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President U Htin Kyaw receives Turkish Foreign Minister

PAGE 3

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Turkish FM

PAGE 9

UNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY

MYANMAR AND TURKEY STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES

MYANMAR's Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu held talks in Naypyitaw yesterday focusing on cooperation between the two countries after 58 years of diplomatic relations.

The talks focused on developing a strong partnership in education, health, culture and tourism sectors, seeking ways to boost bilateral trade and open flight paths between the two countries as well as opening political dialogue between the two countries.

At a joint press conference afterwards, H.E Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that establishing an understanding among people from diverse ethnic groups and different communities is the basic principle of the government's policy, expressing that the Turkish Foreign Minister's visit to Myanmar will help boost bilateral ties.

Mr. Çavuşoğlu acknowledged the Myanmar people's efforts for transitional process of democratization, while pledging more Turkish aid for Myanmar and communities in Rakhine state.

According to Mr. Çavuşoğlu, Turkey has provided more than US$30 million to help Myanmar's health, education and infrastructure sectors since 2012.

Aid from the Turkish government to Myanmar is delivered through the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and is allocated at the Union and regional governments request.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

Mr. Çavuşoğlu pledged to continue aid to Myanmar stating that Turkey wants to cooperate with international organisations, including assisting Myanmar in bringing about peace to Rakhine state and to strengthen the ongoing peace process throughout the country to help develop the country.

Mr. Çavuşoğlu also called for boosting bilateral relations and trade, further cooperation in the sectors of education, health, tourism and infrastructure and operation of flights to and from Myanmar. He also called for the relaxation of visa rules to make travel easier.

Discussion on opening an office to enhance connectivity between the ministries and ongoing works for the development of all communities in Rakhine State were discussed during talks with Myanmar's Union minister, he added.

Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that efforts are being made to effectuate the development of Rakhine State, hoping that international organisations will help Myanmar.

Myanmar and Turkey established diplomatic ties in 1958. The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Myanmar was opened in 2012 with the appointment of Mr. Murat Yavuz Ates as the first Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL BUSINESS **PAGE 4**

MYANMAR AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS ATTRACT KOREAN BUYERS

ASEAN to launch information portal to ease regional trade

THE Myanmar Department of Trade has announced the launch of a website called ASSIST, which will act as an information portal for ASEAN businessmen to access information about the business practices, rules and regulations of their counterparts and governments in other ASEAN countries.

It is reported that the website will be launched after the coming ASEAN Summit, which will be held in Malaysia in September.

"The website is being organised by ASEAN in order to make life easier for businessmen from ASEAN countries. **See page 3 >>**

Tatmadaw offers natural disaster relief

HEAVY rain and strong winds damaged homes and levelled trees in several villages in Minbya Township, Rakhine State, on Thursday, 9 June.

As of Friday, 10 June, Tatmadaw personnel from the Western Command have been providing assistance by clearing debris, repairing homes and removing the fallen trees from roads.

The mobile medical team of the Western Command donated food and medicines to local people and provided healthcare services.—*Office of the Commander of Defence Services*

Tatmadaw members assist local people in clearing debris of homes damaged by heavy rain and strong winds in Minbya. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE

Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road blocked for 12

A 12-HOUR traffic jam began at around 10pm on Saturday near mile post No 84/1 on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road in Kyaukme Township, locals say.

The traffic jam was caused by a 12-wheel truck loaded with 300 motor engines en route from Kyaukme to Nawnghkio that skidded and overturned on the left side of the road.

Another accident also occurred on 9 June on the road, according to a local resident.

Traffic police helped move the overturned vehicle off the road with the use of a crane owned by Oriental Highway Co.

The truck driver has been charged by local police under Section 279 of the Criminal Law on Sunday for "Rash driving or riding on a public way".

A police officer said: "A driver needs to have special driving skills to balance cargo weight on the road, especially in monsoon season. We have already announced our phone number to contact us when traffic congestion occurs along the road."

The overloaded 12-wheel truck overturns on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road is a major trading road for both Myanmar and China. About 500 cargo trucks use the road every day.

Traffic jams and road accidents are common in the area. Many drivers who use the road have demanded that local authorities expand it.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Crime NEWS

Drunken man killed by his wife

A MAN from Htantabin Township, Bago Region, was killed by his wife after a big fight between them on 8 June, according to a police report.

U Sein Lwin, 46, was hacked to death by his wife Ma Than Sein, 47, while he was falling asleep after drinking at their home. He died on the spot after sustaining serious injuries to his neck and left shoulder. The victim's wife said she and her son Maung Myo Ko Ko were attacked by U Sein Lwin during the quarrel. He beat them with a hatchet and killed three pigs. Ma Than Sein fled to the home of her parents-in-law after the quarrel that morning. She returned her home and killed her husband at around 2:30pm that day.

Ma Than Sein has been charged with murder by the township police.—*KoLwin*

Illegal flintlock rifle seized in Banmauk

LOCAL authorities on Saturday confiscated the two long flintlock rifles from a man in Banmauk Township in Katha District, Sagaing Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by U Myo Myint Naing, the deputy head of the township general administration office,searched a house owned by Maung Nyunt in Shwekyaung Village. They discovered the two rifles from the homeowner. The team immediately informed the township police of its seizure of the illegal weapons.

The suspect was placed under arrest by local police, who are still investigating the case.—*Lu Aung*

Two charged for drug dealing

TWO men have been changed for illegal drug dealing by an anti-drug squad in Katha Township, Sagaing Region, during the police's 100-day drug crackdown.

Acting on a tip-off from a member of the public, a 12-member police team searched a house owned by Aung San in Hsingon Village on Saturday morning. They found seven grams of heroin in the home. According to investigators, Aung San has escaped from police custody in Indaw Township.

A similar case occurred in the same township on the same day. Tun Min (aka Ko Min) was arrested by police after an anti-drug squad found him in possession of nearly 100 yaba pills.

All people involved in the cases have been charged by local police.—*Aye Lwin*

Two drug dealers are arrested by the police. PHOTO: AYE LWIN

Police arrest young man for theft

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested by local police for stealing jewellery and cash from a house last December, police reported yesterday.

After a five-month investigation, Yone Pouk (aka Nay Lin Aung)was charged for theft after some of the stolen items were found in his possession in Yangon.

Investigators say the suspect stole diamonds and gold worth over K2.8 million and K500,000 in cash from a house in Kayin Amyotha Ward in Kyimyindaing Township, Yangon, on 11 December 2015.

The suspect arrested for his involvement in a different case and detained at the Insein Myoma Police Station in May 2016, a police officer said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

SuspectYone Pouk (aka Nay Lin Aung). PHOTO: REUTERS

Man murdered in Kawthaung

A MAN was stabbed to death by two other men at the former's home on Saturday. Local police arrested the suspects within two hours after they were contacted by the victim's wife.

Ma Wah, the wife of the victim, said the murder took place while she was with her husband U Thein Lwin at their home on Duwon-4 Street in Ayeyeiknyein Ward, Kawthaung Township. Two unknown people visited the home, one of whom stabbed U Thein Lwin with a sharp-edged weapon.

Ma Wah said her husband died on the spot with serious injuries to his top part of his body.

With the help of victim's wife, police apprehended the suspected murderer Myint Naing along with his suspected accomplice within a few hours of the incident.

According to the police investigation, a quarrel broke out between the victim and Myint Naing three days prior.

After the murder, the suspect fled to his sister's home in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon.

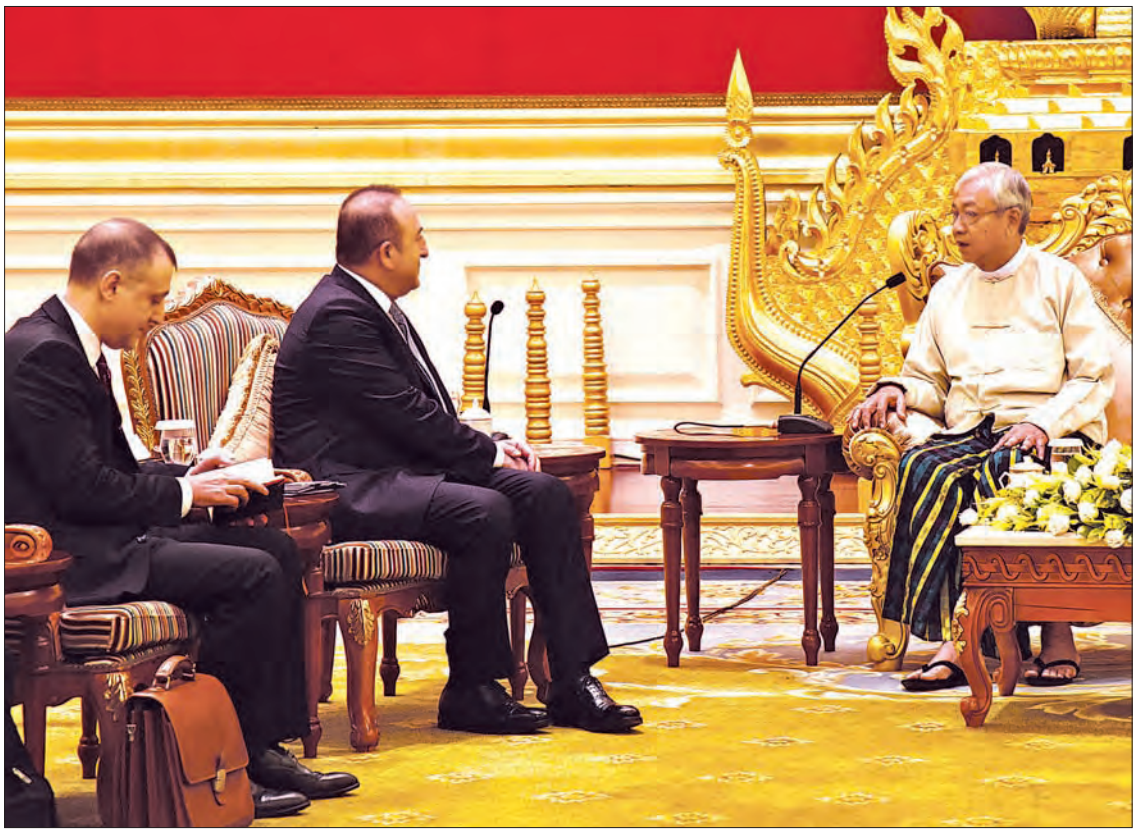
After hours of questioning, the suspect confessed. Police have charged the two people involved in the murder case. —*KyawSoe*

President U Htin Kyaw receives Turkish Foreign Minister

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they discussed matters related to enhancement of bilateral relations and further economic and trade cooperation.

Also present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr Pe Myint, the Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Foreign Affairs Minister of Turkey Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. PHOTO: MNA

Bill planned for senior citizens welfare

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is planning to adopt a bill for the welfare of senior citizens, said Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday.

The bill will be designed to create employment for senior citizens who are able to work and provide welfare for those who are unable to work, the Union minister said, stressing his ministry's efforts to pass the bill into law.

"When the law is made, senior citizens will have noticeable benefits from it," he said.

On completion, the bill will be brought to the parliament.

The ministry is drafting the bill in a bid to carry out community services for senior citizens more effectively, the Union minister said.

"We must expand opportunities for senior citizens to help them demonstrate their abilities. Most retirees feel lonely at home with no one to talk to. They feel neglected or useless," Dr Win Myat Aye said.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

ASEAN to launch information portal to ease regional trade

>> From page 1

It aims to benefit the traders and businessmen across ASEAN," said Daw Win Min Phyo, deputy director of the Department of Trade.

The website can be accessed at www.assist.asean.org. It is expected to serve as a helpdesk to answer the questions of ASEAN businessmen. It will be supervised by the ASEAN Secretariat.

Businessmen who wish to ask questions on the website must be from registered companies in their respective countries, while all queries will be checked within 10 working days by staff from the ASEAN Secretariat before being additionally checked by respective ASEAN member state departments within an additional 10 working days. As such, questions will receive replies within 40-60 days, it is reported.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar steps up on adaptation to climate change

A national strategy workshop took place yesterday in Naypyitaw to develop a work program to help Myanmar fight against global warming. Officials from various NGO's and INGO's assisted in the Policy Dialogue on New Climate Change Projections

During the workshop, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) and Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia, presented a climate outlook until 2100.

The workshop was to help develop a strong policy and to help bring about a discussion amongst politicians in order to understand how global warming threatens Myanmar. Predictions of certain weather patterns were presented yesterday showing that Myanmar is likely to face severe weather due to global warming.

Officials, weather experts from DMH, RIMES, Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, UN Habitat and UNEP attended yesterday's event.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Turkish delegation visits Sittway

A Turkish delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday evening, and handed over relief aids donated by Turkish people to local people.

In the hall of Sittway Airport, the Turkish foreign minister donated 500 rice bags, 100 buckets of edible oil to IDPs in Rakhine State through Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

The delegation also handed over 100 bags of rice and 10 buckets of rice and aids for children to officials of the Rakhine State Social Welfare Department and 200 bags of rice and 10 buckets of rice to officials of the Education and Training Department.

During the visit to Sittway, the delegation also visited a religious edifice in Aungmingalar Ward and handed over 1,000 bags of rice and 70 buckets of edible oil to the local people.

He also talked to locals in Aungmingalar Ward, asking their needs.

The delegation left Sittway for Yangon by flight at 7:40 pm.—*Rakhine State IPRD*

Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu hands over aids from the Turkish people to local authorities in Rakhine State. PHOTO: RAKHINE STATE IPRD

U Maung Maung Lynn appointed as Ambassador to Israel

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Maung Maung Lynn, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Israel.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 14 June 2016

Correction

Please read "mortality" instead of "morality" in the sixth paragraph on the cover story (MPF to export antivenom this year) of Monday the 13th of June Issue.—*Ed*

Patients with spinal deformities to receive treatment in Mandalay

MANDALAY'S orthopaedic hospital is offering spinal surgeries to more than 20 patients in the region with the assistance from a US-based NGO, Butterfly Foundation and surgeries started as of 6 June.

Four orthopaedic surgeons, two nurses and local orthopaedic surgeons will be conducting the treatment with the assistance of Dr. Kim from Butterfly Foundation.

Dr. Kyi Lwin from Mandalay's Orthopaedic Hospital said that the surgery is only offered to patients in high-risk categories in order to help those who would not necessarily be able to afford the treatment.

Adding that the surgery will not only change the lives of patients but will also help improve the skill sets of local orthopaedic surgeons.

Patients will have to pay for their prescription medication under a cost-sharing plan with the hospital, despite the surgery being free of charge. After surgery, the patients will receive further health care and rehabilitation from the hospital.

Butterfly Foundation is a non-profit organisation bringing spine surgeons and medical teams to developing countries in order to provide free treatment and train local orthopaedic surgeons proper international surgical practices.

Butterfly Foundation's medical team provided 12 patients from the Mandalay hospital with surgery in November 2015.— *Zamani*

LOCAL Business

Businesses seek import permits

THE Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association has requested fish import permits from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The association members hope to use local cold storage facilities as numbers of fish in Myanmar waters are declining.

Local cold storage factories are expected to produce more finished products if the fish import permits are granted.

A representative of the association said Viet Nam re-exports imported salmon, though they are not able to catch or farm in their country, creating more job opportunities and earning more foreign currency.

Thailand earns over US$7 billion from fishery enterprises by importing fish from abroad for their cold storage factories, he added.

The volume of fish exports in Myanmar has declined as fishing has slowed. The Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association is seeking a permission from the government in boosting the fish export volume after cleaning and packaging them at cold storage facilities.—*200*

A worker preparing to transport tomatoes harvested from farmland in Inle Lake to markets. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Myanmar Agricultural and Fishery Products attract Korean buyers

WITH rising interest of South Korean entrepreneurs in Myanmar's agricultural and fishery products, local businessmen must participate in the export sector by manufacturing standard quality products, said U Aung Soe, the director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation.

Myanmar exports rice, pulses, crops that produce oil, fishery products, forestry products, rubber and garments to South Korea. The value of Myanmar's exports to South Korea is around US$160 million per year. Myanmar imports agricultural machines, industrial products, steel and plastic products from Korea, with an import value of over $400 million.

Myanmar and South Korea initiated bilateral trade in 2007 after signing a trade deal in 2006. Trade volume between the two countries rose from 2011 to 2014, though it declined in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Myanmar's foreign trade is valued at $27 billion, of which South Korea is responsible for between two and three per cent.—*200*

Ministry to form research unit for post-harvest technology

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is planning to establish a research unit for post-harvest technology to minimise waste of agricultural production.

This unit will be opened at Yesin Agricultural University in Zayathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. It will produce a variety of fruits and vegetables and handle and package the products to minimise waste on the way from farm to market.

The unit's research will aim to raise quality of the agricultural products after harvest. It will also help develop agricultural technology policies and strategies based on its research. Boosting the quality of local produce is expected to boost farmers' incomes.—*200*

ILO to hold Myanmar Start-Up Campaign Programme

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) will hold the first Myanmar Start-Up Campaign Programme to train proprietors of small and medium sized enterprises in Mandalay Region.

The programme will be led by the ILO with the assistance of AAT Business Park and Great Diamond Jewellery Shop in Mandalay. Small business owners can submit business proposals to a competition at the programme and win prizes of K2 million, K3 million and K5 million. The programme will include economics courses for accepted participants.

People interested in participating in the programme can register by calling 09-451745100 or by visiting 7(A) Classic Strand Condominium between 27th Street and Merchant Street in Yangon by 1 July.—*200*

Mandalay CSOs demand licences for hearses

Aung Thant Khaing

CIVIL society organisations (CSOs) in Mandalay have requested that the regional government grant licences for hearses as the number of CSOs is increasing.

"They can grant according to the policy adopted by the Union government," said a responsible person from the Mandalay Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD).

"The RTAD will issue number plates if the Union government allows them to grant more licences across the nation. Mandalay has only 37 per cent of hearses with HSE numbers. We have to submit requests to the government," he added.

The RTAD has granted HSE numbers to CSOs for hearses that are long enough to carry dead bodies, that bear the name and address of the organisation and the word neikban yin (Hearse) printed on four sides of the vehicles. The point size of the words has also been prescribed by the department.

"There might be cases of hearses being used for other illegal purposes by taking advantage of HSE number plates because some authorities let vehicles go if emergency alarm is switched on," said a Mandalay resident.

HSE registration is intended for carrying dead bodies, not for patients. There were between 795 and 1,840 HSE vehicles in Mandalay out of a total of 4,985 HSE vehicles across Myanmar in 2014.

Two new markets to be established in Dagon Seikkan, Shwepyitha

LAND surveys will be conducted in Dagon Seikkan and Shwepyitha townships to establish two new markets starting in the first week of July, and construction is expected to be completed next year, according to the Markets Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

Six markets owned by YCDC will be upgraded at a cost of K3.5 billion. The markets will be inspected to determine whether they are suitable to be upgraded to two-storey buildings.

Twelve markets were upgraded in two-storey buildings at a cost of K10 billion in 2015; construction concluded in February 2016.

There are a total of 173 markets run by the YCDC, including tax-free markets. If street vendors are not allowed to sell their wares at the markets, the construction of the market will be in vain, said a YCDC official.—*200*

Thailand's king shows improvement following heart treatment — palace

BANGKOK — Thailand's 88-year-old king, the world's longest reigning monarch, has shown signs of improvement following surgery for narrowing of the arteries, the palace said in a statement on Sunday.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, has been treated for various ailments during a year-long hospitalisation in the Thai capital.

He was last seen in public on 11 January, when he spent several hours visiting his Bangkok palace.

The king's heartbeat, breathing and blood pressure were normal, the palace said, adding that an electrocardiogram showed an increased supply of blood to the heart.

The king, who celebrated 70 years of his reign on Thursday, is seen as a unifying figure in a country that has faced decades of often deadly political upheaval.

A portrait of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej is placed in celebration of the king's 88th birthday in central Bangkok, Thailand, in December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

On a few occasions the monarch has intervened when events threatened to plunge the country into crisis.

In a 7 June statement, the palace said the king had received treatment for narrowing of the heart arteries with "satisfactory results".

News about the royal family is tightly controlled in Thailand. Laws protecting the royals from insult make it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen, heir to the throne or regent.—*Reuters*

Park rejects North Korea's recent offers for talks

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Monday rejected North Korea's recent offers for talks, saying its northern neighbor should first denuclearize itself.

"Without (North Korea's) denuclearization, any offer for talks is nothing but deceit," Park said during a speech marking the opening of the newly elected National Assembly, or parliament. Citing tough sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council to punish the North for its nuclear test and rocket launch earlier this year, Park reaffirmed her government's stance of applying pressure on Pyongyang.

"The path toward North Korea's denuclearization will be farther away if (South Korea) decides to hold talks with North Korea in haste only for the talks' sake and lose the momentum of sanctions being kept up by the international community," she said.

Following the full congress of its ruling party held last month, North Korea has been calling for inter-Korean talks, but South Korea has rejected such proposals. Last month, North Korea made an offer to hold military talks with the South.

On Friday, the North's official media reported that the country proposed holding talks with South Korea on 15 August to discuss the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

The North Korean government, ruling party, and other organizations held a joint meeting in Pyongyang on Thursday and adopted an "appeal to all Koreans," according to a Korean Central News Agency report.

In the appeal, the North proposed holding inter-Korean talks "for reunification on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Korea's liberation" from Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule.—*Kyodo News*

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Cambodia PM shrugs off EU aid threat, opposition supporters jailed

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday shrugged off European parliament threats to review aid if his administration continues to harass political opponents on the same day as a court jailed three more opposition activists.

The European Union has called on Hun Sen to halt "judicial harassment" of adversaries and the United Nations has also called for dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition as tension mounts in the Southeast Asian country ahead of a general election in 2018.

The European parliament said in a resolution on Thursday that aid worth around $461 million should be dependent on improvements in human rights and called on authorities drop all charges against opposition leader Sam Rainsy who has been in exile since late last year to avoid arrest.

Hun Sen, who has ruled with an iron fist for more than 30 years, said that any cut in aid would only affect foreign-paid non-governmental organisation (NGO) workers, not him.

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen speaks at an event to celebrate Children's Day in Phnom Penh, on 31 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Don't scare and threaten me," he said at a graduation ceremony in the capital Phnom Penh. He complemented China, Cambodia's biggest trade partner and donor, for never making such threats and attaching conditions to aid and investment.

Hun Sen's government has denied that charges against opposition members and rights activists are politically motivated, and said they must abide by the rule of law like all other citizens. They say they will not negotiate with criminals.

The European resolution also called for the immediate release of five rights activists who have been jailed in relation to a sex scandal probe with links to Rainsy's deputy, Kem Sokha.

Sokha himself is holed up at the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party's (CNRP) headquarters as he seeks to avoid arrest for failing to show up at court as a witness in a prostitution case. The scandal has gripped the country for weeks. Also on Monday, a municipal court sentenced three CNRP supporters to seven years in jail for insurrection after an anti-government protest turned violent in 2014. The three had been in jail since 2015.

CNRP lawmaker Eng Chhay Eang urged Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party to hold talks with his party to end the crisis.

"The political temperature has risen following arrests and jailings so we need to find the solution to this," Chhay Eang said. —*Reuters*

Chinese and German leaders downplay China market status tensions

China's Premier Li Keqiang speaks during a joint press conference with Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 13 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China does not want a trade war with Europe, Premier Li Keqiang said on Monday at a news briefing with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who called for more talks with Beijing on its market economy status under the World Trade Organisation.

Beijing sees Germany, China's largest trading partner in the European Union, as influential in the 28-member bloc's debate on the politically sensitive issue of its market economy status.

China agreed when it signed up to the WTO in 2001 that members could use third-market comparisons when determining if Chinese imports were being sold at knock-down prices.

That provision is set to expire in December, but anger persists over Beijing undercutting foreign industries with its heavily subsidised goods, particularly with massive overcapacity in Chinese sectors such as steel.

China is adamant that countries must abide by the deal struck 15 years ago, but reluctance in Europe to give up a method to defend against cheap Chinese imports has set up a looming dispute at the WTO and the prospect of broader trade friction.

"China has already fulfilled its obligations on joining the WTO. What's needed now is for the other parties to fulfill the matching obligations they had promised," Li said.

"We don't want to fight a trade war because this will benefit nobody," he said.

Merkel, who on Sunday began her ninth trip to China since taking office, said: "It does not help us to emotionalise the whole subject."

"I am convinced that we can find a solution on the lines of what was promised 15 years ago," she said.

Merkel said during a trip to China last year Germany favoured granting China market economy status in principle but that Beijing still had work to do, including further opening its public procurement markets.

European commissioners are expected to debate the issue in late June or July, at a time of heightened trade tension after global rivals accused China of dumping cheap steel exports after a slowdown in demand at home.

Li said unilateral trade protection measures wouldn't help resolve the problem and that low-end steel was not something China wanted to produce or sell and was committed to phasing it out.

Merkel has also stressed the need for a level playing field for foreign firms amid growing pressure from industry to confront China more forcefully.

"Germany has always presented itself as an open investment market," Merkel said. "We expect reciprocity also from the Chinese side."

Foreign critics accuse China of not following through on its reform agenda and of introducing new regulations that further restrict market access.

"The facts prove that China's market is open. We will be even more open. We will take even more steps based on the principles of treating everyone equally, fairness and transparency," Li said.—*Reuters*

Australian PM pledges A$1 billion to help ailing Great Barrier Reef

A man snorkells in an area called the 'Coral Gardens' near Lady Elliot Island, on the Great Barrier Reef, northeast of Bundaberg town in Queensland, Australia, in June 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, facing a tight re-election battle, pledged on Monday a A$1 billion ($738 million) fund for the Great Barrier Reef, where scientists say mass coral bleaching has destroyed vast tracts of the World Heritage site.

A report late last month said mass coral bleaching, caused by climate change, had destroyed at least 35 per cent of the northern and central Great Barrier Reef and that the coral mortality rate would likely rise.

The report cast a shadow over the long-term prospects for the reef, which attracts about A$5 billion ($3.7 billion) in tourism each year. Scientists also believe UNESCO may reconsider its decision not to put the reef on its endangered list.

Turnbull, on the campaign trail for the 2 July election in tropical northern Queensland state, the usual jumping-off point for tourists going to the reef, said he would instruct Australia's Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to redirect A$1 billion of its A$10 billion fund.

The money would go to a loans scheme aimed at reducing the agricultural and waste water run-off that is diminishing the reef's ability to withstand rising sea temperatures.

"Much of this will come in the form of financing solar energy, which of course will reduce emissions but also enable farmers to manage their land more efficiently ..." Turnbull told reporters in Townsville.

Pollution from water-borne fertiliser and nutrient-rich run-off limits the ability of corals to withstand higher sea temperatures associated with cyclical El Nino weather events and global warming.

Bleaching occurs when the water is too warm, forcing coral to expel living algae and calcify.

The findings of the bleaching survey came at a bad time for Turnbull, who was under pressure after Australia's Department of Environment confirmed it had omitted its contribution to a UN report on the impact of climate change on world heritage sites over concerns it might have a negative impact on tourism.

Turnbull's conservative coalition began the seven-weak election campaign with a healthy lead over the centre-left Labor opposition but opinion polls now have them neck-and-neck.

Labour, which announced a A$500 million ($369 million), five-year plan for the reef last month, criticised Turnbull for "raiding" the CEFC to fund his pledge.—*Reuters*

Bangladesh arrests over 8,000 people in anti-militant drive

DHAKA — Another 3, 245 more people have been arrested in the third day of Bangladesh's on-going week-long anti-militant drive, bringing the total number of arrestees to over 8,000, a police official said on Monday.

A. K. M. Kamrul Ahsan, a Bangladeshi police spokesman told journalists that "3,245 people including 34 militants across the country were detained as part of the drive in the last 24 hours till 6:00 am (local time) Monday."

Police earlier detained 5, 324 people, including 85 suspected militants in the first 48 hours of the clampdown against militants.

Among the 119 suspected militants arrested in the three days, most are reportedly members of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

JMB, campaigning for establishment of Islamic rule in Bangladesh, carried out a series of bombings in 63 out of the country's 64 districts, including the capital of Dhaka on 17 August 2005, leaving two people dead and 150 others injured.

Hundreds of JMB leaders and activists were rounded up while six top leaders of the group, including Shaikh Abdur Rahman, were hanged in 2007.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said the week-long clampdown was aimed at dismantling all terrorist outfits and their networks in the country.

Bangladesh has been witnessing a surge in violent attacks in recent years.

A number of secularist writers, bloggers and publishers have been killed or seriously injured in attacks carried out by extremists since 2013.

In most of the cases, it was noticed that the attacks were carried out by motorcycle-borne assailants. A day after the spouse of a top Bangladeshi police officer was shot dead by suspected militants in the country's seaport city Chittagong, some 242 km southeast of capital Dhaka, Bangladesh's Ministry of Home Affairs Monday banned motorcyclists from carrying more than one passenger for preventing militant attacks.—*Xinhua*

Families brace for worst as Florida gay club victims identified after mass shooting

Orlando residents light candles during a vigil at Lake Eola Park for victims of an early morning shooting attack at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, US on 12 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

ORLANDO, (Fla) — Family and friends of victims trapped in a gay nightclub by a gunman pledging loyalty to Islamic State waited anxiously on Monday to find out whether their loved ones were among the 50 people killed and 53 wounded in the deadliest mass shooting in US history.

The FBI and other law enforcement authorities were poring over evidence that could explain the motives for the rampage in Orlando, Florida, a massacre that President Barack Obama denounced as an act of terror and hate.

The gunman, Omar Mateen, a New York-born Florida resident and US citizen who was the son of Afghan immigrants, was shot and killed by police who stormed the club with armored cars after a three-hour siege.

Mateen, 29, called emergency services during the shooting and pledged allegiance to the leader of the militant Islamic State group, officials said. His father said on Sunday his son was not radicalised, but indicated Mateen had strong anti-gay feelings. His ex-wife described him as mentally unstable and violent toward her.

The shooting began just after 2 am on Sunday at the crowded Pulse nightclub in the heart of Orlando, about 15 miles (25 km) northeast of the Walt Disney World Resort.

Some 350 patrons were attending a Latin music event at the club, a well-known gay nightspot in the city, and survivors described scenes of carnage and pandemonium as the shooter took hostages inside a bathroom. Nearly 24 hours after the rampage ended, authorities had publicly named only 21 of the victims, half of whom were in their 20s.

Family and friends waited for news outside a center in Orlando where authorities were gathering details about people still missing.

Jaymie Glaspie, 35, was looking for her brother, Paul Henry.

"I've been calling all day, and I just went to his house," Glaspie said. "It's just ringing and ringing."

Maribel Mejia, 42, got good news about one friend, who sought cover during the shooting and escaped. Others were not as lucky.

"One is dead already," Meijia told reporters. "Six more, we don't know."

Mateen was an armed guard at a gated retirement community, and had worked for the global security firm G4S for nine years. He had cleared two company background screenings, the latest in 2013, according to G4S.

Despite Mateen's 911 call expressing support for Islamic State, US officials said they had no conclusive evidence of any direct connection with foreign extremists.

"So far as we know at this time, his first direct contact was a pledge of bayat (loyalty) he made during the massacre," said a US counterterrorism official. "This guy appears to have been pretty screwed up without any help from anybody."

Authorities said Mateen had been twice questioned by FBI agents in 2013 and 2014 after making comments to co-workers about supporting militant groups, but neither interview led to evidence of criminal activity

Ronald Hopper, the FBI's assistant special agent in charge on the case, said Mateen was questioned in 2014 about his contacts with Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha, a US citizen who also had lived in Florida and became a suicide bomber in Syria that year.

Mateen's former wife, Sitora Yusufiy, said he was emotionally and mentally disturbed, yet aspired to be a police officer.

Yusufiy told reporters near Boulder, Colorado, that she had been beaten by Mateen during outbursts of temper in which he would "express hatred towards everything."

But his father Mir Siddique, who saw Mateen on Saturday afternoon, said he saw nothing out of the ordinary.

"Everything was normal," Siddique told ABC News, saying his son was not radicalised. "He was just a regular person who went to work, coming back and take care of his wife and his kids," he said. "If he was alive, I would ask him one question: why?"

In an interview with NBC news, the father described an incident in downtown Miami in which his son, saw two men kissing in front of his wife and child and became very angry.

Mateen and his family regularly attended a Florida mosque. "Not everyone had a friendship with him. He wasn't a people person. He was not extremely friendly but he wasn't rude either," said Mohammed Jameel, 54, a worshipper at the mosque.

Another worshipper said she recently saw Mateen dancing at his sister's wedding, a mixed affair that was open to both men and women.

Sunday night, federal agents combed through Mateen's apartment in the Atlantic coast town of Fort Pierce, about 120 miles (190 km) southeast of Orlando, as numerous evidence vans sat parked outside.

"The FBI is currently in the apartment. They'll probably be there through the night," said St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU's Tusk says Brexit could threaten western political civilisation

BRUSSELS — If Britons vote to leave the European Union in a 23 June referendum it could be the beginning of the end for the 28-nation bloc and for western political civilisation more generally, European Council President Donald Tusk said.

In an interview with German newspaper *Bild*, Tusk said a so-called Brexit vote would provide a major boost to radical anti-European forces who he said would be "drinking champagne".

"Why is it so dangerous? Because no one can foresee what the long-term consequences would be," Tusk said. "As a historian I fear that Brexit could be the beginning of the destruction of not only the EU but also of western political civilisation in its entirety."

Everyone in the European Union would lose out economically if Britain left, Tusk said. "Every family knows that a divorce is traumatic for everyone. Everyone in the EU, but especially the Brits themselves, would lose out economically," he said.—*Reuters*

Pope Francis expresses horror and condemnation over Orlando shooting

VATICAN — Pope Francis has expressed horror and condemnation over the mass shooting in a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on Sunday in which 50 people were killed and dozens more wounded, according to Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi.

In a statement, Lombardi said the Pope was shaken and saddened by the "homicidal folly and senseless hatred" of the attack.

"We all hope that ways may be found, as soon as possible, to effectively identify and contrast the causes of such terrible and absurd violence," the statement said.

A gunman armed with an assault rifle carried out the attack on Sunday at a packed gay nightclub in what is the worst mass shooting in US history.—*Reuters*

Italy's coastguard says 1,230 migrants rescued on Sunday

ROME — Italy's coastguard said on Sunday a total of 1,230 migrants had been picked up in nine rescue operations in the waters between Sicily and North Africa, with one dead body being recovered.

That brings the number of people saved at sea over the past four days to more than 4,000.

On Saturday, the coastguard said it had picked up 1,348 migrants in 11 rescue operations.

Italy is on the front line of Europe's immigration crisis, which is now in its third year.—*Reuters*

Brazilian woman arrested after two boys die in jet ski accident in Japan

GIFU, (Japan) — A Brazilian woman was arrested on Monday after a 10-year-old boy and a 3-year-old boy were killed the previous day when her jet ski collided with their rubber boat on the Kiso River in Gifu Prefecture, police said.

Japanese police released the names of the boys as Oishi Fabio Hideki, 10, and Oishi Flavio Akira, 3, and that of the woman as Fugimoto Marjori Mayumi, 27, from Komaki in Aichi Prefecture.

The victims' Brazilian father Oishi Akira Fabio, 35, from Kani in Gifu, and his 8-year-old daughter were also in the boat and injured, though their wounds were not life-threatening, according to the police.

Fugimoto was quoted by the police as telling investigators that she "panicked" when her jet ski speeded up. The police are looking into whether she accelerated without heeding what was ahead and subsequently lost control of the jet ski.—*Kyodo News*

We had excellent discussions, IMF's Roaf says after meeting

BELGRADE — IMF Mission Chief for Serbia James Roaf told Tanjug on Monday after an official meeting with the Serbian delegation at the National Bank of Serbia (NBS) that he is satisfied with the discussions.

"We had excellent discussions," Roaf said briefly after a plenary meeting at the NBS, which opened the official discussions between the IMF and Serbian officials.

Earlier on, he explained in a statement to Tanjug that he will give details at a joint press conference with the Serbian delegation after the mission.

The Serbian delegation is headed by NBS Governor Jorgovanka Tabakovic, who is also Serbia's representative in the IMF, as well as Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic and Minister of Economy Zeljko Sertic and their aides.—*Tanjug*

Opinion

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.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.

In formulation of youth policy

Khin Maung Aye

A YOUTH policy is being formulated to produce all-round qualified youths by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement as part of its 100-day plan. The ministry held a youth forum in May that was attended by over 500 youths. The youth policy is being formulated with the objectives of keeping the youths strong and enabling them to maintain mental health, positive attitudes, discipline, high educational qualifications, creativity, social awareness and patriotism.

This month will also witness a youth affairs conference in Monywa, Sagaing Region, in which the following five topics will be discussed: youth and drugs; youth, human rights and democracy; youth and peace; youth and natural environmental conservation; and youth and attitudes toward youth affairs. This conference is expected to yield a youth affairs policy that will reflect the voices of the youths participating in the conference.

At this juncture, it is worth noting that the majority of the world's nations have youth affairs policies because their governments have come to understand that the national-level youth policies can be employed in their approach to engaging the youth. Even the United Nations Security Council has adopted a resolution concerning the youth. The youth policies adopted by European countries are also found to include education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and social welfare, social inclusion, innovation and culture. These policies are aimed at encouraging youths to actively participate in their societies and enabling them to enjoy equal rights in education and employment.

Regarding youth policies, there are three levels— national, regional and international. This being so, in the implementation of youth policies, it is essential for governments to implement national policies in consideration of both the regional context and international context so that national implementation will be in accord with regional and international norms.

The world's largest minority group

Dr. Khine Khine Win

Do you know which group is the world largest minority group? Disabled people group are the world's largest minority. The United Nations estimates that over a billion people live with some form of disability and they are disproportionately represented among the World's poorest and at greater risk of suffering from violence, disaster, poverty, and many other hardships. Eighty per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries, according to the UN Development Program (UNDP). 2014 National Census result showed 4.6 % of the Country population is living in disability in Myanmar and females have higher rates of disability than males and disability prevalence rate is highest in Ayeyawaddy region followed by Chin state.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. They are vulnerable and they face many barriers in their daily life. Disability affects hundreds of millions of families in developing countries. The World Bank estimates that 20 per cent of the world's poorest people have some kind of disability and tend to be regarded in their own communities as the most disadvantaged. Dr. Amartya Sen pointed out in his keynote address at the World Bank's conference on disability, the poverty line for disabled people should take into account the extra expenses they incur in exercising what purchasing power they do have. A study in the United Kingdom found that the poverty rate for disabled people was 23.1 percent compared to 17.9 percent for non-disabled people, but when extra expenses associated with being disabled were considered, the poverty rate for people with disabilities shot up to 47.4 percent.

In terms of education, disability rates in the population are higher among groups with lower educational level in the countries of the OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. In the OECD countries, students with disabilities in higher education remain under-represented, although their numbers are on the increase, says the OECD. On average, 19 per cent of less educated people have disabilities, compared to 11 per cent among the better educated. Ninety per cent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school, says UNESCO.

From human rights perspective, there is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This Convention was adopted on 13 December 2006 during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly by Resolution A/RES/61/106. CRPD ensures people with disabilities around the world can enjoy their human rights. It does not create new, special or different human rights for people with disabilities and it helps country how to act to assure people with disabilities are guaranteed human rights.

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. And this Convention recognizes that the importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

According to UN treaties collection, 164 countries are state parties of CRPD today. Myanmar acceded CRPD on 7 December 2011. Since then the government of Myanmar has taken some legislative and policy steps that indicate commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. These steps include enacting disability rights law on 5 June 2015, establishing national committee for the rights of people with disabilities chaired by Vice-president, forming Myanmar council of persons with disabilities. Moreover, Educational Rights of People with Disabilities were taken part in the National Education Law. These are the kind of efforts to promote support for disabled people and encourage an understanding of disability issues.

Despite having progress nowadays not only in Myanmar but also worldwide disabled people still facing many barriers and having impact more or less. Barriers include attitudinal, communication, physical, social, policy and transportation etc. Although they face different kinds of barriers in their daily life, luckily today understanding of disability with a view from society is improving in comparison with over the last decade. In order to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being, International day of people with disability is annually held on December 3. People from many countries worldwide participate in various ways to promote the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. However there are many things still need to improve and need more understanding from society. We need to change our perspective form charity perspective to human rights perspective.

It is important to see that disabled people are the people same as you. They do have dignity and rights same as you. We must respect their dignity and rights as you respect to able persons. Furthermore we have to make sure that disabled people are fully inclusive and equally living with in society as others.

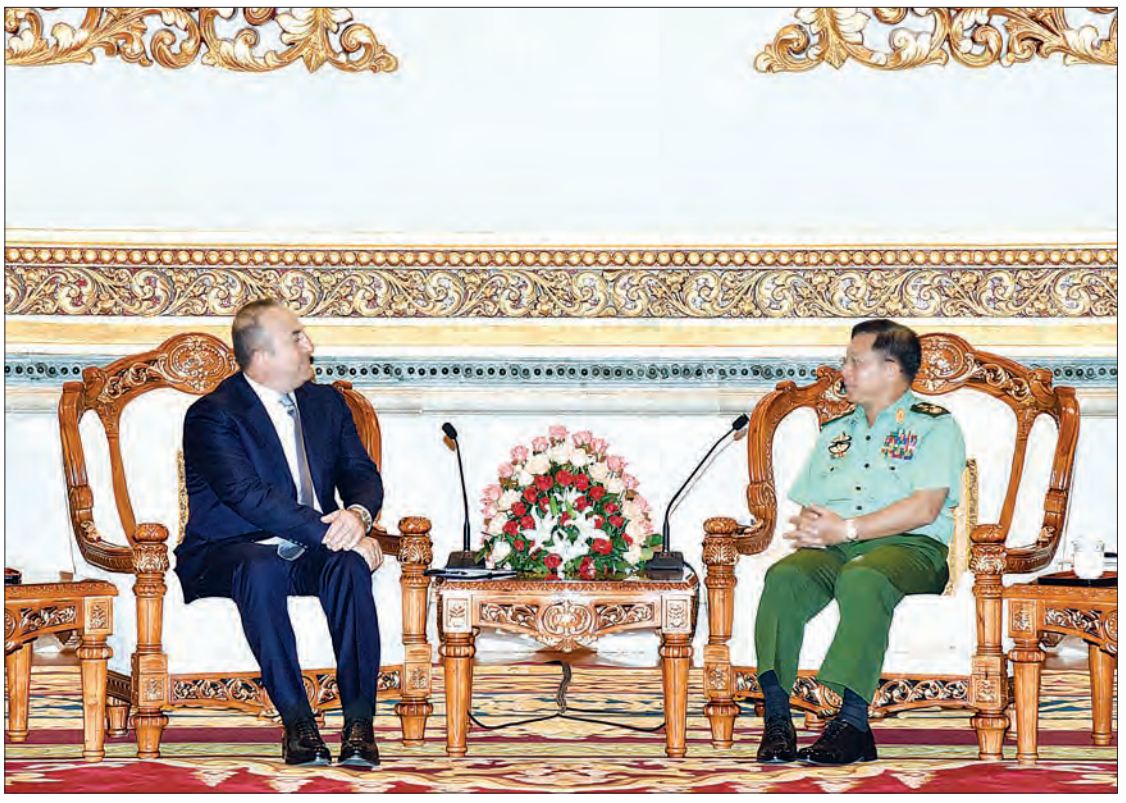
Government alone cannot do and also people to overcome the various issues related to disabled people. We all need to work together. We need to cooperate with NGOs, CSOs, UN and other international organizations and also organizations of disabled people. We do also need good and sustainnable policy for disabled people and must implement effectively with cooperation and understanding each other. Here, bear in mind that we have all obligations for our society.

Remember you can be a disabled person any time and it can happen anywhere. So be kind to, respect and understand disabled persons anytime, anywhere. You must not discriminate against them. Let them do what they can. Let them participate how they can. Let them say what they want to say. They have all rights like you. We have to encourage them all to participate in every affair. I do believe if the disabled person flourish, family will flourish, if the family flourish, society will flourish, if the society flourish the country will flourish. Last but not least, I do always pay respect to disabled people and I do pay respect to their slogan of disability rights movement, "Nothing about us without us". I wish all of you feel the same to me.

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's first regular session ends

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw announced yesterday that the first regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commencing on 8 February, 2016 concluded on 6 June.

Each and every Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representative was informed that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session went into recess on 10 June when the first regular sessions of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw concluded. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Turkish Foreign Minister Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Turkish FM

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Turkish Foreign Minister Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu held talks yesterday over the promotion of relations between the armed forces of the two countries and promotion of cooperation in non-military fields.

During the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, the two also discussed issues related to providing aid to communities in Rakhine State, efforts at peace and national reconciliation in Myanmar and recent efforts by the Tatmadaw to put the country on the path to democracy.—*Myawady*

Heads of service organizations transferred, appointed and appointments confirmed

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Director-General U Moe Zaw Shwe of the Department of Religious Affairs under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture to the Department for the Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the same ministry as Director-General from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Moreover, the President has confirmed the appointment of Director-General Dr Ye Tun Win of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Besides, the President has appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary (Deputy Director-General) U Myint Oo of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture as Director-General of the Department of Religious Affairs on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Land prices rise around Ngapali despite lack of buyers

THE value of real estate around Myanmar's premier beach destination, Ngapali, located in Rakhine State's Thandwe District, has appreciated, despite the absence of a buyers' market, according to local residents.

"The price of real estate in the area was stable prior to the beginning of the Ngapali Beach Hotel Zone project. Professional real estate agents don't exist here. Owners just say the price they'd like for their land. Although there aren't any buyers of real estate yet, the price of land has increased after the establishment of the hotel zone," said Daw Ei Thwe, a local resident.

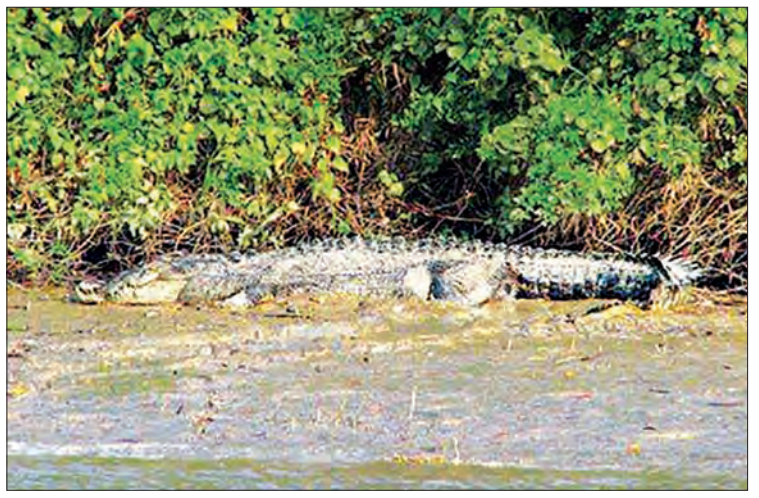
As of this month, land prices are around K1 billion per acre in the wake of the recognition of Ngapali as a hotel zone—a 10-fold increase compared to the price from 2010 to 2014.

Despite the offers from businessmen to buy up land in fishing villages near the earmarked hotel zone, villagers have not been persuaded to sell for fear that doing so would mean the demise of their villages and livelihoods.

However, although residents from these villages have not sold off their own working compounds, they have been known to sell off more ambiguously defined land in terms of ownership rights if they are offered a high price, such as swathes of forests and mountains located behind their villages, through which claims of ownership are legitimised by the span of time a family has tilled that land.

"Some people sell whole expanses of mountain land, which they claim through generations of cultivation. A whole mountain can fetch about K200 million, while the price of land near the main road in the urban centre of Ngapali Beach can cost up to a billion kyat," said U Myint Wai, a resident from Mazin Ward in Ngapali Beach.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Woman killed by crocodile in Ayeyawady Delta



A CROCODILE has attacked and killed a woman as she was cleaning a bucket in a nearby river outside Bogalay on Saturday.

Ma Khaing Kaing Oo, 29, from Hsinai Village was later confirmed dead; reports aren't specific enough to confirm if her remains have been recovered.

Myanmar's delta region is no stranger to crocodile attacks, as they occur yearly. Yet, there is no specific data that shows how frequent or at what time of year attacks are most prevalent.

Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the mouth of the Ayeyawady River. The sanctuary attracts visitors keen on viewing crocodile hatching camps and conservation projects in the region's mangrove forests – the forests are in a steady decline due to deforestation in the area.

Wildlife conservation groups have erected warning signs to alert villagers that crocodiles pose a threat in the area. —*Htay Naing (Bogalay)*

Military personnel participate in sanitation in Myitkyina. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE

Military personnel contributed voluntary labour in communal sanitation

TATMADAW personnel carried out communal sanitation work in the compound of the Aungzayyanaung Aungthapyaytahtaung Tat Oo Monastery in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 11 June.

The military staff cut bushes and cleaned the drainage system to allow for the proper flow of water in the compound of the monastery. They also cleaned the platform of a stupa in the monastery.

Similarly, Tatmadaw members from the Southeast Command cleaned guesthouses as well as the compound of the Shwe Nattaung Basic Primary School in Mawlamyine, Mon State, that day.

They cleaned rubbish and weeds and dug drains within compound of the hostels and the monastery.

They also sprayed mosquito repellent in the men's and women's hostels. —*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

US may not make Afghanistan troop decision by Warsaw summit

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama may not decide before a NATO summit next month whether to alter plans to nearly halve America's forces in Afghanistan, a diplomat and a US official said.

A decision had been expected at or before the summit in Warsaw on 8-9 July on whether to stick to plans to slash the 9,800 troops to 5,500 before Obama leaves office next year.

Former commanders and envoys have warned that it would be a mistake. And with preparations in full swing for the summit, the timing of any decision by Obama remains unclear.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter flies to Brussels on Monday to meet NATO counterparts, with Afghanistan expected to be high on the agenda.

One reason to decide on slowing the US drawdown before the summit might be to encourage NATO allies to keep their troops in Afghanistan, where President Ashraf Ghani's government is battling a Taliban insurgency that has gathered fresh momentum.

NATO allies seem less intent on cutting their troop presence, which could give Obama more time to formulate and telegraph his own plans.

US soldiers from Dragon Troop of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment discuss their mission during their first training exercise of the new year near operating base Gamberi in the Laghman Province of Afghanistan in January 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We have been moderately, pleasantly surprised at the willingness to stay at current levels of most other allies, and some willingness to consider increasing," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Just because there is a summit doesn't mean (you) need a decision," he added.

To be sure, Afghanistan will be a major issue at the summit and Obama still could make a decision before then.

"It does not have to happen by Warsaw but it certainly will be a topic there," said a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The size and scope of other nation contributions are a logical consideration in our decision-making."

The White House has yet to receive the recommendations from its new commander in Afghanistan, General John Nicholson, who conducted a comprehensive security review during his first 90 days on the job. The review's results have not been made public.

In a sign of his willingness to broaden the US role in Afghanistan, Obama last week approved giving the US military greater ability to accompany and to enable Afghan forces in offensive operations, including carrying out air strikes.

Speaking on Friday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters the decision to broaden the remit "does not limit in any way our ability to follow through with the plan to draw down our troops at a level of 5,500 troops by the end of this year."

Obama would consider changing the troop numbers if Nicholson recommended that, Earnest said.

Nicholson's predecessors and former US envoys to Afghanistan urged Obama earlier this month to keep troop levels steady at near 10,000 through the remainder of his term.

"This approach would also allow your successor to assess the situation for herself or himself and make further adjustments accordingly," the letter read.

Cutting the forces to 5,500, in turn, would erode the morale of Afghan government forces and bolster the Taliban, they wrote.

Obama has already scaled back the troop withdrawal plans he laid out in May 2014, when he pledged to cut to roughly 5,000 by end 2015 and to "a normal embassy presence ... with a security assistance component, just as we've done in Iraq" by the end of 2016.

Among the factors weighing in his troop decision include how much, if any, additional support he may get from other NATO nations; the signal that a cut will send to Ghani and to the Taliban; and what kind of legacy he leaves his successor.—*Reuters*

Bomb blast in central Beirut aimed at bank

BEIRUT — A bomb exploded outside the headquarters of Lebanese Blom Bank in central Beirut on Sunday, causing damage but no fatalities, the interior minister said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The Lebanese banking sector has been at the centre of an escalating crisis since the United States passed a law requiring banks to take steps to target the finances of the armed Shi'ite political group Hezbollah.

Lebanon's central bank has pushed its commercial banks to heed the US act, and Blom Bank is one of those that has closed accounts belonging to people suspected of links to Hezbollah. The group had no immediate comment on the blast.

The Lebanese Red Cross said two people had suffered minor injuries in the blast, which took place around 8 pm in the Verdun area of Beirut, the National News Agency reported.

Local television showed footage of a damaged building, with one hole in a concrete wall, and said shattered glass had fallen to the ground from several storeys up.

The head of Lebanon's internal security force, Ibrahim Basbous, said the bomb had contained around 15 kg of explosive material and had been placed in a flower bed, the National News Agency said.

Interior Minister Nohad Machnouk said: "Politically it is clear that the target was Blom Bank only."

He said the attack had nothing to do with the militant group Islamic State, which has mounted suicide bombings in Beirut.

Forensic inspectors examine the site of an explosion at the headquarters of the Lebanese Blom Bank in Beirut, Lebanon, on 12 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

The last bomb attack to hit the Lebanese capital killed more than 40 people in November in the southern suburbs, an area where Hezbollah is dominant. That bombing was claimed by the Sunni Muslim Islamic State.

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil tweeted that the attack had "targeted the stability of the whole of Lebanon".—*Reuters*

Former Niger Delta militants urge Avengers to join in government talks

YENAGOA, (Nigeria) — A group of Nigerian former militants have urged the Niger Delta Avengers, who have claimed responsibility for a recent string of attacks on oil and gas facilities, to join in discussions with the government, a statement said on Sunday.

Last week, the Avengers said they would not cooperate with a government initiative to start talks with them and other militants over their demands for a greater share of oil wealth and pollution in the impoverished southern swamp area.

The attacks have cut Nigeria's oil output to a 20-year low.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) said: "If indeed your cause is to avenge the injustice done to the Niger Delta region then, we urge you to ceasefire and join us to the table of negotiation with the federal Government."

MEND, one of largest militant groups until it signed up for a government amnesty in 2009, said in a statement it had nominated a team of negotiators on its own behalf.

"Following useful exploratory discussions held with high ranking officials of the current administration... MEND has constituted (a team) to dialogue with the federal Government on the immediate, medium and long-term future of the Niger Delta region," it said.

MEND has said some of its former commanders and fighters make up the Avengers, claims denied by the group. Security officials have also linked a MEND commander to the Avengers, though he denies this.

The government has moved in army reinforcements to the southern swamps but Western allies such as Britain have said widespread poverty and oil spills in the Niger Delta need to be addressed to stop the militants.—*Reuters*

Scientists use climate, population changes to predict diseases

LONDON — British scientists say they have developed a model that can predict outbreaks of zoonotic diseases — those such as Ebola and Zika that jump from animals to humans — based on changes in climate.

Describing their model as "a major improvement in our understanding of the spread of diseases from animals to people", the researchers said it could help governments prepare for and respond to disease outbreaks, and to factor in their risk when making policies that might affect the environment.

"Our model can help decision-makers assess the likely impact (on zoonotic disease) of any interventions or change in national or international government policies, such as the conversion of grasslands to agricultural lands," said Kate Jones, a professor who co-led the study at University College London's genetics, evolution and environment department.

The model also has the potential to look at the impact of global change on many diseases at once, she said.

Around 60 to 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases are so-called "zoonotic events", where animal diseases jump into people. Bats in particular are known to carry many zoonotic viruses.

A mosquito is seen under a microscope at the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District in Santa Fe Springs, California, US, in May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Ebola and Zika viruses, now well known, both originated in wild animals, as did many others including Rift Valley fever and Lassa fever that affect thousands already and are predicted to spread with changing environmental factors.

Jones' team used the locations of 408 known Lassa fever outbreaks in West Africa between 1967 and 2012 and the changes in land use and crop yields, temperature and rainfall, behaviour and access to health care.

They also identified the sub-species of the multimammate rat that transmits Lassa virus to humans, to map its location against ecological factors.

The model was then developed using this information along with forecasts of climate change, future population density and land-use change.

"Our approach successfully predicts outbreaks of individual diseases by pairing the changes in the host's distribution as the environment changes with the mechanics of how that disease spreads from animals to people," said David Redding, who co-led the study.

"It allows us to calculate how often people are likely to come into contact with disease-carrying animals and their risk of the virus spilling over."

The team tested their new model using Lassa fever, a disease that is endemic across West Africa and is caused by a virus passing to people from rats. Like Ebola, Lassa causes haemorrhagic fever and can be fatal.

The study, published in the journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, tested the model with Lassa and found the number of infected people will double to 406,000 by 2070 from some 195,000 due to climate change and a growing human population.—*Reuters*

Vaping teens more apt to move on to regular cigarettes — US study

NEW YORK — Older teens who try electronic cigarettes have six times the odds of trying regular cigarettes within two years than those who never puffed on the devices, a study published on Monday found.

"We're concerned that kids who experiment with e-cigarettes may be moving on to other types of tobacco products, like combustible cigarettes, which are arguably a lot more dangerous," said University of Southern California researcher Jessica Barrington-Trimis, lead author of the study published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

E-cigarettes are handheld electronic devices that vaporize a fluid typically including nicotine and a flavor component. Using them is called "vaping."

The researchers based their findings on surveys conducted by USC involving about 300 high school students in southern California. In 2014, about half of the students said they had at least tried an e-cigarette.

In a 2015 follow-up survey, about 40 per cent of those who had tried an e-cigarette by the previous year had tried regular cigarettes. That compared to about 11 per cent of those who said they had not tried an e-cigarette in the prior year's survey. After adjusting the statistics for gender, ethnicity, grade and parental education, the researchers calculated that the teens who tried the e-cigarettes had six times the odds of taking up smoking than those who never tried them.

When the researchers looked at teens who said on the first survey that they had no intention to smoke, the risk of moving from e-cigarettes to regular cigarettes by the next year was 10 times greater than those who never vaped. Barrington-Trimis said the high risk among teens committed to not smoking "suggests this is not just occurring among kids who intended to smoke anyway." The survey participants were 11th and 12th grade students who all were least 18 years old by the second survey. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended in 2015 that the devices be regulated as tobacco products due to concerns they would lead teens to regular cigarettes and also expose their developing brains to nicotine. The US Food and Drug Administration last month took wide-ranging steps to crack down on e-cigarettes and banned sales to anyone under age 18.

Dr. Michael Siegel, a professor at the Boston University School of Public Health and a proponent of e-cigarettes as a way to wean smokers off conventional cigarettes, said the study did not prove e-cigarette use had prompted the teens to take up regular cigarettes.

Siegel, who was not involved in the study, said the first survey did not determine how many times the teens had vaped, asking only if they had used e-cigarettes at least once.

"What's probably happening is these kids did not become regular vapers, (and) they turned to smoking," Siegel said. "If they turned into regular vapers, they wouldn't have turned to smoking."—*Reuters*

Abortion providers, opponents brace for US high court decision

WASHINGTON — As she waits for the US Supreme Court to rule on a challenge to a restrictive Texas abortion law, Amy Hagstrom-Miller said she hopes she will not have to close up to three of the clinics she operates in the state, but is planning for it just in case.

Hagstrom-Miller founded Whole Woman's Health, which runs four facilities in Texas that provide abortions and led the legal challenge to the law.

She said she has spreadsheets listing staffers who would be laid off if the court allows the law to survive, and is thinking about selling buildings and medical equipment as well as shutting her clinics in Fort Worth, San Antonio and McAllen.

"I would be irresponsible if I didn't plan," Hagstrom-Miller said in an interview.

The Supreme Court is due to rule by the end of June on whether the Texas law, which imposes strict regulations on abortion doctors and clinic facilities, violates a woman's constitutional right to end her pregnancy as set out in the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling. The court has not issued a major abortion-related ruling since 2007.

The law requires abortion doctors to have "admitting privileges," a type of formal affiliation, at a hospital within 30 miles (48 km) of the clinic. That provision has been implemented. A second provision, not yet in effect, requires clinics to have costly hospital-grade facilities including extensive standards for such attributes as corridor width, room size, floor tiles and the swinging motion of doors.

Supporters of the law, passed by a Republican-led legislature and signed by a Republican governor in 2013, say it was enacted to protect women's health.—*Reuters*

Protesters demonstrate in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in the morning as the court takes up a major abortion case focusing on whether a Texas law that imposes strict regulations on abortion doctors and clinic buildings interferes with the constitutional right of a woman to end her pregnancy, in Washington in March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nervous Baltics on war footing as NATO tries to deter Russia

US troops cross the Lithuanian-Latvian border during tactical road march Dragoon Ride II in Subate, Latvia, on 6 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

VILNIUS — Leaders in the Baltic countries and Poland fear the force NATO plans to deploy on their territory is too small and symbolic to deter an attack by Russia, whose 2014 annexation of Crimea is fresh in the memories of the former Soviet-bloc states.

They will this week press other ministers of the western military alliance to help them build an air defence system against Russian aircraft and missiles. But that would be a highly sensitive step, likely to be condemned by Moscow as yet more evidence of a NATO strategy threatening its borders.

Asked about the likelihood of Russian aggression in the Baltics, Lithuania's Defence Minister Juozas Olekas told Reuters: "We cannot exclude it ... They might exercise on the borders and then switch to invasion in hours."

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia see themselves on the front line in any potential conflict with Moscow and say they are putting their armies on a war footing, meaning they can be mobilised almost immediately.

NATO defence ministers are set to agree this week on a new multinational force of 4,000 troops for the Baltics and Poland.

The United States, Germany and Britain are set to lead battalions of about 1,000 troops each. Canada may lead a fourth.

While the Baltic nations welcome the deployments, they say the build-up must go further - pointing to Russia's efforts to develop an "anti-access" capability in the Kaliningrad exclave bordering Lithuania and Poland, using missiles and submarines to stop NATO moving reinforcements into the Baltics.

The Baltics want NATO fighters to protect their skies and are seeking medium-range missile interceptors from Norway's Kongsberg Gruppen and US defence contractor Raytheon.

"We need to stop possible air aggression," said Olekas. "We are discussing creating a regional medium-range air defence system together with the Latvians, the Estonians and the Poles."

Olekas expects to raise the matter with NATO colleagues at the ministers' meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday in Brussels.

The head of the Estonian defence force Lieutenant General Riho Terras said: "The first and foremost is the defence of our airspace. Air defence is the challenge that needs to solved together with the NATO alliance."

"We are not talking about defence of Lithuania, we are talking about the credibility of the whole alliance," said Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius.

But such calls would require stretched NATO governments to beef up the so-called air policing mission that regularly intercepts Russian jets flying over international waters close to the Baltic states. The Baltic nations rely on their NATO allies' quick reaction aircraft to patrol their skies, with no mandate to confront hostile aircraft in a conflict.

Four British Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets and four Portuguese F-16 fighter jets are currently carrying out the air policing mission. Officials say a lot more would be needed for air defence. —*Reuters*

Mexico arrests teacher union boss, doubles down on education reform

Ruben Nunez (L), a member from the National Coordination of Education Workers (CNTE) teachers' union takes part in a march against President Pena Nieto's education reform, along Reforma Avenue in Mexico City, Mexico, on 27 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's government said on Sunday it had arrested the leader of a dissident teachers' union for alleged corruption, redoubling efforts to impose its authority on an education reform that has sparked months of protests in the country. Deputy attorney general Gilberto Higuera told a news conference that Ruben Nunez, head one of the most combative factions of the CNTE union, had been held on suspicion of receiving money of illicit origin through the organisation.

"This is another step in the process of full application of the law, and respect for the rule of law," said Javier Trevino, deputy minister of education.

Nunez is secretary general of the CNTE's Section 22 in the southern state of Oaxaca, a long-standing hotbed of resistance to government efforts to reform the education system.

According to Higuera, Section 22 made a deal with companies supplying the teachers' union to charge an illegal 3.5 per cent commission on sales, money its leaders then used for personal ends and to fund demonstrations by its members.

Between 2013 and 2015, more than 24 million pesos ($1.29 million) were acquired by Nunez as part of the scheme, he added.

The CNTE was defiant following Nunez's arrest.

"We're not going to give up our fight," Section 22 member Juan Garcia told a crowd of supporters in Oaxaca's capital, Oaxaca City.

Organising marches and protests that have frequently caused chaos in the Mexican capital, the CNTE has spearheaded efforts to resist the education reform, in particular its mandate to carry out evaluations of teachers.

Critics argue many teachers in the poorer south lack the financial support to meet required standards.

President Enrique Pena Nieto has staked his name on the reform, describing it as the most important for Mexico's future.

In the past month the government has said over 4,000 teachers in the states of Michoacan, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas on the Pacific seaboard will be dismissed.

Two other senior figures in Nunez's group have also been arrested in recent days, and the three men are in prison in the northern city of Hermosillo, officials said.—*Reuters*

Zimbabwe villagers displaced by diamond mining hope to see action from government

MUTARE, (Zimbabwe) — Villagers re-located to a sprawling government-owned farm complex in eastern Zimbabwe to make way for the nation's biggest diamond field are hoping that President Robert Mugabe's move to take control of the valued resource will benefit them.

More than 1,000 families were moved in 2009 from a village adjacent to the Chiadzwa diamond field in Marange to Arda Transau, a 12,000 hectare farm settlement about 40 km (25 miles) to the north with promises of a better life. Arda Transau was billed as a new township with tarred roads, shops and health clinics — but seven years later the villagers say they have yet to see the promised education and health facilities while their homes are crumbling and food is scarce.

Seven mining companies licensed to mine the area were ordered in March to leave by Mugabe who accused them of robbing Zimbabwe of wealth. Mugabe took over all diamond operations in the newly-formed Zimbabwe Consolidation Diamond Company (ZCDC). Some of the affected diamond companies — Mbada Diamonds and Anjin Investments — have since taken the government to court with the issue still pending before the courts. While Mugabe's move could further tarnish the country's image as a risky investment, with investors already unnerved by his drive to force foreign-owned firms to sell majority shares to locals, the relocated villagers are hoping it will help them. Caiphas Mujuru is one of the Arda Transau residents lobbying the government to get ZCDC to address the problems faced by the villagers who are facing severe food shortages.

"Life is really difficult here at Arda Transau. We are going hungry," Mujuru told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We had been promised honey and milk here but it is now a nightmare for us." When the villagers were moved, each family was given $1,000 in compensation and a four-room house but these new dwellings, painted bright yellow, have since developed cracks. Families were promised 11 hectares of arable land including one hectare earmarked for irrigation to run small piggery or poultry projects but this never happened, the villagers say.

People in Marange hoped the diamond industry would pump money into reviving failing irrigation schemes as small-scale farmers cannot maintain or replace ageing equipment and national law requires mining companies to help local communities develop.—*Reuters*

Russia and England could be expelled from Euro 2016 if violence persists

PARIS/MARSEILLE, (France) — European soccer's governing body warned the English and Russian soccer associations on Sunday their teams could be disqualified from Euro 2016 if there was more of the fan violence that has injured several dozen people.

UEFA's threat came after it began disciplinary proceedings against the Russian federation on Sunday following ugly scenes inside Marseille's Stade Velodrome stadium at the end of Saturday's match between England and Russia.

Masked Russian fans charged at England supporters, punching and kicking them. Some England fans had to scramble over barriers to escape.

UEFA said it would also investigate allegations of racist behavior and the throwing of missiles and fireworks.

The violence in the stadium followed three days of clashes between English, Russian and French fans in the Mediterranean port city of Marseille that drew a strong response from riot police.

UEFA said it was "disgusted" and would not hesitate to impose sanctions, including "the potential disqualification of their respective teams from the tournament, should such violence occur again". It said a decision on sanctions against Russia would be made on Tuesday.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve called the fans' behavior barbaric and said it was "absolutely necessary that national federations whose supporters create incidents of this nature be penalized".

A ministry spokesman said Cazeneuve was not calling for Russia and England to be punished, but rather supporting UEFA's stance.

The minister also said he had asked the cities hosting Euro 2016 fixtures to ban the sale and consumption of alcohol in zones where the risk of confrontation was most acute.

England fans try to escape trouble in the stadium as clashes breakout at Stade Velodrome, Marseille, France on 11 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

English and Russian fans will almost certainly cross paths in northern France later this week, with Russia playing Slovakia in Lille on Wednesday and England facing Wales only 40 km (25 miles) away in Lens on Thursday.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, who had initially denied there had been any crowd disturbance, said UEFA was right to investigate.

It is the second time in as many European Championship tournaments that the Russian federation has faced sanctions because of its fans.

Russia was fined and given a suspended six-point deduction for its Euro 2016 qualifying campaign after fans assaulted stadium security staff and displayed illicit banners at the 2012 tournament in Poland and Ukraine.

The British government urged calm on all sides and offered to send more police to France ahead of England's next game.—*Reuters*

Cambodia launches China-backed Maritime Silk Road Research Centre

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jianguo on Monday inaugurated here the (21st Century) Maritime Silk Road Research Center, aiming to further broaden Sino-Cambodian relations and cooperation.

"The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative, along with the Silk Road Economic Belt, is a wise initiative of the Chinese leaders in the new generation," the prime minister said during the inauguration ceremony.

To back the initiative, China has established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund.

"With the initiative, we have two additional sources of capital — AIIB and Silk Road Fund — to invest in connectivity and integration among countries along the Maritime Silk Road," Hun Sen said.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KORALIA VOY NO (750)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KORALIA VOY NO (750) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (116N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (116N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Zayn Malik cancels UK concert appearance due to anxiety

LOS ANGELES — Singer Zayn Malik called off his UK concert appearance as he is suffering from the worst anxiety of his career. The 23-year-old Pillowtalk hitmaker was scheduled to appear at Summertime Ball 2016 in London on Saturday (June 11) night, reported US magazine.

Zayn took to Twitter to issue an apology to those who were waiting to see him perform live at Wembley Stadium. "To all those people who have been waiting to see me perform at the Capital Summertime Ball today," he began, "I flew into the UK last night to appear in my home country in front of my family, friends, and most importantly my UK fans.

"Unfortunately my anxiety that has haunted me throughout the last few months around live performances has gotten the better of me … with the magnitude of the event, I have suffered the worst anxiety of my career," he wrote. The singer said he will try his best to come out of the situation and hopes his fans will understand his situation.

"I cannot apologies enough but I want to be honest with everyone who has patiently waited to see me, I promise I will do my best to make this up to everybody I've let down today. I know those who suffer anxiety will understand and I hope those who don't can empathies with my situation."—*PTI*

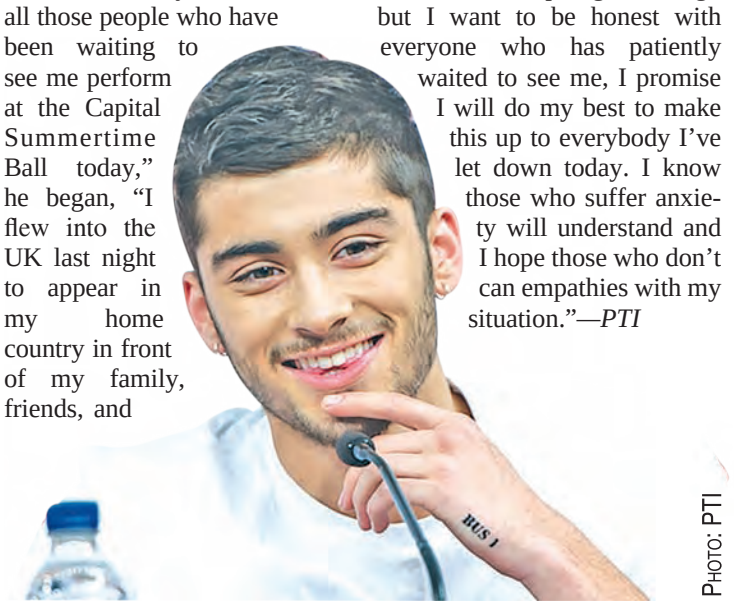


PHOTO: PTI

PHOTO: PTI

Irrfan Khan reunites with Tom Hanks for Inferno promotions

MUMBAI — Actor Irrfan Khan has reunited with Hollywood actor Tom Hanks for the promotion of their upcoming movie "Inferno".

The mystery thriller, based on the 2013 novel of the same name by Dan Brown, has been directed by Ron Howard.

In the film, Hanks will reprise the role of Robert Langdon, a professor of symbology at Harvard University. Irrfan is playing Harry "The Provost" Sims, head of The Consortium.

"Reunited for @infernothemovie promotions with these amazing guys @RealRonHoward @tomhanks in #Singapore," Irrfan 49, posted on Twitter alongside a picture of the trio.

Reunited for @infernothemovie promotions with these amazing guys @RealRonHoward @tomhanks in #Singapore !! pic.twitter.com/vFk9x9A5Ai

— irrfan (@irrfan_k) June 13, 2016 "Inferno" also stars Felicity Jones and Ben Foster. The film is slated to release this October.—*PTI*

Jennifer Lopez was pressured to lose weight

LOS ANGELES — Singer Jennifer Lopez says she was once asked to lose weight early on in her career. The 46-year-old Ain't Your Mama singer when she was struggling to establish herself in Hollywood, people (including her own manager) used to tell her she needed to be thinner, reported E!online.

"They kept telling me to lose weight, and I was a dancer, and I was athletic, and even my manager at the time who I no longer work with was telling me, 'You need to lose weight. You need to be thinner,' I was like, 'No I don't. If I lose any more weight, it won't be me.' You know what I mean?" "It was a fight. It was definitely a fight, and so it's good to hear that it helped anybody in some way, because at the end of the day I was just trying to be myself without trying to fit into a mold of what everybody else should be," Lopez said. The pop diva shared her story when a fan said the singer's famous curves inspired her to stop wearing sweatshirts around her waist.—*PTI*

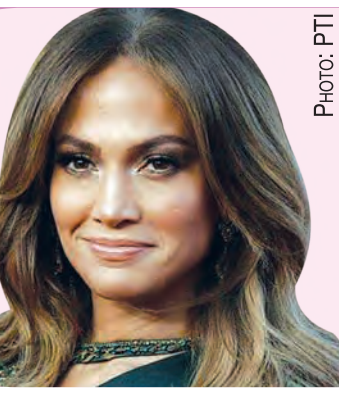


PHOTO: PTI

Angelina Jolie in early talks for Murder on the Orient Express remake

LOS ANGELES — Actress Angelina Jolie is in early talks to star in Fox Studios' remake of Murder on the Orient Express.

Actor-director Kenneth Branagh is helming the project and will also star as Hercule Poirot, reported Variety.

The producers are Branagh, Ridley Scott, Simon Kinbergnand Mark Gordon.

Michael Green is writing the screenplay based on Agatha Christie's novel.

Published in 1934, the novel revolves around a murder onboard the famous train. The film follows Belgian detective Poirot, who is handling the case, in which a number of passengers could potentially be the murderer.

Actress Angelina Jolie is in early talks to star in Fox Studios' remake of Murder on the Orient Express. PHOTO: PTI

The movie is a remake of Sidney Lumet's 1974 film, which starred Albert Finney as the genius detective investigating the murder. The all-star cast of suspects included Lauren Bacall, Ingrid Bergman, Jacqueline Bisset, Colin Blakely, Sean Connery, John Gielgud, Anthony Perkins, Vanessa Redgrave and Michael York.—*PTI*

Smash hit 'Hamilton' sweeps Tonys with 11 wins during somber ceremony

NEW YORK — "Hamilton", the pop culture phenomenon based on US founding father Alexander Hamilton, swept the Tonys on Sunday, winning 11 of Broadway's top awards including best musical, best actor, best direction and best score and book for creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

The musical, which tells the story of the ill-fated Hamilton with a deft musical melding of hip-hop and rap, R&B, ballads and traditional Broadway showstoppers, also won for featured actress and actor and several technical awards.

A somber note was cast over the festivities by the attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida early on Sunday that killed 50 people and wounded 53. Several winners spoke of the tragedy in their acceptance speeches.

Jessica Lange, winning her first Tony as morphine-addicted Mary Tyrone in "Long Day's Journey Into Night, said the honor "fills me with such happiness, even on such a sad day as this."

Host James Corden opened the usually ebullient show with a statement to victims and others affected: "Your tragedy is our tragedy ... hate will never win."

"Tonight's show stands as a symbol and a celebration of that principle," he said.

Miranda, accepting best score for a musical, delivered a sonnet for his acceptance, done in the style of verse heard in "Hamilton".

"Senseless acts of tragedy ... times of hate," he said, his voice breaking as he ended with "love is love is love, cannot be killed." Miranda also won best book of a musical.

Backstage, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "No child is ever born to hate."

Frank Langella, who won his fourth Tony for best actor in a play as an Alzheimer's-afflicted patriarch in "The Father," said the theater community stood in support. "I urge you, Orlando, to be strong," Langella said.

"The Humans" won the Tony for best play, while Jayne Houdyshell and Reed Birney were named best featured actress and actor in a play for the family drama. It also won for scenic design.—*Reuters*

Japanese woman wins bandoneon championship

FUKUOKA — A Japanese woman fascinated by a "breathing" music instrument called a bandoneon was selected last year as the world's most talented player of the instrument, which is indispensable for the Argentine tango.

Yukie Kawanami, 36, won the 1st Che Bandoneon International Competition held in August 2015 as part of the Stowe Tango Music Festival in the Vermont city. The event in the United States was aimed at promoting tango musicians.

Kawanami was one of four finalists who survived an audition using recorded videos on the YouTube video sharing site and swept the championship in the finals held in Stowe.

With the appearance of a square accordion, the bandoneon has bellows between two wooden boxes that contain reed organs controlled by rows of buttons covering a five octave range. The bellows, when expanded and contracted, provide air to the reed organs to produce sounds.

"What I like about the bandoneon is that I can produce music that sounds as if the instrument is breathing," said Kawanami, who is one of the few up-and-coming female bandoneon players in Japan.

Kawanami, from Munakata, Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, started playing piano when she was 6 and entered the Tokyo College of Music.

But she was captivated by the Latin instrument when she happened to see Ryota Komatsu, a leading Japanese bandoneon player, performing during a TV programme shortly before she took an entrance exam for the college.

"It just clicked," Kawanami said. She wrote a letter to Komatsu and became his apprentice upon entering the college. While taking piano lessons at school, she devoted the rest of her time to bandoneon practice.

Having graduated from the college, she pursued a career as a bandoneon player and released a CD album.

But she was diagnosed as suffering from thyroid cancer in November 2011 and had surgery to remove all her thyroid. She still needs to have a checkup every four months.

"It won't change anything even if I worry (about a possible recurrence of cancer)," she said. "So I take it positively and keep going."

Kawanami is eager to perform on various occasions even outside her field and has played "debayashi" music that announces the entrance of a "rakugo" storyteller on stage and also played with an orchestra in a classical concert. She said her current dream is to invite bandoneon players from Argentina and go on a grand tour with them all around Japan.—*Kyodo News*

Photo taken on 5 April 2016 in Fukuoka, Fukuoka Prefecture, shows Yukie Kawanami, winner of the first Che Bandoneon International Competition held in August 2015 as part of the Stowe Tango Music Festival in the Vermont city. The event in the United States was aimed at promoting tango musicians. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Gladiators fight again in ancient Roman settlement in Austria

PETRONELL, (Austria) — Gladiators reenacted fights in the amphitheatre of the ancient Roman city of Carnuntum whose archaeological remains stretch over 10 square kilometres (3.86 square miles) in eastern Austria.

Clad in leather armour and feathered metal helmets, men attacked one another with wooden batons and painted shields as children and women in Roman costumes looked on.

Archaeologists have reconstructed part of Carnuntum - which they say used to be a hub of the Roman Empire around 1,700 years ago - for tourists, who can now relive ancient Roman culture in the gladiator school, public baths and a museum.—*Reuters*

Members of the 'Familia Gladiatoria Carnuntina' prepare for a fight in the historic amphitheatre during the Roman Festival at the archeological site of Carnuntum in Petronell, Austria, on 11 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(14-6-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am
- Socio Economic Scenes

8:35 am
- Documentary

9:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

10:35 am
- MRTV Education

11:15 am
- Human right programme "Still in the Dark"

11:35 am
- Talk Show

12:35 pm
- TV Drama Series

1:30 pm
- TV Drama Series

2:15 pm
- Sing & Enjoy

3:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

4:35 pm
- Football Magazine (Ayeyarwady United)

5:15 pm
- Catch Asia News

6:35 pm
- Kyaye Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:15 pm
- TV Drama Series

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

9:00 pm
- News
- TV Drama Series
- Yes or No Talk Show (Part-1)
- Song In Myanmar Movies

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14- 6-2016, Tuesday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

06 : 20 pm
- Cartoon Programme " Car 2 " (Part-1)

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 40 pm
- Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Episode-1)

09 : 10 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 20 pm
- Wonderful Indonesia

09 : 50 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 10 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 14-6-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
To 15-6-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(14-6-2016 07:00am ~ 15-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar Game Changers (Episode- II)
07:50	Am	Excavation At Kawhmu
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	News Extra- Singapore-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
08:50	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Choral Dance (Duel)
09:33	Am	Choral Dance By Female Dancers
09:41	Am	Kayah
09:48	Am	Hip Hop & Design
09:52	Am	Today Myanmar: Alleviation of Betel Quid
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Gardener: Rose Plantation
10:32	Am	History And Mystery Behind The Caves

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	A visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
08:51	Pm	Black Gold (Part- I)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

9th Waxing of Nayon 1378 ME | Tuesday, 14 June, 2016

Shkodran Mustafi (L) of Germany heads to score during the Euro 2016 Group C soccer match between Germany and Ukraine in Lille, France, on 12 June, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Germany shows muscle, Poland enjoys 1st win, Modric magic

LILLE, (France) — UEFA EURO 2016 Day 3 witnessed world champion Germany's dominating strength, Poland's first win in the tournament's history and the magic of Croatia's Real Madrid playmaker Luka Modric.

Germany beat Ukraine 2-0 in its first match of Group C here on Sunday night with 63 percent ball possession and the completion of 612 passes against 202 for Ukraine.

German central defender Shkodran Mustafi, 24, opened the scoring in the 19th minute when the Valencia defender outjumped Ukrainian midfielder Serhiy Sydorchuk to power a header into the top corner of the net.

It was the first international goal for Mustafi.

The second goal appeared in the 92nd minute when substitute playmaker Bastian Schweinsteiger, who just came from the bench for two minutes, picked Mesut Ozil's pinpoint cross in the box and guided a bounced volley past the helpless Ukrainian keeper Andriy Pyatov.

German coach Joachim Low said, "It was an intense and fast-paced game. It wasn't easy against a good Ukrainian defense, but we found solutions and so I'm very satisfied."

Ukraine coach Mykhailo Fomenko said, "Sydorchuk is a young player. I think we need some experience. The German team played like a machine, a very high level machine, very impressive."

Although Toni Kroos was picked as the Man of the Match, Pyatov was at least another eyecatching player who denied many scoring attempts from Ozil, Draxler, Muller, Gotze and substitute Andre Schurrle.

In Nice, Arkadiusz Milik's goal in the 51st minute helped Poland to edge newcomer Northern Ireland 1-0 in Group C.

It was the first-ever win for Poland at a European Championship, following two disappointing displays in the last two tournaments.

"It's just the beginning, the next matches will show that we can play even better," said Poland midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak. Lewandowski, Poland's top star, scored 13 in the Euro 2016 qualifiers, was besieged by defenders of Northern Ireland when he touched the ball and had no chance to score.

In Paris, a thumping volley from Modric helped Croatia earn a 1-0 victory over Turkey in its Group D opener.

The 30-year-old sent in the dipping volley with his right foot in the 41st minute.

"It was one of his (Luka's) best matches in Croatia's history. He was really playing well. He was really our leader," said Croatia coach Ante Cacic. "He scored a magical goal and at the end it was the only goal. We need Luka in this form. All the team looks better and more aggressive when he plays like that," Cacic added.—*Xinhua*

Portugal winger Quaresma doubtful for Iceland clash

PARIS — Portugal winger Ricardo Quaresma is doubtful for his team's Euro 2016 Group F opener against Iceland on Tuesday due to a muscular injury.

The Besiktas player missed training on Sunday and according to Portuguese media, tests conducted on Quaresma's right leg revealed a minor problem with the 32-year-old set to undergo a fitness test on Monday afternoon.

Portugal, coached by Fernando Santos, will hold a training session at St Etienne's Stade Geoffrey-Guichard later on Monday, the same venue where they will face Iceland.

Quaresma scored twice and set up two more goals in his national team's 7-0 demolition of Estonia last week, Portugal's final warm-up game for the tournament in France.

Should Quaresma fail to pass the fitness test, Fenerbahce winger Nani is expected to take his place in the starting side, alongside former Manchester United team mate Cristiano Ronaldo in the attack.

Nani started just one of Portugal's three warm-up games, a 1-0 defeat to England on 2 June and was replaced by Quaresma after 61 minutes. —*Reuters*

Portugal's Ricardo Quaresma celebrates his goal against Estonia. PHOTO: REUTERS

Contentious Peru goal knocks Brazil out of Copa

FOXBOROUGH, (Massachusetts) — Substitute Raul Riudiaz's hotly disputed goal earned Peru a shock 1-0 win over Brazil in Foxborough, Massachusetts on Sunday, the defeat knocking the five-times world champions out the Copa America at the group stage.

The Peruvian forward appeared to use his hand to score from close range with 16 minutes remaining and after a long delay while the referee consulted with his assistant while taking advice through an earpiece, he allowed the goal to stand.

Television pictures showed Ruidiaz grinning after the goal had been awarded but the Brazilian players were apoplectic with rage at a decision that sent them tumbling out of the tournament before the knockout stages for the first time since 1987.

"We saw that the ball hit his hand but you can't complain," Brazil centre half Miranda told reporters. "(The referee) said he discussed it with four officials and that they didn't see the handball.

"Brazil tried from the first minute to score but the ball didn't want to go in unfortunately, and that's football. If you don't score you pay for it."

The result lifted Peru to the top of Group B and eliminated Brazil, who dropped down to third place behind Ecuador in the tournament being played in the United States to celebrate the centenary of governing body CONMEBOL and the Copa America.

Following the conclusion of the first two groups in the 16-team competition, Peru will play Colombia in the quarter-finals in New Jersey on Friday, while the host nation will take on Ecuador in Seattle a day earlier.

Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina have already qualified from the other two groups with a match to play with either Chile or Panama joining them in the quarter-finals pending the result of their showdown on Tuesday.

The loss was a harsh one for Brazil, who knew a draw would have been enough to see them advance and were generally the better team without ever really threatening the Peruvian goal.—*Reuters*

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