

Labour Ministry explains laws to employers, workers at industrial zones as disputes over low wages increase



awareness of laws among employers and employees.

Department officials gave talks in the Hline-thaya and Shwelinpan industrial zones on the western outskirts of Yangon, explaining a wide range of issues from safety to salaries in front of 300 people, mostly workers.

"Many disputes between employers and employees occur, because both sides lack knowledge of labour laws," said U Aung Naing, Staff Officer of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department following the talks, stressing that low wages are the main concern for employees.

One dispute at Asia Rose Garment Factory on 7 May has, in the meantime, been settled after the employer agreed to increase the daily wages of labourers, he said.

Disputes last month at Good Family Garment Factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone, Japan cardboard box factory in

Hmawby, a natural ceramic factory in Hmawby and Hope One Garment Factory have been solved by increasing the daily wages and allowances for cost of living for workers, said U Win Shein, the Director-General of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, who led a negotiation team dealing with the disputes.

A dispute on 28 May at Shin Soung Garment Factory, owned by a Korean businessman, could not be solved and had to be referred to a tribunal council, following the breakdown of negotiations between the employer and employees.

Twelve workers of the factory were sacked from their job for leading a protest with over 2,000 workers that day.

The ministry is also planning to conduct training on administration and labour laws for managers and supervisors of factories after mid-June.

Most labour disputes at industrial zones and factories in Myanmar arise from the fact that workers are underpaid and overworked.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 2 June—As the number of labour dis-

putes at factories and industrial zones has been rising in recent weeks, with several well pub-

licized incidents of employees getting sacked for making complaints, officials from the Ministry

of Labour, Employment and Social Security held a number of talks on Monday in an attempt to raise

Myanmar school season starts with inadequate amount of text books, teachers

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 2 June—The Myanmar school season of basic education for the 2014-2015 academic year started across the country on Monday, with some schools not able to provide the children with adequate text books for some subjects and a sufficient number of teachers, locals said.

The country has adopted a compulsory primary education policy starting this term, but doubts persist that preparations have been efficient.

Despite the government's pledges to enroll all school-aged children this term for basic education in a move aimed at boosting the country's literacy level, many parents have complained about the lack of learning material and qualified teachers.

Daw Mya Tin, mother of a Grade 4 student in

Yangon, said that "I have enrolled my daughter for Grade 5 class and she received six copybooks and one K 1,000, as promised by the government. But the children have not received all of their text books."

Another issue is the lack of teachers, especially in rural areas, officials have acknowledged. The government pledged sweeping reforms of the education sector, but results have yet to be seen, as Daw Su Su, Grade 5 female teacher in Yangon, confirmed. "My class has 75 students this year. We have requested more teachers to be able to provide adequate education, but we have been accustomed to these situations for some years," she said.

With the teacher-student ratio a major problem, many parents fear that their children will not receive the education needed to be able to com-



Basic education school in Myanmar means overcrowded classrooms, well over 70 students per teacher and not enough textbooks, with the government pledging to improve conditions within this academic term.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

pete for good jobs after graduation. "Although the school enrollment plan has become better, many things still need to be addressed. There are 74 children in the classroom of my daughters. And I think all children have

to learn in overcrowded conditions. The number of classrooms is not sufficient," said U Ohn Maung, father of a Grade 5 student in Yangon.

While this term the number of students enrolled for basic education

is supposed to be near 100 percent, many students are still expected to drop out eventually due to financial constraints.

According to 2011 statistics, the enrollment rate for basic education was 85 per cent, with the

number of students completing school standing at 81 per cent.

According to an international independent study conducted in the same year, students in Myanmar have on average a 2-km way to school, with the number of primary school teachers reported at just over 180,000—resulting in an overall teacher-student ratio of 1:29. The number of primary school students in 2011 was around 5.2 million, approximately 8 per cent of the total population.

There are three types of schools in Myanmar—public schools, private schools and monastic-run schools. Offering free education and especially targeting orphans or children from poor families who cannot afford to pursue formal education, the monastic-run schools play an important role in terms of access to education in the country.

Union Defence Minister receives Israeli Ambassador and party

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received Israeli Ambassador Mr Hagay Moshe Behar, Defence Attaché Mr Ori Bar Chaim of Bangkok-based Israeli Embassy and his successor Mr Dan Carmel at the ministry on Monday to discuss cooperation between two armed forces of Myanmar and Israel.—MNA

Acting Thai FM calls on Union FM

YANGON, 2 June—Acting Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Sihasak Phaungketkeow called on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at the ministry in Yangon on Monday.

During the meeting, the acting Thai minister brief the chair of the ASEAN for 2014, the Union

Minister for Foreign Affairs on the development in Thailand and renewed Thailand's commitment to work with ASEAN member states to achieve the objectives of ASEAN.

The Union minister responded by stating that he will convey the message of Thailand to other ASEAN member states.

MNA

DoH, JICA sign two grant agreements for Loikaw, Lashio general hospitals



Director-General Dr Min Than Nyunt of Health Department and Mr Masahiko Tanaka, Chief Representative of JICA shaking hands after exchanging notes.

YANGON, 2 June—The Department of Health under the Ministry of Health and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed two grant agreements of the project for improving Loikaw General Hospital in Kayah State and a project for improving Lashio General Hospital in Shan State on 24 March and 24 April respectively.

Director-General Dr Min Than Nyunt of Health Department and Mr Masahiko Tanaka, Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office attended the

ceremony.

The projects are going to be implemented with grants of the amount up to JPY 1.945 billion for Loikaw General Hospital and JPY 1.51 billion for Lashio General Hospital.

Two main buildings, roofed passage, guard house, electrical room and elevated water tank will be built at Loikaw General Hospital. Likewise, two main buildings, substance abuse treatment and mental health service center (SAMSC) and mortuary will be built at Lashio General Hospital.—NLM

Serbia to expand economic ties with Myanmar by further investing in electric power sector and infrastructure projects: Ambassador



H.E. Mr. Miodrag Nikolin, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Myanmar.

As Myanmar and Serbia, the former political center of Yugoslavia, have long-standing relations and continue to cooperate on a number of investment projects, H.E. Mr. Miodrag Nikolin, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, discussed in an interview with the NLM his country's view on the developments here and further strengthening economic cooperation.

Q: Please describe the relations between Myanmar and Serbia.

A: It gives me a pleasure to state that the relations between our two friendly countries are traditionally very good, I'd rather say outstanding, what was reaffirmed during the visit last year of, at that time, Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ivan Mrkic. Furthermore, I would like to say that, as the first Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have the pleasure and honor of having an opportunity to contribute to further promotion of bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation, especially in the

field of economy where there are potentials and both sides interest for its enhancement.

It is important to be mentioned that the relations between our two friendly countries are based on the principals of the UN Charter, peaceful coexistence and the international law, respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of each UN member state. In this connection, we highly appreciate and value Myanmar's firm and principle stance on non-recognition unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija, southern Province of Serbia, that Serbia does not and never will recognize.

Q: Are there any projects underway and plans for further investments in Myanmar?

A: Answering this question, I would like to say that we give a great importance to the promotion and enhancement of the mutually beneficial bilateral economic cooperation with Myanmar.

Regarding that, we have longstanding and fruitful tradition in realization of many projects in the

field of electric-power (at the moment, there is one in the phase of implementation) and rail transportation as well as in other infrastructure sectors in Myanmar, mostly done by, or through the Serbian "Invest-Import" Company, which has been present in this country for more than a half of the century. Of course, our intention is to continue to develop and to expand economic cooperation between our two friendly countries, as much as possible.

Q: What is your impression of Myanmar?

A: Having in mind that this is my third diplomatic assignment to this beautiful country, during my over three decades diplomatic career, it goes without saying that I am quite familiar with the nice and friendly Myanmar people as well as with this country's history, culture, religion and the way of living. Of course, I am happy to be back to this lovely country again. Also, I am happy to witness significant results of democratic process, reforms and developments that have taken place and are still ongoing in Myanmar.

Q: How do you view the current developments in Myanmar?

A: It is well known that Serbia never did and never will interfere in internal affairs of other sovereign and independent UN member states, including Myanmar. Regarding that and with reference to this question, I just would like to say that we do respect and strongly support Myanmar's democratic political, economic and social reforms as well as endeavors of Myanmar's leader-

ship aimed to achievement of national reconciliation, peace and stability of the country, needed for its progress and prosperity.

Having in mind the fact that Myanmar has rich natural and human resources, I have no doubt that, with implementation of economic reforms and direct foreign investments from member states of ASEAN, which Myanmar chairs proudly and successfully this year, as well as from other friendly countries, including financial and technical aid, Myanmar has an opportunity for bright economic future and development.

In the end of this interview, I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my Government, the Serbian people and on my own behalf, the best wishes to the Government of Myanmar and to the friendly Myanmar people for well-being, progress and prosperity.

Furthermore, I would like to express sincere thanks to all those in Myanmar who extended sympathies on the occasion of loss of human lives during unprecedented natural disaster caused by heavy floods that have recently hit Serbia. For those who are willing to help the victims of floods in Serbia and removal of consequences caused by floods, the Embassy will open its Special Foreign Currency Account at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank at which financial donations could be deposited. Detailed information on above mentioned account will be publicly announced in The New Light of Myanmar Daily in due course.

PADIGONE, 2 June—A total of 17 students were injured at a high school in Padigone Township, Bago Region after the floor of school building collapsed on the morning of Monday, local authorities said.

The two-storey school with 280-foot width and 29-foot length was constructed in 1958. Among the injured students, one female student, 13, was taken to the Yangon General Hospital as her three vertebrae of spine were broken. The six students are now receiving

medical treatments as in-patients and the remaining 10 children as the out-patients at the Padigone People's Hospital.

Ministry of Education has allocated a total of one billion kyats for 2014-2015 fiscal year, allowing the State/Region education officers to permit maximum five million kyats for urgent or small-scaled renovation of school buildings without seeking permission from headquarters of No.1 Department of Basic Education.—MNA

17 injured in school floor collapse

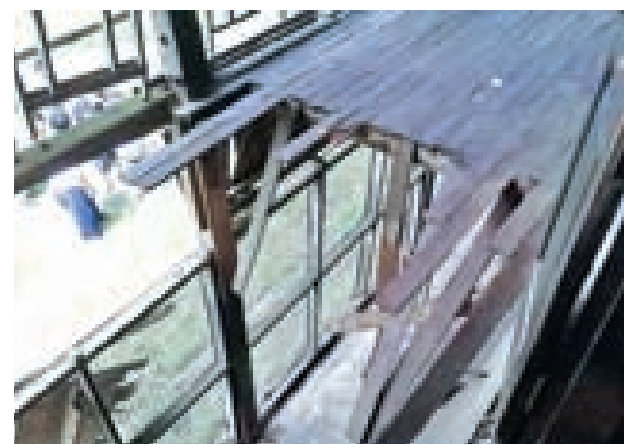


Photo shows collapsed floor of Padigone BEHS.

MNA

NATIONAL

Vice president calls for participation of private sector in healthcare services

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Myanmar's health sector is at a critical juncture, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in his speech at the workshop on human resources development in the health sector held in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The vice president, who also chairs the national health committee, highlighted the urgency of "the five issues" to be discussed at the workshop including health workforce retention, quantity and quality in medical education, administration and management, private sector involvement and HRH policy.

In the conclusion of his speech, the vice president said that the two objectives of the workshop were to train health workers who are urgently needed by the country and to enlist the private sector to



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with officials at opening ceremony of workshop on human resources development in health sector.—MNA

share the workload of the government in the health sector.

Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of the national health committee, retired physicians and health experts, professors and officials attended the opening of the workshop, that continues until 3 June.—MNA

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Myanmar, Japan discuss cooperation on microfinance institutions

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Vice President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Nobuyuki Hirano, president of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank UFJ Ltd. of Japan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday to hold talks about the enhancement of human resources in the monetary service sector and cooperation in microfinance institutions to contribute to the rural development and poverty alleviation.

They also discussed the establishment of a loan insurance corporation for the provision of funds to



small and medium sized enterprises.

MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun receives a delegation led by Nobuyuki Hirano, president of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank UFJ Ltd. of Japan.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sends Anti-terrorism Bill to president

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continued in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, with lawmakers agreeing to send The Anti-terrorism Bill, which had been sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with remarks by the president and had been amend-

ed in accordance with the decision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, to the president.

During the current legislature's three years, a total of 98 laws have been approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, with 136 laws to be drafted, amended or revoked during the remain-

ing term of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the substitution of Defence Services Personnel representative of the Lower House Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Lin, a member of the implementation committee for constitutional

amendment, with Brig-Gen Than Htut Thein.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Chief of the Defence Staff (Rtd) General Sir David Richards of Britain.

MNA



Certificate course in basic diplomatic skills kicks off

YANGON, 2 June—The inauguration ceremony of the certificate course in basic diplomatic skills (33/2014) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the ministry in Yangon on

Monday, attended by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin.

The 12-week course includes contemporary international affairs, holding and attending of in-

ternational conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills.—MNA

Innovative justice sustainable training course concludes

YANGON, 2 June—The innovative justice sustainable training course was conducted at the hall of Yangon Region Advocate-General Office in Yangon on Saturday and

Sunday as of 17 May.

Ms Caitlin Reiger (Chief Technical Adviser) (Rule of Law) of the UNDP visited the training room.

The training was jointly conducted by the Union

Attorney-General Office and the International Development Law Organization, aimed at enhancing capacity of law officers and improving their duty and functions.—MNA

MEB opens remittance counter in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 2 June—A ceremony to launch the Manawhari remittance counter of Myanma Economic Bank was held at the office at the corner of 56th street and Manawhari road in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region, on Monday.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr

Myint Kyu and Managing Director Daw Yin Yin Mya of MEB formally opened the counter. They then visited the bank building.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Relief items donated to members of Kayin Baptist Church



DAWEI, 2 June — A ceremony to provide relief supplies to members of the Kayin Baptist Church was held on 1 June at the church in Dawei of Tanintharyi Region for 2014-15 academic year.

Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko presented five bags of rice, one container of edible oil, 220 dozens of exercise books and Kayin National Affairs Minister U Saw Harvey, K200,000.

The chief minister and

party inspected the site for construction of the mess hall of the church in its compound.—*Region IPRD*

MANDALAY, 2 June—Seintalone mango which is favorite fruit of Mandalayans will be rare in the Mandalay's market as of mid-June, said a news source of Mandalay.

Seintalone mango is grown in Hanmyintmo village of Kyaukse Township in the region. The ripen fruits are sent to the market as of April, said mango farm owners of the village.

"As of last week of April, we export the Seintalone fruits to China and local markets," a farm owner explained. The fruit produced in May is the best quality in colour and flavor, he continued.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Turnover of express bus leaves one dead, five injured in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 2 June—An express bus carrying over 40 passengers that left Tanai of Kachin State for Mogok of Mandalay Region overturned near 10th-mile village in Mohnyin Township at 4.30 am on Sunday, leaving one passenger dead and five injured.

The youths from Mogok Township left for Karmaing Township of Kachin State to hunt jobs

for mining works. However, they all returned home due to security measures. Some of them chartered an express bus from Tanai to Mogok. Most of the passengers were Lisu national youths.

Bus conductor Chan Myae Zaw, 16, was dead in the incident. Mohnyin police station opened a file of lawsuit against driver Ko Khaing Lin.

NLM-001

100 copies of newspaper for one year donated to villages in Ngaputaw Tsp

MANDALAY, 2 June—The newspaper donation ceremony took place at the Mandalay Sub-Printing House of News and Periodicals Enterprise on Monday.

Managing Director

Sudhamma Dr U Kyaw Win of Mann Myay Yazar Co., Ltd., donated K1.8 million for one year cost of Myanma Alinn daily to Head of Aungmyethazan Township Information and Public Relations Depart-

ment U Zaw Lin Oo.

The wellwisher donated 100 copies of the Myanma Alinn daily to seven villages of Ngaputaw Township in Ayeyawady Region as of 1 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Companies that sell poor quality lamp-posts to be put into black list

MANDALAY, 2 June—The companies that could not make some concrete lamp-posts under standard will be put into the black list, according to the Mandalay Region Ministry of Electric and Industry.

"Some lamp-posts did not make of iron bars. While

At present, there is no instruction to purchase the concrete lamp-posts. Region and districts electricity supply boards will check the products and buy the quality products only. Action will be taken against those who used the poor quality products.

in Yangon. So, the concrete posts to be used in Mandalay Region can be put under checking of the machine in Yangon.

Mandalay Region government plans to substitute the wooden lamp-posts with concrete posts. In coming budget year, the region



competing in the market share with cheap products, the quality of products is declining gradually. So we will put such company into the black list," said Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Kyaw Myint.

On 10 May, the squalls broke two concrete lamp-posts on 12th and strand streets. There were some damages and injuries in the incident, said a local.

The machine that tests the concrete posts is located

government will demand the fund for installation of transformers to be able to supply sufficient electricity to 28 townships of the region.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Seintalone mango fruits highly marketable in June



REGIONAL

Thai army rulers prepare emergency economic measures

BANGKOK, 2 June — The military junta running Thailand has drawn up a list of emergency measures such as price caps on fuel and loan guarantees for small firms to kick-start an economy threatened by recession after months of political turmoil.

The plans, outlined by Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong late on Sunday after a meeting with officials at economic ministries, take in longer-term measures such as the development of special economic zones on the borders with Myanmar, Laos and Malaysia. The military toppled the remnants of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's administration on 22 May after months of protests that had forced government ministries to close, hurt business confidence and caused the economy to shrink.

Yingluck herself was ordered to step down two weeks before the coup when a court found her guilty of abuse of power.

As well as working to revive the economy, the military council has moved to suppress criticism of the coup and nip protests in the



Around 6,000 police and soldiers have been deployed across Bangkok, according to a Thai official, as authorities tried to deter anti-coup protesters.—REUTERS

bud.

Yingluck, as well as prominent supporters of her and her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, have been briefly detained and warned against any anti-military activities. On Sunday, the army council sent 5,700 troops and police into central Bangkok to stop anti-coup protests, which were most-

ly limited to small gatherings held around shopping malls. The military has banned political gatherings of five or more people and protests that have taken place in Bangkok since the 22 May putsch have been small and brief.

On Saturday, as on the two previous days, the authorities closed normally busy roads around Victo-

ry Monument, which was becoming a focal point for opposition to the coup. The area was flooded with police and troops but no protesters turned up.

Thailand's deep political divide pits the Bangkok-based royalist establishment, dominated by the military, old-money families and the bureaucracy, against supporters

of former telecommunications mogul Thaksin, who is adored by the poor in the

north and northeast.

Considered the power behind Yingluck's government, Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a coup in 2006 and has lived in self-imposed exile since fleeing a 2008 conviction for abuse of power.

Air Chief Marshal Prajin, who is overseeing economic matters for the junta, said 30 urgent proposals on the economy would be discussed with coup leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Among them, Prajin mentioned a form of price insurance for rice farmers. This would replace a costly buying scheme run under Yingluck that collapsed when her caretaker government was unable to find funding, leaving hundreds of thousands of farmers unpaid for months.

Reuters

Thai gov't HQ complex reopens after months of closure



Thai soldiers walk in front of Thai Khu Fah Building at the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 June, 2014. Thai Government House was reopened on Monday after military coup. —XINHUA

BANGKOK, 2 June — A Thai government complex that normally houses the offices of the prime minister and Cabinet ministers resumed functioning on Monday, 11 days after the army staged a coup ending months of antigovernment protests that had forced its closure.

A spokesman of the junta, which calls itself the National Council for Peace and Order and is based at army headquarters

in Bangkok, said Government House will be used for meetings and other functions, but not as junta headquarters.

The complex had been blockaded since early December by protesters bent on toppling the government of then Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who was forced by circumstances to use police and military compounds as her temporary workplace.

Kyodo News

N Korea envoy says positive about visiting Japan for talks



North Korean envoy Song Il Ho tells reporters on 2 June, 2014, at Beijing's international airport.

KYODO NEWS

BEIJING, 2 June — Japanese affairs said on Monday he is ready to visit North Korea's chief negotiator in dealing with

eral negotiations if requested by Tokyo.

"Until now, we have never rejected a request from the Japanese side," Song Il Ho, who represented North Korea at three-day talks with Japan last week in Stockholm, told reporters at Beijing's international airport before heading to Pyongyang.

He made the comment when asked about a *Kyodo News* report on Sunday that the Japanese government is considering inviting North Korean officials to seek more information about Pyongyang's promised reinvestigation of the whereabouts of Jap-

anese nationals it abducted decades ago. Japan and North Korea announced on Thursday that Pyongyang has agreed to look into the fates of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as other Japanese who are missing and suspected of having been kidnapped.

The deal was struck during the negotiations through Wednesday in the Swedish capital between Japan and North Korea.

For the reinvestigation, North Korea is planning to set up a special committee by around mid-June.—*Kyodo News*

Indonesian president warns against military meddling in election

JAKARTA, 2 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday warned senior military officers against intending to support certain president candidate running in the upcoming 9 July presidential election, saying that it may stray reform movement and jeopardizes the nation.

Citing confirmed intelligence information, the president said that there has been efforts conducted by some senior military officers luring their colleagues to back up certain president candidate. "The neutrality of the military and police must be preserved. Don't make a step back against it, don't ruin

it. Don't betray the reform in military and police institutions which we uneasily initiated it at that time," the president spoke in a session with senior military officers in the defense ministry here. The president warned the senior military officers, asking them to guard against temptation from external parties luring

them to take part in political constellation.

"They even asked the senior military officers not to listen to the president as he is the president of a sinking ship, and better find the other president," the president said.

The president pointed out if those officers plan to take part in politics, they

would have to resign first from the military or police services.

Indonesia will have a new government after the legislative and presidential elections in April and July this year, replacing the administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who served two maximum five-year terms be-

ginning in 2004.

Indonesian military and police were widely believed to have played a role in supporting the administration of then-president Soeharto, who had held the presidency for more than 30 years before being ousted by a nationwide student uprising in May 1998.

Xinhua

Japan must act fast amid Asia security threats: ex-US diplomat

TOKYO, 2 June — The United States is looking for immediate steps by Japan to address the growing security threats in the Asia-Pacific region posed by China and North Korea, Kurt Campbell, former US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said on Monday.

“We believe the security environment indicates that immediate steps are in the best strategic interest of the region,” Campbell told reporters in Tokyo when asked if a review of the US-Japan defence guidelines should be concluded by the end of this year.

“We came to Japan to visit with a variety of friends to send a strong message that the security environment is changing dramatically in Asia,” Campbell said, alongside Michael Green, former senior director for Asian affairs at the US National Security Council. Japan and the United States are working to renew their defence guidelines, while Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s

government is attempting to expand the Self-Defence Forces’ international role by changing the interpretation of part of the pacifist Constitution.

In Tokyo, Campbell explained to government and ruling coalition officials how serious the security situation is in Asia.

Campbell also said the United States, Japan and South Korea need to strengthen defence ties to counter the threats.

“We strongly support the efforts both in public and behind the scenes to build stronger bonds currently between Japan and South Korea,” he said. “The United States has a strong interest that our two closest partners work together in a changing environment in Asia.”

His comments came at a time when Japan and South Korea are at odds over territorial and historical issues.

“We recognize any hope of diplomacy in Asia right now rests on the strong reality of defence

and deterrence,” Campbell added. “The region is looking for signs of strong leadership from the United States and Japan.”

“We hope that circumstances will permit at some point in improving the relationship between Japan and China as well.” China has been assertive in both the East China Sea and South China Sea, where it has made territorial claims against Japan, and Vietnam and the Philippines, respectively. As for North Korea, Green said in fluent Japanese that the country has been developing ballistic missiles, and they are targeted at Japan and Guam, where a US military base is located. “North Korea also has a surprising number of small submarines,” he warned. “With the current constitutional framework, Japan can’t respond to those contingencies. The credibility of the US-Japan security alliance will be in jeopardy if Japan says it can’t cooperate when its allies are under attack.”

Kyodo News

Indonesia to hold presidential polls on 9 July



Indonesian presidential candidate Joko Widodo (L) speaks after receiving his election number for the presidential election at the election commission office in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 1 June, 2014. Indonesia is to hold presidential polls on 9 July.—XINHUA

Thai oil tanker recovered, cargo taken by hijackers: authorities

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — A Thai oil tanker reported missing two days ago has been recovered with all of its crew members safe but pirates who hijacked the tanker took its cargo and damaged communications gear, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said on Monday.

The *MT Orapin 4* lost contact with authorities after departing for Indonesia from a terminal in Singapore on Friday, prompting the IMB to send an alert shortly after.

The tanker arrived in Thailand’s Sri Racha port on Sunday evening and Thai authorities will be investigating the incident, Noel Choong, the head of IMB’s Kuala Lumpur-based Piracy Reporting Center, told *Reuters*.

Pirates raided a tanker off the coast of Malaysia in late April, taking 3 million liters of diesel.—*Reuters*

Damage to infrastructure at around EUR 260 mln

OBRENOVAC, 2 June — The flood-caused damage to the energy, telecommunications, railway and road infrastructures amounts to around EUR 260 million, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic said on Sunday, adding that all state roads will be rebuilt by October.

“We will work on roads first so that Serbia can solve those problems as early as October. The damage to Category I and Category II roads, as well as local roads, amounts to around EUR 40 million,” Mihajlovic told *Tanjug* during a visit to Obrenovac with World Bank officials.

The estimated damage



in local self-government units that have submitted their reports is at around EUR 200 million, Mihajlovic said.

“We still have not received the reports from all local self-governments. Understandably, we still cannot obtain that information from Obrenovac,” she said.

A difficult period is ahead for us, but the government, alongside international organisations and the EU, will do everything to find a way out of those problems, she said. We will find funds to rebuild houses by the autumn and ensure that life gets back to normal, not only in Obrenovac, but in

other flood-hit cities as well, Mihajlovic said, adding that final damage assessments are a prerequisite for this. The money for repairing the damage will come from the EU Solidarity Fund, loans provided by the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), but also from unused IPA funds, she said. World Bank Vice President Laura Tuck expressed condolences in Obrenovac to all those who lost their loved ones or property in the catastrophic floods, adding that the World Bank has already donated USD 150,000 for urgent repairs.—*Tanjug*

Park tells new security chief to prepare for N Korean provocations

SEOUL, 2 June — South Korean President Park Geun Hye on Monday told her new chief secretary for national security to be fully prepared to respond to any new North Korean provocations, according to the presidential office.

“In light of the regional situation, North Korea’s continuing provocations and threats, the security situation is very grave and I want you to maintain a maximum level of preparedness for security,” Park told Defence Minister Kim Kwan Jin at a meeting of secretaries for the president. Kim was named on Sunday as head of the National Security Office. He will double as the defence minister until his successor, former army general Han Min Koo, takes of-

fice after a parliamentary confirmation hearing.

North Korea has threatened in recent weeks to carry out a new nuclear test in protest against what it perceives as the US-South Korea hostile stance against it and international denunciations made at the United Nations against its rocket and missile launches earlier this year.

Kim was named to the post in place of Kim Jang Soo in a move widely interpreted as intended to regain public trust amid growing criticism of the government’s inadequacy and mismanagement in its responses to the 16 April ferry sinking that left more than 300 passengers, mostly high school students on a school excursion, dead or missing.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Netanyahu urges world not to recognize Palestinian unity government

JERUSALEM, 2 June — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Sunday against any international rush to recognize a Palestinian government due to be announced under a unity pact between the Fatah and Hamas Islamist groups.

Israel and the West classify Hamas as a terrorist organization and have no official dealings with the movement, which advocates the destruction of the Jewish state.

But Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Fatah party signed a reconciliation deal with Hamas in April, said a unity government due to be announced on Monday would be composed of ministers without political affiliation, a status that could ease the

way for Western engagement.

"I call on all responsible elements in the international community not to rush to recognize a Palestinian government which has Hamas as part of it and which is dependent on Hamas," Netanyahu, who has said such an administration would be a front for the Islamist group, told his cabinet.

"Hamas is a terrorist organization that calls for Israel's destruction, and the international community must not embrace it. That would not bolster peace, it would strengthen terror," Netanyahu said in public remarks at the cabinet meeting.

Israel froze US-brokered peace talks with Abbas when the unity deal was announced on 23 April



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

after numerous unsuccessful attempts at Palestinian reconciliation since Hamas seized the Gaza Strip from Fatah forces in fighting in 2007.

In a call to US Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday, Abbas cast the intra-Palestinian moves as a domestic matter that should not affect wider diplomacy with Israel and the West.

Abbas told Kerry "the coming government will be formed of independents and will represent the political agenda of the president," the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

Kerry, who oversaw the peace talks that stalled in April, "expressed concern about Hamas's role in any such government and the importance that the new government commit to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the State of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements with it," the State Department said in a statement.

Abbas assured Kerry that "the new government would be committed to these principles," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in the statement.

Abbas said on Satur-

day that Israel "informed us ... they would boycott us if we announced the government". Netanyahu, in his brief statement on Sunday, made no reference to any Israeli sanctions. Israel has withheld tax revenues from Abbas's aid-dependent Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, in retaliation for his signing in April of international conventions and treaties after Israel reneged on a promised release of Palestinian prisoners. On Saturday, a Palestinian official said Israel had denied requests by three Gaza-based Palestinians expected to be named as ministers to attend the new government's swearing-in ceremony in the occupied West Bank.

Reuters

Cambodia, Iran look to enhance bilateral ties, cooperation

PHNOM PENH, 2 June — Cambodia and Iran are looking for possibilities to strengthen and expand bilateral ties and cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two countries and peoples.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong held a talk on Monday with the Hanoi-based Iranian Ambassador to Cambodia Hossein Alvandi Behineh to discuss ways to increase relations in economics, trade, investment, tourism and education.

"Both sides agreed that the two countries should frequently exchange visits between their senior leaders and business peoples in order to heighten ties and cooperation in politics and business," Koy Kuong, Spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters after the meeting.

He said trade, investment, and tourism relations between the two countries were relatively small at the present, and Ambassador Alvandi Behineh had pledged to encourage Iranian investors to come to Cambodia for investment opportunities. The ambassador also said Iran decided to grant a number of scholarships to Cambodian officials to study in the fields of oil and gas in Iran.

Xinhua

Three foreign engineers killed in E Afghan suicide bombing

JALALABAD, (AFGHANISTAN), 2 June — Three Turkish engineers were killed on Monday morning in a suicide bomb attack in eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, official sources said.

"The victims were traveling in a minibus. A militant rammed and detonated a tricycle packed with explosive into the vehicle, leaving three people killed and one injured of the bus," a security personnel told Xinhua. The blast took place at around 7:15 am (local time) in Behsoud district outside provincial capital Jalalabad city, provincial government spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said. The victims were serving in a local construction firm in charge of building police facilities in the province, 120 km east of national capital Kabul, he said.

The bodies along with the injured were shifted to a hospital in Jalalabad.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but the Taliban insurgent group was likely behind such attacks.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual rebel offensive against Afghan government forces and more than 51,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.—Xinhua

Afghans say Taliban prisoners freed by US will rejoin battle

KABUL, 2 June — The release of five Taliban prisoners in exchange for a US soldier has drawn criticism from some Afghans, who say the detainees are dangerous and will rekindle ties with terrorist networks to resume fighting, just as most foreign troops leave.

The men had been held at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba since 2002 and were classed by the Pentagon as "high-risk" and "likely to pose a threat".

Two are also implicated in the murder of thousands of minority Shi'ite Muslims in Afghanistan, according to the US military.

They were released in a swap with US army sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, the sole American prisoner of

war held in Afghanistan who was flown to a US military hospital in Germany on Sunday.

"They will definitely go back to fight, if health-wise they are able to go," said a top official at Afghanistan's spy agency, who asked to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the topic.

"They will be very dangerous people, because

they have connections with regional and international terror organizations around the world."

The Taliban denied the prisoners would return to battle but said the swap should not be regarded as a gesture of good will or a step towards the revival of peace talks between Islamist insurgents and the Afghan government.

Reuters

NATO to discuss reinforcing troops in Poland-German defence ministry

BERLIN, 2 June — NATO defence ministers will discuss temporarily reinforcing forces in Poland when they meet in Brussels this week, a spokesman for the German defence ministry said on Sunday, a move that would be aimed at reassuring countries nervous about Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

The spokesman said the 28-member alliance would consider reinforcing its Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin.

In Brussels, NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said NATO defence ministers would on Tuesday review measures the alliance had taken given Russia's actions towards Ukraine. She said this could include "enhanced air patrols over the Baltic states, AWACS surveil-



NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu.

lance planes over Poland and Romania, more exercises, and an enhanced naval presence by NATO

allies from the Baltic to the Black Sea." "Defence ministers will also discuss the longer-term implications

of the crisis and consider a readiness action plan in preparation for the Wales summit in September," she

added.

In April Poland's defence minister said Russia's military intervention in Ukraine's Crimea peninsula made it vital that NATO station significant numbers of troops in eastern Europe and ignore any objections Russia might have.

Russia says deployment of significant NATO forces close to Russia would violate the 1997 Founding Act, an agreement between Moscow and the alliance. Eastern European states are nervous about Russia after it annexed Ukraine's Crimea region and massed 40,000 troops on Ukraine's borders. NATO is trying to provide reassurance with temporary deployments of military forces and exercises.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 3 June, 2014

School season and the dangers of bad quality snacks

By Aung Khin

Consumer advocates recently warned that many cheap and tasty snacks in eye-catching packaging could pose a health hazard to children. While some bad quality snacks were imported from neighbouring countries through border trade, some others are locally-made.

These snacks have been sold in small shops or by street vendors in Myanmar for many years, and with school season started in Myanmar, children will have even more exposure to snacks when

passing by shops on their way to school or buying food at the school snack shops. It is a problem the government should address.

Many snack shops at schools are now selling low quality products that may contain toxic substances, including jellies, chips and sweets produced by immoral people who want to make quick money.

Many imported snacks are found to contain high levels of harmful chemicals, high doses of additives and prohibited colouring agents, with no expiry dates on the packages.

Education authorities have prohibited selling Chinese snacks on school grounds last year. However, the move was not enforced. As this prohibition scheme is important for the future of the younger generations, the authorities should put more efforts into this scheme. Without proper registration or approval of health authorities, many snacks are being sold in local markets. Many cheap snacks were found to contain banned dyes like Orange II, Sudan III, and Rhodamine B. They are also widely used in

plastic, paper, cosmetics, etc.

If the snacks tainted with these toxic dyes are frequently eaten, the result would be stomach ulcer-related diseases, liver cancers, and some other cancers. In fact, as cheaper snacks are targeted to be sold to children from lower-income families, the people at grass root level are yet again the victims of dishonest business people.

The punishment for producing or selling harmful food is three years in prison, but there is a lack of enforcement in Myanmar. Therefore, sub-standard snacks should be prohibited to save the lives of children and ensure they do not to become victims of greed and selfishness.

Write for us

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

Allowing foreign banks in the country

By San Thein

It is not surprising that Myanmar's nascent banking sector finds it hard to get out of its rudimentary stage since it had been under the strong financial restrictions during the last decade starting from 2003 when there was a bank-run. The impact of these restrictions can be seen in the low quality and range of financial services; and Myanmar's financial sector becomes the least developed of all in Southeast Asia and cannot adequately fulfill its principal role of financial intermediation: channeling savings into investment. At the same time, limited banking network with poor facilities have kept the country's financial inclusion in terms of access to finance considerably low.

However, the strong determination of the new democratic government to commit itself to modernize the economy and to alleviate poverty in the country has called for necessary economic reforms. As part of its comprehensive reform procedure, significant changes have taken place in the financial sector by enacting (a) Microfinance Law in November 2011, allowing microfinance institutions to engage in providing micro credit to the households, vendors and small enterprises; (b) Foreign Exchange Management Law in August 2012, adopting a market reflected realistic exchange rate system; (c) Central Bank of Myanmar Law in July 2013, giving the central bank an autonomous power to implement its monetary policy; and (d) Securities Exchange Law in July 2013, paving the way for a

capital market. Moreover other relaxations on banking have allowed local banks to promote their financial intermediation and financial inclusion by expanding their network and creating new facilities.

As part of its effort to integrate into the regional and global community, Myanmar has allowed foreign banks to open their representative offices in the country. Foreign banks see Myanmar as an attractive place with a lot of potential business opportunities for their clients. Convinced of the country's non-reversal of its committed course towards modernization and openness, foreign banks mostly from neighbouring Asian countries, are determined to stay in the country with high hopes of receiving banking licenses.

Currently, there are altogether 35 foreign banks anxiously waiting for the door to open—seven from South Korea; four each from Japan, Singapore and Thailand; three from India; two each from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam; and one each from Australia, Brunei, China, Taiwan and United Kingdom. Allowance of foreign banks in the country becomes a hot topic of discussion among the bankers these days and a seminar or workshop never concludes without a query on possible allowance of foreign banks in domestic markets. Why and how should these foreign banks be allowed in the country? What are the criteria for the eligibility of their entrance into Myanmar banking system? What would happen to the local banks if foreign banks are allowed in the country? Before answering these questions, one should consider

the pros and cons of allowing foreign banks in the country.

Pros and cons of allowing foreign banks in the country

Foreign banks could bring both economic and political benefits to Myanmar. Allowance of foreign banks in domestic market would mean that Myanmar is taking a bold step towards regional and global integration. For the fellow ASEAN member countries, it would be a strong signal that Myanmar has committed itself to integrate into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) which is scheduled to be in place beyond 2015. Under the program of AEC, there will be free flow of goods, services, investment, capital and skilled labour among the member countries. Therefore, allowance of foreign banks in the country would improve the country's political image not only among its fellow ASEAN member countries but also in the global community.

Foreign banks, with their strong capital base and efficient customer services, would become a major driving force in transforming the nascent industry into a modernized one within a short period of time—in a leap frogging manner. Their presence in the country would enhance the country's attractiveness for foreign investors and facilitate the flows of foreign investment efficiently into the economy. Foreign investments from various countries are likely to flow into the country through their respective banks—Japanese investment would come through Japanese banks, Korean investment through Korean banks, Thai investment through Thai

banks and so on. They could support the country's external trade by providing the exporters and importers with various trade financing facilities, the area where local banks lack expertise and financing. Foreign banks could also extend long and medium-term loans to their corporate clients in the country at an interest rate lower than those of local banks.

For local banks, cooperation with foreign banks would promote their capacity in delivering their banking services in moving towards niche marketing and thereby increase their effective contribution to the country's mobilization and allocation of financial resources. A local bank can benefit by partnering with a foreign bank provided that the central bank allows doing so. They can establish a knowledge sharing program with which both sides can benefit by sharing banking technology and market information. In effect, their entrance into the country would bring significant changes to the banking sector and enhance the country's reputation among traders and investors.

However, if you look at the dark side of the picture, their presence in Myanmar would pose a threat to the domestic banks which are often perceived to be inferior to their foreign peers. The local bankers are afraid of losing their market share to foreign banks in the face of stiff competition with them. In the worst-case scenario, the whole domestic banking market could be dominated by foreign banks. The argument also goes that foreign banks would not be as loyal and patient with the country in the event of an economic

crisis. Keeping this imminent danger in mind, local bankers never hesitate to take the opportunity to express their concern about the possible domination of local markets by foreign banks. With their inferiority complex, they think that they will be fighting a losing battle against these foreign banks if they are allowed in the country. Contrary to their worry, both deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Khin Saw Oo and U Set Aung, at a workshop on financial sector development jointly held by the Parliamentary Banks and Monetary Development Affairs Committee and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), on the 5th of last March, made their strong arguments against the dominance of foreign banks in domestic banking markets provided that they were allowed with limited functions and capacity in the country at an initial stage. Citing the experience of Vietnam and other ASEAN countries, their arguments sound reasonable if foreign banks were allowed with limited function of whole-sale banking together with restricted branch networking so that local banks could maintain their existing retail markets supported by their ever expanding network. Restricting foreign banks' activities in domestic markets becomes an internationally well accepted practice, and therefore to be able to protect the local banks, Myanmar can impose reasonable restrictions on foreign banks.

With regard to capacity building of the central bank and local banks, it is encouraging to learn that many international organizations including ADB, IMF and World Bank and bilateral organizations including GIZ, JICA and Bank Negara Malaysia are helping Myanmar by providing financial and technical assistance to the banking sector. These organizations are Myanmar's development partners. On the 25th of last April, the development partners' conference was held in Nay Pyi Taw under the auspices of the Central Bank of Myanmar. The objectives of the conference were to create synergies among development partners and exploit complementary activities among them, and to work closely with the technical assistance coordination committee so that various technical assistance programmes can be implemented systematically and effectively in a sequenced manner. In their effort to fine-tune the whole programme of assistance, the participants agreed to meet at every six month interval to review their achievements. It is expected that this fine-tuning programme will promote the local banks' long-term competitive strength in the face of foreign banks' competition and at the same time increase their opportunities for development in coordination with the foreign banks.

Enhancing capacity of domestic banks

In the meantime, the central bank can provide warm nurturing care to local banks. Appropriate liberalization and necessary reforms should be taken in

LOCAL NEWS

Prevention against dengue fever carried out in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 2 June—Preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever were carried out in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Saturday morning, with officials chlorinating wells and water tanks and spraying classrooms and buildings to prevent the reproduction of mosquitos. Similar activities were carried out in other wards of Pyinmana, officials said.

Members of Nay Pyi Taw Council Professor Dr Paing Soe, Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Health Department Dr Tun Myint, Medical Superintendent Dr Kyaw Myint of Pyinmana General Hospital (200-bed) and officials



supervised the mission at Primary School and other Mingala Basic Education public buildings.

Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)

Students in Dawei mark Int'l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

DAWEI, 2 June—To mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, around 80 students on primary, mid-

dle and high school level took part in a contest on Sunday aimed at highlighting the problem in creative ways. The students pro-

duced paintings, cartoons and posters at No 1 Basic Education High School in Dawei, with Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region

U Myat Ko and officials attending the event.

Other competitions to observe the day were held at the University of Computer Studies in Dawei.

Taninthayi Region IPRD



Surveillance of reckless bus drivers tightened

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Following a fatal bus accident last months on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, officials have stepped up surveillance of bus companies and drivers, urging passengers to report bad conduct.

The Road Transport and Inland Water Transport Board on 29 May in-

formed passengers that complaints about fast driving and drivers operating without licence should be sent to the Nay Pyi Taw All Bus-line Control Committee, the Nay Pyi Taw Road Transport and Inland Water Transport Board.

In order to demonstrate their efforts in trying

to crack down on malpractices, officials have been checking vehicles and documents at Bawgathiri Highway Bus Terminal prior to departure.

They said action will be taken against those who operate illegally or drive in an irresponsible manner, urging passenger to report drivers who exceed a speed limit of more than 100km on expressways.

“Passengers should join hands with the discipline enforcement teams to combat traffic accidents” said a highway control official.

Shwe Kokko



Relief items donated to fire victims in ChaungU

CHAUNGU, 2 June—People from 53 households in North ChaungU Ward in Sagaing Region were left homeless, after a fire broke out in on Saturday, with officials saying the victims have received relief items.

A relief camp at the monastery in North ChaungU Ward has been estab-

lished, with private donors and officials handing out K1.85 million, over 200 bags of rice, personal goods and clothes at the donation centre. Chairman of the Township Development Supportive Committee U Kan Htay said, “People from villages near North ChaungU Ward donated rice and

purified drinking water for the victims on Saturday. We have a list of donors for the next three days.”

Meanwhile, servicemen of military and police units and local people are carrying out sanitation of the ward while undertaking relief and rehabilitation tasks.—Township IPRD



Nutrition tips to pregnant women in Chanmyathazi Township given

MANDALAY, 2 June—The Chanmyathazi Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized an event, in which pregnant women were

taught about nutrition and given advice on clean eating during pregnancy. Officials also organized a cooking contest near Myayinanda delivery room

in Chanmyathazi Township, showcasing the most beneficial diet and handing out iodized salt and ferrous sulphate to the participants.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Warplane targets Islamist base, hits university in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, (Libya) 2 June — A Libyan warplane under the command of a renegade former general targeted an Islamist militia base in the eastern city of Benghazi on Sunday but instead hit a university building, witnesses said.

The attack was part of a campaign by irregular forces loyal to former army general Khalifa Haftar to purge the North African state of Islamist militants whom he says the weak central government has failed to control.

Libya is in turmoil three years after the NATO-backed war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, with Islamist, anti-Islamist, regional and political factions locked in conflict.

One jet attacked a historic building which houses a base belonging to the militant group Ansar al-Sharia, said Mohamed al-Hejazi, a spokesman for Haftar.

“Our forces attacked the crown prince’s former building where Ansar al-Sharia is based,” he said.

But a Reuters reporter



Smoke rises from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Technology school compound after a Libyan air force plane dropped a bomb in Benghazi on 1 June, 2014. —REUTERS

at the scene said there was no damage at the building that had been home to the crown prince when Libya was a kingdom before Gaddafi’s 1969 coup.

Instead the warplane fired three rockets at a neighbouring university

engineering faculty, said its dean, Nasser al-Aqouri.

Two people were wounded, Aqouri said. “Thank God, lectures had already finished but there is huge material damage.”

Hejazi said the jet had taken off from Benghazi’s Benina air base, where regular military units have joined Haftar’s campaign which began last month.

But rival militia bri-

gades and political factions have rejected his offensive against militants as an attempted coup, after Haftar’s forces also attacked parliament a week ago.

Ansar al-Sharia, listed as a terrorist group by Washington, on Tuesday warned the United States against interfering in Libya’s crisis and accused the US government of backing Haftar.

Authorities extended the closure of the civilian part of Benina airport until 15 June for security reasons, its director said.

Gaddafi’s authoritarian rule, followed by three years of unrest have left Libya with few functioning institutions and no real national army to impose authority on the competing militias and brigades of former rebels who have become power-brokers.

Libya’s acting prime minister, Abdullah Al-Thinni, on Wednesday refused to hand over power to a newly elected premier.

The OPEC oil producer now has two prime ministers and a parliament deadlocked by splits between factions.

Reuters

Egypt rejects appeal of defeated presidential candidate

CAIRO, 2 June — Egypt’s elections committee said on Sunday it had rejected a defeated presidential candidate’s appeal against voting results that gave former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi a landslide victory.

Leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi only got 3 percent of the votes in last week’s elections, according to initial results that showed Sisi in the lead with 93 percent of votes.

The elections committee’s statement did not give details on its ruling on the appeal. It said the official results will be announced on Tuesday night.

The vote came 10 months after the army’s ouster of elected Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July in reaction to protests against his rule.

The army-backed government has since cracked down hard on Mursi’s supporters, killing hundreds and jailing thousands.

On Thursday, Sabahi

conceded defeat but said the initial turnout figure of over 40 percent was too high and “an insult to the intelligence of Egyptians.” He said he would accept the final result of the vote, however.

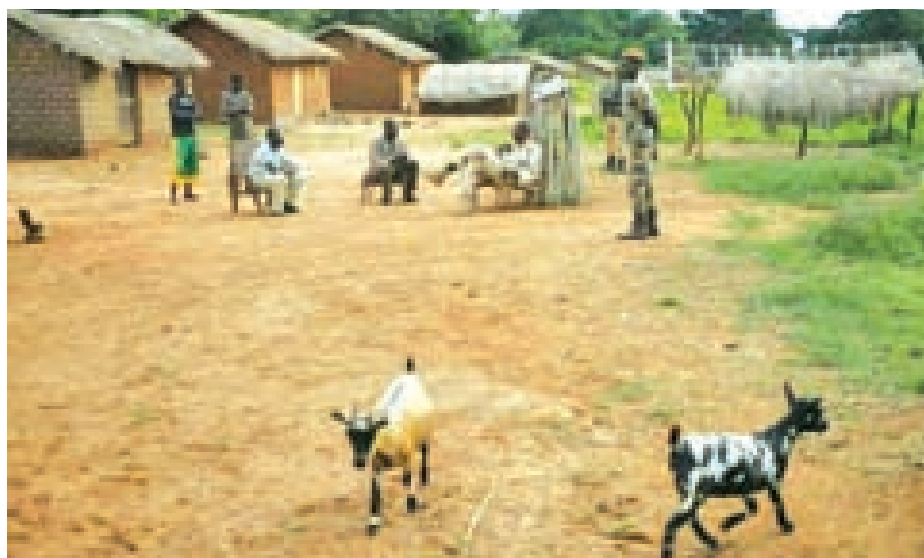
Sabahi’s campaign sent a complaint to the elections committee on Friday objecting to what it said was “the existence of campaigning inside polling stations” by Sisi supporters, among other alleged abuses.

It also appealed to the committee to nullify all votes cast on the third day of polling, which was introduced at the last minute of the second day of the vote on Tuesday in a surprise move to boost low turnout.

Sabahi came third in the 2012 vote won by Mursi, Egypt’s first democratically elected president who came to power after an uprising in 2011 that ended Hosni Mubarak’s autocratic 30-year rule.

Reuters

African Republic premier calls for voluntary disarmament next week



A Seleka fighter speaks with local villagers between Bambari and Grimari on 31 May, 2014. — REUTERS

DAKAR, 2 June — Central African Republic’s prime minister on Sunday called for voluntary national disarmament next week in a bid to halt a worsening cycle of violence that threatens to drive Muslims from the West of the country. In a televised address, Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke declared 8 June would be a day for all citizens to hand in their weapons, after a spike in sectarian tensions in the majority-Christian capital Bangui following an attack on a church by Muslim gunmen on Wednesday.

The attack, in which

UN officials say at least 17 people were killed, sparked two days of violent protests in Bangui. Thousands of people took to the streets to demand the departure of African Union peacekeepers and the resignation of Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza.

“Everyone who has a firearm is called upon to return it voluntarily to the town hall of their neighbourhood,” Nzapayeke said, adding he hoped this would encourage all neighbourhoods — Christian and Muslim alike — to disarm at the same time.

Muslims in Bangui

have expressed anger that previous attempts at disarmament left them prey to the “anti-balaka” Christian militia. Nzapayeke said that members of the armed forces — many of whom have joined the anti-balaka Christian militia — were urged to declare their weapons to their commanding officers and to return to the ranks of the army. He said the government would not tolerate any further demonstrations which had not received authorities’ approval.

Central African Republic has been gripped by ethnic and religious

violence since northern Seleka rebels, who are mostly Muslim, seized power in the mainly Christian nation in 2013.

Seleka left power in January under international pressure after 10 months of looting and violence that had prompted the formation of the Christian self-defence militia.

Since then attacks by anti-balaka have largely driven Muslims from Bangui and the west, effectively partitioning the country, whose east is controlled mainly by Seleka.

Several thousand Muslims, however, remain in the PK5 neighbourhood of Bangui, where skirmishes with anti-balaka have become a regular occurrence. Hundreds of Muslims in PK5 protested on Saturday against calls for disarmament and demanded their safe evacuation from the city. Samba-Panza, visiting hospitalised people injured in recent days of violence in Bangui, said that disarmament would be done in an orderly fashion in collaboration with the AU force (MISCA) and France’s 2,000-strong peacekeeping mission so as to protect the Muslim population — Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Air travelers can expect better mobile services

BEIJING, 2 June — Mobile devices have become part of people's daily life nowadays and many passengers bring their devices aboard, but without in-flight WiFi service, they only can play Angry Birds game during the boring flight period. That will change on the flights of Air China Ltd. The company signed an agreement with Honeywell Aerospace, part of Honeywell International Inc. It will test from the second quarter 2015 the Global Xpress (GX) Aviation system on its fleet of A330 aircraft.

GX Aviation is a high-speed Ka-band in-flight connectivity service powered by GX Ka-band satellite network of Inmarsat Plc, a communications firm established in 1979 by the International Maritime Organization to enable ships to stay in touch with the shore or call for help.

With the technology, passengers can expect a 60 percent faster download speed compared with now.

The first GX satellite



An Air China official holds an Internet conference on the airliner's flight CA4116 in April. Air China and Hainan Airlines Co Ltd have sought permission to test in-flight connectivity.—XINHUA

was launched in December 2013, Bill Peltola, Inmarsat's aviation vice president said. The second and third GX satellites are scheduled for launch by year-end.

Those three satellites will span the globe and provide a more stable signal.

There are two different solutions to provide in-

flight connectivity services currently, either through ground bases or satellites.

Compared with the new satellites, the current satellite solution is less certain, as a result of satellites moving from area to area, Jack Jacobs, Honeywell Aerospace's vice president of marketing and product

management, said. Once the new satellites are in place, the cost of the satellite service will be lower too, he said.

Under Honeywell and Inmarsat's agreement, the US technology company will exclusively develop, produce and distribute on-board hardware to allow

mobile-device users to connect to Inmarsat's GX constellation network.

"The advantage of GX Aviation is not just its satellites," said Brian Davis, vice president, Asia Pacific, Airlines, Honeywell Aerospace. It's "also for the global and high-speed communication network."

Being able to connect at higher speed to the network while in flight will open opportunities industry wide. Honeywell showed related research applications at its international media day on 21 May.

The satellite system can be used elsewhere, said Vamsi Gundluru, Honeywell's marketing and product manager of cockpit systems.

It can provide real-time data to a maintenance center when the airplane is flying and show the flight path to passengers. The company will continue to further cut costs and increase speed, he added.

Mid-air, online surfing is not new. Boeing Co developed its Connexion sys-

tem for it in 2004.

The Seattle, Washington-based aircraft builder promoted its service with German airline Lufthansa AG at the time. The programme closed after two years due to costs and low market growth.

It costs over \$1 million to put the Connexion system into an aircraft and Boeing invested more than \$1 billion in the project.

Companies such as Gogo, OnAir and Lake Forest, California-based Panasonic Avionics Corp, also provide in-flight connectivity services to airlines. They may talk with Honeywell about possible cooperation on GX Aviation technology.

A Honeywell survey showed almost 90 of respondents from the US, UK and Singapore would change in-flight mobile service providers if they could.

Honeywell estimates that in 20 years it can get \$2.8 billion from in-flight mobile services.

Xinhua

4K HD broadcasting trial service starts in Japan

TOKYO, 2 June—An industry body on Monday started a pilot service for 4K ultra high-definition broadcasting, marking the first such television service in Japan.

The Channel 4K, operated by Next Generation Television and Broadcasting Promotion Forum, or NexTV-F, inaugurated the service at 1 pm on Monday.

The free channel will air contents provided by member TV stations, covering live music, travel and sports programmes, for roughly six hours a day

during the preliminary period, the organization said.

Viewers need a 4K television, tuner and antenna, and will need to send an application to the operator to watch the channel.

NexTV-F, set up in May 2013 to promote 4K broadcasting, has 62 corporate members consisting mainly of TV stations, electronics makers, ad agencies and trading houses.

The Japanese government is aiming to begin the commercial service for 4K broadcasting in 2016.

Kyodo News

SAO PAULO, 2 June—The hacker group Anonymous is preparing a cyber-attack on corporate sponsors of the World Cup in Brazil to protest the lavish spending on the soccer games in a country struggling to provide basic services, said a hacker with knowledge of the plan on Friday. Earlier this week, Anonymous attacked the Brazil's Foreign Ministry computer networks and leaked dozens of confidential emails. "We have already conducted late-night tests to see which of the

Anonymous threatens cyber-attack on FIFA World Cup sponsors

sites are more vulnerable," said the hacker who operates under the alias of Che Commodore. "We have a plan of attack." "This time we are targeting the spon-

sors of the World Cup," he said in a Skype conversation from an undisclosed location in Brazil. Asked to name the potential targets he mentioned Adidas,

Emirates airline [EMIRA.UL], the Coca-Cola Co and Budweiser, which is owned by Anheuser-Busch InBev.

Reuters had no means of confirming Che Commodore's identity or his affiliation with Anonymous.

The sponsors did not immediately respond to requests to comment on the threat. A DDoS or Distributed Denial-of-service is a low-cost attack aiming at taking a website offline by simultaneously requesting access from thousands of computers in order to jam the host server.—Reuters



Acer Iconia Tab 8 tablet with full-HD display, Android 4.4 KitKat launched

TAIPEI, 2 June — Acer has launched the Iconia Tab 8 tablet ahead of Computex that kicks off this week in Taiwan. The company announced that the tablet will be available starting Q3, but did not reveal its pricing.

Apart from the Iconia Tab 8, Acer also launched five new smartphones, and a new smartband. These are the Acer Liquid E700, Acer Liquid E600, Acer Liquid Z200, Acer Liq-



uid X1, and Acer Liquid Jade smartphones, and the Liquid Leap smartband.

The Acer Iconia Tab 8 runs Android 4.4 KitKat out-of-the-box, and

is the first tablet from the company to run the most recent version of the Android.

The tablet features an 8-inch full-HD (1920x1200 pixels) IPS display and comes with Zero Air Gap technology.

The tablet also features what the company calls Acer Touch WakeApp, which lets users quickly wake up the Iconia Tab 8 with a touch gesture.

PTI

The Hunger Games Mobile Game coming soon to smartphones and tablets

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 June — "The Hunger Games" is becoming a mobile game. Interactive entertainment company Kabam announced on Friday that it agreed with film studio Lionsgate to make a title for play on smartphones or tablet computers based on the dystopian books and films.

San Francisco-based Kabam specializes in mobile games that are free-to-play, instead bringing

in revenue through tactics such as digital ads or hawking virtual goods or abilities. "Lionsgate has an unparalleled track record of developing and producing blockbuster movie franchises like 'The Hunger Games,'" Kabam chief operating officer Kent Wakeford said in a release.

"Partnering with Lionsgate, Kabam will build a mobile game that's as much fun to play as the movie is to watch." Ka-



bam's vision for the game included casting players in roles as District members out to build alliances and liberate themselves in the spirit of the story told in the books on which the film is based.—PTI

UK official denies that Cameron threatened to advance EU vote

BERLIN, 2 June — A British official on Sunday dismissed a report that Prime Minister David Cameron had threatened at an EU summit last week to bring forward a referendum on British membership of the EU if Jean-Claude Juncker became European Commission president.

The German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that Cameron had said he would not be able to ensure that Britain stayed in the European Union if Juncker got the job.

It said participants understood this to mean that a vote for Juncker could destabilise Cameron's government to the extent that the referendum would have to be brought forward

from its planned date of 2017, and that this would make it likely that the British people would vote to leave the EU.

Cameron must anyway go to the polls in less than a year. A British official, who declined to be named, said Cameron's plan to hold a referendum on membership in 2017 if re-elected had not changed, and that he did not favour bringing the vote forward.

But the official said Cameron had told his EU counterparts he did not think Juncker was the right person for the job, and made clear at a summit dinner in Brussels that choosing someone who was not a reformer could damage the EU's image in Britain and make it more



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron

likely that Britons would vote to leave.

A spokesman for Cameron's office said he would not comment on leaders' private discussions.

Cameron has promised to renegotiate the terms of Britain's EU membership

before the referendum — a difficult job that could become even harder if someone with Juncker's long-standing commitment to EU integration heads the executive European Commission in Brussels.

Juncker, a former

Luxembourg prime minister, had been the lead candidate for the European People's Party, the majority parliamentary group that includes German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, ahead of last week's election.

Der Spiegel reported that Merkel had said she would join Cameron in opposing Juncker in a vote.

The German government declined to comment, but officials spoken to by *Reuters*, including some with direct knowledge of the discussions at the summit, played the report down, saying the leaders' talks had focused on the priorities for the next Commission rather than on specific candidates.

They said only a few

people had mentioned Juncker by name, and that some leaders had been opposed to him while others had supported him.

Almost a week after the summit, it seems clear that it will take weeks of wrangling to decide who will get the post.

"We don't know the position of the majority of governments, so it's too early to say," an EU official said.

The European Commission president is selected by EU leaders but must be approved by parliament, where Eurosceptics from the right made gains in last week's election. Juncker called on EU leaders not to bow to pressure from the minority.

Reuters

Japan starts annual "Super Cool Biz" casual work wear campaign



Environment Ministry officials work in casual clothes at their office in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki district at the start of the government's annual "Super Cool Biz" campaign on 2 June, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 2 June — The government began its annual "Super Cool Biz" campaign on Monday to encourage workers to dress more casually so as not to rely excessively on air conditioning, as unseasonably hot weather continued across Japan.

The energy-saving campaign is an enhanced version of the "Cool Biz" initiative that started 10 years ago, in which workers at central government ministries and agencies are allowed to work without their usual ties and jackets.

During the "Super Cool Biz" period, which will continue through 30 September, workers are allowed to wear polo shirts, sneakers and even Hawaiian aloha shirts in the office.

The Environment Ministry is also calling for company workers to adjust their lifestyles to save energy, such as by shifting their work hours to earlier in the morning when the temperature is cool and avoiding working overtime.

Over the past two days, temperatures in some parts of Japan rose to 35 C and higher due to a high-pressure system that has covered much of the Japanese archipelago.

The "Super Cool Biz" campaign started in 2011, following power shortage concerns after eastern Japan was hit by a huge earthquake and tsunami, which triggered the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster.

The "Cool Biz" period runs from May to October.

Kyodo News

China investigates senior state TV official over bribery

BEIJING, 2 June — China's top prosecutor is investigating a senior executive with state broadcaster CCTV on suspicion of bribery, the official *Xinhua* news agency reported, as the government's anti-corruption campaign intensifies.

The government has cracked down on official corruption and extravagance in China since President Xi Jinping's appointment last year. Public flaunting of personal, and often illicit, wealth had been common and had led to widespread criticism of the ruling Communist Party.

Xinhua, citing a statement from state prosecutors, said Guo Zhenxi, CCTV's advertising director and director-general of its finance and economics channel, had been detained because he was "suspected of bribery".

The *Xinhua* report late on Sunday said another official, Tan Liwu, a producer on CCTV's finance channel, had also been detained. It gave no other details.

The influential magazine *Caixin* said Guo had been detained in the northeastern province of Jilin.

Reuters

Cuba experiments with wholesale market for farmers

HAVANA, 2 June — Cuba opened its first wholesale market for farmers in decades on Sunday, an experiment limited to agricultural supplies in one area and the latest market-oriented reform for the communist-run island.

While Cuba has allowed nearly 500,000 small business owners and their employees to operate privately and hundreds of thousands of farmers to grow their own crops, it has been slow to give them access to wholesale markets.

Even though the farming sector has been the most liberalized, Cuba continues to import more than 60 per cent of its food, in part because farmers still depend on state-run allocation and distribution of subsidized supplies. Official output has not significantly increased since the reforms began six years ago.

But as of Sunday, farmers on the Isle of Youth, home to 60,000 people off the southwest

coast of the main Caribbean island, can purchase unsubsidized supplies on demand.

Since President Raul Castro took over from ailing brother Fidel in 2008, fallow state lands have been leased, and farmers are freer to sell directly to consumers.

The reforms have also gained the attention of business leaders in the United States, even though US companies are largely banned from trading with Cuba.

A delegation from the US Chamber of Commerce visited Cuba last week, calling for an end to the US trade embargo and urging the government to deepen and accelerate the reforms.

Cuban economist Armando Nova has argued for years that farmers need to be allowed to buy their own supplies and sell on an open market.

"Agriculture is cyclical. You need to close the cycle for reforms to work and now that means the in-



A farmer plows the land with two oxen in Caimito on 28 March, 2014.—REUTERS

puts," Nova said.

Life-long farmer Ibrain Vibes, 43, who inherited his land in Artemisa Province just west of Havana, was skeptical.

"The reforms are one thing and all the regulations are another. It feels like the earth keeps moving under our feet. Nothing works like they say it will," he said.

Vibes complained a government crackdown on black market fuel was forcing him to buy it at the retail price of \$4.50 per

gallon. Otherwise he would lose the acres of malanga, a tuber staple of the Cuban diet, he had been cultivating for months.

Another Artemisa farmer, who asked to be identified only as Carlos, looked down the pages of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and other products now on sale on the Isle of Youth as he sat in his brand new house, the largest by far in the neighbourhood, a vintage Ford truck with a rebuilt motor outside.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (238)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (238) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (045)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (105)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (105) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL SINGAPORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1016)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER APEX VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (02/14)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (02/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC MERCURY VOY NO
(CAMO 36)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MVPACIFIC MERCURY VOY NO (CAMO 36) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CAM SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THIGAYU VOY NO (05/14)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (05/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KRUNG THON NAVA
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER
IMPLEMENTATION
INVITATION TO TENDER**

1. Qualified Contractors and/or Joint Venture are invited to submit Tender Proposals in United State Dollars for the 132 kV Transmission Line and Substation, Shwe Li (3) HPP Contract:

2. Closing Date of Tender Acquisition - 26.6.2014 (16:00) pm
Tender Submission Date - 24.7.2014 (12:00) pm
3. Tender Invitation Letter and Documents with detail informations shall be available at the following address.

Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 413531, 09250345349, 09 450539248
Fax : 067413531

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**Group of suicide bombers
attack government building
in S Afghanistan, 3 killed**

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 2 June — A group of suicide bombers attacked the district headquarters of Gereshk district in the southern Helmand Province 555 km south of Kabul on Monday, killing three people while gun battle continues, spokesman for provincial government Omar Zawak said.

"A group of suicide bombers, presumably four persons, targeted the headquarters of Gereshk district at around 11:30 am local time today and so far three persons have been killed; while gun battle goes on," Zawak told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars/Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -019(14-15)	Geological Survey Instrument and Field Equipment (2) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -020(14-15)	Data Processing Center & Interpretation Work Station (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB -021(14-15)	Mud Agitator Unit with Motor Driven (7.5 KW) (3) Units	US\$
(4)	IFB -022(14-15)	Spares for K-700A Rig Pump & K-280 Mixing Pump (12) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -023(14-15)	Spares for Triplex Mud Pump (Bentonite Pump) Ex HDD Rig (14) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -024(14-15)	Spares for HDD Rig (13) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -025(14-15)	Spares for Cabot Franks Servicing Truck (1) Item	US\$
(8)	IFB -026(14-15)	Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit	US\$
(9)	IFB -027(14-15)	Stirred Fluid Loss Cell (Model-7120) (1) Set	US\$
(10)	DMP/L-008(14-15)	Transformer Welding Set with Accessories (1) Lot	Kyats

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 23-6-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 2nd June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Katie Holmes to play Ryan Reynolds' wife in Helen Mirren's Woman in Gold



Ryan Reynolds plays a lawyer in the film which features Helen Mirren in the lead.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 2 June — Actress Katie Holmes will reportedly play Ryan

Reynolds' onscreen wife in the Jewish refugee drama Woman in Gold.

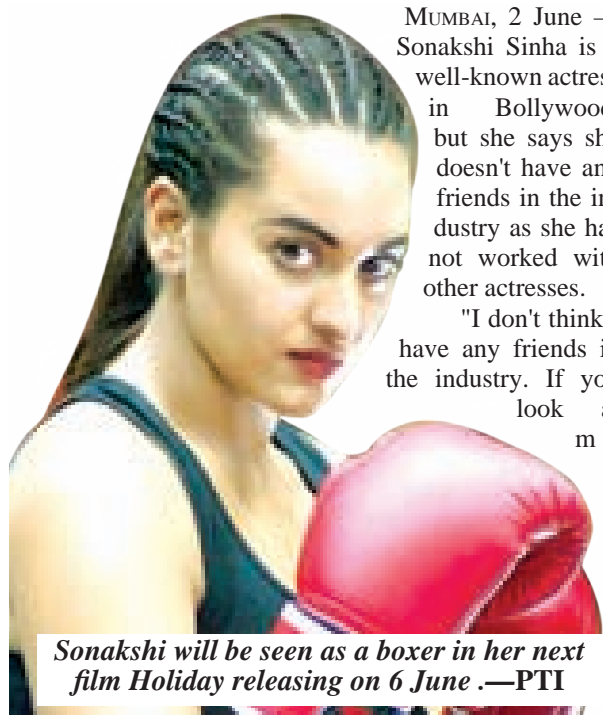
Actress Helen Mirren has already started filming the project, in which she stars as Maria Altmann, who spent four decades battling Austrian officials for the safe return of art stolen from her family by the Nazis during World War II.

Ryan Reynolds will portray Altmann's young lawyer Randy Schoenberg, and now Holmes has been added to the line-up as his wife, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Directed by Simon Curtis, the film went on floors in May.

PTI

Sonakshi Sinha: I have no friends in the industry



Sonakshi will be seen as a boxer in her next film Holiday releasing on 6 June.—PTI

MUMBAI, 2 June — Sonakshi Sinha is a well-known actress in Bollywood, but she says she doesn't have any friends in the industry as she has not worked with other actresses.

"I don't think I have any friends in the industry. If you look at my

films, I have done only solo roles and I have not worked with any other actresses in the films. So, I don't interact much with others. If at all we meet, we meet at award functions," said the Dabangg star.

Asked if she would like to do a film which has multiple stars in it, she said: "Why not? Of course, I would like to and my next film Action Jackson is such a film."

While the audience is yet to see her as a part of an ensemble cast, Sonakshi will be next seen with Akshay Kumar in their forthcoming film Holiday.

"I was introduced to Vijender Singh (boxer) by Akshay to learn the body

language of boxing. He helped me with the basic body language of boxing and it helped me a lot," said the actress, who will be seen as a boxer participating in an inter-college championship in the film.

The 26-year-old might have needed some help from the experts to make her role look convincing but the student of fashion designing likes to give inputs to designers she works with.

"I give some inputs as far as outfits are concerned. So, whichever stylist and designer works with me, I interact with them and they give me options. I give lot of inputs so, it's a joint effort," Sonakshi said.—PTI

Lindsay Lohan looking to make a fresh start outside US, house-hunting in London

LONDON, 2 June — Actress Lindsay Lohan is reportedly house hunting here as she wants to make a fresh start outside the US.

The Mean Girls star, who recently documented her struggle to get her life and career back on track



after her six stints in rehab through a self-titled TV series, thinks it will be good for her career, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Lindsay's really enjoying being in the UK and has told her pals that she's staying here for good," The Sun newspaper quoted a source as saying.

"Lindsay has also started investigating getting acting work in London," added the source. The news comes after the 27-year-old moved back to her native New York City from Los Angeles earlier this year.

Reuters

'Maleficent' casts \$70 million spell over box office, halts 'X-Men' uprising

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 2 June — "Maleficent," Walt Disney's special-effects laden take on "Sleeping Beauty's" wicked fairy godmother, captivated moviegoers, collecting \$70 million in ticket sales to win the North American weekend box office stakes.

The movie starring Angelina Jolie as the black-robed villain finished far ahead of last week's winner, "X-Men: Days of Future Past," which took \$32.6 million at US and Canadian theaters.

Seth MacFarlane's western comedy "A Million Ways to Die in the West" was third with \$17.1 million for the three days from Friday to Sunday, according to box of-

fice tracking firm Rentrak.

Produced for \$180 million, "Maleficent" received mixed reviews but opened strongly with \$4.2 million on Thursday night and conjured up more than 80 percent of advance ticket sales for the weekend, according to movie ticketing site Fandango.

The film is the latest in a line of reimagined classics, following "Alice in Wonderland" in 2010 and "Oz the Great and Powerful" in 2013. Industry experts forecast the film would open with \$55 million, according to the movie site Box Office Mojo. "We're very excited with this start," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Walt Disney Studios, noting it hoped for an open-

ing of around \$60 million. "Maleficent" took in another \$100 at overseas box offices.

Hollis said momentum built through weekend on positive word of mouth. With schools beginning to let out and a "general absence of family product in this marketplace," Disney was optimistic for the film continuing its strong performance.

"X-Men: Days of Future Past," with Hugh Jackman and Patrick Stewart in the seventh installment based on the Marvel Comic series, has collected more than \$162 million in sales in domestic theaters since its 23 May release and has generated \$500 million worldwide in just two weeks, distributor Fox

said.

"A Million Ways to Die in the West," MacFar-

lane's second time directing a live action film after his 2012 hit "Ted" about

a foul-mouthed toy bear, disappointed in its opening weekend.—Reuters



Cast member Angelina Jolie waves at the premiere of "Maleficent" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California 28 May, 2014. The movie opens in the US on 30 May.—REUTERS

GENERAL

100 Japanese to perform “Awaodori” folk dance in Paris next May

TOKYO, 2 June — Some 100 Japanese folk dancers will perform the traditional “Awaodori” in Paris next May to promote Japanese culture overseas, according to organizers of the event.

The first performance in France of the dance originating in western Japan’s Tokushima Prefecture will be held at the Place des Vosges square in Paris for two days in May, the organizers told a preview event held last week at the French ambassador’s residence in Tokyo.

Regis Arnaud, a 42-year-old French journalist based in Japan who



Women dancers from the Hyottoko dance group, dressed in traditional straw hats and yukata. In all, the Hyottoko group has 100 members, including men and children. —KYODO NEWS

is behind the Paris event, said, “Awaodori represents the Japanese national character,” adding he hopes

young French people will get a genuine taste of Japanese culture through the dance.

“It is a great project and I hope it will foster a deeper cultural understanding between the people of both countries,” French Ambassador to Japan Christian Masset said.

At the preview event, French Embassy officials, Japanese and French business leaders and Japanese Diet members joined the Awaodori, dancing together with about 30 performers.

Former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku, a native of Tokushima, said, “It is meaningful that the Paris event could raise awareness of Japan’s folk culture.”—Kyodo News

3 killed, 6 injured in rally crashes in Scotland

EDINBURGH, 2 June — Three spectators were killed and six injured on Saturday after two crashes at a rally in the southern Scottish Borders, the police confirmed on Sunday.

The collision incident occurred on Saturday afternoon near Little Swinton, Coldstream, which led to the death of a 64-year-old man, a 63-year-old woman and a 71-year-old man, all from the “Greater Glasgow” area, said a Police Scotland spokesperson.

The three victims were pronounced dead at the scene, while another man was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in a critical condition. The event was called off by the Jim Clark Rally organizers after the crash.

Two hours before the fatal crash, another car in the rally left the road and hit five people, one woman and four men, near a farm on the Eccles stage of the competition.

Three of the men were taken to Borders General Hospital but one was then moved to an intensive care unit in Edinburgh. The remaining two spectators were treated for minor injuries.

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond said, “This is desperately sad and difficult news from the Borders of the tragic circumstances that have occurred at the Jim Clark Rally.”

The organizers of the race also expressed their “heartfelt condolences and sympathy” to the families



A rally car involved in a crash is removed from the scene during the Jim Clark Rally near Coldstream, in the Scottish Borders, on 1 June, 2014. —XINHUA

and their friends affected by the tragic events.

As a long-standing event of over 40 years, the Jim Clark Rally takes place over three days on closed roads in the Duns and Kelso areas in southeast Scot-

land.

The rally is named after Scottish Formula One driver Jim Clark, who grew up in the area. He was killed in a motor racing accident in Hockenheim, Germany in 1968.—Xinhua

Froome casts doubt on Tour de France spot for Wiggins



Team Sky rider and Tour de France winner Christopher Froome of Britain holds a trophy and a stuffed toy on a podium during a victory ceremony as he celebrates winning a criterium race in Saitama, north of Tokyo on 26 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS

LONDON, 2 June — Bradley Wiggins’s place in next month’s Tour de France looks under threat after last year’s winner and Team Sky teammate

Chris Froome suggested he would prefer Australian Richie Porte as his number two.

Wiggins was the first Briton to win the world’s

most famous cycle race in 2012 but team leader Froome said a place even as a super domestique rider was by no means certain just over a month before the endurance classic gets underway in Leeds on 5 July.

“Talking about a Plan B, that’s a decision the team needs to come to, and Bradley has been talking about playing a support role, not being our Plan B as such,” fellow Briton Froome told the Daily Mirror newspaper.

“Richie is looking pretty good at the moment and has the potential to be riding for a place on the podium. “As far as Bradley is concerned, the final nine riders selected to start the

race in Yorkshire is a hot topic.

“That’s going to come down to what is best for the team, who is best for each role and the team dynamics.”

Wiggins announced his intention of racing in the Tour de France after an impressive victory in the Tour of California last month.

Already tense relations between the two riders were likely to have been further strained after Froome’s recently released book revealed they had fallen out in 2012.

“I would have been criticised a lot for not covering that topic in my autobiography,” Froome told the paper.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(3-6-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- * People Talks
- 8:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- * India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * Documentary
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:20 am
- * TV Drama Series
- 11:00 am
- * Documentary
- 12:00 pm
- * News / International News / Weather Report
- 2:15 pm
- * Documentary
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:40 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Home Economics)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 5:15 pm
- * Business News
- 6:00 pm
- * News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- * Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:20 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- 9:30 pm
- * Documentary
- * Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe
- * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-6-14 07:00am~ 4-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges “Ya Za Gyi Village” (I)
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * People “Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun “Student Life & Early Literary Career -1”(Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
- * Local News
- * Architecture: Historic and Mystery Behind the Caves
- * World News
- * Next Weekend
- * Local News
- * National Costume: “The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress”
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Review “Satan Dancer”
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (glass)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
- * Local News
- * Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Kid’s Home
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar “Fried Flat Noodle”
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * National Costumes “Trend Of Kachin Dress
- * World News
- * Parents’ Day



A woman walks with her baby on a street in Shibuya, a shopping district of Tokyo, Japan, on 2 June, 2014. The temperature in Tokyo on 2 June is estimated to rise over 31 degrees Celsius. —XINHUA

Moyes 'tempted' by new offers but may take a break instead

LONDON, 2 June — Sacked Manchester United manager David Moyes says he has "been tempted" by some very good job offers but may take a break from the game after his short reign at Old Trafford ended five weeks ago.

The 51-year-old Scot, who lost his job on 22 April after less than 10 months in charge, says he has "moved on" from the experience as a "wiser and more knowledgeable coach and manager."

Writing in the *Sunday Times*, and commenting at length on his departure for the first time, he said United fans should now appreciate that things are changing at their club. "It could well be that gone are the days of long-term planning at United."

They were fully aware of the task I had. It was unfortunate I wasn't given more time to succeed," he said. "Since leaving, I have received some very good offers and am tempted by one or two of them. I have not closed the door on anything and am open-minded about my next step in management, and whether it will be in the UK or abroad. —Reuters

Former Manchester United's manager David Moyes

Nadal meets unseeded Lajovic at French Open

PARIS, 2 June — World number one and defending champion Rafael Nadal continues his charmed march through the French Open when he plays unseeded Serbian Dusan Lajovic for a place in the quarter-finals on Monday. Neither player has dropped a set but Nadal, in the second match on the Philippe Chatrier show court, should have little trouble setting up a meeting with either Spanish compatriot David Ferrer, the fifth seed, or South African Kevin Anderson, seeded 19. Ferrer was beaten by Nadal in last year's final and the contest with Anderson is first on court Suzanne Lenglen.

Wimbledon champion Andy Murray, the seventh seed from Britain, takes on Spain's Fernando Verdasco (24) in the third match on that court. The tightest contest may be between Simona Halep of Romania, the highest seed left in the women's draw at four, and 15th seed Sloane Stephens of the United States. —Reuters

Federer hits 10-year low, Djokovic eases through



Andy Murray of Britain reacts after winning his men's singles match against Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 1 June, 2014. —REUTERS

PARIS, 2 June — Roger Federer suffered his earliest defeat at the French Open for a decade on Sunday when he lost to Latvian Ernests Gulbis in the fourth round but Novak Djokovic made light work of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to reach the quarter-finals in a flash.

The Swiss fourth seed, who won the title in 2009, seemed to have the match in his grasp against the unpredictable Gulbis but faded badly to lose 6-7(5), 7-6(3), 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

World No 2 Djokovic destroyed local favourite Tsonga 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 to set up a meeting with eighth seed Milos Raonic of Canada, who advanced with an emphatic 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Spain's Marcel Granollers.

Last year's runner-up Maria Sharapova, the seventh seed, survived a shaky start to beat Australian Sam Stosur 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, winning the last nine games to set up a quarter-final against Spanish sensation Garbine Muguruza, who rounded off a bad day for the host nation with a 6-4, 6-2 win against France's Pauline Parmentier.

Another fast-rising talent, Canadian Eugenie Bouchard thrashed German eighth seed Angelique Kerber 6-1, 6-2 to claim a quarter-final spot, crunching 30 winners in 52 dazzling minutes to stretch her winning run on clay to nine matches.

Andy Murray lived to fight another day after a five-set thriller against

Philipp Kohlschreiber in the third round.

While Djokovic made it to his 20th consecutive grand slam quarter-final, it was the first time since 2004 that 32-year-old father of four Federer failed to reach the last eight in Paris. He has now fallen before that stage in three of his last four grand slam tournaments.

"Mentally I have already switched to the grass, to be quite honest," said Federer. "For me, it's like,

okay, claycourt season was fun, but we are moving on. Clay doesn't need me anymore, I got flushed out here." Former world No 1 Federer, who became father to a second set of twins recently, looked a slightly forlorn figure as Gulbis turned around the match and the days when he was a near certainty to reach semi-finals appear to be over.

The 17-times grand slam champion was beaten in the second round at

Wimbledon last year and the last 16 at the US Open although he did enjoy a semi-final run in Australia.

On yet another gloomy day in Paris after some welcome sunshine on Saturday, Federer never looked comfortable against Gulbis, who said earlier this week he was hoping to catch the "last-chance train" after under-achieving since reaching the quarter-finals of the French Open in 2008.

Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland leaves the court after being defeated by Ernests Gulbis of Latvia in their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 1 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Honduras struggle again in 4-2 loss to Israel

HOUSTON, (Texas), 2 June — Honduras, who face France in their World Cup opener in two weeks' time, suffered a second straight defeat in a warm-up for the tournament with a 4-2 loss to Israel in Houston on Sunday.

Honduras lost 2-0 to

Turkey in their opening friendly on Thursday and once again they struggled against UEFA opposition.

Israel's early pressure paid off when they grabbed the lead in the 34th minute through a superb strike from Eran Zahavi, who grabbed the ball outside the

area and drove it into the bottom corner.

Two minutes after the break, though, Honduras equalized with an even more spectacular goal — Roger Espinoza unleashing a fierce left foot drive from 25 metres which crashed in off both posts.

It took only five minutes for Israel to restore their advantage, however, with Tal Ben Haim's harmless looking shot deflected in off Honduras defender Maynor Figueroa.

Israel went 3-1 up on the hour when Gil Vermouth struck the upright and Omer Damari reacted well to control the loose ball and slot home.

Vermouth got his reward in the 74th minute, adding Israel's fourth with a low diagonal strike that went in off the far post after a smart head down from Bebar Natcho.

Honduras grabbed a consolation seven minutes from the end when Espinoza found Carlo Costly at the back post and the big striker headed in.

After playing France, Honduras must tackle Ecuador and Switzerland in World Cup Group E.

The Central Americans face England in their final warm-up game on 7 June in Miami.

Reuters



Israel midfielder Neftali Vermouth Gil (14) is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal against Honduras during the second half of a soccer friendly match at BBVA Compass Stadium. Israel defeated Honduras 4-2. —REUTERS