



President U Thein Sein and delegation arrive in Mongolia

(News on page 3)

Industries body says local firms need help to support foreign entrants



Photo taken on Sunday of some plants and factories at a section of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 June — Amid a number of practical difficulties that have been impeding Myanmar's move towards development of its industrial sector, local firms are struggling to play a supporting role as domestic suppliers for foreign manufacturers entering the country, the Myanmar Industries Association said on Saturday.

The support industry is aimed at supplying manufactured inputs to foreign

firms that are planning to set up business operations in the country's planned Special Economic Zones.

In Myanmar, the US\$1.5 billion Thilawa SEZ, a 2,400 hectare manufacturing complex set to host around 100 factories, is in progress while two others in Kyaukpyu and Dawei are being planned.

"Local small and medium-size enterprises have to strive to be qualified enough to provide goods and materials to foreign investors as there would be more business for the

domestic firms on completion of the SEZs", said U Zaw Min Win, chairman of the central executive committee of the association.

He also stressed the need for a boost to the country's ailing industrial sector, of which small and medium-size enterprises account for 99 percent, ahead of the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Free Trade Area set to launch late 2015.

He frankly admitted slow progress in the sector due to a shortage of

skilled labour, infrastructure and technology needs, tight finances and a lack of market access caused by higher production costs, unqualified products and uncompetitive prices.

"Well-developed supporting industries need high-quality engineering skills to produce components and spare parts that can meet technical requirements set by international manufacturers", said U Myat Thin Aung, chairman of the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Management Committee.

He expressed a different point of view that the country is more suited to assembly than production, which requires technical innovation as products made in Myanmar for foreign investors could be less competitive than those made in China.

Furthering human resources development would be among the needs for developing supporting industries in the country, said some association members.

The MIA chairman also highlighted the need

for more vocational technical training schools in the country.

He called for strengthening the public-private partnership that can address challenges affecting the country's industrial sector development.

According to the association, the body is now preparing to undertake a five-year mission that will define a concrete action plan—what to do and how to implement the country's industrial sector development—for both the long and short terms.—GNLM

MHD predicts continuation of subdued rainfall over Rakhine State

YANGON, 28 June — Meteorology and Hydrology Department forecast continuation of decrease of rain next two days in the Rakhine Coastal areas

which experienced floods due to torrential rain on 25 and 26 June.

Flood also hit Dawei in Taninthayi Region and started to recede

on 27 June.

The floods submerged about hundreds of houses in Rakhine State and four people are reportedly killed by the flood in

An, Rakhine State, said Dr Tun Lwin, Myanmar's prominent weather expert and the former director-general of the Meteorology and Hydrology

Department.

The weather bureau forecast that monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Shan and Chin states and widespread in

the remaining regions and states Monday.

Isolated heavy rainfalls are expected over Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon states, with 100 percent degree of certainty, Monday, the department said.

GNLM

INSIDE

Modern rice mill starts operation in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker attends opening of new Sagaing region Hluttaw building

PAGE-2

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends tree planting ceremony

PAGE-3

Local SMID bank holds 20th anniversary meeting

PAGE-2

No pretence lasts Make Happiness a Priority

PAGE-8

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker attends opening of new Sagaing region Hluttaw building



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann unveils new building of Sagaing Region Hluttaw.—MNA

MONywa, 28 June — The opening ceremony of the new Hluttaw building for Sagaing Region was held at the new building in Monywa on Sunday morning with Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann formally unveiling the signboard of the building.

Also present were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing, speakers and deputy speakers of region and state

Hluttaws, Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relation Committee Chairman Thura U Aye Myint, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representatives, members of Hluttaw affairs committees, officials of the region government, representatives of the region Hluttaw, officials and guests.

The deputy speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, the speaker of region Hluttaw, Thura U Aye Myint, the deputy speaker of the region Hluttaw and the Sagaing Region Security and Border

Affairs minister formally opened the building.

Then, Thura U Shwe Mann formally unveiled the signboard of the building and sprinkled it with scented water.

Then, officials planted star flower trees in front of the building to mark the opening of the building.

Afterwards, the speaker of the region Hluttaw reported on formation of buildings and urged representatives to work effectively in the new Hluttaw buildings.

The building is made up of a meeting hall, a CCTV control room, a living room, a call room, a conference room, offices of the speaker and the deputy speaker, a library and a reading room.

After the ceremony, Thura U Shwe Mann and party inspected the guest house for representatives. Sagaing region Hluttaw building is the first region Hluttaw building constructed during the term of the union government.

MNA

Dengue fever cases hit 10,000 in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 June — A continued outbreak of dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) has infected more than 10,000 people across the country this year, with more than 40 deaths reported, according to the Ministry of Health.

Mon State tops the table with 2,182 cases, followed by Ayeyawady and Yangon regions. According to reports, the former capital has seen the highest death rate in the country.

“There have so far been about 200-250 dengue cases reported daily across the country, but the DHF is uncommon in Chin State, a cool and hilly region,” said Dr Khin Nan Lon, a project manager from the ministry’s dengue hemorrhagic fever unit.

“The outbreak of the mosquito-infected viral disease is on an annual increase, despite preventive and control measures being taken on a

nationwide scale.”

Prevention is more important than treatment, with the project manager calling for intensive preventive measures in the rainy season, when the outbreak of dengue epidemic in Myanmar is common.

A leading cause of hospitalization and death among children and adults in some countries of Asia and Latin America, dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection.

Currently, there is no vaccine against the disease. Myanmar’s Ministry of

Health reported a total of 13,086 cases in 2014 but 20,255 in 2013. A recent study by the World Health Organization indicates that there were three million people infected with the mosquito-related disease across the world in 2013 alone, of whom 12,500 died.—GNLM

Vice-Senior General and party visit museum, Special Forces Airborne 911 Brigade

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party on Saturday visited the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh City, where officials explained traditional cultural heritages of Cambodia.

The vice-senior general and party also visited the National Museum and the Toul Sleng Genocidal Museum (S-21) of Pol Pot era.

The vice-senior general and party met with families of Myanmar Embassy and Myanmar Military Attaché at Sokha Hotel.

In the afternoon, they visited Special Forces Air-

borne 911 Brigade where Lieutenant General Chap Pheakdey welcomed the vice-senior general with the Guard of Honour.

At the headquarters, the vice-senior general and party viewed the demonstration on anti-terrorism skills.

They left Siem Reap International Airport and arrived back Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.

The vice-senior general, wife and party attended a dinner hosted by General Meas Sophea, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Royal Cambodian Army at Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh City on 26 June.—Myawady

Local SMID bank holds 20th annual meeting

YANGON, 28 June— The Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank held its 20th annual meeting at Myanmar convention Centre (MCC) here on Sunday.

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane made opening speech of the meeting, saying that the SMID bank has received K 90 billion loan from the Central Bank

of Myanmar.

The SMID bank has disbursed K 14.75 billion loans to business firms with 8.5 percent interest rate in 2014-2015 fiscal year, and has targeted K 15 billion in next fiscal year, with K 2 billion each for Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Sagaing regions and Shan state, as well as K1 billion each in other states and regions.—MNA

Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank holds annual meeting.—MNA

Merchants purchase 126 gem lots and 1,164 jade lots

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Local and foreign gem merchants submitted tender proposals at the 52nd Myanma Gems Emporium here, Sunday.

Deputy Minister for

Mines U Than Tun Aung, Chairman of the Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee, viewed round sales of jade lots to merchants through tender.

A total of 4,495 local

and foreign gem merchants attended the emporium where 126 lots of gems and 1,164 jade lots were sold.

On 29 June, 1,450 jade lots will be sold through open tender.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and delegation arrive in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, 28 June — At the invitation of President Elbegdorj Tsakhiaof Mongolia, President U Thein Sein and party left Nay Pyi Taw for Mongolia at 12 noon on Sunday.

The president and party were seen off at the airport by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan-Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and officials.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Ye Htut, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Htay Aung, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing of the Ministry of Defence and member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun.

The delegation arrived in Ulan Bator at 7 pm



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by Guard of Honour at Ulan Bator Airport in Mongolia.—MNA

local time.

The president and party were welcomed at Chinggis

Khan by Foreign Minister of Mongolia Mr L Purevsuren, Mongolian Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr Ch Battumun, Director of Asia, Middle East and Africa Department

Mr N Naranbat, Diplomatic Affairs Director Mr D Byambador and officials,

before the delegation left for the Best Western Premier Hotel.—MNA

Modern rice mill starts operation in Nay Pyi Taw



The opening ceremony of 220-ton rice mill in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Vice President U Nyan Tun and union ministers opened a modern rice mill with 220 tonnes capacity per day here on Sunday.

The rice mill is operated by the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation, a wholly-non-government Public Corporation established in 2012.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said Myanmar exported more than 1.8 million tonnes of rice in 2014-2015 fiscal year, and the MAPCO will sell agricultural inputs and will purchase K4,000 per paddy basket under the contract farming system.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint

and Chairman of MAPCO U Chit Khaing explained the establishment of modern rice mill in Nay Pyi Taw council area.

U Chit Khaing then gave K 750 million and agricultural input items including paddy seeds and fertilizers to the farmers.

The rice produced from this modern mill will be sold in attractive modern packaging.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends tree planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Planting and cultivation trees is a national duty, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at the rainy season tree planting ceremony of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) held near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday morning.

Also present at the ceremony were Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and senior officials of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Army) and their wives, trainee officers from the National Defence College and officers and other ranks from the Office of Commander-in-Chief and families.

Then, the senior general planted star flower and Mesua ferrea plants to mark the ceremony.

Afterwards, attendees planted trees at their designated places while the senior general and officials viewed round the planting trees at the ceremony.

At the ceremony, a total of 5,000 trees including over 2010 teak trees were planted.

Similar ceremonies were also held in military commands across the country at the same time including Nay Pyi Taw Command, Northern Command, North-East Command, Eastern Command, Central East Command, Triangle Region Command, Coastal Region Command, Yangon Command, South-West Command, Western Command, North-West Command, Central Command and Southern Command. A total of 397,270 were planted by defence services personnel today.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants a star-flower sapling at rainy season tree planting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

MYAWADY



Paddy on model plot harvested in Madaya Tsp

MADAYA, 28 June — PyinOoLwin District's deputy commissioner U Aung Zaw Latt and Head of District Farmland Management and Statistics Department U Chit Tun Aung viewed thriving summer Palethwe paddy plantation on 225 acres of farmlands in Lekkaunggyi village in Madaya Township recently.

They also attended the harvesting of summer paddy on a five-acre plot in Kwetaw village together with township officials and local farmers. The model plot yielded 173.42 baskets of paddy per acre.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Township WAO awards winners in physical culture, hairstyle and traditional costume contests



NYAUNGLEBIN, 28 June — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2015, Nyaunglebin Township Women's Affairs Organization in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, recently held the physical culture, hairstyle and traditional costume contests at the Township WAO Chairperson Daw Nang

Shwe Nwe and officials presented prizes to winners in the three contests and outstanding students in the 2015 matriculation examination.

It was also attended by Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Ko Ko Gyi and officials.

*Nay Lin
(Nyaunglebin)*



People join hands with police in anti-drug campaign



Departmental officials and students view documentary photos and prize winning works displayed in commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Mohnyin.

Cooperative society members receive loans for agriculture, livestock breeding

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Pobbathiri Township Cooperative Department delivered loans from EXIM Bank for agriculture and manageable scale livestock breeding to its members from wards and villages on 27 June.

Staff Officer U Khin Maung Lwin of the department and party disbursed K100,000 each to 50 members of Kaung Myat Aung livestock breeding cooperative society, 50 from agriculture and livestock breeding societies in Ky-

itaungkan Ward 1, 63 from Thayawhan village and 56 from Wetkon village.

The borrowers must pay back the loans to the Cooperative Department within six months and re-borrow the loans within one week.—Shwe Ye Yint



MOHNYIN, 28 June — As anti-drug campaign is a national duty, people participate in exposing drug-related offences in public places, Commander of Mohnyin District Police Force Police Lt-Col Tun Tin Wai told the ceremony to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Traffick-

ing at Seinle Yadana Hall, here, on 26 June. Brig-Gen Thet Lwin, Deputy Commissioner U Aung Soe Moe and officials presented prizes to winners in the high, middle and primary level painting, postern, cartoon and computer arts competitions.

A large number of peo-

ple across the nation flow into Mohnyin to hunt jobs in jade and gold mining works in Mohnyin District. As a result, numbers of cases related to narcotic drugs are rising year by year in the district. At present, about 350 drug-related persons are under arrest at Mohnyin police station.—GNLM-001

REGIONAL

Cambodia tells foreign countries not to interfere in affairs over NGO, Trade Union draft bills

PHNOM PENH, 28 June — Ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) President and Prime Minister Hun Sen on Sunday appealed to foreign countries not to interfere in his country's internal affairs over the establishment of the draft laws on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Associations and on Trade Unions.

Speaking during the 64th anniversary of the CPP founding, Hun Sen said the party supported the creation of the two laws, noting that they would protect the rights, freedom and interests of those organizations as well as public interests while guaranteeing effective functioning of those organizations in conformity with rule of law and good governance.

"The party resolutely opposes actions of interference from foreign circles



Ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) President and Prime Minister Hun Sen (L) speaks during the 64th anniversary of the founding of CPP, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 28 June, 2015. The ruling CPP commemorated the 64th anniversary of its birth on Sunday, vowing to build Cambodia into a developed country, CPP President and Prime Minister Hun Sen said.—XINHUA

into the process, which is a violation on independence and sovereignty of Cambodia, and calls for respect of the Kingdom of Cambodia as a sovereign state and a member of the United Nations," he said at the event.

Prime Minister Hun Sen's cabinet passed the draft law on NGOs and Associations earlier this month and is awaiting approval from the parliament, while the draft law on Trade Unions is still being

drafted by the Ministry of Labour.

The appeal came after some foreign diplomats, including from the United States, and United Nations agency representatives have criticized the draft law on NGOs and Associations. They expressed their concerns that the law would impose restrictions on the freedoms of NGOs.

The government said currently, there are some 5,000 NGOs and associations in Cambodia, including 411 international organizations.

Under the draft law, NGOs and associations will be required to register their nationalities with the Cambodian government in order to have legal standing and are required to file reports on their activities and finances each year to the government.

Xinhua

Former Sri Lankan President to contest as prime minister candidate: Aide

COLOMBO, 28 June — Sri Lankan former President Mahinda Rajapaksa will contest as a prime minister candidate in the 17 August Parliament elections, a former Minister and close aide of Rajapaksa said on Sunday.

Kumara Welgama, a former minister in Rajapaksa's government, said that the former president will look to contest under the betel leaf symbol of the opposition United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA).

"I can clearly state that Mahinda Rajapaksa will contest as the prime minister candidate," he said.

Welgama said that all attempts will be made to unite the political parties in the UPFA, including the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), and put forward Rajapaksa

as the UPFA prime minister candidate. He hoped that President Maithripala Sirisena, as UPFA chairman, will take a stand with regards to the nominations to be given to UPFA candidates, keeping in mind the best interest of the country.

However, he asserted that no matter what President Maithripala Sirisena decides with regards to the UPFA candidates, Rajapaksa will contest for the post of prime minister in the election. There have been reports indicating President Sirisena will not agree to nominate Rajapaksa as the prime minister candidate of the UPFA.

However, in the 17 August Parliament elections, all the political parties in the national unity government have decided to contest separately.—Xinhua

China's development benefits Japan: foreign minister



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at the luncheon of the fourth World Peace Forum in Beijing, capital of China on 27 June, 2015.

XINHUA

BEIJING, 28 June — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday that the crux of China-Japan relations is whether Japan can sincerely accept and welcome China's revival and rise.

Wang made the remarks when asked to comment on China-Japan ties at the Fourth World Peace Forum (WPF) at Beijing's Tsinghua University.

China's development has brought important benefit to Japan, but Japan is not fully prepared in its mindset for an increasingly powerful China, said Wang.

China and Japan are close neighbours, and we

hope the two countries can live in peace and engage in mutually beneficial cooperation, he said, adding it is an established policy of China and will not change.

As time drifted, China-Japan relations will surely be back on track of normal and stable development, sooner or later, he said.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, said Wang.

Japan still faces the problem of how to properly deal with the historical issue, he said.

Externally, Japan can draw on useful experience from other countries in handling historical issues, while internally, it faces rising public appeals for justice and peace, said Wang, noting that the key is what kind of choice will the Japanese leaders make.

Whether Japan will choose to stay in the historical shadow or to realize true reconciliation with the victimized countries and jointly create the future, will be a major problem right in front of the Japanese leaders, said Wang.

We will wait and see the choice of Japan, he said.

The WPF, founded in 2012, is China's first high-level non-governmental seminar focusing on international security.

With the theme of "working together, understanding, coordination and mutual help", the forum included topics of security cooperation among world powers, security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, European and global security cooperation, ASEAN and South Asian regional security cooperation.

Some 500 participants, including former foreign leaders and scholars, attended the forum.

Xinhua



An Indonesian man from the community of bird lovers trains an eagle in Pontianak, West Borneo Province, Indonesia, on 27 June, 2015.—XINHUA

Nepal's Finance Minister leaves for Beijing to sign AIIB Constitution

KATHMANDU, 28 June — Nepal's Finance Minister Ramsharan Mahat left for China on Sunday morning to sign the constitution of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

"The AIIB will be the new source of capital in the country's rebuilding," Mahat told reporters in Kathmandu earlier.

Representatives of 57 perspective countries of the AIIB will sign the constitution of the China-led AIIB in Beijing on Monday which will create a legal framework for the existence of the entity.

The constitution will lay a solid foundation for

the establishment and operation of the AIIB in which Nepal is a founding member.

The Prospective members hammered out the constitution in Singapore last month.

A senior official in the Nepal's Finance Ministry, Madhu Marasini, who heads the International Cooperation Coordination Division, told Xinhua that after signing the document it will be subject to legal and parliamentary ratification in all member countries before it becomes active.

Nepal signed an Memorandum of Understanding in Beijing in November last year to become the found-

ing member of the AIIB.

Nepal will seek funds from the AIIB in reconstruction of physical infrastructures which were severely damaged by the massive 25 April and 12 May earthquakes, Nepal's Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat had said.

The AIIB is expected to be established by the end of 2015 and economic analysts said that Nepal could be its first customer of the AIIB. Nepalese economic analysts are of the view that the AIIB's funds will be significant in the earthquake-stricken Nepal's rebuilding when the bank comes into operation.

Xinhua

Cuba, China call for deeper cooperation

HAVANA, 28 June — Cuba and China should join hands to further improve bilateral relations and boost cooperation, Raul Castro, President of the Council of State of Cuban, has said.

Castro made the remarks during his talks with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang on Thursday at the Cuban Revolutionary Palace in Havana.

In the meeting, Wang called on the two countries to make concerted efforts to implement the agreements achieved dur-



Raul Castro, President of the Council of State of Cuban

ing Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Cuba last year and take measures to cement traditional friendship between China and Cuba. The two coun-

tries should make plans for future cooperation, with special attention attached to infrastructure construction, biotechnology, agriculture and renewable en-

ergy, Wang said.

He also gave an introduction about China's current effort to comprehensively deepen reform.

Castro said that Cuba and China should further improve bilateral relations, boost cooperation and exchange governance experience.

Cuba also needs to learn from China's experience in reform and opening up, Castro said, adding that both sides should show more mutual understanding and support to each other in international affairs. —Xinhua

US, Japan, India hold meeting to discuss maritime security

WASHINGTON, 28 June — The United States, Japan and India held a meeting in Hawaii on Friday to discuss maritime security and other issues, the US State Department said on Saturday. The three countries appear to have discussed trilateral cooperation to ensure maritime security at a time of China's growing assertiveness at sea.

The seventh trilateral dialogue since 2011 to discuss a broad range of issues was co-chaired by assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs Nisha Biswal and assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs Daniel Russel. The Japanese delegation was headed by Takio Yamada, director general of the Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department at the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Joint secretaries at the Indian External Affairs Ministry Vinay Kwatra, Pradeep Rawat and Amandeep Gill led the Indian delegation, the state department said.—Kyodo News

EU's Mogherini says "not impossible" to get Iran nuclear deal

PARIS, 28 June — European Union foreign policy chief Frederica Mogherini said on Sunday it was not impossible to get a deal between world powers and Iran over its nuclear programme but said tough days lay ahead as a self-imposed 30 June deadline nears.

France's foreign minister said on Saturday an accord remained elusive due to disagreements over fundamental issues, while the US and Iranian top diplomats said hard work was still needed for what could

be their final negotiations to bridge significant differences. "If a few days more are needed we will take them," Mogherini told reporters on arrival in Vienna.

"It is going to be tough... but not impossible. It is a matter of political will," she said before meeting the US, British, German and French foreign ministers. The talks also include Russia and China.

The deadline for a deal under which Iran would cut back its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from

economic sanctions, expires on Tuesday.

Diplomats have said there is little chance of an accord by the deadline and expect the talks to spill over into July.

The main differences are on the pace and timing of sanctions relief for Iran in return for its steps to restrain its nuclear programme and on the nature of monitoring mechanisms to ensure Teheran does not cheat on any agreement. US and European negotiators also want to ensure there is a mechanism



**European Union foreign policy chief
Frederica Mogherini**

for restoring US, European Union and United Nations

sanctions if Teheran fails to meet its commitments un-

der any future accord aimed at ending a 12-year nuclear standoff between Iran and the West. "I can't tell you how long it will be. What I can tell you that is that we don't want to have an extension of the talks. There will be no extension," said a senior Western diplomat.

The United States, Israel and some Western nations fear that Iran has been trying to develop a nuclear weapons capability but Teheran says its programme is for peaceful purposes only.—Reuters

Civilian injury rises to 516 in Taiwan park blaze



People injured in a fire are attended at a park in New Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan on 27 June, 2015. A fire, which was suspected of resulting from explosion of a large amount of unknown flammable powder, in a recreational park in Taiwan's New Taipei city on Saturday has injured at least 474 people. — XINHUA

TAIPEI, 28 June — The number of injured caused by a blaze in a recreational water park in Taiwan rises to 516, according to local health department on Sunday morning.

A total of 194 people have been severely wounded, with no death reported yet, said New Taipei city health bureau.

Most of the victims

suffer over 50 percent burn area on body, and have inhaled large sum of black carbon dust, said the health department.

The injured people were immediately sent to the local and nearby 39 hospitals for treatment.

The health department said they have launched an emergency rescue mechanism, calling for medical

institutions of four nearby cities including Taipei and Keelung to get fully prepared for treatment.

The hospitals will perform surgical debridement on those with inhalation injury to prevent further nerve and vessel impairment. Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said the mainland authorities ex-

pressed sympathy for the injured cross-strait compatriots, and hope they can receive timely and proper treatment to get well soon.

The mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) has contacted Taiwan's Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF), expressing wishes to provide all the possible assistance for the disaster rescue and relief, said the spokesman.

The ARATS has also been actively helping the relatives of several injured mainland visitors to go to Taiwan, said Ma.

A fire broke out from the explosion of a large amount of flammable powder in a recreational park in Taiwan's New Taipei city on Saturday evening.

The park was then having a Color Play Asia party with a total of 4500 people, when sudden sparks of the powder soon turned into huge blaze which flew off in all directions and engulfed people.

This is the worst incident of mass injury in the history of New Taipei city.

Xinhua

S Korea's MERS death toll rises to 32, total infected at 182

SEOUL, 28 June — South Korean health authorities on Sunday reported one more fatality linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus, raising the death toll to 32, while the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections remained unchanged from Saturday at 182.

The deceased was a 55-year-old patient with no underlying medical conditions, a rare case because most of those who have died so far suffered from such conditions as cardio-cerebrovascular disease, cancer and chronic respiratory disease. Of 182 cases confirmed since the nation's first case on 20 May, 91 patients have been discharged from hospital after recovering while 59 are undergoing treatment, of whom 15 are in unstable condition. As of Sunday morning, 2,562 people were in quarantine — 2,063 of them at their homes and 499 at medical facilities —while 13,008 people have finished quarantine.—Kyodo News

Gunmen shoot dead journalist in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 June — Unidentified gunmen shot dead a journalist in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province on Sunday, police and family said.

Zafarullah Jatak was sleeping when the gunmen stormed into his house and fired at him at Jaffarabad district of Balochistan Province. He died at the scene, the family said. Slain Jatak was a correspondent of Urdu-language daily "Intekhab." The gunmen fled after the early morning attack. No group claimed responsibility. Police said they are investigating motives behind the murder.

Journalists and family members of the slain journalists staged demonstration against the incident and demanded the gov't to arrest the killers. Pakistan had been the most dangerous country for journalists in the world, with 14 journalists killed in 2014, the International Federation of Journalists said in January.—Xinhua

Greek parliament gives green light to Tspiras' bailout referendum



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (bottom R) acknowledges applause during a parliamentary session in Athens, Greece on 28 June, 2015.

REUTERS

ATHENS, 28 June — Greek lawmakers on Sunday authorized Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' proposed 5th July bailout referendum, setting Greece on course for a plebiscite that has enraged international creditors and increased Greece's chances of exiting the euro zone.

The government easily passed the 151-vote threshold needed to authorize the referendum, with deputies from the far right Golden Dawn voting with the government and pro-European opposition parties New Democracy, Pasok and To Potami and the KKE Communist Party voting

against.

Greeks are due to vote on whether to accept or reject the latest terms offered by creditors to Athens in order to unlock billions of euros in bailout funds.

European partners have reacted negatively to the announcement of the referendum. On Saturday, they rejected a request by Tsipras to extend the current bailout in order to cover the period leading up to the referendum.

The rejection means Athens is likely to default on a key payment to the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday.

Reuters

Argentine judge orders seizure of Falklands drillers' assets

BUENOS AIRES, 28 June — An Argentine judge has ordered the seizure of assets of oil drilling companies operating in the Falklands Islands, including property held by US firm Noble Energy, as the country takes a firmer line on the disputed territory ahead of October elections.

Lilian Herraiz, a federal judge in Tierra del Fuego, ordered the seizure of \$156 million (£99 million) in bank accounts, boats and other property, the government said on Saturday.

The companies named in the order were Premier Oil Plc (PMO.L), Falkland Oil and Gas Ltd (FOGL.L), Rockhopper Exploration Plc (RKH.L), Noble Energy Inc (NBL.N) and Edison International Spa (EIX.N).

A source with knowledge of the situation said the companies in question do not generally hold any assets in Argentina or use Argentine waters.

But the public prosecutor's office said in a statement that investigators "had identified the assets of the foreign companies and discovered that one of them, US firm Noble Energy, has a local office registered in Argentina." Authorities would move to freeze those assets, it said.

Falkland Oil and Gas and Rockhopper declined to comment. Noble Energy, the British foreign office and the other mentioned companies could not immediately be reached for comment.

"The foreign ministry will be notified of the court

order so that by diplomatic means and in compliance with international treaties it can be carried out," the statement said.

Argentina claims sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands which it calls the Malvinas, located about 435 miles (700 km) off the coast of Tierra del Fuego and occupied by around 3,000 people who mostly say they wish them to remain a British overseas ter-

ritory.

Britain and Argentina fought a short war in 1982, after the then Argentine military dictatorship briefly seized the islands, and tensions have escalated again in recent years with the discovery of oil deposits.

Argentina has promised to resolve the dispute through diplomacy, but politicians often ramp up rhetoric around election time.

Reuters

A man climbs onto the pole of a ship in Stanley on 15 March, 2013.

REUTERS



Vucic, Chepurin on British draft resolution



Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin and Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic.—TANJUG

BELGRADE, 28 June — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Rus-

sian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin agreed on Saturday that with re-

gard to the adoption of the resolution on Srebrenica, Serbia and the entire Serbian people are in a difficult situation.

Russia has expressed understanding for Serbia's position and believes that the resolution would not contribute to reconciliation, but would rather lead to further inflammation of the nationalist sentiment and tensions in the region, reads a statement issued by the government's press office.

Vucic said Serbia has demonstrated a clear and unambiguous stance on the

text of the draft resolution, adding that such a resolution has not been brought on the fifth, tenth or even 15th anniversary of the events in Srebrenica, and therefore its political motivation leads to further destabilization of overall situation in the Western Balkans.

The resolution is a proposal by the British government, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of war crimes in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, and it should be tabled at the UN Security Council.

Tanjug

Manhunt for remaining New York prison escapee intensifies

MALONE / NEW YORK, 28 June — A manhunt for a convicted murderer who escaped from a New York state maximum security prison focused on a rural area near the Canadian border on Saturday, a day after his fellow escapee was killed.

David Sweat, 35, remained at large three weeks after taking flight from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York. His accomplice on Friday was shot dead by authorities near Malone, New York.

After Richard Matt was killed by US Border Patrol officers, a tight security perimeter was set up in the area, where Sweat was believed to be holed up.

About 1,200 federal, state and local law enforcement officers, were search-



A law enforcement officer rides an all-terrain vehicle on the perimeter of a search area for an escaped prisoner south of Malone, New York on 27 June, 2015.

REUTERS

ing through a 22 square-mile (57 sq km) area along a highway between the towns of Malone and Duane in northern New York, New York State Police said in a statement.

At checkpoints on the zone's perimeter, rifle-carrying officers stopped

vehicles. As darkness approached, halogen lights illuminated makeshift checkpoints.

Police in vehicle caravans spent the day passing over roads, as officers with dogs combed the ground and helicopters patrolled overhead. Franklin Coun-

ty Sheriff Kevin Mulverhill spoke hopefully about finding Sweat, who was sentenced to life without parole in 2003 for killing a New York sheriff's deputy.

"After three weeks, he would have to be fatigued," Mulverhill said. "He's not getting regular meals, not getting good sleep."

Authorities declined to say why they thought Sweat was still in the general area where Matt was killed. Malone is 27 miles (43 km) northwest of the Clinton prison where the convicts were discovered missing on 6 June.

Police tracked Matt to the Malone area, just south of the Canadian border, when two burglaries were reported this week at backwoods cabins.

On Friday, after Matt apparently fired a shot at

a passing camping trailer, officers spotted and confronted him outside a cabin, New York State Police Superintendent Joseph D'Amico told reporters.

Border Patrol agents warned Matt to drop the shotgun he was holding, and shot and killed him when he failed to comply, police said.

Matt was convicted in the 1997 torture, murder and dismemberment of his boss in Tonawanda, New York.

To stage their elaborate prison break, Matt and Sweat cut through the walls of their adjoining cells and slithered through a steam pipe beneath the prison before popping out through a manhole.

Two prison workers have been charged with aiding them. Gene Palmer,

57, a corrections officer for 27 years, was suspended without pay, the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision said.

He is accused of bringing hacksaw blades and a screwdriver bit to the inmates, hidden in frozen hamburger meat supplied by Joyce Mitchell, 51, a training supervisor in the prison tailor shop.

Mitchell, who also was charged in connection with the escape, told investigators the inmates expected her to pick them up outside the prison walls and drive a getaway car.

When she instead checked into a local hospital with a panic attack, the escapees were apparently forced to take off on foot through rugged, mountainous terrain.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 29 June, 2015

No pretence lasts

By Kyaw Thura

There is nothing we can gain from pretending to be someone we are really not. And if any, it is just for a moment. Once the truth is out, your name is mud!

Undeniably, a lie breeds another. That's why wrongdoers find themselves in committing wicked schemes one after another. To

make it more clearer, writer and publisher of The Daily Motivator Ralph Marston once beautifully noted that 'the most miserable people are those who care only about themselves, understand only their own troubles and see only their own perspective.

Entertaining evil thoughts will only imprison us in the long run or in the end. Even if we can keep up the pretence of neutrality and sincerity for some time, our fame and name gained in such a manner is transitory.

People in this age of information and technology are quite different from their ancestors in terms of knowledge. Today, people have come to sense that ignorance is not always bliss.

Therefore, it is necessary for people who are obsessive about jealousy and egoism to start to take notice of their abnormal behaviour.

The best way to live life in a simply way is to live from the heart. Although a world free from violence and injustice is out of the question, we should rather focus on positive possibilities and act on them than to ever crying over the spilled milk.

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.

Make Happiness a Priority

Htun Tin Htun

Only when you understand the Four Noble Truths penetratively, will you gain liberation from suffering eternally

Make plans to be happy. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Just like in any other life domain, the successful pursuit of happiness requires planning.

Appreciate what you have and be grateful. We all have many choices in life one of which is whether to focus on all the things we don't have (of which there might be many), or to focus on all the things we do have. There's no doubt, that gratitude and appreciation will significantly increase your chances of experiencing happiness.

Keep a look out for new ways to approach life and to have fun. With regard to enjoying the senses in daily life, that we should clearly understand three things: 1) the delightfulness of sensuality (refers to the five senses-visible object, sound, smell, taste and tangible object) or sense enjoyment; 2) the evil consequences of sensuality; 3) the freedom or liberation from sensuality. The pleasant sensation, joy and happiness that arise from contact with these sense objects represent the delightfulness of sensuality. **(Be curious)**

Ensure you gain adequate sleep and rest. It's difficult to be happy if you're constantly tired and struggling to find enough energy to get through the day and to assist with this,

regularly practice relaxation and/or meditation strategies. We must strive to develop the right concentration first by tranquillity meditation in order to have the ability to undertake insight meditation correctly and effectively.

Happy people tend to believe they're more in control of their lives. In doing so, they're more likely to take an active approach to solving problems. If something's not quite right in your life, do something. And further, make sure that what you're doing is important. Put first things first. **(Manage your time and priorities).**

As well as pleasure and enjoyment, satisfaction is also an important part of happiness. So make sure that when you're planning your tasks and activities you include things that might not be fun, but from which you'll gain a sense of achievement. **(Set yourself tasks from which you'll gain Satisfaction).**

Plant happier, optimistic thoughts. There are two parts to developing helpful, optimistic thinking. The first is to weed out unhelpful negative thoughts and the second is to plant more positive, optimistic ones. This is essentially a skill, and like any other skill becomes easier and more effective with practice.

Play and have fun. Don't take life too seriously. Although we all have responsibilities there's no reason why we can't approach much of our lives in a playful manner. In fact, those who do so will undoubtedly be happier.

Invest time and ener-

gy in to your key relationships. Happy people spend more time working on and in their relationships. Happy people tend to be more supportive of other people in their life. Happy people are more generous and altruistic.

Nothing is impossible to one with 4 Ws such as **Wish to do, Will (mind), Work hard (effort) and Wisdom** to make happiness a priority. If happiness is not at the top of your list then other things will take precedence. If other things take precedence, they may well interfere with your efforts to feel good. **(Make happiness a priority).**

Eat well, sleep well, walk well, sit well, stand well, work well, relax well, rest well, keep active, and exercise regularly. Although not impossible, it's difficult to be happy if you're constantly sick and not very healthy. **(Live a healthy life)**

Set happy goals. Planning (What, Who, When, Where, Why and How) requires effective goal setting. And don't forget to make sure your goals are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed). 5 As (Awareness, Advocacy, Assessment, Analysis and Action) can be used in good planning.

Socialise and interact with others as much as possible. Happy people have both more and better quality relationships. So working to improve the quality of your relationships, it's also worthwhile working to improve the number of your relationships.

Accept what you can't control. And learn to be wise enough to know the difference. Family happiness can be enjoyed only while favorable conditions exist; it turns to grief and despair when conditions change to the worst. Note that all conditioned things are unsatisfactory and suffering. **(Control what you can control).**

People mostly simply forget to do things from which they gain pleasure. And do them as often as possible. Whenever we think of performing a meritorious deed, or while we are mindful of performing a meritorious deed, our thoughts are free from sensuous desire, ill will and cruelty. So we have the right thought. That is the reason why the Buddha advises his disciples not to be forgetful but to perform meritorious deeds until they can complete the important task of purifying their minds **(Do things that make you happy).**

Remember that the Dalai Lama has been quoted saying that "The central method for achieving a happier life is to train your mind in a daily practice that weakens negative attitudes and strengthens positive ones." Learn first to identify your thoughts and then begin to challenge those that are negative and unhelpful. To avoid evil. To do good. To purify the mind. Be good to others. Keep our mind pure. Be endowed with right mindfulness, effort and wisdom. Keep our planet green. **(Weed out unhelpful thoughts).**

Identify where your strengths lie. Know where

your faults and weaknesses are to avoid problems. Know where your strengths lie to be really happy and to succeed in life. SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis will be useful.

Only moment in which we can truly be happy is the present moment. The only moment over which we have control is the present moment. The author, Henry Miller once said "Every moment is a golden one for him who has the vision to recognise it as such." So be happy now! Because if not now, then when? **(Live in the present moment).**

Remind yourself however you can to do what you need to do and reward yourself as often as possible for doing what you've done. Develop happiness routines and make them a part of your everyday living. **(Make happiness an integral part of your life)**

Ideally to love yourself and learn to like. We must love before we can be loved. To love others and to be loved by others is a key component of happiness. Kindly note and keep 5 Ls (Live, Learn, Like, Love, Legacy) for happy living.

To utilise your strengths. Although we all can and should endeavour to improve in areas in which we're weak there's just as much, if not more,

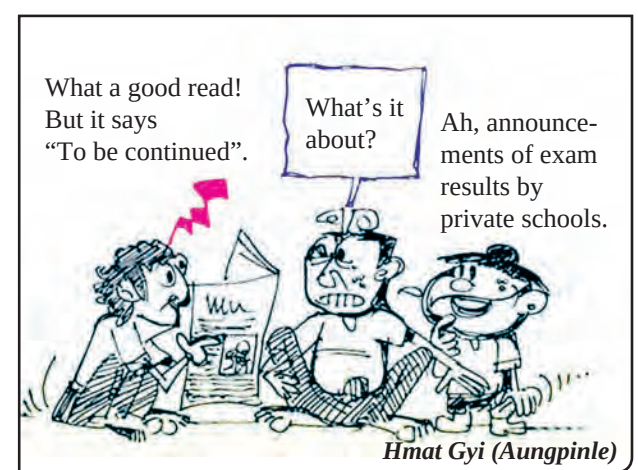
to be gained from focusing on the maximal utilisation of your strengths (including all your positive qualities and attributes). Always keep 5As (Ambition, Authority, Attitude, Audacity and Appearance) for your happiness.

Your happiness is the ultimate purpose in life; happiness is achievable, for all of us

happiness is determined more by our minds than by our circumstances. The disciplines that will lead to and enhance happiness (such as helpful thinking and good habits) can be learned and mastered, with practice. No one is perfect, but practice makes perfect.

Reference: "The Noble Liberation and The Noble Truths", By Professor Dr. Mehm Tin Mon; 20 Simple Tips To Be Happy Now, By Dr. Timothy Sharp, Author of "The Happiness Handbook" Founder of The Happiness Institute.

About the author:
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LOCAL NEWS

Kintha village, No 4 Defence Industry get upgraded BEMs



TATKON, 28 June— Ceremonies to open up-graded Basic Education Middle Schools were held in Kintha village and No 4 Defence Industry in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, recently.

Officials explained up-grading the schools to the local people and regional development tasks.

Officials of Nay Pyi Taw Council and departmental officials formally unveiled the signboards of newly-upgraded basic education middle schools.

*Tin Soe Lwin
(Tatkon IPRD)*

Women junior police officers receive advanced knowledge in training course



MANDALAY, 28 June — The short-term policing course No 1/2015 concluded at the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force, here, on 26 June, with an address by Commander of the region police force Police Col Han Tun.

Myanmar Police Force is under reform process

for its modernization. The training course aimed to enhance capacity of women junior police officers.

A total of 42 women police officers studied investigation and surveillance subjects in the four-week course from 1 to 26 June.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Youths invited to Mr. Shweman and Physical Culture Contest

MANDALAY, 28 June — In commemoration of the Olympic Day 2015, Mandalay Region Body-building and Physical Culture Subcommittee will hold the Mr. Shweman and Physical Culture Contest at the city hall, here, on 5 July.

Mr. Shweman event

will be classified as senior and junior ones while the Physical Culture Contest will be divided into two classes. Candidates may contact the subcommittee on 092060096 and 091044236 for competition.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Health staff search new leprosy patients for treatment

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June — Under the instructions of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department, Health Assistant U Hla Zaw Oo and staff of Phokkhwe village health centre Saturday carried out searching of new leprosy patients and free health care services to the people at the Basic Education Primary School in Gonminkwin village in Pobbathiri Township.

Health Assistant U Hla Zaw Oo spoke about symptoms of leprosy disease and ways and means for treatment.

They provided health care services free of charge to about 100 local people from the village.

Shwe Ye Yint



New concrete road links Shwezedi road and railway station in Hinthada

HINTHADA, 28 June — A ceremony to commission U Kho concrete road into service was held on the road in Thonbinkwin Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, on Saturday.

Officials explained progress of township development tasks and construction of the concrete road.

Local authorities formally opened the newly-

paved road. Township Development Affairs Committee and local people funded placing concrete on the 2,710-foot-long and 14-foot-wide U Kho Road in 2015-16 fiscal year. Thanks

to the road, local people enjoy smooth transport facility to Shwezedi road and Myanma Railways station in Hinthada.

*Kyaw Kyaw
(Hinthada)*

Yinmabin tractor station opens branch in village of Pale Township

YINMABIN, 28 June — Head of No 41 Agricultural Machinery Station in Yinmabin Township U Myint Kyaw and staff opened its branch in Lettaunggyi village in Pale Township recently.

They displayed power-tillers and combine harvesters at the branch and explained work capacity of the machinery to local farmers.

Workers of the station demonstrated ploughing of farmlands on a 2-acre plot

of farmer U Toe Myint.

“In the past, we sought agricultural assistance such as ploughing, harvesting and maintenance of machinery from Agricultural Mechanization Department in Yinmabin, eight miles from the village. Thanks to the branch of station, we can do our works on time. So, we all thank the technicians of the department for their efforts and assistance,” said a local resident.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



European tour operators evacuate thousands from Tunisia after attack

SOUSSE, (Tunisia), 28 June — Tour companies were evacuating thousands of foreign holidaymakers from Tunisia on Saturday, a day after a gunman killed 39 people at a beach hotel in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

Tunisia's Prime Minister Habib Essid said most of the dead were British, and Britain's foreign office said 15 Britons had been confirmed killed in the attack in the resort town of Sousse, 140 km (90 miles) south of the capital Tunis.

A German, a Belgian and an Irish woman have also been identified, foreign and Tunisian officials said.

It was the second major attack in the North African country this year, following an Islamist militant assault on the Bardo Museum in Tunis in March when gunmen killed a group of foreign visitors as they arrived by bus.

Tunisia has undergone a largely peaceful transition to democracy since its 2011 Arab Spring uprising, but its army has been fighting a rise in Islamist militancy.

Tunisia's tourism minister called Friday's attack in one of the country's most

popular resorts for Europeans a "catastrophe" and authorities vowed to toughen security, drafting in army reserves and arming tourism police at beaches and hotels.

Saloua Kadri, Sousse tourism commissioner, said more than 3,000 foreign tourists had fled the town on Saturday, including around 2,200 British and nearly 600 Belgians.

Dozens of tourists were waiting to take flights out from the nearby Ennifda airport. "We don't want to stay any longer, we just want to see our family, parents ... so leaving as soon as possible," said Hannah Russel, an British tourist.

Sarah Maeson, another Briton flying back to Manchester, said: "We don't feel safe. Constantly hearing sirens and helicopters is not really helping your nerves."

Tunisian authorities named the gunman as Saif Rezgui, a student who they say was not known to them. Dressed in shorts and T-shirt, Rezgui opened fire on the beach of the Imperial Marhaba hotel on Friday, picking out foreigners and leaving Tunisians alive.

Witnesses said he made

his way to the pool and hotel, his killing spree ending only when he was shot dead by police.

Tour operators Thomson and First Choice, which are owned by German travel group TUI, said they had about 6,400 customers across Tunisia at the time of the attack, including several of the people killed and injured.

They sent 10 planes to evacuate tourists and said 1,000 had already been repatriated. They also said they would cancel all their holiday packages to Tunisia for at least the next week.

TUI's German tour operator TUI also organized flights for tourists wishing to return home and TUI's Belgian airline, Jetairfly, sent six empty planes to bring tourists back from the island of Djerba and from Ennifda airport on Saturday.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier confirmed one German had been killed, but said there may be others.

Tobias Ellwood, a junior minister at Britain's foreign office, told reporters in London the British death toll could rise as there were sev-



Tourists wait to check in for their flight to Manchester, Britain, at the Ennifda international airport, Tunisia on 27 June, 2015.—REUTERS

eral who had been seriously wounded. "This is the most significant terrorist attack on British people since 7/7," he said, referring to attacks on the London transport system on 7 July, 2005, that killed 52 people.

Tunisian authorities said the gunman was not on any watchlist of known potential militants. But one source said Rezgui appeared to have been radicalised over

the last six months by Islamist militant recruiters.

As one countermeasure, Prime Minister Essid said that Tunisia planned within a week to close down 80 mosques that remain outside state control for inciting violence. Several thousand Tunisian jihadists have gone to fight in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring Libya, where some have set up training camps and vowed to return

to attack their homeland.

The attack took place during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan and was one of three linked to Islamist militants on three different continents on Friday.

In France, a decapitated body daubed with Arabic writing was found, and in Kuwait a suicide bomber killed two dozen people at a mosque in Kuwait.

Reuters

Britain warns further Islamist attacks in Tunisia possible

LONDON, 28 June — Britain says Islamist militants may launch further attacks on tourist resorts in Tunisia after a gunman killed 39 people, including at least 15 Britons, in the worst assault of its kind in modern Tunisian history.

Attacks may be carried out by "individuals who are unknown to the authorities and whose actions are inspired by terrorist groups via social media", the Foreign Office said in updated travel advice on its website late on Saturday.

UK Home Secretary Theresa May, the interior minister, said she would chair a meeting of the government's Cobra emergency response committee on Sunday to ensure the government's response to events in Tunisia was adequate.

She said she had not seen evidence Islamist militants had specifically targeted British tourists in Friday's attack in the Tunisian resort of Sousse.

Britain's Defence Secretary Michael Fallon and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, writing in separate Sunday newspapers, said the Tunisian murders would inform Britain's defence and security this year and stiffen London's resolve to tackle what they described as the poisonous narrative of Islamist extremism.

With some British tourists holidaying in Tunisia still unaccounted for, May said the number of Britons confirmed killed in the attack was expected to rise. Many Britons were due to fly home from Tunisia on Sunday, having cut short their holidays.

In Britain, the threat level from international terrorism remains at "severe", its second-highest setting, meaning an attack is highly likely. May said authorities had thwarted 40 attacks in the last decade and "a number of plots" in recent months.

Reuters

Islamist gunmen attack western Mali town, 12 dead

BAMAKO, 28 June — Suspected Islamist fighters attacked a town in western Mali near the border with Mauritania before dawn on Saturday, leaving 12 people dead, including three soldiers and nine attackers, the defence ministry said.

The ministry's statement did not identify the assailants, but a senior army officer said military intelligence and initial witness accounts indicated the attackers were Islamist fighters mainly from the Peuhl ethnic group.

The raid took place just a week after a Tuareg-led northern rebel alliance signed a peace deal with the government aimed at ending their uprising and allowing the authorities to focus on fighting Islamist militants.

Gunfire erupted at

around 5 am (0600 London time) in the town of Nara, around 30 km (19 miles) south of border with Mauritania. A resident of Nara said gunfire could be heard several hours after the clashes began and town residents locked themselves inside their homes. Heavy fighting flared again around midday before the army regained full control in the early afternoon.

The statement said the gunmen attacked a military camp in Nara, though an army spokesman said they also targeted a bank.

"They then occupied the prefecture. Their methods indicate an infiltration in advance and a well planned operation," said Souleymane Dembélé, the army's director of information.

Government soldiers carried out house-to-

house clean-up operations throughout the afternoon.

A second resident said he saw bodies lying in the streets in the wake of the fighting.

"I saw four bodies of the people who came to attack and one of a Malian soldier," said resident Issa Traoré. "The last few days we've informed the military authorities about the presence of strange men in the town." A senior army officer, who asked not to be named, said the attackers were mainly Peuhls infiltrated by fighters believed to be linked to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. "For two days intelligence has indicated the presence of small groups of Islamists travelling in several pick-ups," he said.

A relatively new Peuhl armed group called the Massina Liberation Front,

which is suspected to have clashed with government troops in the central Mopti region earlier this month, has been blamed for a growing number of attacks.

A French-led military campaign in early 2013 liberated northern Mali from al-Qaeda-linked Islamist rebels, who seized control of the area after the Tuareg uprising led to a military coup that plunged Mali into chaos.

Insecurity persists however, and though the violence, often blamed on the remnants of Islamist groups, is generally focused in the desert north, attacks have in recent months crept further south.

Dozens of suspected Islamist militants attacked a police base near Mali's southern border with Ivory Coast earlier this month.

Reuters

Kuwait says mosque bomber was Saudi

KUWAIT CITY, 28 June — Kuwait's Ministry of Interior on Sunday revealed the identity of the bomber who attacked a mosque on Friday as a Saudi citizen, official KUNA news agency

reported.

The ministry named the suicide bomber as Fahd Suliman Abdul-Muhsen al-Qabaa, adding that he arrived in Kuwait by air at dawn on Friday.

Kuwaiti security forc-

es on Saturday arrested the owner of the car that carried the suicide bomber who blew himself up near a Muslim Shiite mosque in the Kuwaiti capital.

Friday's attack left 27 people dead and 227 oth-

ers injured.

The Islamic State (IS) militant group claimed responsibility for the bombing, which was the Gulf Arab country's worst militant attack in years.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Twitter's M&A team loses second member in Rishi Garg

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 June — Twitter Inc's Rishi Garg, vice president of corporate development and strategy, has resigned from the company to pursue other projects, technology blog Re/code reported, citing a tweet from Garg.

Garg, who led the company's mergers and acquisition team, had joined Twitter in May, 2014, according to his LinkedIn profile. He had previously worked at Square, Re/code reported.

This is the second

resignation at Twitter's mergers and acquisition team. Jessica Verilli resigned last month as the director of corporate development and strategy, to take a role at Google Ventures, the technology blog said.—Reuters



A street car makes its way past the corporate headquarters of Twitter in San Francisco, California on 28 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Tanzania in new drive to curb fake electronic gadgets

ARUSHA, (Tanzania), 28 June — Tanzania launched a new drive on Saturday to curb the influx of substandard communication gadgets including mobile phones in the country's market outlets.

"Apart from collecting fake gadgets in the market outlets, we have started training dealers of electronic devices including local traders on how to do business best in the communication sector," said Aneth Matindi, northern zone manager for Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

She said in recent years, Tanzania is used as a dumping ground for cheap information communication technology (ICT) equipments which is mostly brought into the country by local traders.

"That's why we came up with this approach to carry out a series of training to local traders on the negative impact of importing and selling cheap imported counterfeit mobile phones which



are hazardous to consumers and the country's economy," the official said. The authority will continue stiffening regulations by ensuring ICT gadgets such as cell phones and computers are not a health hazard, she said. TCRA has also managed to enforce quality of service standards for service providers, reviewing the licensing regime which has resulted in the reduction of license fees in the sector. "We are also encouraging traders to imbibe a culture of having business licenses from TCRA in an effort to scale down the influx of substandard goods,"

Matindi said. "And this is according to the law governing TCRA's operations." She however said fighting ICT counterfeits products such as fake mobile phones needs concerted efforts from other regulatory bodies. Trade officer for the Arusha city council Privanus Katinhila discouraged the ongoing tendency whereby traders do buy cheap mobile phones despite knowing that some of the gadgets. "We believe in educating all players in this sector. This will change their mindsets and work according to the rules and regulations," Katinhila said.—Reuters

Barnes & Noble reports loss again as Nook sales plunge

NEW YORK, 28 June — Barnes & Noble Inc reported a fall in sales for the fourth consecutive quarter as demand for the company's Nook tablets continued to fall and customers stayed away from its brick-and-mortar bookstores.

Shares of Barnes & Noble were down 3 percent at \$25.55 in morning trading.

Stiff competition from online retailers such as Amazon.com Inc and a shift towards reading e-books on devices such as Amazon's Kindle and tablets has hurt sales at Barnes & Noble's

bookstores.

Barnes & Noble invested hundreds of millions of dollars in its own device, the Nook tablet, which it launched in 2009 to give itself a fighting chance against Amazon.

Though the Nook initially met with success, demand fell rapidly, resulting in a sales decline at the division that has lasted for more than two years.

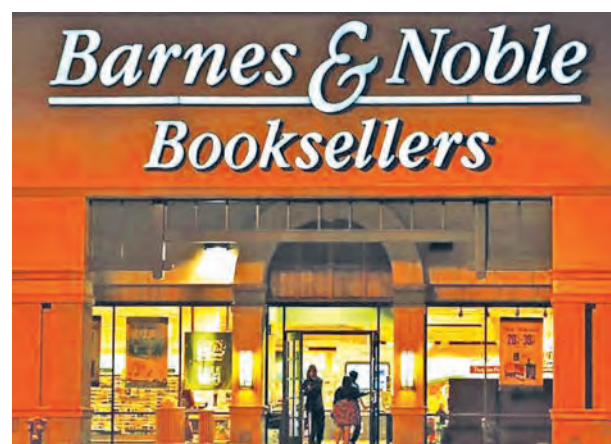
Nook sales fell 40 percent to \$52.4 million in the fourth quarter ended on 2 May.

To return to growth, Barnes & Noble has been

prominently featuring popular books and movies, organizing group reading activities and integrating its online and retail platforms.

The company has even added gifts, toys, craft beer kits, portable turntables and a wide selection of signed books to its stores.

To focus more on its core bookstore business, Barnes & Noble in February abandoned a plan to spin off a combination of its Nook business and its profitable and fast-growing college books unit. The company said it would spin off the college books unit



A Barnes & Noble book store is seen in Encinitas, California on 9 March, 2015.—REUTERS

by August, but keep its Nook tablets and e-book business.

The company said on Thursday it expects full-year 2016 core comparable

sales, which exclude sales under the Nook digital division, to grow 1 percent due to likely improvement in its physical books business.

The company's retail core comparable store sales fell 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter.

Revenue fell 10.4 percent to \$1.18 billion, in line with the average analyst estimate. Net loss narrowed to \$19.4 million, or 37 cents per share. Analysts on average had expected a loss of 39 cents per share, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.—Reuters

Amazon set to launch expanded operations in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 28 June — Online retailer Amazon.com Inc is expanding operations in Mexico and it will detail the scope of its new business on Tuesday, a marketing firm representing Amazon Mexico said on Friday.

Amazon Mexico, which currently only sells electronic books in Mexico, will hold a media conference in Mexico on Tuesday, a statement from JeffreyGroup said.

Representatives from Amazon in Seattle did not respond to a request for a comment.—Reuters



Two freshly delivered Amazon boxes are seen on a counter in Golden, Colorado on 27 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

Antarctica rich in lives, species: study

CANBERRA, 28 June — Antarctica is not a barren wasteland as people had imagined, instead, it has a wealth of plants and wildlife, with myriad species waiting to be discovered, the Australian National University (ANU) said in a press release on Thursday.

Quoting a new assessment published in the journal *Nature* this week, ANU said that genetic studies have revealed that the species, many of them tiny, are as diverse as warmer ecosystems, and many of them are found only in specific regions of the continent.

"In a recent expe-

dition to the Weddell Sea, 674 marine species were found, 80 percent of which were new to science," said co-author, Ceridwen Fraser, from ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society.

"Amongst the ice and rocks there are a massive number of species: in the sea, things like sea spiders, corals, worms and so on, and on land, springtails, mites, mosses and fungi. Many of these species are not found anywhere else on the planet," she said.

Fraser said that there are now over 8,000 marine species documented,

and genetic studies suggest there may be two to three times as many not yet found.

The team of scientists, led by Monash University in Australia, along with colleagues from the British Antarctic Survey, University of Waikato in New Zealand and ANU, looked at how recent investigations have revealed the continent and surrounding ocean are rich in species.

They are also very highly diversified into a variety of distinct ecological regions that differ greatly from each other.

Each area of the Ant-

arctic also has very different groupings of species, said Fraser.

"While initially they may look the same, they are actually very different," she said.

The team also noted several unusual ways in which patterns of biodiversity are produced in the region. Geothermal heated areas, such as volcanoes, have played an important role as refuges from icy, glacial conditions on land. At sea, wind has an especially significant effect on diversity. Windier areas have more seabird species.

Xinhua

Abe's party punishes junior members for group's anti-media meeting

TOKYO, 28 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party punished four junior members of the Diet on Saturday over remarks blaming the media for weak public support for the government's national security legislation, and urging retaliation against such media outlets.

The remarks "have largely undermined citizens' confidence in our party, and we have decided that the issue should not be overlooked," Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki said at a Press conference at the party headquarters in Tokyo.

Minoru Kihara, 45, was sacked as head of the party's Youth Division and will be suspended

from any party post for a year for organizing the meeting where the views were aired. And three other lower house members — Takahiro Inoue, Hideo Onishi and Takashi Nagao — are to be reprimanded for their remarks, Tanigaki said.

With the punishment, the LDP apparently hopes to quickly put the matter to rest and ensure passage of the contentious bills during the current parliamentary session, which has been extended to run through late September.

But opposition parties and critics say the prime minister should take the blame himself.

Opposition leader Katsumiya Okada rapped Abe for not apologizing for the

matter, telling reporters in Nagoya, "The prime minister treats the issue as if it's someone else's problem," and merely stripping Kihara of his party post will not solve the problem.

The growing backlash against anti-media remarks has dealt a fresh blow to the Abe government, already under fire from renowned constitutional scholars and former government legislation experts for seeking to enact legislation to expand the scope of operations of Japan's Self-Defence Forces.

The remarks were made on Thursday during a meeting of a study group of junior LDP lawmakers close to Abe and headed by Kihara, a third-term House of Representatives

member.

Participants mounted a barrage of criticism against the media and called for putting pressure on media outlets to silence them, with Onishi, 68, proposing to punish them by having their advertising revenues cut, according to some who were there.

The featured speaker, novelist and former NHK board member Naoki Hyakuta, set the tone for the meeting and said *The Okinawa Times* and *The Ryukyu Shimpo* — two major newspapers in Okinawa critical of the government over US military bases and other issues — should be destroyed, they said.

Abe had expressed reluctance to reprimand the lawmakers over the

meeting, noting it was a "private study group" and saying it would be problematic to punish someone over remarks made in such a setting.

As for the novelist's remarks against the *Okinawa* papers, five opposition lawmakers representing constituencies in *Okinawa* issued a written protest Saturday, saying they infringe on the freedom of expression and of the press guaranteed under the Constitution.

They said the papers are critical of the government's plan to relocate a key US military base within the southern island prefecture because they speak for the people of Okinawa, and demanded that Hyakuta retract his "abusive" re-



Minoru Kihara, a ruling Liberal Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives, meets the press in Kumamoto, southwestern Japan on 27 June, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

marks and apologize to the newspapers.

Kyodo News

French police investigate beheading suspect's 'selfie'

LYON, (France), 28 June — The suspected militant Islamist accused of decapitating his boss and attempting to blow up a gas plant in southeastern France had taken a macabre "selfie" with the severed head before his arrest, a source close to the investigation said on Saturday.

Yassim Salhi, a 35-year-old of North African parentage, is being held in the city of Lyon after ramming his delivery van into a warehouse storing gas containers on Friday. He was apprehended minutes later while opening canisters containing flammable chemicals.

Police found the head of Herve Cornara, manager of the transport firm that employed Salhi, attached to a fence at the plant owned by US group Air Products, framed by black and white flags bearing Islamic slo-

gans. President Francois Hollande, dealing with new security fears six months after Islamist gunmen killed 17 people at the offices of satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo* and a Jewish foodstore, said the incident clearly amounted to a terrorist attack.

Salhi, whose wife and sister are also being detained along with a fourth person, is known to have associated with Islamists over more than a decade and had previously been flagged as a potential risk. But there has so far been no claim of responsibility for the attack.

Paris public prosecutor Francois Molins said on Friday that investigators would take time to piece together the sequence of events at the plant in Saint Quentin-Fallavier, 30 km (20 miles) south of Lyon, and establish whether Salhi was acting alone.

Examination of the suspect's mobile phone revealed that he had sent his macabre self-portrait via the Whatsapp messaging application to a user account associated with a North American number, a law enforcement source said on Saturday. The ownership of the account was not yet clear.

The body of Cornara, 54, also bore signs of strangulation suggesting that he may have been killed at an unknown location prior to his decapitation.

Investigators searching his home in Saint-Priest, near Lyon, seized a laptop, a tablet computer and a fake pistol but found no trace of explosives or radical propaganda. "We don't know whether we're dealing with a fundamentalist who just lost it or a real terrorist," the source said.—Reuters



French Gendarmes are seen at work next to a black plastic sheet (unseen) outside a gas company site at the industrial area of Saint-Quentin-Fallavier, near Lyon, France on 26 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Spain's Podemos says Germany, IMF put European project at risk



Podemos (We can) party leader Pablo Iglesias (L) embraces Panayota Maniou, member of the Syriza delegation to the European Parliament, during a demonstration in support of Greece, in central Madrid, Spain, on 27 June, 2015.—REUTERS

MADRID, 28 June — The leaders of Europe and the International Monetary Fund are jeopardizing the European project by forcing Greece into a corner, the leader of Spain's Podemos, an anti-austerity party allied with Greece's ruling party Syriza, said on Saturday.

"The future of Europe is now at risk," Pablo Iglesias said as euro zone countries appeared to be readying for a Greek default and possible exit from the euro currency.

"In my opinion the problem isn't Greece, the problem is Europe. Germany and the IMF are destroying the political project of Europe," Iglesias told reporters, speaking in

English following a rally in support of Greece in the Spanish capital attended by several hundred people.

"The IMF and the German government are attacking democracy."

After months of intense negotiations with lenders, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced on Friday that he would put the terms of the creditors' "humiliating" bailout offer to a popular vote on 5 July.

Finance ministers of the other 18 countries sharing the euro met for the first time without Greece on Saturday, rebuffing its pleas to extend an expiring bailout until after the referendum.

Without a deal on bail-

out cash, Athens is set to default on 1.6 billion euros of debt to the IMF on Tuesday.

Spain's Podemos ("We Can") surprised by taking five seats in elections for the European Parliament last May, just months after its formation, demonstrating how austerity-weary Spaniards were turning away from establishment parties as has been the case across Europe.

Podemos and rivals Ciudadanos (Citizens), a party billing itself as centrist, have chipped away at voter support for the older Socialists and ruling centre-right People's Party (PP) to turn the general election into a four-way race in just one year.—Reuters

GENERAL

US senators visit Cuba, hope Congress will ease restrictions

HAVANA, 28 June — Three visiting US senators said on Saturday they hoped Congress would support President Barack Obama's opening toward Cuba, including lifting a ban on US citizens traveling to the Communist-run island.

Democratic Senators Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Ben Cardin of Maryland joined Republican Dean Heller of Nevada on a trip to Cuba where they met First Vice-President Miguel Diaz-Canel, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez and ordinary Cubans.

A number of Cuba initiatives are pending in the Senate, including a bill to remove the travel ban on Americans and a more ambitious bill to rescind the decades-old US economic embargo.

Obama, a Democrat, has called on Congress to act but the legislation is opposed by the Republican leadership in control of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Earlier this month, the House rejected a measure that would have relaxed travel restrictions. But the senators said there were

better prospects for progress on Cuba legislation in their chamber.

"We think that can be achieved this year and we can make additional progress next year," Cardin told a news conference. "We're optimistic this path that President Obama and President (Raul) Castro started will be continued."

Heller, one of a few Republican senators to side with Obama on Cuba, encouraged members of Congress to visit Cuba and engage with ordinary Cubans. "I think the Senate can move the House, but

the Senate's going to have to act first," Heller told *Reuters* after the news conference. Currently, some Americans may travel to Cuba with official permission but general tourism is banned.

Breaking decades of Cold War-era hostility, Obama and Castro announced plans last December to restore diplomatic ties that Washington severed in 1961, and to work toward normalizing overall relations. An announcement on reopening embassies in both capitals is expected soon.—*Reuters*

Thousands of Israelis protest in Tel Aviv against controversial natural gas deal

TEL AVIV, (Israel), 28 June — Thousands of Israelis protested in central Tel Aviv on Saturday evening against a natural gas deal between the government and a US-Israeli energy conglomerate, calling for better transparency.

Under a deal approved by the cabinet on Thursday, the US Noble Energy company and Israeli conglomerate Delek Group, both owned by Israeli tycoon Isaac Tshuva, gains the right to develop Israel's Tamar and Leviathan offshore reserves. The government is expected to submit the deal to the

parliament for approval this coming week.

The protesters, gathering at a square in the center of Israel's largest coastal city, dubbed the deal as a robbery of the natural gas resources discovered in 2009 and 2010 off the shores of Israel.

The aim of the protest, according to the organizers, was to make their voice heard against what they charge as the lack of transparency in the deal making process.

The protesters also criticized parts of the upcoming deal published in local media as strength-

ening the control of the energy conglomerate over natural gas without proper regulation and with foreseen rise in prices for Israeli consumers.

Dr Yossi Langotsky, a senior Israeli geologist responsible for the discovery of the "Tamar" gas field in the Mediterranean Sea, suggested that improprieties are involved in the deal.

"I won't be surprised if it would become known later down the road that those who made these unacceptable and outrageous decisions were bribed," he said while speaking in

front of the crowd.

Earlier, local media reports said that the government agreed to a demand by the energy companies to raise the prices of natural gas for domestic prices, higher than the level the finance ministry demanded.

In addition, the government also agreed not to regulate gas prices.

A month ago, head of the Israeli Anti-trust Authority, David Gilo, resigned for what he described the government's "refusal to end the monopoly on gas drilling."

Xinhua



People of the Dong ethnic group take part in the construction of a drum tower at Rentang Village of Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 27 June, 2015. Drum tower is a landmark structure of the villages of the Dong ethnic group where important public affairs are dealt with.

XINHUA

Saudi soldier killed in cross-border shelling from Yemen

DUBAI, 28 June — A Saudi soldier was killed and another wounded by shelling from forces loyal to former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh and Houthi rebels near the Yemen border, Saudi state news agency SPA said on Sunday.

The shelling on Saturday morning was directed at security guards in the southwestern Saudi border area of

Jizan, according to a statement by the Interior Ministry on SPA.

An alliance of Gulf Arab nations has been bombing Houthi militia and army units loyal Saleh, which control much of Yemen, since 26 March in what they say is an attempt to restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Saudi forces and the Houthis have been

trading fire across the border since the Arab alliance began its operations.

On Saturday, Houthi fighters fired missiles at storage tanks in an Aden refinery, starting a large fire, and 14 people were killed in clashes between the Houthi and the Saudi-led forces near the southern port city, witnesses and residents said.

Reuters

109 people held for urinating in public in northern India

NEW DELHI, 28 June — In a major crackdown on public nuisance, Indian police have arrested more than 100 people for urinating in public in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

The arrests were made by the Railway Police in the state's tourist town of Agra on Saturday, and all were let off after a night stay in police station and

after paying a fine of Rs 500 (10 US dollars) each, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

"We carried out a drive and caught people who were urinating around the premise. We caught 109 people. We made efforts to maintain cleanliness," Superintendent of Railway Police, GN Khanna, told the media.

He added: "People generally have the habit of spreading filth around the railway premises. The area which should be maintained clean most is being subjected to all kind of filth."

Though urinating in public is a crime in India, lack of public urinals often forces people to relieve under public glare.—*Xinhua*

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th June, 2015: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon 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.

Moderate Quake hits NE India

NEW DELHI, 28 June — A moderate earthquake hit the northeastern Indian state of Assam early on Sunday morning, a senior official said.

"The quake, measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale, jolted the state around 6.40 am (local time). The epicentre was the district of Kokrajhar

and aftershocks were felt in neighbouring states," he said.

However, there have been no reports of any casualty or damage to properties, the official said.

A team of disaster management officials have rushed to the spot, he added.—*Xinhua*



Mock activists clash with policemen during the annual Philippine National Police Civil Disturbance Management (PNP-CDM) competition in Manila, the Philippines on 28 June, 2015. The annual PNP-CDM competition was organized in preparation for the various large rallies on the upcoming State of the Nation Address by President Benigno Aquino III next month.—XINHUA

I never tell people how I feel: Rita Ora

LONDON, 28 June — Singer Rita Ora says she “never” tells people how she feels except her therapist, close friends and family.

The 24-year-old “I Will Never Let You Down” hitmaker chooses to stay guarded in the public eye and prefers to instead, talk to her therapist, reported *Female First*.

When asked if her track “Poison” is about being backstabbed in a relationship, Ora said, “Yeah. But I’m not going to blurt it out. I have my own therapist that I talk to.

“I’ve stopped pretending that I’m this constantly happy person. I never tell people how

I feel, my friends literally have to force it out of me. So ‘Poison’ is about having that mentality and it really poisoning you,” she said.

The “How We Do (Party)” singer said she learnt to distinguish between her celebrity friends and those, who she has grown up with, which includes stylist Kyle De’volle and older sister Elena.

“They are the people I confide in,” Ora said, crediting celebrity friends Will i Am and Nick Grimshaw for their constant support.—PTI



Singer Rita Ora

Hollywood is full of grossness: Rose McGowan

LOS ANGELES, 28 June — “Scream” actress Rose McGowan says she wants to make Hollywood a better place as the industry has a lot of “grossness”.

The 41-year-old actress, who recently called out a sexist casting call, which invited women to audition for a movie wearing cleavage-baring outfits, said she wanted to improve things for women in the film industry, reported *People Magazine*.

“It’s just a tiny flashlight on the grossness, but there’s a lot of grossness. There’s stuff that has happened to me that would make your hair curl, that will go in my book someday...”

“I’m interested in making the industry better so that women

following in my footsteps know that they don’t have to take abuse just because she wants to be creative,” McGowan said.

The “Charmed” actress, who alleged she was fired by her agent after speaking out against the casting call, admitted her “ankles were shaking a little bit” when she was told she had been dropped.

“It’s brave and scary, and being brave doesn’t mean you don’t get scared.

“My ankles shook a little bit after I got the email firing me. I thought, ‘Oh god, the blacklist, here we go.’ I have so many other businesses and other interests that it doesn’t really matter to me, though,” McGowan said.—PTI



“Interstellar” sweeps Saturn Awards 2015

LOS ANGELES, 28 June — Sci-fi thriller “Interstellar” has won big at the 41st Annual Saturn Awards, taking six awards including best science fiction release.

The film saw off competition from “Edge of Tomorrow”, “Godzilla” and “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1” to win the honour, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

“Interstellar” also won best film writing with Christopher Nolan and Jonathan Nolan as the scriptwriters.

Accepting the honour, Jonah Nolan explained briefly about the film to the audience, “‘Interstel-

lar’ is the story of a man who goes on an arduous journey, comes back 100 years later to find that nobody remembers him or cares about what he was doing.”

He added, “It’s a pretty good metaphor for writing a studio film.”

The outer-space movie won four other awards including best performance by a younger actor in a film (MacKenzie Foy), best film editing, best film production design and best film music.

“Guardians of the Galaxy” was also shining at the awards. Starring Chris Pratt, the movie took four awards including best comic book-to-film release.

James Gunn, the director of the film, was called to the podium to accept the top honour for the film.

He read a message from Pratt instead of giving his own acceptance speech. “James Gunn is the future. He’s a genius. I tried every day to do one thing: Give myself over to the creative vision of the man who is up there accepting this award on my behalf,” he said.

Pratt was supposed to be at podium to receive best actor in a film for “Guardians of the Galaxy”. Since he couldn’t attend the event, he asked Gunn to accept the honour for him.

PTI



“Interstellar” poster

Rapper Kanye West soars at Glastonbury Festival

GLASTONBURY, (England), 28 June — Kanye West delivered an uncompromising headline performance at Glaston-

bury Festival on Saturday that ignited when the US rapper left the Pyramid Stage to take to the sky for hits “Touch The Sky”

and “All of the Lights”.

West was the polarizing figure of Europe’s biggest green-field festival, and the announcement of his appearance prompted thousands to sign a petition against the choice of a rap act for the top billing.

The multi-talented West, who is married to reality TV star Kim Kardashian, proved the doubters wrong by attracting a large audience who knew the words to many of his tracks.

He opened his set with “Stronger”, performed under a low lighting rig that compounded the intensity of his rapping.

Later “Touch the Sky” was abandoned a few bars in, only to restart with West high above the stage in a breathtaking moment of theater.

West, whose ego is as well known as his songs, did not launch into any monologues, a feature of some performances, but he did proclaim: “You are now watching the greatest living

rock star on the planet”.

Kieran Brooks, 21, agreed, saying the performance was “absolutely incredible”, although he added that West pitched the show at existing fans.

Pharrell Williams earlier in the evening had a huge crowd dancing and jumping to hits “Blurred Lines” and “Get Lucky”.

A group of young children joined the US singer and producer on stage for “Happy”, his huge seller of last year. “Make some noise for the English future on stage,” he said.

British singer-songwriter George Ezra and Burt Bacharach, a pop legend almost four times his age, delighted afternoon audiences at the dairy farm in south-west England.

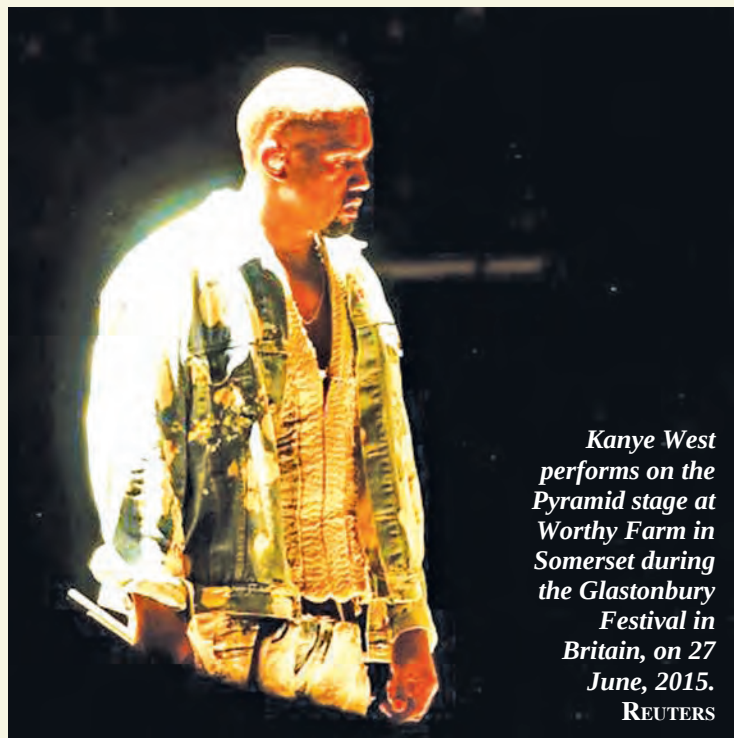
Ezra’s sun-drenched set included hits “Budapest”, which he premiered on a smaller set at the festival two years ago, “Blame It On Me”, and a cover of Macy Gray’s “I Try”.

“His voice melts my heart,” 24-year-old fan Holly Harvey said after his performance on the Pyramid Stage. The 22-year-old may hail from the English county town of Hertford but his bass-baritone comes from somewhere in the Deep South.

Bacharach initially left the vocals to his singers for a medley of songs that sound-tracked the sixties and seventies, from “I Say a Little Prayer” to “Trains and Boats and Planes” and “I’ll Never Fall in Love Again”.

The 87-year-old songwriter took to the mic later in his set, before leading the crowd in a mass singalong of “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on my Head” as, right on cue, light drizzle started.

The rain interrupted a day of sunshine. The warm weather dried up most of the mud on the site caused by heavy downpours—a perennial feature of the event—on Friday.—Reuters



Kanye West performs on the Pyramid stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival in Britain, on 27 June, 2015. REUTERS

GENERAL

Goal happy Portugal and Sweden reach U-21 final

PRAGUE, 28 June — Favourites Portugal crushed Germany 5-0 and underdogs Sweden thumped neighbours Denmark 4-1 on Saturday as both sides powered through to the Under-21 European Championship final in the Czech Republic.

Rui Jorge's Portugal, who had scored just two goals in three group matches, were in control from the start in Olomouc and netted three times in a 20-minute spell as they handed Germany their worst-ever defeat at Under-21 level.

The Germans, with World Cup winner Matthias Ginter and Champions League-winning keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen in their lineup, were swept aside. To add to their misery Leonardo Bittencourt was sent off in the 75th minute for a second bookable offence.

Portugal captain Sergio Oliveira hit the post after 15 minutes but Bernardo Silva fared better in the 24th when



Ricardo celebrates after scoring the second goal for Portugal against Germany in Semi Final of the UEFA European Under 21 Championship, Czech Republic 2015 at Ander Stadium, Olomouc, Czech Republic on 27 June, 2015.—REUTERS

he charged into the box and fired home.

Ricardo doubled the lead 11 minutes later, turning the ball in at the far post as the powerful William Carvalho, on the transfer wish-list of several top European clubs, controlled the midfield area.

Ivan Cavaleiro made it 3-0 on the stroke of halftime and Portugal scored again a minute after the restart when a deflected effort from Joao Mario sent Ter Stegen the

wrong way.

Ricardo Horta completed the rout in the 71st minute, tapping in undisturbed from close range as the Germans were again caught napping.

The second semi-final in Prague was between Denmark and a hard-working Sweden side who qualified from their group at the expense of England and Italy.

The Swedes took the lead against the run of play in the 23rd minute, John Gui-

detti converting a penalty after strike partner Isaac Kiese-Thelin was fouled.

Three minutes later Guidetti turned provider, setting up Simon Tibbling for the second after a quick break down the left.

Despite their early goals it was the defensive effort of the Swedes that was most impressive and they were organised and energetic in their tackling and harrying.

Uffe Bech pulled a goal back for Denmark in the 63rd minute, scoring after the opposition fluffed two clearances in the box.

The Danes then launched an onslaught but the Swedes exploited the space behind to hit them twice on the break, two late goals from Robin Quaison and Oscar Hiljemark sealing an emphatic win.

Portugal and Sweden, who shared a 1-1 draw in the group stage, now meet again in Prague on Tuesday.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(29-6-2015 07:00 am~ 30-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|---|
| * News | * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung" |
| * An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques | * News |
| * News | * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Hmawbi |
| * Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach | * Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All |
| * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family" | *Shan Novices To Be..... |
| * News | * News |
| * The World's Largest Book | * The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay Region) |
| * Sagaing: Youth Leader | * Goldsmith |
| * News | * News |
| * Youth of the future (EP-16) Young Photographer (Thi Ha Aung) | * A Dream A Destination (Hpa An) |
| * All About Orchids | * News |
| * News | * The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress |
| * Food Trip (EP-2) | * The Art of Making Glaze Ware |
| * News | |
| * The Writer "Chit Oo Nyo" (Part-2) | |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(29-6-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:00 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |
| 6:35 am | 3:35 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • People's Talks |
| 7:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Frist Year (Zoology) |
| 7:35 am | 5:00 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • News |
| 8:35 am | 5:30 pm |
| • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) | • Head Line News |
| 9:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • Socio Economic Scenes |
| 10:30 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News |
| 11:00 am | 7:35 pm |
| • News | • Documentary |
| 11:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | 8:30 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Documentary |
| 12:35 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Tasy Trip | • News |
| 1:10 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn | • TV Drama Series |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(29-6-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:35 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am | 8:50 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Teleplay |
| 6:45 am | 10:00 am |
| • (2015) Women Associated Fashion Show (Part-3) | • ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) |
| 7:15 am | 10:20 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 8:00 am | 12:00 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Close Down |

Shusei Nagaoka, illustrator of Earth, Wind & Fire album covers, dies

TOKYO, 28 June — Shusei Nagaoka, an illustrator best known for his music album covers with space and sci-fi motifs, including those for Earth, Wind & Fire, died from a heart attack at a hospital in Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture, on Tuesday, his family said on Saturday. He was 78.

A native of Nagasaki city, Nagaoka, whose real name was Shuzo Nagaoka, grew up in Iki, Nagasaki Prefecture, to which he moved before the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city in 1945. He quit

Musashino Art University in Tokyo before completing his studies there and went on to establish his career as an illustrator.

After moving to the United States in 1970, Nagaoka based himself in Hollywood and produced album covers for popular artists and bands at the time, including Earth, Wind & Fire and the Carpenters. Notable covers include Earth, Wind & Fire's "All 'N All" and "I Am."

Nagaoka's works also include the official posters for a Formula One Japanese Grand Prix and the Interna-

Photo taken in June 1984 shows Shusei Nagaoka, an illustrator best known for his music album covers with space and sci-fi motifs, including those for Earth, Wind & Fire. Nagaoka died of a heart attack on 23 June, 2015, aged 78, his family said on 27 June. KYODO NEWS



tional Exposition in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, in 1985.

Nagaoka returned to Japan about a decade ago.

Kyodo News

Choi finishes with a flurry at LPGA event in Arkansas

ARKANSAS, (United States), 28 June — A siz-



LPGA golfer Na Yeon Choi (KOR) hits her tee shot on the seventeenth hole during the final round of the Canadian Pacific Women's Open golf tournament at London Hunt and Country Club, London, Ontario, Canadian Province on 24 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

zling career-low back-nine 29, that included a birdie-ea-

gle finish, propelled South Korean Na Yeon Choi to the lead with 18 holes to play at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship.

Her outstanding six-under back nine left her with an eight-under 63 for a tournament record 36-hole total of 13-under, two shots better than compatriot Mi Jung Hur, who shot 68 and is tied for second with Sweden's Anna Nordqvist (66).

The South Korean duo were tied for the lead with one hole remaining but Choi surged ahead at the par-five 18th when she hit a second-shot three wood to 45 feet from the hole and made the putt for a dramatic finish to her round.

"I got the three wood out first, then changed it to a pitching wedge and then back to three wood because there is a small gap to the right side of the green," Choi said.

"The wind helped me a lot, (it) was a little bit helping right to left, so I just hit three wood.

Last year's champion Stacy Lewis, who shot a 65, American Brittany Lincicome, Japan's Mika Miyazato and South Korean Amy Yang are tied for fourth on nine under.

Rain on Friday forced 63 players in the field to complete their first rounds on Saturday.

Reuters

Mandalarian youths join Yadanabon Cup volleyball tournament



MANDALAY, 28 June — The 1st Yadanabon Cup men's volleyball

tournament kicked off at Bahtoo Gymnasium, here, Saturday, with a speech by

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing.

Main sponsors U Aung (Aung Thamadi gold shop) and U Ye Nang of Dragon One Co. presented gifts to veteran gold medalist volleyball players while the minister and officials greeted the former selected volleyball players. In the quarterfinals, Defence (b) routed Home Affairs 3-0; Aung Kabar trounced Vehicles Department of MCDC 3-0; Defence (a) won over Yadanabon University 3-1; and SPEI (a) beat Madaya Youth 3-1.

In the semifinals, Defence (b) won over Aung Kabar 3-0 while Defence (a) beat SPEI (a) 3-0.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Paraguay down Brazil on penalties, meet Argentina



Paraguay players celebrate after defeating Brazil in a penalty shootout in their Copa America 2015 quarter-finals soccer match at Estadio Municipal Alameda Ester Roa Rebolledo in Concepcion, Chile, on 27 June, 2015.—REUTERS

CONCEPCION, (Chile), 28 June — Derlis Gonzalez slotted two penalties, one in regular time and again in the shootout, to help Paraguay beat Brazil 4-3 after a 1-1 draw on Saturday that advanced them to a Copa America semi-final against Argentina.

It was the second tournament in succession that Paraguay have beaten Brazil on penalties at the quarter-final stage after 2011 when they went on the reach the final.

The face Argentina on Tuesday for the second time in the tournament, having fought back from two goals down for a 2-2 draw in the teams' opening group match.

Gonzalez netted the decisive Paraguayan penalty with the fifth spot kick having scored his team's equaliser during normal time. Robinho started and finished a fine move in the 15th minute to put Brazil ahead before Gonzalez equalised with 20 minutes to go when he converted a penalty after a hand ball by Thiago Silva.

"Unfortunately, our game dropped in the second half," said Robinho. "We had chances to kill the game off. 'Paraguay with all respect aren't one of the best sides. We didn't kill the game and unfortunately we lost a goal with a silly mistake and we lost.'"

Reuters

Brazil, who had won 12 of their previous 13 matches since Dunga took charge after last year's World Cup, had more possession in the first half and weaved some good attacks but Paraguay were quick and dangerous on the break. Paraguay became more adventurous in the second half and winger Edgar Benitez soon won a free kick when he was brought down by Dani Alves, though goalkeeper Jefferson parried the ball away from Roque Santa Cruz's attempt.

With an hour gone, Jefferson made a diving reflex save from centre back Paulo Da Silva's header and later made a similar save from Gonzalez in a counter-attack.

Paraguay captain Justo Villar then had to make a scrambling save from a Philippe Coutinho shot as Brazil piled on late pressure. In the shootout, the writing was on the wall for Brazil from their second penalty which was put wide by Everton Ribeiro and another substitute, Douglas, missed their fourth to give Paraguay two penalties to settle the outcome. Santa Cruz then skied his penalty, Philippe Coutinho gave Brazil hope by netting his but Gonzalez made no mistake. Hosts Chile meet Peru in Monday's other semi-final.—*Reuters*

England bring Canada's World Cup party to an end

VANCOUVER, 28 June — England scored twice in three first-half minutes then held on to beat hosts Canada 2-1 on Saturday and book a spot in the Women's World Cup semi-finals against Japan. The hosts had been hoping to secure the semi-final spot against the defending champions on Canada Day, 1 July, in Edmonton but instead it was England who moved into the last four of a World Cup for the first time. England coach Mark Sampson paid tribute to the opposition and fans.

"I have never been in a stadium as loud, as passionate for their team as that was, they couldn't have pushed us any further we had to really, really dig deep today to get the result we wanted," he told reporters. "They've shown a desire I have never seen in an England team before to hang on in there and get us through to the next round."

Without a men's or women's World Cup title since 1966, and exasperated by another failure at the men's U21 European Championships, the "Lionesses" have become the toast of England.

"We're history makers again, only the third

England team to get to a semi-final, we have now joined that 1966 and 1990 club, very, very proud of the whole group," beamed Sampson.

After conceding just one goal in four matches, Canada surrendered two in three minutes early in the opening half.

England opened the scoring in the 11th minute when Canadian defender

Lauren Sesselmann slipped on the ball, leaving Jodie Taylor a clear path to the goal. She made no mistake, whipping a low shot past a diving Erin McLeod.

Three minutes later Lucy Bronze sent a shudder through the capacity crowd 54,027 when her looping header sailed over McLeod's outstretched hand, deflected off the crossbar and into the net.



Canada forward Christine Sinclair (12) shoots against England midfielder Fara Williams (4) during the second half in the quarterfinals of the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup at BC Place Stadium, Vancouver, British Columbia, CAN on 27 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 28 June—Being a member of tennis' Big Four might be the burning ambition of many players but Stan Wawrinka is in no rush to join the ranks and redefine that club as the Fab Five.

The man who belted down backhand bullets to crush Novak Djokovic's French Open dream, thus

denying the Serb a chance to complete his collection of grand slam titles, now owns two majors thanks to his success at Roland Garros earlier this month.

That is the same number of slams won by Andy Murray, one of the bona fide members of the Big Four, but Wawrinka cares little about being held in the

same esteem as the Scot, Djokovic, Roger Federer or Rafa Nadal. "Honestly I don't try to compare myself to them or try to be part of a group. I just want to do the best I can in my career," Wawrinka told *Reuters* in an interview on the players' lawn at the All England Club as he looked forward to launching his Wimble-

don campaign on Monday. "I'm really happy with what I have done especially in the last two years because that is when it all started, with the two grand slams, the Davis Cup (title in 2014) and everything".

"I'm really happy with my career," added the Swiss, who had to wait almost until 29th birthday to get his grand

slam breakthrough at the 2014 Australian Open before doubling his haul in Paris.

"For me it doesn't matter if it's the Big Four or Big Five or whatever, I don't need that and I am not looking for that. I'm just trying to beat them when I play them, that's it."—*Reuters*

Wawrinka doesn't want Big Four to become Fab Five

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