

President, KNU delegation discuss development in nationwide ceasefire agreement



President U Thein Sein, KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po and CEC members in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—President U Thein Sein met the delegation of Karen National Union here on Tuesday afternoon.

At the meeting held at the hall of the 500-acre model plantation of mod-

ern mechanized farming, U Thein Sein and the members of KNU led by Saw Mutu Sae Poe, chairman of KNU, and Pado Mahn Nye-in Maung, a KNU central executive committee exchanged their views on the

peace-making processes.

The president said, that “Stability, tranquility and development of socio-economic lives are the expectations of people. As KNU is actively participating in these processes, the gov-

ernment appreciates your efforts.”

He added that peace-making efforts by the government are aimed to create a peaceful future for the young generations of all the nationals, and that

the peace movement will gain success through union spirit.

The president pointed out that people in war-torn countries are innocent victims due to the repercussions of skirmishes.

He also said that skepticism which has undermined the unity of the country for some decades must be rooted out gradually with patience, tolerance and forgiveness.

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Netherlands to help with Myanmar water resources management

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—Netherlands government officials said on Wednesday in Nay Pyi Taw that they will help improve water resources in Myanmar, highlighting safety of drinking water and water used in the agricultural sector.

The seminar ‘Developing Myanmar Waters Sustainably: from Vision to Implementation’ was jointly held by the Myanmar government and the Netherlands government in Nay Pyi Taw, with the event attended by Vice President U Nyan Tun and the Dutch government’s Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, Melanie Schultz van Haegen-Maas

Geesteranus.

Melanie Schultz van Haegen said, “There is every reason to deepen our friendship. Especially, since we share the same goals: We want our peoples to live safely with water, we want the water to work for us and not against us, so we can improve the quality of our agriculture and our drinking water, and use our rivers as navigable waterways.”

She added that the Netherlands has made good progress over the past year in all of the water resources management fields.

The cooperation of the two countries involves a number of international organizations and private

firms.

She also suggested that managing the future also requires feasible business for all parties involved.

She said, “We have developed valuable experience in public-private partnerships, giving contractors more responsibility for the design, financing, construction or maintenance of a specific project.”

Regarding sustainability of water sources in Myanmar, the experts from the Netherlands are exploring possibilities by looking at some perspectives ranging from slower to fast economic growth, looking into the consequences of water resources management and

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ADB, Japan to help Myanmar expand renewable energy sector

YANGON, 4 June—The Asian Development Bank will help Myanmar develop renewable energy in the country, according to an official statement.

The total project cost of US\$ 2.2 million aimed to bring power to 25 off-grid villages of Myanmar will include logistics such as offices, staff and other counter support with an estimated cost of \$200,000 which will be given by the Japanese government for technical assistance through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, the statement said.

The per capita electricity consumption in

Myanmar is only 140 kilowatt-hours which is the lowest among the 10 members of ASEAN.

The three-year project, due for completion in June 2017, will lead to the installation of 10 MW of new, small-scale renewable energy installations by 2022, mostly using solar and biomass-based systems.

In the statement, project leader Pradeep Tharakan of ADB Senior Climate Change Specialist said, “This project will help demonstrate Myanmar’s potential in renewable energy while bringing power to 400,000 households and services such as schools

by 2022.” In accordance with the new electricity prices that started on April 1, the price will remain at K35 (less than 4 US cents) per unit for households using under 100 units (kilowatt hours) per month. But those using between 101 and 200 units in a month will have to pay K40 per unit and the rate for using more than 200 units will be K50.

The basic charge for businesses, with those using less than 500 units per month will remain at the current amount of K75. Industrial users will pay K100 from 501 to 10,000 units, K125 from 10,001 to 50,000 units, and K150 from 50,001 to 300,000 units. Above 300,000 units, the unit price will drop to K100.—NLM

Myanmar, Canada focus on promotion of bilateral relations



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin shaking hands with Canadian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received a Canadian delegation led by Mr Daniel Jean, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. During the meeting, they discussed promotion of Myanmar-Canada bilateral relations, cooperation and matters of mutual interest.—MNA

Minor earthquake hits central Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 on the Richter scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 15 miles southwest of Haka) about 180 miles west-northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 13 hrs 50 min 56 sec M.S.T on Wednesday, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Two Myanmar youth golfers take part in Singapore Junior Golf Championship



YANGON, 4 June—Myanmar youth golfers Thiha Myo Hset and Pu Pwint Yati Khaing left Yangon International Airport on Monday for taking part in the Singapore Junior Golf Championship 2014 at the Keppel Golf Club in Singapore from 3 to 7 June. They were seen off at the airport by officials of the Myanmar Golf Federation and relatives.—NLM

Further bilateral cooperation between Myanmar, Netherlands discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun met the Diplomatic Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands led by Ms. M.H. Schultz Van Haegen-Maas Geesteranus,

Minister for Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands on Wednesday at the Ministry to discuss further bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides discussed pro-

cess of the maintenance of water resources in Myanmar, work plans of National Environment Conservation Committee, cooperation with foreign countries, rules and regulations of Payment for Ecosystem Services-PES and

Polluter Pay System-PPS, capacity improvement to maintain watershed area and water quality and the Netherlands' technical assistance such as Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System-RS & GIS to Myanmar.—MNA

Farming rights certificates returned to owners in Yangon

YANGON, 4 June—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Yangon Region Farmlands Management Committee handed over farming rights certificates for more than 600 acres of confiscated farmlands to over 60 farmers in Kyauktan, Kawhmu and Taikkyi townships in Yangon on Wednesday at the Yangon Region Government Office.

During the ceremony,

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the departmental officials try to return certificates of remaining farmlands to their owners as quickly as possible and he urged the farmers to grow seasonal crops in time.—MNA

Chief Minister U Myint Swe hands over farming rights certificates to a responsible person.—MNA



Farmland management proficiency course concludes in Taungtha Tsp

TAUNGTHA, 4 June—The two-day proficiency course 1/2014 for members of Ward/ Village Farmland Management Committees in Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region concluded on Tuesday at the hall of the township administration office.

During the training,

Secretary of Township Farmland Management Committee U Kyi Win clearly explained the laws and bylaws to the trainees.

The course was aimed at improving staff proficiency to systematically manage the farmlands.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

Myanmar Affirms commitment to sustainable development and creation of livable communities

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—The 10th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region (10th APIMM) took place at Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore from 31 May to 1 June.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin who represented Myanmar was among 91 participants from countries in Asia-Pacific region at the two-day forum.

According to the Ministry of National Development of Singapore, the aim of holding the forum was to share experiences and exchange best practices on building sustainable and highly livable environment and the 10th forum was centred on the theme of "Infrastructure for Sustainable Development: Creating Livable Communities.



Ministers and senior officials from countries in Asia-Pacific region meet at 10th APIMM.—MNA

Myanmar affirmed its commitment to sustainable development and creation of livable communities during the Summits.

On her stay in Singapore, the deputy minister held talks with Mr. Choi Shing Kwok, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of Singapore, on is-

sues of promoting cooperation in the areas of environmental conservation and human resources development.

The event was held in conjunction with the 4th World Cities Summit-WCS, 6th Singapore International Water Week-SIWW and 2nd Clean Enviro Summit.

After the forum, a joint

declaration which outlined the areas for greater cooperation and collaboration between member countries was adopted. Those areas include sustainable urbanization, planning and management of infrastructure, climate change and resource sustainability, and building homes and strengthening communities.—MNA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (4-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K646,500 per tical: Selling K647,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K646,500 per tical: Selling K647,000

FE RATE

USD Buying K966 - Selling K970.5

SGD Buying K766 - Selling K772

Euro Buying K1310 - Selling K1325

NATIONAL

President, KNU delegation discuss development in...

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The KNU leaders discussed the development of signing a nationwide ceasefire agreement and preparations that should be made before the agreement.

The ethnic armed group also said that KNU fully accepts the internal

peace-making processes which were mentioned in the president's speech on 31 May.

The meeting was attended by ministers and senior government officials, as well as the members of the executive committee of KNU.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tint Thwin, Deputy Director-General of Hotels and Tourism Development Department under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism as Director-General of the same department from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Netherlands...

(from page 1)

looking forward to a fruitful conversation.

The Netherlands will hold the International Conference on Deltas in Times of Climate Change in September.

Vice President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Takashi Yamauchi, CEO of Mitsui Company of Japan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace on Wednesday. Their discussions focused on financial and technical cooperation in improving the agriculture sector in Myanmar.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun presents a picture as gift to Dutch government's Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, Melanie Schultz van Haagen-Maas Geesteranus.

MNA

Myanmar Stock Exchange to debut in October 2015, deputy minister says in Upper House session

Representatives of Upper House attending the ninth session in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—The Ministry of Finance is preparing a draft agreement to establish the Myanmar Stock Exchange as a joint venture among Myanmar Economic Bank, Daiwa Research (DIR) and Japan Stock Exchange, said Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein at the Upper House session in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Although there are about 200 public companies in Myanmar, only few

fulfill the requirements to be listed at the stock exchange due to a lack of good management, transparency, tax payment and international standard accounts, the deputy minister pointed out.

The stock exchange will start with five qualified companies but the ministry has signed MOUs with only two companies at present, the deputy minister said.

However, the deputy

minister stressed that his ministry is helping other companies to meet the re-

quirements to be listed at the stock exchange.

The Upper House also agreed to discuss a proposal to urge the union government to take measures for improving "solidarity" between employees and employers.

The ninth session of the Lower House continued in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. At the Lower House session, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied to a question raised by a Lower House representative. He said that the central farmland management board has no plan to

issue farming permits for mobile farms as they move every year from place to place. In addition, the union government is cooperating with state/region governments to eliminate the mobile farming system by developing terrace farms, the deputy minister said.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun replied to questions concerning cooperative loans for poverty reduction, rural development and improvement of living standard. He said loans are offered to

groups of five and that people can join cooperative societies irrespective of their race, religion and political affiliation. Small loans are offered at 1.5 percent interest rate and people can save about K12.5 billion with the cooperative loans.

The session also put into record the proposal submitted by a Lower House representative to form a central committee for modernization of agriculture and livestock breeding development.

MNA

Concerted efforts needed for three fundamental concepts of democratization, senior general says

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June—Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Chairman of the Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po and members of the central executive committee of the KNU that concerted efforts are needed for three fundamental concepts of democratization in Myanmar such as stability, solidarity and development.

The senior general received the KNU chairman and delegation at Bayintnaung Yeiktha on Wednesday morning. The senior general acknowledged peace talks for a nationwide ceasefire are progressing and affirmed the armed forces' commitment to cooperation in ongoing sweeping reforms.

He pledged that the armed forces will continue to strive for ensuring the development of the nation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to Chairman of the Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po.—MNA

while fully taking part in an area of achieving peace and stability and unity. Good results for the sake of the country could be brought about by understanding and

tolerance based on mutual trust, he added.

In his speech, KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po highlighted the importance of acceptance and

tolerance in negotiations moving towards a lasting peace, and reiterated the commitment of his organization for peace.

MNA



Italian Ambassador Mr Paolo Andrea Barlorelli welcomed Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and wife at the reception to mark the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy 2014 on 3 June in Yangon.—MNA

Thanatkha plants thrive in Tatkon Township



TATKON, 4 June—Residents in Kyein villages of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area grow Thanatkha plants (*Limonia acidissia*) in their

housing compounds, with locals saying the Thayaaye strain of Thanatkha grows particularly well. Many locals make a living by gathering fruits of Thanatkha

in August and September and planting the seeds the following June or July. The saplings need to be weeded around one year.

Eight-year old Than-

atkha plants sell for around K20,000 per plant, said U Hla Tun, Thanatkha farmer of Kyein village.

Tint Tint Khaing
(Township IPRD)

Authorities urged to prohibit dredging fish ponds in farmlands

YANGON, 4 June—Yangon Region government is implementing a plan for the improvement of agriculture task in Myaungtalok Village of Twantay Township, Yangon Region, with officials urging village authorities to prevent farmers from dredging fish ponds on their farmlands without any permission from the authorities.

Their acts have caused inundation at some farmlands. In Twantay Township, some farmers dredged

fish ponds at about 400 acres of farmlands with the use of heavy machinery although village authorities had instructed those farmers to legalize their activity in line with the rules and regulations.

Locals who merely engage in agricultural tasks submitted complaints to the Chief Minister of the region to look into the undisciplined acts of those farmers who dredged the fish ponds.

Tun Win



Mandalay residents suffer from heat exhaustion



MANDALAY, 4 June—Daytime temperatures in Mandalay has been reach-

ing up to 45 degrees °F in recent days, with officials saying that elderly people

in particular have been suffering health problems.

U Hla Maung, 65,

residing in Aungpinle of Myothit said that he feels dizzy while sitting in his house, with his family now seeking shelter under the trees along the moat, where it is slightly cooler, before returning home after sunset.

“We are working on construction of a building. Due to the very hot season, we can do our works in the morning. We take a break in the afternoon and take a rest under the shade of trees along the moat,” said another mason residing in Amarapura. Mandalay residents have been increasingly seeking shelter from the heat on Mandalay Hill, but also along the moat.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Printing management and offset operator refresher course conclude

MANDALAY, 4 June—Mandalay Region Printers and Publishers Association organized a printing management and refresher course for offset operators.

The courses concluded on the second floor of Shwephyu Plaza in Mandalay on 1 June.

Officials presented prizes to three outstanding trainees. The course lasted from 17 May to 1 June.

It was aimed at improving capacity of operators in controlling offsets and in maintaining the machineries.

Wai Phyto Aung

Over 180 stimulant tablets seized in Myawady Town

MYAWADY, 4 June—Following a tip-off from locals, a squad from Myawady Myoma police station raided the house of a man, identified as Chit Soe in Kayinsu block in

Ward 4 of Myawady, Kayin State, on 1 June.

The police found 150 stimulant tablets weighing 12gm in a plastic bottle and 34 tablets in another bottle weighing 2.72gm. Two

men identified as Chit Soe and Soe Myint (a) Hussein have been arrested during another raid, with officials saying the suspects were in possession of drugs, and are now under investigation in line with the law.

Thuzar
(Myawady Town)



LOCAL NEWS

MANDALAY, 4 June—To mark the first conference of Myanmar Writers' Association, a donation of current publications took place on Wednesday at the Township Writers' Association in Mandalay.

Donor U Kan Hla (Maung Khaing Phyo-Mandalay) presented publications including his own creation books to the association through U Tun Hla Aung, Chairman of the association.

Tun Hla Aung

Publications donated in Mandalay to Township Writers Association



Public affairs responsibility and accountability discussed in Myaungmya



MYAUNGMYA, 4 June—The workshop on public affairs responsibility and accountability kicked off at Mya Shwewa Hall in Myaungmya of Ayeyawady Region on Tuesday morning.

Ko Aung Myo Naing and Ko Myat Thu (Youth Network) discussed education sector, U Win Shwe

(Shwe Hmaing) (Unity Journal), Daw Si Si Myint (Farmers Union-Einme Township), Ko Win Htay (Farmers Union-Myaungmya Township) develop-

ment affairs, Ko Bo Bo (Ayeyawady Youth Group) and Ko Myat Thu (Youth Network) police force, U Win Shwe (Shwe Hmaing) (Unity Journal) and Daw Si Si Myint (Farmers Union-Einme Township) administrative affairs, Daw Si Si Myint (Farmers Union-Einme Township) and Ko Thet Paing Kyu (Karunashin Youths Association-Myaungmya) health sector and U Win Shwe (Shwe Hmaing) (Unity Journal) farmlands matters.

Departmental officials replied to queries raised by those present, with Ayeyawady Region Minister U Win Ko Ko reviewing the discussions.

Aung Min (IPRD)

Counterfeit money seized in Myawady

MYAWADY, 4 June—Police officials of Myawady Myoma Police Station seized 628 sheets of K1,000 counterfeit money on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, the officials together with witnesses searched a suspect identified as Than Tun Oo (a) Anni Phat, 27, of Ward-5 in Myawady and found

401 sheets of counterfeit money in his bag. They also found 227 sheets of counterfeit money on suspect Ma The Su, Ward-4 in the town.

The Police Station lodged a lawsuit against the suspects under Section 489 (b)/ 489 (c) of the Criminal Law.

Thuzar (Myawady Town)



School supplies donated in Yekyi Tsp



PATHEIN, 4 June—In order to support students from poor families, a donation ceremony took place on Tuesday at the Basic Education Primary School in Sittabin village in Yekyi Township in Pathein District of Ayeyawady Region.

During the ceremony, wellwishers including members of the fire brigade and war veteran organization in the township donated 55 sets of uniforms, 22 dozens of exercise books, 60 dozens of pencils and Tarpaulins to Headmistress Daw Htwe Yi Cho.—*Min Zaw Oo (Yekyi)*

Rural library put into service in Kyaukpadaung Tsp

KYAUKPADAUNG, 4 June—The library "Linn Shwe Ni" was built by the local people on a self-reliant basis in Kanni Village of Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, on Tues-

day. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Saw Tun Win donated 25 copies of books and newspapers, Tamakha monastery abbot U Suriya, 75 books and Township Information and Public

Relations Department, 50 books to the library.

The building of the library is 15 feet long and 12 feet wide and costs K700,000.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Duty assigned for first short-term five-year plan in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 4 June—A ceremony to assign duty to implement first short-term five-year plans of Myingyan Township in Mandalay

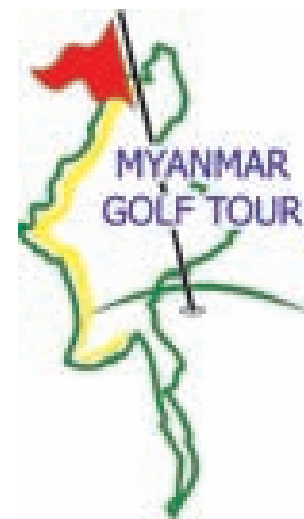
Region in 2014-2015 FY took place on Tuesday at the hall of township administration office.

During the ceremony,

Myingyan Township Planning and Implementation Committee Chairman U Tun Thein Aung gave assignments to implement the plans to township-level departmental officials.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Golfers invited to third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour



June. The golf tour will be categorized into men's professional and amateur and into the women's divisions.

The golfers for the professional and women's amateur divisions are to enlist at the Myanmar Golf Training Ground at the corner of Okkala and Airport streets in Mayangon Township not later than 12 noon on 17 June, with a fee of K20,000 required.

The amateur men's players are to take part in the sports trial on 16 June. They must enlist at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Club and dial 09-2037671, 09-420017835 and 09-73130474 for their registration not later than 12 noon on 14 June.

Po Thaw Zin

Educational association provides assistance to students from low-income families

HSIPAW, 4 June—A ceremony to present cash for education to 38 students who would otherwise not be able to afford it, was held in Hsipaw Township of northern Shan State on 1 June.

Chairman U Sai Aung Kyar and party of Pyinnya Parami Association presented educational assistance worth K1.6 million

to the students who range from the second to the tenth grade. The association was formed in December 2012 in Hsipaw Township without any political bias, officials said. The association granted stipends to those students who need assistance to continue their education through a fund donated by local people.

U Ko Latt



Thai junta claims support from China, Vietnam amid Western unease



Roses given by pro-army supporters are seen with Thai policemen as they stand guard outside the Australian Embassy in Bangkok on 4 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 4 June — China and Vietnam have expressed support for Thailand's new military government, an army spokesman said on Wednesday, as pro-army supporters held a small gathering at the Australian Embassy in protest against downgrading of relations after last month's coup.

Several foreign governments have voiced disapproval of the coup, which saw General Prayuth Chan-ocha take power after months of political unrest that undermined the government of Yingluck Shinawatra. "China's and Vietnam's ambassadors to Thailand met

Supreme Commander General Thanasak Patimaprakorn yesterday and assured us that they still have a good relationship with Thailand and that they hope the situation will return to normal quickly," Yongyuth Mayalarp, a spokesman for the military's National Council for Peace and Order, told reporters.

Myanmar's foreign affairs ministry said it recognized Thailand's new military rulers. "Thailand is a sovereign state and the military government has been endorsed by their king," Aung Linn, a director-general at Myanmar's foreign affairs ministry, told *Reuters*

on Wednesday. "Of course we do recognise them." China's foreign ministry had no immediate response to the report.

The United States scrapped joint military programmes with Thailand days after the 22 May coup while the European Union has urged the military to free political detainees and end censorship.

Australia downgraded its ties with Thailand on Saturday, imposed a travel ban on junta leaders and cut defence cooperation, the toughest measures taken by a foreign government since the change of regime.

A handful of pro-military demonstrators gathered outside the Australian Embassy on Wednesday to protest against what they see as foreign meddling in Thailand's internal affairs. Some handed roses to police guarding the embassy.

The coup was the latest convulsion in a decade-long conflict between the Bangkok-based royalist establishment, dominated by the military, old-money families and the bureaucracy, and supporters of Yingluck and her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, who are adored by the poor in the north and northeast.—*Reuters*

Australia could be world's nuclear waste dump: former PM

SYDNEY, 4 June — Australia could become the world's nuclear waste dump, which would give the local economy a major boost, former prime minister Bob Hawke told reporters on Wednesday. In a speech delivered to the National Press Club in Canberra, Hawke said Australia was in a perfect position to help the world with its nuclear waste, *news.com.au* reported. "We'd get an enormous flow of stable income which would be to the benefit of the world. If we have the safest spots we should make them available," he said. Australia is considered a safe nuclear waste site because of its large, empty spaces which are not earthquake prone.

Hawke has long campaigned the idea of storing international nuclear waste

and first raised the issue in 1985. "What Australia should do in my judgment, as an act of economic sanity — and environmental responsibility, say we will take the world's nuclear waste," he said back then.

"If we were to do that, we would have a source of income — which we could hypothecate to environmental issues in this country. "Hawke closed his address on Wednesday by saying Australia should take the "constructive decision to take us down that first road of greatly improved economic wellbeing and environmental stability for all mankind." The inference appeared to be that greater reliance on nuclear power would diminish the need for fossil fuels and the environmental destruction they cause.—*Xinhua*

Five killed, seven missing after buildings under construction collapse in East Kalimantan, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 4 June — A building under construction collapsed in Samarinda city of East Kalimantan, killing five people and leaving seven others missing, officials said here on Wednesday. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of disaster agency said that seven people have been treated at a hospital for their injuries after the three-story struc-

ture collapsed on Tuesday.

As many as 65 others escaped unharmed from the accident, said Sutopo.

"Search and rescue for those buried under the rubbles is underway now," he said via phone.

Police, soldiers, rescuers from the local search and rescue office were involved in the rescue work, said Sutopo.—*Xinhua*

North Korea says US, South Korea smear it to hide own rights abuses

UNITED NATIONS, 4 June — South Korea and the United States are waging a smear campaign against North Korea to distract from their own records of human rights abuses, Pyongyang has complained to the United Nations, warning that "curses, like chickens, come home to roost."

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon — dated 7 May and released on Tuesday — North Korea's UN Ambassador Ja Song Nam included analyses by the reclusive Asian state of the human rights records of the United States and South Korea.

"It is none other than the US that should be brought to the dock for the human rights violations it

committed," according to the North Korean 'Memorandum on United States crimes against human rights.'

"It's time for the US to behave rationally and realize why our nation condemns the US as sworn enemy with great fury and why our army prepares for the final nuclear confrontation with the US, holding the slogan of 'Destroy the US imperialist aggressors, sworn enemy of the Korean people!'" it said.

The complaint comes after a UN inquiry concluded that North Korean security chiefs and possibly even Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un should face justice for ordering systematic torture, starvation and killings comparable to Nazi-era



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (L) acknowledges the crowd during a visit to a construction site of a resort for scientists in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 29 May, 2014.

REUTERS

atrocities.

The investigation recommended that the UN Security Council refer the situation in North Korea to the International Criminal Court for prosecution of human rights violations that it said amounted to crimes against humanity.

But China, a veto-wielding Council member, has signaled it could shield its North Korea from potential prosecution.

"There exist no human rights issues in the DPRK (North Korea) where the sovereign rights and dignity of the popular masses are firmly guaranteed and people-loving policy is applied in all areas," Pyongyang wrote in a 'White paper on the human rights record in South Korea.'—*Reuters*

WORLD

Merkel eyes IMF's Lagarde for EU Commission chief

PARIS, 4 June — German Chancellor Angela Merkel has asked France whether it would be willing to put forward International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde as president of the European Commission, two French sources briefed on the exchanges said.

They said Merkel, Europe's most powerful political leader, made the inquiry in a private conversation with French President Francois Hollande after European Parliament elections characterized by widespread anti-EU protest votes.

"Merkel raised it privately with Hollande, who did not take a final position but said he did not think it would be a good idea for Europe to lose the IMF post," one source said. In Berlin, German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said the *Reuters* report was wrong. Merkel had reaffirmed on Monday her support for former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who led the center-right Euro-



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde addresses the Bretton Woods Committee annual meeting at World Bank headquarters in Washington on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

pean People's Party slate in the parliamentary elections, he said. The center-right topped the poll but fell well short of an overall majority.

Emerging nations have said they want to break a long-standing arrangement under which a European gets the top IMF job and an American heads the World Bank.

Another French source said there was no way the Socialist president, under pressure from the far-right National Front, which won the election in France, and the left wing of his own party, could back a member of the center-right opposition for the top European Union job.

Lagarde, 58, was finance minister under for-

mer President Nicolas Sarkozy before moving to the IMF at the height of the euro zone's debt crisis in 2011 to replace disgraced French politician Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Her term runs until 2016.

A fluent English-speaker who headed a major US law firm before holding ministerial office in France, she is highly

regarded by Merkel and German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble as a steady-handed compromise builder.

The spokesman referred to Merkel's public statements noting that a qualified majority of member states was necessary and saying she wanted to negotiate in a "European spirit" of seeking the broadest possible consensus.

The chancellor has acknowledged that Juncker may not have sufficient backing among EU leaders to secure their nomination, and that other candidates could also do the job provided the result of the elections was respected. To critics, Juncker represents a political class that has alienated many of Europe's voters and played into the hands of Eurosceptic parties.

In Washington, IMF spokeswoman Conny Lotze said: "As Madame Lagarde has said repeatedly, she is focused on her work at the IMF and intends to complete her term as Managing Director."—*Reuters*

Diet enacts Japan-US pact to share fingerprints of criminals

TOKYO, 4 June — The Diet on Wednesday endorsed a Japan-US agreement that will enable the two countries to instantly share fingerprint data on suspected terrorists and individuals involved in serious crimes. The pact, which was approved by the House of Representatives last month, was passed in the House of Councillors, endorsed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, its coalition partner New Komeito party and some opposition parties including the Democratic Party of Japan. It will be put into effect within the next few years.

The accord will allow the two countries to share fingerprint data when a suspected terrorist trying to enter either country is detained or when authorities cannot identify foreigners under arrest.—*Kyodo News*

Kerry to meet Russia's Lavrov on Thursday

WARSAW, 4 June — Secretary of State John Kerry will meet with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Paris on Thursday to discuss the crises in Ukraine and Syria, a spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

"The focus of the discussion will be on Ukraine given the upcoming inauguration on Saturday, as well as Syria and the ongoing effort to remove the remaining chemical weapons," spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters. The talks come as Ukraine prepares to inaugurate President-elect Petro Poroshenko and a US delegation led by President Barack Obama heads to France to attend celebrations on Friday to mark the 70th anniversary of the World War Two D-Day landings.

Kerry's meeting with Lavrov will be on the sidelines of the Obama visit to France. Russian President Vladimir Putin will be at the D-Day events, but he will not meet Obama, US official say. While tensions between the United States and Russia over Ukraine have scuttled cooperation between Wash-



US Secretary of State John Kerry

ington and Moscow in most areas, both countries are still working together to make sure Syria hands over its stockpile of chemical weapons.

Syria is months behind schedule and still has roughly 8 percent of 1,300 metric tonnes of chemical weapons it declared to the UN's nuclear watchdog. It is unlikely that Syria will meet a final deadline of 30 June to destroy its entire toxic stockpile.

Reuters

DONETSK, 4 June — Fighting raged in eastern Ukraine for the second straight day on Tuesday as the army rolled out an offensive against pro-Russia separatists holding the city of Sloviansk, with dead and wounded on both sides.

Rebels in the town, a strategically located and fiercely separatist stronghold where a military helicopter was shot down last week killing 14 servicemen, said they had brought down an *Su-25* attack aircraft and a helicopter. Ukrainian authorities denied the report.

Twelve hours after Kiev's forces launched an overnight military operation in and around Sloviansk, Vladyslav Seleznyov, a spokesman for the Ukrainians, said: "Today we have had two killed and 42 wounded."

He put the number of dead and wounded on the separatist side at about 300, a figure that could not be independently verified.

"Fighting is continuing", he told *Reuters* on Tuesday evening.

A spokeswoman for the rebels, Stella Khorosheva, said the death toll in the town "was rising con-

Ukraine army targets separatists in new offensive in east

tinuously." She could not say how many casualties there were but said Ukrainian forces had carried out air strikes on villages skirting the town.

As the fighting got worse, many women and children fled the town in recent days. One woman described how artillery fire began at dawn.

"I didn't know what that was before, but I do now. We counted the number of fires and impacts,"

Daria, 27, a resident who said she was trying to leave with her daughter, said by telephone.

"War planes were flying overhead ... We stayed in the basement as much as we could."

President-elect Petro Poroshenko, who scored a resounding victory in the 25 May election, called for a resumption of military operations by government forces to quell rebellions by pro-Russian militia

across the Russian-speaking east.

The Kiev government says the fighting is fomented by Moscow, which opposes its pro-Western course. Kiev also accuses Russia of letting volunteer fighters cross into Ukraine to fight alongside the rebels. Moscow denies this and is urging Ukraine to end military operations and open dialogue with the separatists.

Reuters



An armed pro-Russian separatist walks near the site of an explosion in a regional administration building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk on 3 June, 2014.

REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 June, 2014

Desperate times call for desperate measures

By Kyaw Thura

It is in 1972 that the United Nations General Assembly established World Environment Day in commemoration of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The birth of World Environment Day coincides with that of the United Nations Environment Programme, which is now the UN's principal agency for environmental action.

First celebrated in 1973, World Environment Day is seen as an effective means of addressing environmental issues that include glob-

al warming, climate change, harmful substances, and disasters.

Since then, World Environment Day has been celebrated on 5 June without missing a single year, with profound objects of raising global awareness of environmental issues and helping stimulate political attention, public action and personal commitment to environment protection.

In reality, what we are suffering has a direct consequence of what we are doing to the environment.

As a gesture of raising public awareness of factors that have a huge impact on the environment, the UNEP has set a theme that reads "Raise your voice, not the sea level".

The call this year is to get the message across to all people on this planet that "we are all faced with the same challenges and are connected and united by our common goal of a sustainable and prosperous life".

It is no longer enough to have simple aspirations. The time has come to raise our voices in

unison and make commitments in solidarity so that our individual voices and actions become exponential in its impact. In other words, now is the time to do something positive for the environment and translate individual actions into a collective power that can generate a highly positive impact on the planet.

It is absolutely imperative that we should all become active agents in minimizing damage to the environment by advocating partnership between communities at large.

Unless we can come up with an understanding that all nations and peoples are pivotal to changing attitudes to environmental challenges, our dream, which is a better, safer and more prosperous future, will never be attainable.

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.

World Environment Day 2014: Raise your voice, not the sea level Tackling Climate Change in Myanmar

By Mozaharul Alam
& San Win (M.Sc)

Introduction

Myanmar is the largest Southeast Asian country with an estimated population of 58.38 million people. Myanmar showed high economic growth of 5.5 percent last year. However the country remains in the least developed category as growth is unevenly distributed with rural areas accounting for 85% of total poverty. Additionally, there are noticeable sub-national disparities in poverty and other human development indicators between Myanmar's 7 States and 7 Regions, with highest poverty incidence occurring in physically remote areas with low levels of access to basic social services and economic opportunities.

Myanmar is exposed to various climate hazards such as cyclones, heavy rain, floods, extreme temperatures, drought and sea level rise. Myanmar is one of the most vulnerable countries in South-east Asia to climate change, but when compared to many other countries in the region, it is much less prepared to respond to the challenges posed by climate change. The Myanmar Government has signed (1992) and ratified (1994) the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as ratified the Kyoto Protocol (KP) in 2003. As part of its commitment, it has submitted its Initial National Communication (INC) in 2012 and National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) in 2013 to the UNFCCC. NAPA identifies eight priority sectors (agriculture,

early warning systems, forests, public health, water resources, the coastal zone, energy and industry, and biodiversity) vulnerable to climate change and requires urgent and immediate responses.

Myanmar has also formulated its National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSDS) in 2009 to promote environmental, economic and social development balance towards achievement of the vision of "well-being and happiness for Myanmar people". With the government reform efforts now underway, the achievement of the NSDS targets and the realization of the country's targets for the Millennium Development Goals are continuously being pursued. A great risk however to the gains so far achieved in terms of the MDGs and national development targets is the country's exposure to natural hazards and the already felt impacts of a changing global climate.

Climate change scenarios

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport has analyzed hydro-meteorological indicators which revealed Myanmar's climate is changing with certain observable trends over last six decades. It shows an increase in mean temperature (~0.08°C per decade), increase in overall rainfall (varying between 29-215 mm per decade throughout the country) with a declining trend in some areas, late onset and early termination of south west monsoon, increase in extreme weather events and sea level rise. A closer look at observed data reveals, intense rainfall

events are experienced with shorter monsoon period and extreme events like destructive cyclones make land fall over Myanmar coastline every year as compared to typically once in 3 years during the 20th century. The table below presents the initial results of climate change projections based on the PRECIS model.

Sea level rise is one of the most pressing concerns for the coastal area, particularly the Ayeyawady deltaic region as it will be exposed to increased salinity, coastal erosion, and inundation. Deltas are likely to respond rapidly to both natural and anthropogenic climate and sea-level change, with the potential for significant impacts on populations that live in delta regions. It is predicted that by 2100,

global sea level rise would be 0.26-0.82 metres while regional sea level would rise more than 10 per cent compared to global rise. A 0.5 m sea level rise would result in the shoreline along the Ayeyawady Delta advancing by 10 kilometres inland. This would have a significant impact on local communities and the Agriculture sector.

Key impacts

Coastal Zone

Myanmar is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels as low-lying coastal and deltaic area is highly populated. An increase in sea-level will provide a higher base for storm surges and other extreme climate events. Therefore, sea level rise and associated impacts will threaten coastal ecosystems, agricultural land and infrastructure

(roads, property, and businesses). Certain low lying coastal zones will be at risk of complete inundation resulting in a loss of agricultural and residential land. The extent of inundation will be largely determined by the slope of the land. For example, the low-lying Ayeyawady Delta is particularly at risk as even a small rise in sea level will lead to a large portion of the Delta being inundated. Rising sea levels will also threaten water tables as saline water enters into freshwater ground water supplies.

Agriculture Sector

Sustaining agriculture development towards industrialization and all-round development is one of the economic policies of the government and part of reform strategy. Contribution of

agriculture sector to GDP is about 36 per cent while employing majority of labor force and one third of export earnings. Salt water intrusion due to sea-level rise in the coastal region, changes in rainfall and runoff, and temperature increases will affect agriculture and make it extremely vulnerable. The predicted rise in temperature in Myanmar is expected to have major negative impacts on agricultural production and food security. Higher temperatures will reduce yields of rice, wheat, maize, soybean and groundnut as well as encourage weed and pest proliferation. Changes in precipitation patterns will increase the likelihood of short-term crop failures as well as long-term production declines. In particular, the increases in occurrence of droughts will result in crop failure in rain-fed agricultural areas and will increase the demand for irrigation. Conversely, increases in the occurrence of intense rains and resulting extreme floods will result in higher yield losses from crop damage. A rise of 1-2°C combined with lower solar radiation has the potential to cause rice spikelet sterility (i.e. infertile rice seeds). Furthermore, higher temperatures will increase the incidence of crop diseases, insect pests and rodents. These will limit rice production and ultimately will affect low-income rural populations that depend on traditional agricultural systems or on marginal lands as well as export earnings.

Forest

The Forestry sector plays a significant role in maintaining livelihood of rural (See page 9)

Climate change predictions for 2001-2020 include	Climate change predictions for 2021-2050 include	Climate change predictions for 2051-2100 include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in temperature of ~ 0.4 °C to 0.7 °C across Myanmar with the Ayeyawady Deltaic region experiencing the greatest increase (~0.7 °C); An increase in clear sky days in Northern and Central Myanmar exacerbating drought events; Highly variable rainfall changes throughout the country including large increases (~228 mm in annual average volume) in the Northern Hilly region as well as decreases (~58 mm annual average volume) in the Rakhine Coastal, Yangon Deltaic, and Southern Taninthayi Coastal region; and An increase in floods and droughts resulting from variable rainfall conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in temperature of 0.8 °C to 1.4 °C across Myanmar with the Ayeyawady Deltaic (1.4 °C) and Rakhine Coastal region (1.2°C) experiencing the greatest increases; An increase in rainfall across the country with the Rakhine Coastal region experiencing the greatest increases (~661 mm in annual average volume) and the Eastern Hilly region experiencing the smallest increase (36 mm/annum); Periods of heavier rains; and Longer dry spells. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in temperature of 2.8 °C to 3.5 °C across Myanmar with the highest increases in the Rakhine Coastal and Ayeyawady Deltaic regions (3.5°C); A weakened monsoon climate supported by decreased cloud coverage; An increase in drought periods across most of Myanmar; and An increase in precipitation with highest increases (~1582 mm in annual average volume) in the Rakhine Coastal and smallest increases in the Eastern Hilly region (~209 mm in annual average volume).

ARTICLE

World Environment Day 2014...

(from page 8)

communities and as well as economic earnings. Myanmar has various types of forests such as tidal, beach and dune, and swamp forests; tropical evergreen forests; mixed deciduous forests; dry forests; deciduous dipterocarp forests; and hill and temperate evergreen forests. The population residing in rural areas depends heavily on forests and forest products for their livelihood and basic needs. Forests have been providing Myanmar's ethnic groups and people living in remote areas with posts, poles, fence and household materials, fuelwood, fodder, and food as well as wildlife for hunting. Timber exports alone contribute around 10 percent of Myanmar's total export earnings.

Climate change is likely to affect both the distribution and composition of forests. In some areas, climate-induced succession will result in forest conversion to less productive grasslands. The predicted increase in intense rain events in combination with a reduction in vegetation cover will result in decreased rainfall infiltration. This will increase runoff, erosion and sedimentation of streams/ rivers and lakes. The predicted increase in droughts and extreme day temperatures will increase evapotranspiration from the canopy of trees, causing increased moisture stress. This will in turn increase the vulnerability of forests to fires. Changing climates will also favor the encroachment of invasive plant/animal species including insect pests. Furthermore, structural and functional changes of Myanmar's forests will have a cyclical impact on the climate system through effects on biogeochemical cycles e.g. nitrogen and carbon.

Water resources

Myanmar is endowed with abundant water resources. The catchment area of Myanmar's ten principal river basins comprises about 737,800 km². The potential water resources volume is about 1,082 km³ for surface water and 495 cubic km for groundwater, well constitute national water resources annually. As an agro-base country, water utilization for agricultural sector stands for about 90% while industry and domestic use is only about 10% of the total water use.

Climate change will induce changes to hydrological systems and cycles which will bring changes in different aspects of water resources, such as deterioration of water quality, quantity, and accessibility.

ty. The rate of snow and glacial melt is expected to increase, resulting in changing river flows and unpredictable flooding events. The late onset and early withdrawal of the monsoon period will result in large quantities of rain falling over shorter periods. These will result in flooding, contamination of water resources, erosion and limited replenishment of waterways. Furthermore, changes in river flow and discharge will increase the risk of flash floods as well as decrease ground water recharge. Vast areas of lowland regions will be regularly inundated as a result of flooding events. Conversely, increases in drought events will increase utilization pressures on ground water for expanding irrigated agriculture. Rising sea-levels will lead to salt-water intrusion into groundwater supplies particularly as existing water levels decrease. Ground water supplies will be particularly vulnerable to saline intrusion during the dry season as a result of low water volumes in river systems.

Overall Vulnerability of Myanmar

The Ayeyawady river basin and land areas facing Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea are mostly vulnerable to climate change. Ayeyawady deltaic region within the Ay-

Adaptation for Coastal Deltaic Region

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) has conducted consultation with key stakeholders to identify adaptation needs and options to address vulnerability and building resilience. Adaptation options identified for the coastal region area) restoration of mangrove forest and establishment of coastal mangrove plantations and tidal woods using appropriate plant species for buffering coastal communities against the impacts of extreme weather events such as storm surges and tropical cycles; b) promote ecosystem sensitive harvesting (timber, crab, shrimp etc.) and aquaculture practices to enhance the recovery of mangrove ecosystems; c) replacing current detrimental activities and livelihoods with sustainable alternatives; d) building capacity to promote/support autonomous responses to external pressures, e.g. farmers switching to salt-tolerant crops; and e) developing mechanisms (seawalls, dykes) to protect coastal communities and agricultural land from sea-borne extreme weather events such as storm surges and cyclones.

Major Initiatives to Response Climate Change

The government of the Union of Myanmar has recognized the importance of cli-

work now in the process of being developed. In addition to the approved Standing Order and the Myanmar Action Plan for DRR (MAPDRR), the Disaster Management (DM) Law is now tabled in parliament for approval.

The Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) is a joint initiative of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat supported by European Commission (EC) that aims to mainstream climate change into the country's policy development and reform strategy. This initiative is also supporting the development of a National Climate Change Strategy and sector action plans which will be an overarching document to address climate change. In order to prepare the National Strategy and sector action plans, the Ministry of Environment and Forest Conservation has already initiated a process to setup climate change technical working group with participation from core line ministries such as Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoECAF), the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and others.

The ministries identified with a climate sensitive portfolio include Social Welfare,

Yangon Regional Government and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Commerce and Industries (UMFCCI), the Urban Research Development Institute (URDI) are also relevant to the programme. They could also receive support as required, such as short-term technical assistance and capacity building. The programme will support the government of Myanmar to strengthen engagement with the private sector, civil society networks and academic institutions in developing the strategy.

A number of UN organizations are active in aspects of climate change in Myanmar. UNDP, in collaboration with MoECAF, has designed a project entitled "Addressing climate change risks on water resources and food security in the dry-zone of Myanmar". It aims to reduce the vulnerability of farmers in Myanmar's dry-zone to increasing drought and rainfall variability, and enhance the capacity of farmers to plan for and respond to the future impacts of climate change on food security. In addition, UNDP is also developing a project focusing on the coastal zone and climate change risk and disaster issues to be submitted to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LCDF). FAO is developing a GEF proposal for climate smart agriculture and sustainable forest management with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and MoECAF.

UNEP has supported Myanmar to develop NAPA and is currently developing a project entitled "Adapting community forestry landscapes to a changing climate, in particular an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, in partnership with MoECAF (Environmental Conservation Department, and DMH under Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). The project aims to i) integrate climate-resilient forestry approaches and alternative livelihood options into community forests in Myanmar by building the climate change resilience of the Forest Department's Community Forestry (CF) programme; and ii) protect CF landscapes and local community livelihoods from extreme weather events (drought, flood/storm surge, cyclones/strong winds, intense rain and extreme heat) by enhancing the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's current early warning systems in the country.

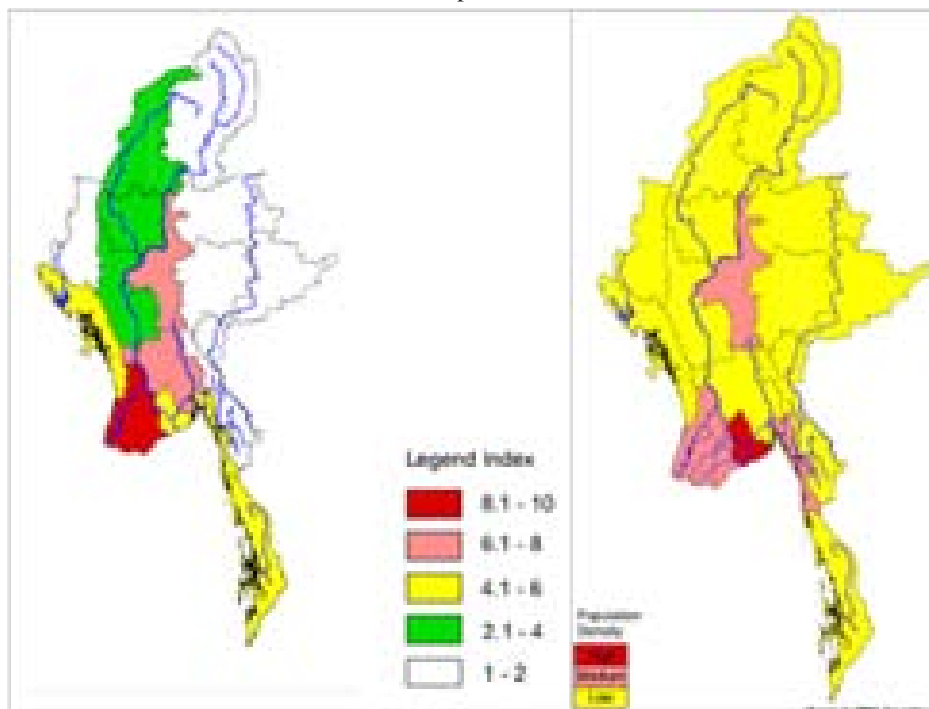
Conclusion

Sea-level rise poses significant challenges to the

coastal communities as well as livelihood assets including coastal ecosystem and ecosystem services. It is evident that climate change would reduce rice yield in Myanmar. Sustaining food production and maintaining food security are therefore one of the key consequences that Asia region will face including Myanmar. Protecting coastal communities from adverse effects of climate change requires several measures to ensure the safety of populations, security of livelihood assets including ecosystems and their services. It also requires build resilience of key economic sectors and coastal infrastructure such as flood protection, irrigation and drainage, erosion protection and beach nourishment, as well as promotion of alternative livelihood and market development for new products.

Scale up implementation of EbA measures particular for coastal ecosystem would build resilience of coastal community. NAPAs developed by Least Developed Countries have showed the value of ecosystem services and the national proposals included the use of ecosystem services mostly in support of other adaptation activities including infrastructure, soil conservation, and water regulation. Implementation of various other adaptation options such as social safety net, health services that target the specific vulnerability of disadvantaged groups, including targeting vulnerability reduction and social inequities will also help coastal communities.

Adaptation to climate change needs to be seen within the frame of overall development path and reform strategy of the country. Development can yield positive ancillary adaptation effects or co-benefits, provided it takes into account climate change in its design. Adaptation actions can provide significant co benefits such as alleviating poverty or enhancing development. Many aspects of economic development also facilitate adaptation to a changing climate, such as better education and health. Adaptation strategies can yield welfare benefits even in the event of a constant climate, such as more efficient use of water and more robust crop varieties. Maximizing these synergies requires a close integration of adaptation actions with existing policies, and planning referred to as "mainstreaming" climate change into development.



eyawady river basin is highly vulnerable to climate change due to a multitude of problems and as well as high level of population density. The following maps depict overall vulnerability of Myanmar.

a) Myanmar's overall climate change vulnerability index (taking into account areas and socio-economic sectors most at risk); and b) climate change vulnerability index for Myanmar considering population density (NAPA, Myanmar)

mate change and need for a National Climate Change Strategy and establishment of a coordination mechanism. The Government has already announced the formation of the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance during in October 2013 that demonstrates strong will and political commitment of the government to address climate change. Recently, the Environment Conservation Law has been enacted by the government, with the implementing regulatory frame-

Relief and Resettlement; Agriculture and Irrigation; Construction; Industry; Energy; Health; Science and Technology. The Department of General Administration under the Ministry of Home Affairs is also an important stakeholder as it plays a coordinating role in the functioning of government at the sub-national level. Other ministries may also be identified during the stakeholder consultation workshop. Other bodies with planning mandates such as the

South Sudan ceasefire must hold to avert famine

JUBA, 4 June — South Sudan can only avoid famine if a shaky ceasefire holds and people displaced by more than five months of fighting are able to return home in the next few weeks to plant crops before the rains, a senior UN official said.

Donors pledged more than \$600 million in May to help avert a crisis which aid agencies said could be the biggest since the 1984 Ethiopian famine, with 3.5 million people already suffering from acute or emergency-level food shortages, including a million unable to meet basic needs, the United Nations says.

This already meant the situation was desperate

even if it did not meet the formal definition of famine, the South Sudan's UN Food and Agriculture Organization head Sue Lautze said.

"If you were a non-technical person and going to the community, you'd say, 'Wow, this looks to me like a famine,'" she told *Reuters*.

Government forces and rebels, who have been fighting since mid-December, agreed a second ceasefire deal in May after the first one in January collapsed. South Sudan's army spokesperson reported more clashes on Monday in Unity and Upper Nile states, oil producing areas that have been flashpoints

in the conflict.

Fighting has killed thousands of people and driven more than 1.3 million from their homes.

Lautze said people had to be able to recover scattered livestock and rebuild looted markets, while aid agencies needed swift access to funds pledged by donors last month. If such conditions were not met, the United Nations has said up to four million people could face a possible famine.

"It will require a tremendous amount of resources, a lot of luck and certainly a sustained cessation of hostilities," Lautze said.

Reuters



Displaced people prepare their meals at Topping camp in Juba, where some 15,000 displaced people who fled their homes are sheltered by the United Nations, on 7 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Yemeni airstrike ends ceasefire in flare-up of Houthi rebellion



A Shi'ite militant mans a checkpoint on a road in Yemen's northwestern province of Omran on 3 June, 2014.—REUTERS

SANAA, 4 June — Yemeni warplanes bombed Shi'ite Houthi rebels on Tuesday, residents and local officials said, ending a brief ceasefire after at least 120 were killed in a flare-up of the northern

rebellion. Ahmed al-Bekry, deputy governor of Omran province, said earlier that 100 rebels and about 20 government soldiers had died on Monday in fighting and in air strikes on Houthi positions.

He said fighting had ended on Monday evening after the sides agreed a ceasefire and the situation was calm thanks to mediation efforts by the interior minister.

No details were immediately available of casualties from Tuesday's bombing.

Yemen has been in turmoil since 2011, when mass protests forced long-ruling president Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down.

As well as the fighting in Omran, where the Shi'ite tribal militia is trying to cement its control over the northern highlands, Yemen is facing a threat from al-Qaeda and a challenge from separatists in the south.

Clashes have repeatedly erupted in the past months between government troops and Houthis — named after the Shi'ite tribe of the leaders of the rebellion — as Sanaa struggles to restore nationwide control.

The Houthis blame elements of the Sunni Muslim Islah party in the military and in the Omran regional administration for the fighting.

Government officials say the Houthis, who have been fighting government forces sporadically since 2004, are trying to tighten their grip on the north before next year's election, as Yemen considers moving to a system of greater autonomy for its various regions.—*Reuters*

Officer killed, four injured in Pakistan's Rawalpindi suicide blast

ISLAMABAD, 4 June — An army officer was killed and four others were injured when a suicide bomber crashed into an army vehicle in Pakistan's north Rawalpindi city on Wednesday morning, local media and officials said.

Quoting unnamed military sources, *Dawn News* reported that an army's double cabin vehicle was targeted by a suicide bomber when it was passing by a level crossing at Fateh Jang road, an area located some 15 km away from Rawalpindi city.

An officer who was traveling with two army bodyguards got killed in the attack while the both guards got injured, said the report.

Talking to media, Akhtar Laleka, city police official said that two passersby also got injured in the suicide attack.

All the injured people including two security personnel and two passersby have been shifted to a nearby hospital where at least two of them are said to be in critical condition.

Earlier, Senior House Official Basharat Abbasi briefed media that a sensitive government office's van was attacked, but military later confirmed it as a double-cabin vehicle.

Xinhua

Sisi won 96.91 pct in Egypt's presidential vote — commission

CAIRO, 4 June —Former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi won 96.91 percent in Egypt's presidential vote last week, the election commission said on Tuesday, confirming interim results that had given him a landslide victory.

But turnout was only about 47 percent of the country's 54 million voters, it said. That was less than the 40 million votes, or 80 percent of the electorate, Sisi had called for.

Sisi gained wide support from Egyptians after toppling President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood last year, prompted by mass protests against his rule.

He now faces staggering challenges in a country where street demonstrations have helped to topple two leaders in three years.

The lower-than-expected turnout raises doubts about Sisi's ability to maintain popularity while attempting to fix a battered economy, ease poverty and prevent further political crises from paralyzing Egypt.

In his first speech since the election, Sisi promised Egyptians a brighter future. But he did not spell out how he would deliver that to the nation of 85 million. So far, Sisi has insisted that hard work would cure Egypt's ills.



Presidential candidate and former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi gestures after casting his ballot in Cairo, on 26 May, 2014.—REUTERS

"I look forward to your continued efforts and determination in the coming building phase. You did what you had to do and now it is time to work," he

said on television shortly after the official election result was announced.

The general, who toppled Egypt's first freely elected president, also

described the future as a blank page that must be filled with bread, freedom, human dignity and social justice.

Those same slogans were uttered in the 2011 popular uprising that ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak and raised hopes of a democracy free of influence from the military.

Egypt's political transition has stumbled since then.

Mursi's year in office was tarnished by allegations that he usurped power, imposed the Brotherhood's views on society and mismanaged the economy.

While Sisi was idolised by many Egyptians,

his support base began to crack after a law severely restricting protests was passed and secular activists, including ones that backed the army takeover, were rounded up.

Sisi's supporters seemed content to celebrate the moment, gathering by the thousands in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the symbolic heart of the anti-Mubarak revolts, and elsewhere.

Fireworks could be heard downtown and in other parts of the capital, which has witnessed frequent street violence since security forces began a relentless crackdown against the Brotherhood after Mursi's fall.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Obokata agrees to retract primary STAP cell paper

TOKYO, 4 June — Japanese scientist Haruko Obokata has agreed to retract a key paper in which she claimed to have successfully produced so-called STAP cells capable of developing into any type of tissue, the government-backed Riken institute said on Wednesday.

The retraction would nullify the scientific breakthrough that attracted worldwide attention in January when primary and auxiliary papers on the research achievements were carried by the British science journal *Nature*.

Riken is now conducting tests to verify whether the “stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency” cells can be produced.

Obokata signed a document stating the agreement and delivered it to co-authors of the paper Tuesday, Riken said. She earlier agreed to withdraw the auxiliary paper.

No particular reason is known for the agreement, which reverses her reiterated refusal to retract the key paper, a Riken spokesperson said. Riken’s investigation panel in its report on 1 April identified two problems regarding images in the key paper and recommended she retract it.

Complaining about the panel report at a Press conference on 9 April, Obokata opposed its recommendation, saying a retraction would amount to renouncing the scientific break-

through. The 30-year-old scientist then insisted she had successfully produced STAP cells using mice more than 200 times. She later reiterated her refusal to retract the key paper.

In response to the complaint, Riken in early May decided not to reinvestigate the papers. In late May, Obokata agreed to retract the auxiliary paper that was found to contain an erroneous image. Among the co-authors of the primary STAP cell paper, Harvard University professor Charles Vacanti, who supervised Obokata when she studied at the university in the late 2000s, has rejected the retraction recommendation.

Kyodo News



In this file photo taken in Kobe in western Japan on 28 Jan, 2014, Japanese scientist Haruko Obokata briefs reporters on the production of so-called STAP cells capable of developing into any type of tissue. The government-backed Riken institute said on 4 June, 2014, that Obokata has agreed to retract a key paper claiming STAP cell production and deliver the agreed document to co-authors of the paper. — KYODO NEWS

Facebook acquires mobile data plan firm Pryte

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 June — Facebook Inc is acquiring Pryte, a Finnish company that aims to make it easier for mobile phone users in under-developed parts of the world to use wireless Internet apps.

Facebook did not disclose financial terms of the deal, which spokeswoman Vanessa Chan said is expected to close later this month.

Pryte’s service, which has not publicly launched yet, seeks to make it easier for consumers without wireless data plans to use online services by selling short-term passes that would provide access to particular mobile apps, such as Facebook or Four-square.

Facebook, the world’s largest social network with 1.28 billion users, is primarily interested in the team behind Pryte, led by Chief Executive Markku Makelainen, Chan said.

The one-year old, Helsinki-based company has valuable experience and relationships working with wireless operators, particularly in emerging markets, she said.

The company has fewer than 30 employees, though it’s not clear how many will join Facebook.

Reuters

Astronomers discover type of rocky planet much bigger than Earth

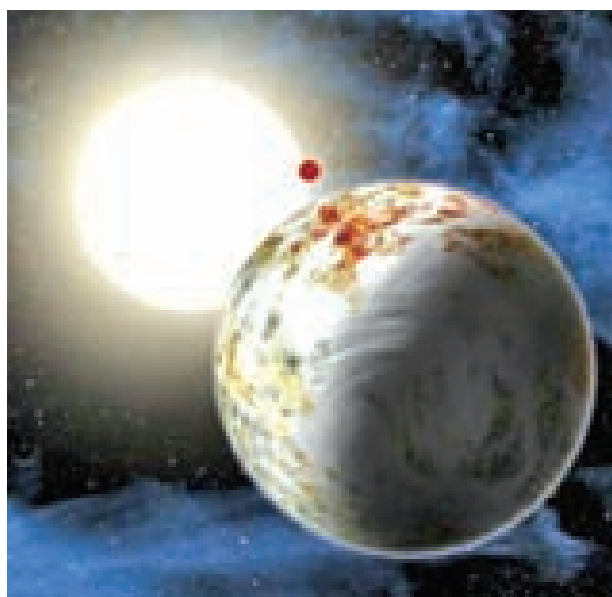
BOSTON, 4 June — Astronomers have discovered a new type of rocky planet beyond the solar system that weighs more than 17 times as much as Earth while being just over twice the size, scientists said on Monday.

The so-called “mega-Earth” circles a very old star called Kepler-10, which is located about 560 light-years away from Earth in the constellation Draco. The discovery, announced at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Boston, was a surprise since planets that big were believed to be mostly gas, not solid rocky bodies like Earth or Mars, said physicist Dimitar Sasselov, director of the Harvard Origins of Life Ini-

tiative. Scientists do not yet understand how the planet, known as Kepler-10c, formed. It has a diameter of about 18,000 miles (29,000 km), 2.3 times greater than Earth’s.

“A mega-Earth is a lot of solids concentrated in the same place without any gas. That is a problem because our understanding for how planets form requires the solids to get together in an environment where almost 99 percent of the mass ... is hydrogen and helium,” Sasselov told reporters at a Press conference.

Smaller solid bodies, like Earth or Mars, which are believed to form from leftover materials, take less time to pull themselves together.



The newly discovered “mega-Earth” Kepler-10c dominates the foreground in this artist’s conception released by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts 2 on June, 2014. — REUTERS

With a longer incubation time, large planets should gather up massive amounts of gas in the process — or so scientists thought.

However, mega-Earths formed, the discovery of another type of rocky world bodes well in the search for life beyond Earth, Sasselov added.

“As far as we know —and we know very little about origins of life - we think the emergence of life from geochemistry,” occurs on solid planets, Sasselov said.

Related research shows that about 75 percent of the planets found with NASA’s Kepler space telescope are less than four times Earth’s diameter.—Reuters

Russian search engine Yandex shows loyalty with Moscow listing

MOSCOW, 4 June — Shares in Russian internet search engine Yandex

will begin trading in Moscow on Wednesday in a move that will please the

Kremlin and could shield the Nasdaq-listed company from any tightening of

Ukraine-related sanctions against Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has led a drive to promote the Moscow Exchange and woo Russian companies that have chosen to float on foreign stock markets such as London and New York to widen their shareholder base and boost valuations.

Yandex will remain listed on the tech-heavy Nasdaq in the United States, but its Moscow debut will open the door to Russian investors and funds that are only allowed to invest within Russia, CEO Arkady Volozh said.

No new shares will be offered, but Volozh pointed out that the company’s stock will now be tradea-

ble almost 24 hours a day.

As part of Moscow’s stock market initiative, the government is also pushing for companies with offshore entities to re-register at home and pay tax in Russia.

The campaign has gathered momentum since the West imposed sanctions against some Russian individuals and companies over Moscow’s annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea.

“It’s here that almost all our servers are, it’s here that we pay taxes and now we are also trading here,” Volozh told reporters on Tuesday.

Yandex certainly holds a dominant position in Russia, where its 60 percent market share

far exceeds the 27 percent held by global market leader Google.

But the company’s tumbled 5 percent on April 24 after Putin said the Internet was a CIA project and suggested that there had been too much outside influence on Yandex.

The company is registered in the Netherlands and has a large foreign shareholder base by virtue of its Nasdaq listing.

Less than two weeks later Yandex nominated the CEO of state-run Sberbank, former economy minister German Gref, as a new non-executive board member, citing the need to lobby more effectively in a climate of tighter regulation of internet companies in Russia.—Reuters



Traders work on the floor of the Moscow Exchange on 3 June, 2014. — REUTERS

‘Ring of Fire’ volcano risk the last obstacle for Japan nuclear plants

TOKYO, 4 June — In the three years since the Fukushima disaster, Japan’s utilities have pledged \$15 billion to harden their nuclear plants against earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes and terrorist attacks.

But as Japan’s nuclear safety regulator prepares to rule on whether the first of the country’s 48 idled reactors is ready to be come back online, the post-Fukushima debate about how safe is safe enough has turned to a final risk: volcanoes.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) has already said the chance of volcanic activity during the lifespan of Kyushu Electric Power’s nuclear plant at Sendai was negligible, suggesting it will give it the green light. The plant, some 1,000 km (600 miles) south of Tokyo, lies in a region of active volcanic sites.

Critics, including some scientists who were consulted by the NRA, say that shows regulators are turning a blind eye to the kind of unlikely but potentially devastating chain of events that pushed the Fukushima Daiichi plant into a triple meltdown in 2011 when a tsunami crashed into the facility.

The debate has played out in several months of public hearings in Tokyo by the NRA and could weigh on the last hurdle for restarting nuclear plants - the opinion of local residents - at a time when the costs of keeping reactors shut are mounting.

While reactors have been offline, Japan has had to spend around \$87 billion



Yukio Nakano, 55, a nearby resident and conservationist, walks along the beach next to the Kyushu Electric Power Co’s Sendai nuclear power plant (behind Nakano) in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture, on 5 April, 2014.— REUTERS

on replacement fuel, utility operators estimate. Before 2011, Japan got about 30 percent of its electricity from nuclear power.

Kyushu Electric’s business plan hinges on getting its two-reactor facility at Sendai restarted. The utility has posted \$5.9 billion in losses over the past three years and is seeking a \$1 billion bailout in new equity from the Development Bank of Japan.

Critics say the NRA safety review overestimates the power of science to predict future volcanic eruptions.

Japan lies on the “Ring of Fire”, a horseshoe-shaped

band of fault lines and volcanoes circling the edges of the Pacific Ocean. Japan itself is home to 110 active volcanoes.

Sendai, at the southern end of the island of Kyushu, is 50 km (31 miles) from Sakurajima, an active volcano. Five giant calderas, crater-like depressions formed by past eruptions, are also in the region, the closest one just 40 km (25 miles) from the Sendai plant.

“No-one believes that volcanic risks have been adequately discussed,” said Setsuya Nakada, a professor of volcanology at the University of Tokyo, who advised officials when they

were forming regulatory guidelines for monitoring volcanoes. Eruptions that form calderas are devastating, but extremely rare. Scientists believe the odds of a massive caldera-forming eruption happening in Japan are less than 1 in 10,000 in any given year. Evidence of the most recent mega-eruption in southern Japan is the underwater Kikai caldera, which was formed by a violent eruption around 7,300 years ago. The eruption covered southern Kyushu with more than 60 centimetres of ash.

At times, the catastrophic scenarios that have been floated in debating the

safety of Sendai before the NRA have sounded like a plot-line from a Hollywood disaster movie.

In one model presented by Kyushu Electric, an eruption similar to one 12,000 years ago would cover the Sendai facility with 15 centimetres of ash and block roads. The utility said it would be able to clear the ash and Sendai could still function.

Kyushu Electric also said it would install new monitoring equipment around nearby calderas and develop plans to remove highly radioactive fuel to a safer site if the threat of an eruption is detected.

But Toshitsugu Fujii, the head of the Japan Meteorological Agency’s volcanic eruption monitoring committee and honorary professor of volcanology at the University of Tokyo, said there was no demonstrated way to predict eruptions.

“It wouldn’t be surprising for any part of Japan to experience earthquakes or volcanic eruptions at any time. The question is when, and we don’t have the technology to predict that,” Fujii told *Reuters*.

The NRA is less concerned.

“Our judgment is that it is unlikely that a destructive eruption would occur in the next 30 to 40 years,” NRA Chairman Shunichi Tanaka told reporters last week.

As soon as the NRA clears the Sendai nuclear plant for restart, local townships closest to the facility will hold public hearings. The government has said it will defer to the prefecture and the host city to make the final decision.

Charles Connor, a professor at the University of South Florida’s School of Geosciences, said the risk of a caldera-forming eruption near the Sendai plant was “very low on the time scale of the human experience”.

“If we can draw something from the Fukushima tragedy it is that dialogue has to develop between scientists and regulators so citizens can understand risk and reach a balanced decision on what is acceptable,” he said.

Reuters

Australia opens tender for next phase in Malaysia Airlines search

SYDNEY, 4 June — Australia began the process of finding a private contractor on Wednesday to take over the hunt for a missing Malaysia Airlines plane after three months of military-led searches failed to find any trace of its wreckage.

The Boeing 777, carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared from radar screens on March 8 shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing.

Investigators say what little evidence they have to work with suggests the aeroplane was deliberately diverted thousands of kilometres from its scheduled route before eventually crashing into the Indian

Ocean.

The next phase of the search mission is expected to start in August and take up to a year, covering some 60,000 sq kilometres of ocean at a cost of A\$60 million (\$55.5 million) or more. The search is already the most expensive in aviation history.

“A single prime contractor will be chosen to bring together and manage the expertise, equipment and vessels to carry out the search,” Australia’s Joint Agency Coordinating Centre, which has been leading the multinational search, said in a statement.

The search was narrowed in April after a series of acoustic pings thought to

be from the plane’s black box recorders were heard near where analysis of satellite data put its last location, some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) off the northwest coast of Australia.

But officials said last week wreckage from the aircraft was not in the area they had identified and that the search would be expanded.

Along with surface searches, examination of satellite data and the under-sea sonar searches, authorities have asked the United Nations’ Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) to check its system of hydrophones, designed to pick up possible nuclear tests, for



any clues as to where the aircraft may have crashed.

However, the CTBTO last week ruled out any of their data pointing to the crash.

Reuters

A policeman takes a nap beside a board written with messages for passengers onboard the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 during a closed meeting held between Malaysian representatives and Chinese relatives of passengers on Flight MH370 at Lido Hotel in Beijing on 2 May, 2014. —REUTERS

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**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

Dated: 1st June, 2014

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO
CONDUCT JOINT VENTURE
PROJECTS IN MYANMAR ONSHORE DRILLING
OPERATIONS**

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), under Ministry of Energy, is interested to establish Joint Venture Project(s) for Drilling Service using its own four Drilling Rigs with well experienced international drilling companies for mutual interest to participate in future onshore drilling activities in Myanmar. MOGE hereby invites all interested drilling companies to submit the letter of expression of interest for joint venture project(s) using the following four drilling rigs in single or multiple basis:-

- (1) **Continental Emsco (2000 HP Deep Rig)**
- (2) **USS Oilwell (2000 HP Deep Rig)**
- (3) **D-3 Type-2 Sr.II (1000 HP Medium Rig) and**
- (4) **National 55 Sr.I (700 HP Medium Rig).**

2. All interested foreign drilling companies are cordially invited to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest, together with the following documents endorsed by Myanmar Embassy in the respective country.
 - (a) Certificate of Incorporation
 - (b) Memorandum of Association
 - (c) Article of Association
 - (d) Latest Annual Report
 - (e) Latest Financial Statements or financial reports for the last five years
 - (f) Detailed Track Record
3. The application letter shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and sent to the following address not later than 16:30 pm on 30th June, 2014:-

**Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
PO Box 1049.
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

4. The Potential bidders will be short listed and presented with general overview of each Drilling Rig consisting of representative data and information by teams from Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise. The potential bidders who passed Pre-Qualification process will be invited to submit tender proposal.
5. For more information, please contact the following:-
 - (1) Director (Planning), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411347
Fax: 95-67 411346, email: thierry.min@gmail.com
 - (2) Director (Drilling), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411329
Fax: 95-67 411128, email: dd.moge.npt@gmail.com

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

Dated: 1st June, 2014

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF
INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE IN
ESTABLISHING JOINT VENTURES**

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, under Ministry of Energy, is interested to establish Joint Venture / Alliance projects for the following services with any potential partner who is reputable and internationally recognized in the related field.
 - (a) Drilling Service
 - (b) Seismic Acquisition Service
 - (c) Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services
2. The scope of this assignment, which is to commence on around 1st day of August 2014, is to help in legal and technical assessment as required in JV processes, tender document preparation, inspection and prequalification of bidders, JV agreement and contract preparation. Duration of the assignment will be 6 months or may be extended.
3. Interested consultants or consultancy firms are invited to express their interest in undertaking the above consultancy not later than 16:30 pm on 30th June, 2014 by

**MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE,
MINISTRY OF ENERGY,
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
INVITATION FOR JOINT VENTURE OR
ALLIANCE PROJECTS IN
ONSHORE SEISMIC ACQUISITION SERVICES,**

Dated: 1st June, 2014

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a state-owned Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is planning to establish joint venture OR alliance project between MOGE and interested party for onshore seismic acquisition services.
2. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise primarily intend to conduct as seismic acquisition services contractor for onshore blocks exploration work.
3. Interested parties are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest" ("LEOI") together with (1) Article of Association (AOA), (2) Memorandum of Association (MOA), (3) Certificate of Incorporation, (4) Latest Annual Report, (5) Latest Financial Statement of Financial Report, (6) Detail Track Record of Seismic Acquisition Work of Company. The LEOI must outline a statement of firm capability to undertake this project, including similar projects undertaken over the past ten years.
4. All documents are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company's registration OR establishment of nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted "**Confidential**" "**Myanmar Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services**" to the following address not later than 5:00 p.m., by 30 June 2014.

Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

5. The potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be invited to discuss with MOGE and to inspect MOGE's own onshore seismic acquisition unit.
6. Then, the potential bidders must submit final proposal for joint venture or alliance seismic acquisition services project.
7. For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the followings.

- (1) Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67-411055/411056
Fax: 95-67-411125
- (2) Director (Exploration/Development)
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67-411110
Fax: 95-67-411326
Email: ed.moge.npt@gmail.com

submitting (3) sets of documents containing the following information as a minimum.

- (a) Broad approach to the assignment and appreciation of the requirements
- (b) Job reference for consultancy service of establishing Joint Venture work with similar nature for the last five years.
- (c) Background and organization of the company
- (d) An indication of key staff likely to be employed for the assignment (together with their curriculum vitae)
- (e) An indication of sub-consultants to be employed if any
- (f) Provisional Quotation

4. The letter of expression of interest together with above documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the following address,

**The Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Complex 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411055/ 411056
Fax: 95-67 411125/ 411178**

5. For further inquiry for information, please contact the followings:-

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE**

Dated: 1st June, 2014

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR MYANMAR ONSHORE PIPELINE
JOINT VENTURE**

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a state owned enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is planning to establish Joint Venture project between Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and interested party for onshore pipeline construction and maintenance works.
2. All interested foreign pipeline companies are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest" together with the following documents endorsed by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company's registration or establishment for authenticity.

- (a) Article of Association
- (b) Memorandum of Association
- (c) Certificate of Incorporation
- (d) Latest Annual Report
- (e) Financial Statement for the Last Five Years
- (f) Detail Track Records

3. All documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope superscripted "**Confidential**" "**Myanmar Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services**" to the following address not later than 16:30 pm, by 30th June, 2014.

Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The Potential bidder who passed the Pre-Qualification shall be invited to discuss with MOGE and to inspect MOGE's pipeline construction facilities including machineries and then invited to submit a tender proposal.

5. For more information, please contact the followings:-

- (1) Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Tel: 95-67 411055 / 411056
Fax: 95-67 411125 / 411178
- (2) Director Engineering
Tel: 95-67 411111
Fax: 95-67 411341
Email: mokedirengg@energy.gov.mm

- (1) Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411055/ 411056
Fax: 95-67 411125/ 411178
- (2) Director (Planing), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411347
Fax: 95-67 411346, email: thierry.min@gmail.com

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**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

**Ministry of Construction
Public Works
(Invitation for Open Tender)**

1. Open tender applying prequalification method is invited by Public Works. Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for upgrading projects with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA Loan, Japan.

Sr.	Name of Work	Type of Work
1.	KyeinPinSae-SetKot-DaNu Phyu-Zalun Road (Ayeeyawaddy Region) (24 miles)	Asphalt Concrete Road
2.	TaYanNar-PhaYarGone Road (Mon State) (30 miles)	Bituminous Road

2. Selling period of Prequalification Form - (5.6.2014) to (13.6.2014)
3. Submission period for Prequalificaion Form - (23.6.2014) to (30.6.2014)
4. Distribution of Tender Documents to Qualified Bidders - (28.7.2014) to (31.7.2014)
5. Submission Date of Tender - 1.9.2014
6. Opening date of Tender - 13:00 hours on 11.9.2014
7. Prequalification form can be purchased with five thousand kyats at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

**Tender Selection Committee, Public Works
Road Department, Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-407578, 407603, 407583, 407380**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (132)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (132) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2014 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS**

LEASE LANDS NEARBY RAILWAY STATIONS AND RAILWAY LINES
IN NATIONWIDE FOR ERECTION OF COMMUNICATION TOWERS AND COMMERCIAL TOWERS

INVITATION TO TENDER

In line with the National Development Plan, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been identifying the economic potentials to contribute to the country's economic development. As our endeavors for national development, **Myanma Railways (MR)** is committed to establish potential Rail Concerned Businesses.

Myanma Railways has built over 6,000 Km route Length of Rail Line from North to South, East to West and over 900 Railway Stations to cater rail operation throughout The Country and average distance for railway station is about 8 Km.

Myanma Railways now invites Tenders from reputable local, international or joint venture Bidders to undertake Leased Lands nearby Railway Stations and railway Lines in Nationwide for erection of Communication Towers and Commercial Towers.

Tender Document and Background information of the above said works could be obtained from **Deputy General Manager**, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Bo Ta Htaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291985 or 291994 starting from 6th June, 2014.

Enquiries can be made by contacting, **Project Office (Yangon)** +95 1 246939, **(Nay Pyi Taw)** +95 67 77070, +95 67 77155, **(Project Director, Senior General Manager)** +95 9 8300073, **(Deputy Project Director, Assistant General Manager)** +95 9 5066197, **(Project Engineer)** +95 9 5066191.

The Tender in original and duplicate copies shall be submitted to the **Deputy General Manager**, Supply Department, **Myanma Railways**, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Bo Ta Htaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291985 or 291994 not later than 2.00pm, on Tuesday **5th August 2014**. The Bidder must also submit an electronic copy of the Tender in a CD ROM. No submission by email shall be entertained.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Ministry of Rail Transportation

**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



Actress Lindsay Lohan (C), with her mother Dina Lohan, leaves a probation violation hearing at Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles, California on 30 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

**To make a hit,
you've got to
get personal,
says Pharrell
Williams**

LOS ANGELES, 4 June — Pharrell Williams pauses, takes a breath and considers how the past year has unfolded for the R&B producer and singer: four Grammy Awards and three mega hit singles including a song that has galvanized countless fans to express how they're "happy."

And the key, says the 41-year-old known simply as Pharrell, in the midst of a career second act, has been tapping into audiences' thirst for sincerity and heartfelt personal stories.

"I think we've entered a new singer-songwriter era, regardless of the genre or music," said Pharrell, who produced and performed on Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines," the raunchy R&B hit that was last year's top song across the US Billboard music charts.



Pharrell Williams performs at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California in this on 12 April, 2014 file photo.
REUTERS

"People want a story. They want a story they can connect to," he said while promoting his Tuesday concert from New York's Apollo Theater, which will be live streamed and directed by Spike Lee as part of American Express' "Unstaged" series.

"It's not about what you have or what you don't have, it's more about your journey and your perspective that's important to people," the musician told Reuters. Pharrell said he noticed a shift in audiences' tastes over the past year in particular with the runaway success of "Happy," his up-tempo song from the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack that received little fanfare upon its release but has turned into an international viral hit.

Reuters

Lindsay Lohan's mom loses license for a year after drunken driving

NEW YORK, 4 June — speeding on New York's Long Island while drunk. Dina Lohan, the mother of actress Lindsay Lohan, was sentenced to 100 hours of community service on Tuesday and will lose her driver's license for a year after police caught her

Lohan, 51, was sentenced in Nassau County District Court after pleading guilty to the charges in April.

She had initially

pleaded not guilty after state police pulled her over last September and said she was driving more than 20 miles per hour over the speed limit. She had about twice the legal limit of alcohol in her bloodstream,

police said.

Lohan lives in the town of Merrick on Long Island's south shore, about 20 miles (32 km) east of Manhattan.

Judge Andrew Engel also ordered Lohan to pay

more than \$3,000 in fines and fees and to take part in a drinking driver programme.

"I just want to put this behind me," she told reporters outside the courthouse.—Reuters

GENERAL

Syrians vote in wartime election set to extend Assad's rule

DAMASCUS, 4 June — Syrians voted on Tuesday in an election expected to deliver an overwhelming victory for President Bashar al-Assad but which his opponents have dismissed as a charade in the midst of Syria's devastating civil war.

Rebel fighters, the political opposition in exile, Western powers and Gulf Arabs say no credible vote can be held in a country where swathes of territory are outside state control and millions have been displaced by conflict.

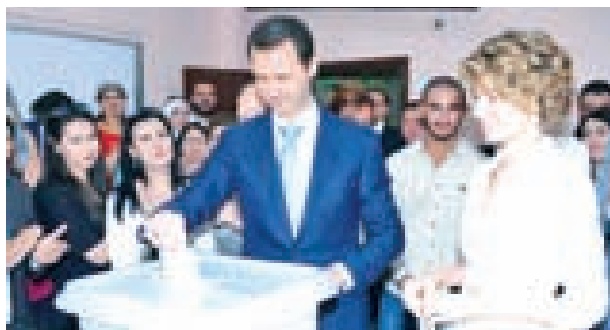
State television showed long queues of people waiting to vote at polling stations in areas under state control, as well as crowds waving flags and portraits of the president. Assad, looking re-

laxed and wearing a dark blue suit and light blue tie, voted at a central Damascus polling station with his wife Asma.

For many Syrians politics took second place to the yearning for stability after three years of war that have killed more than 160,000 people.

"We hope for security and stability," said Hussam al-Din al Aws, an Arabic teacher who was the first person to vote at a polling station at a Damascus secondary school. Asked who would win, he responded: "God willing, President Bashar al-Assad."

Islamist insurgents battling to overthrow the 48-year-old president, who has ruled Syria since succeeding his father 14 years ago, dismissed the



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and his wife Asma cast their votes in the country's presidential elections at a polling station in Damascus on 3 June, 2014.

REUTERS

vote as "illegitimate". But the Islamic Front and allied groups pledged not to target polling stations and urged other rebels to do the same.

Damascus residents said mortar shells struck residential areas in the capital on Tuesday, most likely fired from rebel suburbs.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Assad is running against two relatively unknown challengers who were approved by a parliament packed with his supporters, the first time in half a century that Syrians have been offered a choice of candidates.

Reuters

Guinea-Bissau's ex-navy chief pleads guilty in US drug case

NEW YORK, 4 June — Guinea-Bissau's former navy chief, captured in a high-profile drug sting on the West African coast, has secretly pleaded guilty ahead of a trial on charges he conspired to import narcotics into the United States, court sources said on Tuesday.

The trial of Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto, 64, had been scheduled to begin on Monday in US District Court in Manhattan. But Na Tchuto, who US authorities say is a kingpin of West Africa's illicit drug trade, pleaded guilty at a 13 May proceeding, the transcript of which was immediately sealed, the court sources said. It could not be learned why the hearing was sealed.

Nor could it be determined what charges Na Tchuto pleaded guilty to or the terms of any deal he received. The official court record does not indicate that a plea or hearing took place.

Guilty pleas are sometimes sealed when defendants agree to cooperate with authorities.

Sabrina Shroff, Na Tchuto's attorney, and representatives for US Attorney Preet Bharara in Manhattan and the Drug Enforcement Administration declined to comment on Tuesday when contacted by phone and email.



Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto, a former navy chief of Guinea-Bissau, is seen at a ceremony honouring army parachutists in Bissau on 20 July, 2010.—REUTERS

The secret plea came more than a year after the arrest of Na Tchuto in April 2013. He was seized on a luxury yacht off the coast of Guinea-Bissau following a months-long DEA undercover operation.

Before his plea, Na Tchuto faced life in prison if convicted on a previously announced charge of conspiring to distribute 5 kg (11 pounds) or more of cocaine, knowing or intending that the cocaine would be imported into the United States.

Poverty-stricken Guinea-Bissau is viewed by the United Nations as a major waypoint for Latin American cocaine headed for Europe. US and European authorities have long suspected the country's military is involved in the drug trade.

According to US pros-

ecutors, Na Tchuto and his two co-defendants met with confidential DEA informants who posed as representatives of Latin American drug traffickers.

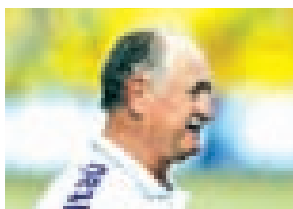
In the meetings, the defendants were recorded discussing shipments of cocaine to Guinea-Bissau, prosecutors said.

The DEA sting also targeted Guinea-Bissau's army chief, Antonio Indjai, who led a coup in 2012 that derailed elections in the former Portuguese colony. But Indjai, who

has denied running drugs, avoided arrest by refusing to go offshore. In late April, two of Na Tchuto's former aides, Tchamy Yala and Papis Djeme, pleaded guilty to narcotics importation conspiracy charges.

During his plea, Djeme said that from October 2012 to April 2013 he agreed to help Na Tchuto with a deal to import cocaine into Guinea-Bissau, a portion of which would then be sent to the United States, according to a transcript.—Reuters

Brazil's Scolari 'demanding more' ahead of World Cup



Brazil's head coach Luiz Felipe Scolari walks before their international friendly soccer match against Panama ahead of the 2014 World Cup, in Goiania June 3, 2014.

REUTERS

GOIANIA (Brazil), 4 June —Brazil turned on an impressive second half performance in their drubbing of Panama on Tuesday but have a ways to go before they

are ready for their World Cup opener, according to manager Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Brazil struggled in the early minutes of their penultimate friendly until a goal from Neymar in the 27th minute and another from Dani Alves 13 minutes set them on their way.

Hulk scored his team's third within seconds of the re-start and substitute Willian concluded the scoring during a 4-0 win that Brazil dominated.

"We still have a week and a half left," Scolari, referring to Brazil's World Cup opener, told reporters after the match. "There's a

good way to go. But keep calm, we'll get there. Today was reasonably better but I am still demanding more.

"We had problems with the transition," Scolari added. "It was off in the first 20 minutes of the match and things could have been different against a better team.

"If I had to choose one half it would be the second in which we showed more movement, better possession and more agility. I liked the end of the first half and the whole of the second."

Scolari praised Neymar, one of the day's

outstanding performers. In addition to scoring the game's first goal, the 22-year-old Barcelona striker had a hand in two more and was at the fulcrum of Brazil's play all afternoon.

"Neymar is an athlete who does something different every day," said Scolari. "He improvises well, he is quick, agile and any coach is going to talk him up."

Neymar was injured twice this season, his first in Europe, and Scolari said he would play him in Friday's friendly against Serbia to get him back into form.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(5-6-2014, Thursday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:50 am
- * Documentary
- 7:00 am
- * News
- 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
- * Shwe Yin Khone Than
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:20 am
- * TV Drama Series
- 11:00 am
- * Documentary
- 12:00 pm
- * News / International News / Weather Report
- 1:25 pm
- * Documentary
- 2:40 pm
- * Teleplay
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:15 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Years (Botany)
- 4:30 pm
- * Mono Classical Songs
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 5:30 pm
- * India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- * News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- * Approaching Science Discovery World
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:25 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * Documentary
- * CLEVER
- * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-6-14 07:00am~ 6-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Social & Charitable Association(Episode-1) Mingalar Byuha
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Gold Leaf
- * Local News
- * People "Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun "Student Life & Early Literary Career"(Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Review "The Golden of the golden abode"
- * Local News
- * Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Pyit)
- * World News
- * The Photographer (Portia-ture) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- * Local News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Weaving
- * Local News
- * Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges "Ya Za Gyi Village"
- * 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 "(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"

Hazard handed Chelsea No 10 shirt next season

LONDON, 4 June — Chelsea have announced Eden Hazard is to wear the number 10 shirt next term, effectively scotching media reports that the Belgium World Cup winger could be leaving the club in the close season.

Hazard had been tipped to join team mate David Luiz at Paris St Germain. Terms have been agreed between the clubs and the Brazil World Cup defender is on the brink of completing a move to the Ligue 1 champions.

"I am very pleased to be able to wear the number 10 for Chelsea," Hazard told the club's website (www.chelseafc.com) on Tuesday.

"It is my favourite number and is one I am used to wearing for the national team, as well as the one worn by some of my heroes from when I was a kid, like (former



Belgium's Eden Hazard (L) scores a goal past Sweden's Rasmus Bengtsson (R) during their international friendly soccer match in Stockholm on 1 June, 2014. —REUTERS

France playmaker) Zinedine Zidane.

"I hope it brings me a lot of luck in the future and I look forward to the fans seeing me in

it next season," added Hazard after taking over the number 10 shirt from Juan Mata who was sold to Manchester United in January.

Belgium have been drawn in Group H for the World Cup in Brazil later this month, alongside Algeria, Russia and South Korea.—Reuters

Barca to answer tax charges over Neymar transfer in court

BARCELONA, 4 June — Barcelona and their former president Sandro Rosell have been called by a judge to give evidence in a court over charges of tax evasion involved in the Neymar transfer.

The club were forced to backtrack having initially said the Brazilian forward arrived at the Nou Camp for 57.1 million euros (46.41 million pounds) after the case was taken to court by a fan seeking to reveal the full figures.

The club then said the deal was nearer to 100 million euros, and the prosecution case against them refers to unpaid tax on this amount.

Judge Pablo Ruz has called for representatives of the club and Rosell to appear in court on 13 June.

They will be asked to "quantify the amount withheld by FC Barcelona for the income payable in relation to the professional athlete Neymar Da Silva Santos for Income Tax of Non-Residents (IRNR) and (regular) income tax", according to a court order.

The non-payment allegation refers to 2.4m euros (\$3.27m) for 2011, 6.7m euros for 2013, and the possibility of a further 2.6m euros for 2014. In February, Barcelona paid an extra 13.5m euros (\$18.53m) to the Spanish treasury after they were charged with tax fraud, restating that they had not committed any offence but that the payment was due to a "possible difference of interpretation" over how much was owed. Rosell, who has denied any wrongdoing, stepped down in January, saying he wanted to protect the club's image.

Reuters



Brazil's national soccer team player Neymar controls the ball during a training session in Goiania, on 2 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Cazorla says Fabregas should re-join Arsenal



Santi Cazorla

BARCELONA, 4 June — Arsenal midfielder Santi Cazorla would love to see Spanish compatriot Cesc Fabregas re-join the London side with a return to the Premier League mooted for the Barcelona player.

Fabregas, who came through the Barca youth system but left to join Arsenal at 16 before returning to the Catalans in 2011, has been linked with the FA Cup winners, as well as Chelsea and

Manchester United. "I have read that Cesc could go to Chelsea but I prefer that he comes to Arsenal. He has given a lot to the club and he knows it well," Cazorla told a news conference on Tuesday in Washington, where the Spain team are finalising their World Cup preparations.

"I hope that he is happy, he chooses his club well and is comfortable there."

Fabregas has played

151 games for Barca in three seasons, scoring 42 goals, but has grown tired of criticism from fans.

Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu has publicly said that he is not for sale it is thought that he would welcome the money to bring in new players.

Barca missed out on all three major trophies this season and are looking to invest, especially in defence.—Reuters

Sharapova lives to fight another day, Gulbis powers on

PARIS, 4 June — There was no Serena Williams standing in her way but despite the absence of her American nemesis, Maria Sharapova came dangerously close to missing out on a semi-final date at the French Open with a younger version of herself.

At 6-1, 5-4 down the Russian was on the verge of being toppled by the same Spanish gale force that had blown away defending champion Williams in the second round.

Just when it seemed that Venezuelan-born Garbine Muguruza would pull off an unlikely Williams-Sharapova double at Roland Garros, however, the 2012 champion's renowned fighting instincts kicked in and she raised the decibel levels to shriek her way to a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory.

It was a performance

that led Andy Murray's mother Judy to tweet: "Sharapova is like a tea bag. Put her into hot water and you'll find out how strong she is."

While that observation left the Russian seventh seed rather bemused, her own assessment was more straightforward.

"If I lost that match, I would be kicking myself in the bottom," Sharapova said after reaching the Paris semi-finals for the fourth successive year.

Blocking the former world number one's path to a third final in a row is a Justin Bieber fan who is aiming to become the first Canadian to reach a grand slam final.

She may be a 'Belieber' but there is nothing immature about Eugenie Bouchard's game as she stormed back from behind in both the first and third sets

to beat Muguruza's doubles partner Carla Suarez Navarro 7-6(4) 2-6 7-5.

Blessed with flowing blonde hair, a bubbly personality and a powerful baseline game, it is little wonder the 20-year-old has been dubbed the 'next Sharapova'.

"I remember when she won Wimbledon (in 2004) I was watching her on TV, and I thought, Wow, what she's doing is cool. I want to do the same," Bouchard said after reaching her second successive grand slam semi-final having also done so in Australia.

"Of course she's a great champion, so to be seen as the next of someone who has won four slams and has been No. 1 in the world, it's a compliment".

"But now we're in the semis of a grand slam... I'm not going to put her ... on a pedestal."

Novak Djokovic prevented a double celebration for Canada when he thwarted big-serving Milos Raonic's bid to become the first man in 91 years from his country to reach the semis of a major.

The Serbian rolled closer to what

seems an inevitable final showdown with eight-times champion Rafa Nadal with a 7-5, 7-6(5), 6-4 win over eighth seed Raonic.

While Bouchard and Raonic are helping put ice hockey-obsessed Canada on the tennis map, Ernests Gulbis is doing

the same with tiny Latvia after following up his victory over Roger Federer with a straight sets defeat of Tomas Berdych.

Gulbis proved that his win over 17-times major winner Federer was no fluke as he reached the last four of a grand slam for the first time, demolishing sixth seed Berdych 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to set up a clash with childhood friend Djokovic.

Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts during her women's quarter-final match against Garbine Muguruza of Spain at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 3 June, 2014. REUTERS