom's screen tests were special," Tom Rothman, the chairman of Sony Pictures Motion Pictures Group, said in a statement.

News of Holland's selection may disappoint some fans who had said they wanted a black actor to play Spider-Man for the upcoming film.

Walt Disney Co's Marvel Studios will co-produce

Actress Geena Davis takes fight for women in film worldwide

LONDON, 24 June — Actress Geena Davis called on Tuesday for greater efforts to stop the use of negative stereotypes of women and girls in film and the media as she unveiled details of a new global drive to address gender imbalance in the movie world.

Davis, who founded the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media 11 years ago, has joined forces with the BFI London Film Festival to hold the first global symposium on gender in film outside the United States in London in October.

The Oscar-winning actress, who has held conferences promoting women in creative media in the United States since 2008, expressed concerns that films are reinforcing negative gender stereotypes with movie audiences of all ages.

"Media images have a huge impact on our perceptions and on our social and cultural beliefs and behaviours," Davis said in a statement.

Davis, 59, who won a best supporting actress Oscar for her role in 1988 film "The

Accidental Tourist", joins a chorus of actresses who have recently condemned gender inequality in Hollywood.

Stars such as Meryl Streep and Kristen Stewart have been vocal about sexism as well as age biases in the movie industry, with Stewart saying in one recent interview that women had "to work a little bit harder to be heard".

The London global symposium, which will be followed by similar events in India and Brazil in 2016, will bring together politicians and key figures within the entertainment industry for two panel discussions about female characters in film.

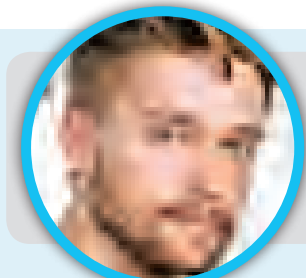
The first discussion will be chaired by British Film Institute Chief Executive Amanda Nevill and the second by Elizabeth Karlsen, chairwoman of industry group Women in Film & Television.

"The collaboration with the BFI, who have a clear mandate to promote gender equality and the Geena Davis Institute ... provides a much needed platform from which to incite change," Karlsen said in a statement.—Reuters



Geena Davis

Patrick Schwarzenegger to play lead in 'Midnight Sun'



LOS ANGELES, 24 June — Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger's son Patrick Schwarzenegger has finally landed his first lead role in "Midnight Sun".

The movie directed by "Step Up Revolution" fame director Scott Speer will feature Patrick, 21, alongside "The Duff" actress Bella Thorne, reported Aceshowbiz.

The movie is based

on a 2006 Japanese movie which centers on a 17-year-old girl named Katie who has a rare disease which forces her to stay indoor because even the smallest amount of sunlight could kill her. She then meets and

falls in love with a young man named Charlie as they set off for a summer romance.

Before "Midnight Sun" Patrick will be seen in horror comedy "Scouts vs Zombies".—PTI

Selena Gomez releases new single 'Good for You'

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — Pop sensation Selena Gomez has finally come up with her new single "Good for You".

The track featuring

rapper ASAP Rocky was officially released today on Gomez's Vevo channel, reported Aceshowbiz.

"Good for You" will appear on 22-year-

old "Wizards of Waverly Place" star's new album, which will mark her first since leaving Disney-owned Hollywood Records and joining Inter-

scope.

A music video for the track has been shot and is expected to be released in the coming days.—PTI



Hugh Jackman to appear in 'X-Men: Apocalypse'?

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — Actor Hugh Jackman is reported to be seen playing Wolverine in "X-Men: Apocalypse".

A custom leather goods company from Brooklyn, has confirmed

that Jackman, 46, will reprise his role in the upcoming instalment of "X-Men" series.

They were asked to make a special duffle backpack for Hugh Jackman who is filming the new movie in Montreal, reported Ace Showbiz.

"We started sketching — The bag will be ready next week — we will keep you posted! #hughjackman #Xmen #movie #backpack #special," they captioned the photo on Instagram.

However, it is unclear if the backpack is for Jackman's personal use or will

be used as the property in the movie. There is no official confirmation yet that whether Wolverine will make an appearance in the movie.

"X-Men: Apocalypse" will be released on 27 May, 2016.

PTI

Janet Jackson releases comeback single 'No Sleep'

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — Singer Janet Jackson has unveiled her new single "No Sleep" after a gap of six years.

For the single, the 49-year-old singer has collaborated with long-time producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, re-

ported Billboard.

"No Sleep" is the lead single from her as-yet-untitled new album, which should be out this fall. It will be her first album since 2008's Discipline. She took to Twitter to debut "No Sleep", and dedicate it to "My Love".—PTI

Taylor Swift admires Angelina Jolie



Angelina Jolie & Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 24 June — Pop sensation Taylor Swift hopes that she will have her own family when she is asked where she sees herself in 10 years. The "Bad Blood" hitmaker said that she admired the way Angelina Jolie managed her life, reported Aceshowbiz.

Swift, 25, hopes to have a family in her 30s, she admitted that she was anxious about protecting her children because of her fame.

When talking about raising kids under the spotlight, the singer admitted that she looked up to Brad Pitt's wife. She considered Jolie as definitely someone who knew what it's like to raise a big family despite the fame she and her husband have.—PTI

GENERAL

Blatter to attend World Cup draw in Russia on 25 July

Moscow, 24 June — FIFA president Sepp Blatter will attend the 2018 World Cup qualifying draw in St Petersburg on 25 July, Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said on Tuesday.

“Of course, he (Blatter) will attend (the draw),” Mutko told the TASS news agency.

“The whole of the (FIFA) executive committee will be there, as well as all 209 national federations. Preparations are going as planned,” the minister added. The Russian Football



FIFA President Sepp Blatter

Union (RFS) also said Blatter would attend the draw.

“As a person who knows a few things about Blatter, I am in no doubt that he will attend the draw,” RFS general secretary Anatoly Vorobyov

told Reuters in a telephone interview.

“Blatter has come to Russia 23 years in a row to attend the Commonwealth Cup. However, now there is a very important event in the sporting and social-political calendar. Of course the president of FIFA should attend these events.

“I am sure that if nothing unexpected happens, Blatter will visit St Petersburg on 25th July,” Vorobyov added.

The Commonwealth Cup began in 1993 as a

tournament for the champions of the former Soviet Union republics.

Blatter, 79, said on 2 June he would step down from his post after US and Swiss authorities widened their investigations into bribery and corruption at world soccer’s governing body.

Blatter has not been charged with any wrongdoing. Swiss authorities are also investigating the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar respectively.

Reuters

(25-6-2015 07:00 am~ 26-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| | * Grow Back for Posterity “The dawn of development” |

Paris enters race to host 2024 Olympic Games

PARIS, 24 June — Paris on Tuesday officially announced its bid to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and bring the global sports event back to the French capital for the first time in a century.

Paris, which narrowly missed hosting the 2012 Olympics, now begins a two-year selection process in which the world’s most visited city will face off against the likes of Boston, Hamburg and Rome, which lost out to Paris in 1924.

“Paris 2024 promises a feasible and flexible Games concept,” French National Olympic Committee (CNOSF) head, Denis Massegli, said. His team and others had flagged a Parisian bid for months.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will announce the candidate cities that made it to the shortlist in 2016, before voting for a winner in the summer of 2017. French

President François Hollande welcomed the move.

“The state will make every effort to ... support this candidature which will be exemplary on the environmental, economic and civic front,” he said in a statement.

“It is a unique moment for a whole generation to come together and show the world France at its best.”

However, Paris’s Olympic plan took some time to emerge.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo was reluctant at first about the cost but endorsed the idea in March after a study said the city’s existing infrastructures should help limit outlays, putting the hosting budget at 6.2 billion euros (\$7 billion).

Hidalgo said the way Parisians had united to come out on the streets in their thousands to mourn victims of the January attacks by Islamist gunmen at the offices of a satirical weekly and a Jewish foodstore was an ar-



The Olympic rings are seen during a training session for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games at the “Laura” cross-country and biathlon centre in Rosa Khutor in this file photo taken on 3 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

gument in favour of the bid.

“We aim to highlight the unity and the solidarity of a cosmopolitan city, which I am sure will be one of the key strengths to win,” she said in a written statement in English. Paris lost bids to stage the 1992, 2008 and 2012 Olympics. The latter went to London.

“We analyzed the reasons for the failures,” Sports Minister Patrick Kanner said. “The main thing is that

the world of sport will lead this bid. The politicians ... won’t be on the front line.”

Three-time Olympic gold medallist, canoeist Tony Estanguet, will be a prominent member of the bidding team.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach told President Francois Hollande last April that Paris would make a “very, very strong candidate”.—Reuters

Panama tops, US falls in well-being ranking: Gallup

WASHINGTON, 24 June — Residents of Panama topped an annual ranking of well-being released on Wednesday, while Afghanistan ranked last and the United States took a tumble.

The United States ranked 23rd of 145 countries, territories and areas tracked by the Gallup-Healthways Global Well-Being Index, down from 12th place a year earlier. The decline reflected fewer people reporting they were satisfied with their feelings of community, including safety, as well as reporting less positive social ties, said Dan Witters, who compiled the index.

The addition of 11 more countries and areas in 2014’s index also contributed to the United States’ lower ranking, Witters said.



Children play under the full moon on Achutupu Island in the Guna Yala region, Panama on 2 May, 2015.

REUTERS

Panama led the world in overall well-being for the second year straight, Gallup said, with 53 percent of residents thriving in three or more areas of well-being, measures that include a person’s sense of purpose, financial well-being and

physical health.

“People in Panama will report a lot of daily happiness, a lot of daily smiling and laughter, and a lot of daily enjoyment without a lot of stress and worry,” Witters said.

Afghanistan ranked the

lowest in overall well-being in 2014, with zero percent of residents considered thriving in well-being areas.

The index was based on interviews with more than 146,000 people aged 15 and older, in 145 countries, territories and areas in 2014. Puerto Rico and Northern Cyprus are among the territories and areas that are not countries that were included in the index.

Residents of the Americas region were the most likely to be thriving in well-being and residents in sub-Saharan Africa were the least likely, the index found.

Latin American countries topped the list, making up seven of the top 10 countries. Europe led the world in financial well-being, Gallup said. —Reuters

(25-6-2015, Thursday)

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

(25-6-2015, Thursday)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:25 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Teleplay |
| 6:20 am | 9:25 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Musical Programme |
| 6:35 am | 9:40 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Teleplay |
| 6:55 am | 9:55 am |
| • Musical Programme | • ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) |
| 7:05 am | 10:10 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:50 am | |
| • TV Drama Series | |

Murray seeded third in pursuit of second Wimbledon crown

LONDON, 24 June — Britain's Andy Murray, seeking to win the Wimbledon title for the second time in three years, has been named as third seed for the competition which starts next Monday.

World number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic, seeking a third Wimbledon crown, is the top seed while seven-time champion Roger Federer of Switzerland is seeded second.

Murray, 28, who became the first Briton to win the men's title for 77 years when he triumphed in 2013, was in sublime form when he won the Queen's Club tournament for the fourth time on Sunday and has been heavily backed to follow that up with another Wimbledon success.



Great Britain's Andy Murray celebrates winning the final at Queens Club, London on 21 June, 2015. —REUTERS

Rafa Nadal of Spain, who won Wimbledon in 2008 and 2010, but lost in the first round at Queen's last week, is seeded 10th and will be one opponent

the top seeds will want to avoid assuming he makes it through to the last 16.

Serena Williams of the United States, seeking her sixth Wimbledon ti-

tle, is the top seed in the women's section, with last year's champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic seeded second.

Reuters

Liverpool agree to sign Brazil forward Firmino

BERLIN, 24 June — Liverpool have agreed to sign Brazil international Roberto Firmino pending a medical that will take place after his participation at the Copa America, the Premier League club confirmed on Wednesday.

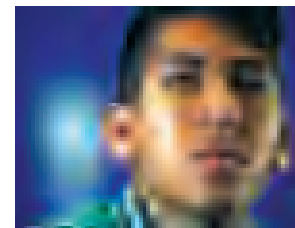
The gifted 23-year-old attacking midfielder is moving to Anfield from Germany's Hoffenheim, where he played since 2010, scoring 47 goals in 151 appearances.

No details were given regarding the transfer fee or length of contract, although the deal was reported to cost Liverpool around 28 million pounds.

Firmino has been outstanding at Hoffenheim, maturing from an exuberant teenager to team leader despite his young age and attracting the interest of several top European clubs in the process.

"The Reds have seen off serious competition from rivals in the Barclays Premier League and across Europe to make it Anfield where the goalscoring instincts and creative flair of Firmino can continue to blossom," Liverpool said in a statement.

"Liverpool had been watching all along and acted fastest to put together a deal for Firmino, who will be exhibiting his mesmer-



Brazil's soccer player Roberto Firmino

ising skills at Anfield from August."

Versatile and skilled, Firmino can play a variety of roles in attack and midfield and his development in the past few seasons saw him earn a first Brazil cap last year.

He has also started Brazil's last two fixtures at the Copa America, scoring the winner against Venezuela as his country advanced to the last eight of the competition.

Following a disappointing campaign in which the club could only finish sixth in the league, Firmino is the latest player to join Liverpool in a hectic start to the summer transfer window after the departure of long-time captain Steven Gerrard.

Midfielder James Milner, striker Danny Ings and goalkeeper Adam Bogdan have all completed Bosman moves, while promising defender Joe Gomez joined the club from Charlton Athletic for 3.5 million pounds.—Reuters

Copa America prize money not in doubt

ASUNCION, 24 June — South American football's governing body CONMEBOL has enough prize money to get through the Copa America but might struggle to meet its commitments for future tournaments, the head of Paraguay's APF said on Tuesday.

Alejandro Dominguez

was responding to media reports suggesting CONMEBOL, which runs football at a continental level, did not have the money to pay the winners of the tournament taking place in Chile.

The prize money comes principally from sponsors and media companies that buy the rights to broadcast

the tournament.

The reports said some of those companies would not be able to pay if their accounts were frozen as part of a US-led investigation into corruption surrounding the sport's world governing body FIFA. "As far as I understand, neither the Copa America nor the Lib-

ertadores Cup are at risk," Dominguez told Paraguayan journalists in the Chilean city of La Serena, where Paraguay have been based during the tournament.

The Libertadores Cup is South America's top club competition and the equivalent of Europe's Champions League.—Reuters

Japan beat Netherlands to reach Women's World Cup q'finals

VANCOUVER, 24 June — Holders Nadeshiko Japan reached the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over tournament debutants the Netherlands.

Saori Ariyoshi opened the scoring with her first goal of the tournament in the 10th minute and Mizuho Sakaguchi grabbed a late second to take Norio Sasaki's side a step closer to defending their title.

The Dutch pulled one back in injury time after Japan goalkeeper Ayumi Kaihori fluffed a header from Kirsten Van de Ven.

Japan will face Australia in the quarterfinals in Edmonton on Saturday.

"As always, we kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Sorry about that," Japan manager

Norio Sasaki said. "But we're picking it up, game by game."

"Your opponents are going to come after you if you have the lead so I'm not too concerned about the late pressure we faced. What matters is keeping your cool and finding a way to navigate those situations. We didn't let them create, maybe apart from the corners."

"At last, we're in the last eight."

Australia, beaten 1-0 by Japan in the Women's Asian Cup final in May last year, stunned Brazil 1-0 on Sunday to book their spot in the quarters.

Japan, winners of first-round Group C, are looking to become only the second team to win back-to-back World Cups, a feat only Germany have pulled off in 2003 and 2007.

"We know each other inside out," captain Aya



Japan defender Saori Ariyoshi (R) scores in the first half of a Women's World Cup round of 16 match against the Netherlands in Vancouver, Canada, on 23 June, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

Miyama said of the Matidas. "I'm expecting it to be a good, tough game."

"We still need to sort out our defence and we had to survive a few scares along the way. It probably would have been better if we didn't concede at the end, but we'll take it as a lesson and learn from it."

The Netherlands, who finished third in Group A, made a promising start and Sherida Spitse fired over before Manon Melis squandered a great chance when she lost her footing and failed to connect with a after a fabulous through ball from Lieke Martens.

That miss was pun-

ished as the Japanese took the lead. Yuki Ogimi headed Miyama's cross against the bar and Merel Van Dongen could only half-clear the loose ball, which Ariyoshi snapped up to drill into the right-hand corner.

The Dutch nearly hit back seconds later, with Martens inches away from getting on the end of Melis' cross.

Japan enjoyed further chances and Shinobu Ono will feel she might have done better with a free header she steered wide with the last play of the first half.

The Dutch pressed hard for an equalizer after the break but the Japanese could have doubled their lead on 54 minutes, Nahomi Kawasumi having her cross deflected behind for a corner, when shooting looked a better option.

Kaihori had little to do for long stretches of

the match but she pulled off a fine reaction save after a corner came off teammate Aya Sameshima, and moments later Japan went 2-0 up.

Ogimi fed Miyama who laid a ball back to the edge of the area for Sakaguchi to sweep home after a dummy from substitute Mana Iwabuchi.

Kaihori was left red-faced when a seemingly innocuous header from Van de Ven hit her shoulder and then the back of the net in the 92nd minute, but redeemed herself later with a good stop as the Japanese held on in a tight finish.

"We managed to score the first goal like we had hoped to, but things got tough later on," Sakaguchi said. "We need to really prepare for the next one."—Kyodo News