

Doctors warn people to take prevention measures against common illnesses during rainy season

By Aung Khin

As rainy season has started in Myanmar after the scorching summer, people should be cautious of their health and living styles, general practitioners say.

The common illness during rainy season includes dengue fever, cold, flu, food poisoning, water infections and cholera.

Dr Tint Khaing, assistant medical superintendent of Thanlyin People Hospital, said: "Only two or three people with cholera have been brought to our hospital this month. Still, people should be aware of common illness caused during the rainy season. Prevention is better than cure."

Doctors suggested that precautions during the rainy season include wearing rain gear when people going outside, the intake of Vitamin C either in natural form or as food supplement, taking a shower after being caught in the rain, taking hot drinks such as hot green tea, washing hands regularly, drinking



Doctors suggested people should be cautious in health care practices during rainy season.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

plenty of water to avoid dehydration, eating nutritious food, and maintaining health and hygiene throughout the house.

A father whose daughter recently suffered from dengue fever said, "My daughter was hospitalized in the last week of May. The doctors at the hospi-

tal did not make an accurate diagnosis and until the third day in hospital, her condition did not improve. Then she was discharged and I took her to a child specialist. After the detailed diagnosis, it was found that my daughter was suffering dengue fever. I had to take her to the

Yankin Children's Hospital."

A paediatrician said, "Children should be taken care of well, especially in rainy season. Many children are to vulnerable rainy season illnesses and if parents notice fever they should take the child to the nearest health care profes-

sions immediately. Parents of infants need to be extra-careful during rainy season to prevent disorders."

Rainy season comes together with lot of fun, greenery and cool climate, but with it also comes lot of health disorders, the doctors warned.

Prevent hypertension, most common non-communicable disease around the world



Professor Dr Tint Swe Latt, Rector of University of Medicine-2.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Myanmar's medical professionals should do national research on hypertension, one of the most common non-communicable diseases across the world, a priority, Rector Professor Dr Tint Swe

Latt of the University of Medicine-2 said at a health seminar at the Myanmar Medicine Association in Yangon on Sunday.

According to a survey in 2009, nearly 40 per cent of men and 29 per cent of women suffer from

hypertension, an increase of 4 per cent from 2004.

Researchers found a majority of people over the age of 60 in developed countries and people between ages 40 and 60 in Myanmar may have hypertension, and available data show nearly 80 per cent of non-communicable disease occurs in low and medium-income countries.

The rector urged people to reduce consumption of salt and fat in food and lower their alcohol consumption, stop smoking and participate in physical activity, which can help stop both hypertension and related diseases such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

He suggested a surveillance system should be

set up across the country and discussed control of non-communicable diseases.

In a speech, Prof U Ko Ko said lifestyle change is very important in preventing hypertension and urged people to have their blood pressure checked regularly.

According to a guideline of the World Health Organization in 2014, people under 60 should have blood pressure readings at or below 140/90 and for those above 60 at or below 150/90.

Professor Dr Kyee Myint said he actively participated in a medical mobile team to provide free medical treatments to people in far-flung area and did not see a doctor for

nearly 60 years and discovered that hypertension is a major public health problem in both rural and urban areas.

The team took data from 263 villagers in Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State and found 64 were high-sodium food consumers, 122 were smokers and 13 were drinkers. Of them, some wanted to take regular treatment.

The team needs more community participation and cooperation with related agencies and organizations, Dr Aye Myat Lwin of the MMA said.

She added the team faces difficulties such as language barriers and poor road conditions but the team works to provides health care services.

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Condition of Southwest monsoon

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Over the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into the whole country, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Slight earthquake hits six miles south-southwest of Lwe

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 6 miles south-southwest of Lwe), about 160 miles south of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 15 hrs 45 min 42 sec MST on Sunday, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Union Construction Minister inspects road and bridges



A bridge under construction in Bago Region for better transport of local people.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected the extension of the overpass between mile post 197/5 and 197/6 and maintenance of Myochaung-Phado road and Nyaunglebin-Madauk road in Bago Region on Saturday.

Later the union minister and officials inspected construction site of Zweton Bridge on Bago-Thanatpin-Kayam-Thongwa road. — MNA

Milk feeding in primary school discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—A coordination meeting for milk feeding at basic education schools was held at assembly hall of the Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

It was attended by

Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye, officials and donors including responsible persons from Tetra, Laval and Nestle.

They discussed matters related to feeding milk at schools in states and re-

gions. Meeting of the supervisory board for milk cow breeding and development of milk products manufacturing was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Chairman of the board the Deputy Minister made an opening speech at the meeting. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye speaking at coordination meeting for milk feeding at basic education schools.—MNA

New Bayintnaung bridge to help reduce traffic congestion

YANGON, 8 June — Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint visited No 2 Bayintnaung bridge construction project on 6 July, officials said. The bridge is being constructed by the Special Projects Im-

plementation Team-5 of Public Works. “Greater efforts are needed to finish the project sooner rather than later as the bridge will help ease traffic congestion in Yangon Region,” the deputy minister said.—MNA



Union Minister goes on inspection tours of Yangon and Insein

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, went on a guided tour of Union National Races Village, Thakayta, a township in Yangon, on 6 June, and met officials and staff, and visitors, sources said.

U Ohn Myint briefed on his ministry’s measures being taken for rural development and supply of electricity and potable water,

adding that Emerald Village Project is underway to boost family income.

The union minister enjoyed a variety of dances performed by ethnic communities and presented gifts to them.

U Ohn Myint also visited the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Insein, where he looked over laboratory experiments at the Animal Feed-

Research Laboratory and stressed the importance of laboratory experiments for food security and food safety. He urged laboratory scientists to strive to win letters of accreditation from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and do research on common animal diseases and publish their research findings to raise public awareness.

MNA

Monywa District clinches title in U-20 football tournament in Sagaing Region



Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye presents championship trophy to Monywa District team.

MONYWA, 8 June—Monywa District team emerged champion with a 2-1 win over Shwebo District in the Sagaing Region Chief Minister’s Cup U-20 Men’s Football

Tournament in Monywa of Sagaing Region on Friday.

Officials gave the second prize to Shwebo District team and individual medals for best play-

ers to respective winners.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye awarded cash award and championship trophy to Monywa District team.

Sagaing Region IPRD

Emergency Medical Service course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—The opening ceremony of the Emergency Medical Service course (1/2014) jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Health was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win made a

speech at the ceremony.

It was attended by instructors from Australia and officials from the two ministries.

Medical Superintendent Dr Phone Maw of Hospital (1000-bed) of Health Department explained important role of the course.

A total of 70 trainees joined the course conducted on 7 and 8 June.

MNA

The opening ceremony of Emergency Medical Service course in progress.

MNA



LOCAL NEWS

Rice noodle of Kawlin on high demand in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Region

KAWLIN, 8 June—Local entrepreneurs from Kawlin in Sagaing Region supply rice noodle to Myitkyina, Mogaung, Hopin, Bhamo and Shwegu townships in Kachin State and Katha, Htigyaing, Indaw, Bamauk, Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships of Sagaing Region by train.

The rice noodle is produced from Sawshoke strain rice with the use of the press as it is cottage industry, said Daw Hmwe Hmwe of Yadana rice noodle factory in Kawlin.

"The factory owners are to take care of environmental conservation. They have to discard waste from the factories. The rice must be washed with water at the first process of the production. Such water must be drained out systematically. However, pig and cow breeders take the rice-washed water to be used



as feedstuff for pigs and cows daily. That is why the factories are always clean," Daw Hmwe Hmwe

explained.

In the market, one packet of big rice noodle is sold at K270 at whole-

sale price and K300 at retail price. The dried rice noodle packets can be kept in hands of customers for

many days due to good preservation process of producers.

Sai Lu Min

Volunteer activity on public-centred TB care discussed in Pantanaw

PANTANAW, 8 June—A discussion on volunteer activity on public-centred TB care, organized by Pantanaw Township Women's Affairs Organization, was held at the hall of Township Women's Affairs Organization in Pantanaw of Ayeyawady Region on Thursday.

Township medical officer Dr Nay Min Myo Tun, Responsible persons of Township WAO and officials of social organizations participated in the discussions.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding participants in the discussions.

Khin Maung Zaw Myint

Paddy seeds distributed to farmers free of charge in Mongpan Tsp



MONGPAN, 8 June—A ceremony to distribution Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds free of charge to local farmers took place at the hall in Mongpan Town-

ship General Administration Department of southern Shan State on 5 June.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Kyaw Moe explained

the purpose of distributing Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds for alternative development and agricultural technology.

Township level officials handed over paddy seeds to farmers from 13 villages through village administrators.

A total of 1,040 kilos of paddy seeds for the farmers were worth over K3.2 million. Eight kilos of paddy seeds can be grown on one acre, and 1,040 kilos of paddy seeds can be grown on 130 acres of farmlands.

Hsaung Hnin Latt (IPRD)

Offspring of police families get cash assistance in Pyapon



PYAPON, 8 June—Pyapon District Police Force presented cash assistance to offspring of po-

lice at the hall of District General Administration Department in Pyapon of Ayeyawady Region on

Saturday.

Commander of District Police Force Lt-Col Maung Hsan gave K3,000 each to primary students, K5,000 to middle school students, K7,000 each to high school students and K15,000 each to university students respectively.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Yin Maung Swe also presented cash assistance to students of the police.

The cash assistance is aimed at ensuring unity among the police families and encouraging the students to try hard in their learning.

Chan Thar (Pyapon)

White costus marketable in Kawlin

KAWLIN, 8 June—Rural people in Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region earn family incomes from sales of vegetables, mushroom and white costus at the development market of Kawlin. They obtain these vegetables from forests and hilly areas in Kawlin, Wuntho, Pinlebu, Kanbalu, Chatthin and Koetaungboh.

White costus can be used as traditional medicine in addition to the meal. White costus can be fried with sesame oil and the meal is eatry for recovering the cough.

Sai Kyaw Kyaw



Ngwechi-6 cotton plants thriving in Yamethin Tsp

YAMETHIN, 8 June—Deputy Director-General U Zaw Tun Myint of Industrial Crops Development Department inspected thriving Ngwechi-5 and Shwedaung-8 long stable cotton plantations on five acres of model plot of farmer U Myint Shein in Hsegui Village-tract in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, on Saturday morning.

Such cotton strains can yield over 1,000 viss per

acre respectively.

Assistant Director U Kyaw Hlaing of the Yamethin District Industrial Crops Development Department and Head of Township Department U Win Nyunt explained thriving plantations and cultivation tasks.

The deputy director-general gave instructions on raising per-acre yield and use of quality cotton strains.

Maung Zaw

Thai junta amasses security force to smother Bangkok protests

BANGKOK, 8 June—Thailand's junta has prepared a force of over 6,000 troops and police for deployment in Bangkok on Sunday to smother protests and prevent opposition to the 22 May coup from gaining momentum. The military has cracked down hard on pro-democracy dissidents and supporters since it ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra last month, seeking to mute criticism and nip protests in the bud.

A heavy security force presence at potential flash-points in Thailand's largest cities since the coup has limited protesters to small gatherings, which are often coordinated through social media and mostly located around shopping malls.

Authorities were focusing on five possible protest sites in Bangkok on Sunday, said deputy police chief Somyot Poompanmoung.

They included the country's main international airport and the downtown area around the Grand Palace, as well as sites where protests have previously taken place, he said. The palace is one of Bangkok's top tourist attractions.



Soldiers hold their shields as they prepare to leave after guarding a shopping district to stop protests against military rule in central Bangkok recently. —REUTERS

"We hope the protests would not ignite any violence and would end peacefully," Somyot said.

Army chief and coup leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha had instructed security forces to avoid confrontation, Somyot said. Police would photograph protesters, identify them and issue arrest warrants later, he said. The force on Sunday numbered 27 army companies and 15 police companies, Somyot

said. A similar number of troops and soldiers were deployed a week ago.

Thailand's May military coup was the latest convulsion in a decade-long conflict between the Bangkok-based royalist establishment and the rural-based supporters of Yingluck and her brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 coup and has lived in self-exile since

a 2008 corruption conviction, won the loyalty of the rural poor with populist policies and was the real power behind the deposed government of his sister.

Yingluck was prime minister until on 7 May, when a court found her guilty of abuse of power and she stepped down.

The army toppled the remnants of her government on 22 May, saying it needed to restore order after six months of some-

times violent anti-government protests that had brought the economy to the brink of recession.

Thailand has been without a properly functioning government since December, when Yingluck dissolved parliament and called a February election in a bid to end anti-government protests. But protesters disrupted the vote, the election was annulled, and Yingluck's crippled caretaker government was

forced to limp on.

The military has moved swiftly to revive the economy, and has given itself two months to clear a backlog of applications from local and foreign investors to spend more than \$21 billion on projects in Thailand.

The backlog arose because Yingluck's caretaker government lacked the power to appoint a new team to run the Board of Investment to replace executives whose term ended in October.

Prayuth on Saturday declared himself the head of the body considering the investment applications, a position typically held by the prime minister.

Quick approval would bring longer-term stimulus to the economy and follow the payment of billions of dollars in subsidy arrears to rice farmers that has already lifted consumer sentiment.

The military's move to pay debts to farmers quickly after seizing power on 22 May contributed to the first rise in consumer sentiment in 14 months in May. Political turmoil had sunk consumers confidence to a 12-month low in April.

Reuters

Indian government vows to uphold freedom of expression



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) walks to speak with the media as he arrives to attend his first Parliament session in New Delhi on 4 June, 2014. —REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 8 June — India's new government sought to ease concerns that freedom of expression is under threat on Saturday, promising to strengthen the independence of the state-run broadcaster and to consider allowing more foreign investment in Indian media. Fears for

freedom of expression have grown this year, particularly after a controversial book on Hinduism was withdrawn from sale following criticism from hard line Hindus. The withdrawal of "The Hindus: An Alternative History" by academic Wendy Doniger in February by publisher

Penguin came months before the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a conservative Hindu nationalist party led by Narendra Modi, won a landslide election victory.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister said he understood that many publishers feared prosecution under a law that bans

acts intended to offend religious feeling, which Penguin said made it very difficult to uphold international standards of free expression. "I am willing to meet publishers and listen to them," Prakash Javadekar told the TV channel Headlines Today.

Concerns that Modi's government will take a tougher line with the press and publishing industries are "absolutely unfounded", he said.

Javadekar said the government will consider allowing foreign direct investment in India's news industry above an existing cap of 26 percent, although he did not believe in 100 percent foreign ownership.

The government will also restructure the state-owned broadcaster to strengthen its editorial independence and improve accountability, so that it more closely resembles the British Broadcasting Corporation, Javadekar said.

Reuters

Japan, US to help ASEAN boost cybercrime investigation skills

TOKYO, 8 June — Japan and the United States plan to help the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations boost their technical abilities to investigate cybercrimes, Japanese government sources said on Saturday.

At a time when China's military has been suspected of launching cyberattacks, Tokyo and Washington are eager to show their cooperation with the regional bloc to counter such moves, the sources said.

To that end, Japan will provide \$150,000 and the United States \$250,000 to the United Nations to facilitate the dispatch of anti-cybercrime experts by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to ASEAN members, according to the sources.

Providing technical guidance to ASEAN to fight cybercrimes is vital because "China is suspected of conducting

cyberattacks against Japan, the United States and others through servers in the Southeast Asian region," one of the sources said.

Tokyo and Washington have decided to involve the UNODC since the UN entity, set up in 1997, has been providing technical assistance to countries to help improve their abilities to combat crimes including cybercrime, the sources said.

Working-level talks in May between the two allies resulted in an accord to train investigators in ASEAN, following up on a bilateral statement in April saying Japan and the United States will coordinate closely to help ASEAN address cybercrime. By spring next year they plan to finish the training which includes sharing with ASEAN officials how to analyze information on networks and maintaining and gathering evidence, the sources said.

Kyodo News

WORLD

New head of European conservatives dismisses Cameron's EU demands

BERLIN, 8 June — The new head of the biggest group of conservatives in the European Parliament dismissed on Saturday demands by British Prime Minister David Cameron to put the brakes on European integration.

Manfred Weber, the new chairman of the European People's Party (EPP), also told a German paper that the group still backed its candidate Jean-Claude Juncker to be the next Commission president despite opposition from Britain. "The EU is based on an ever closer union of European peoples. That is set out in the treaties. It is not negotiable for us," Weber told the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*.

"We cannot sell the soul of Europe," he added, also rejecting any demands to let national parliaments win rights to stop European laws.

"If we grant every



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (C) walks with French President Francois Hollande (L) before the official lunch at Benouville Castle on 6 June, 2014.

REUTERS

national parliament a veto right, Europe would come to a standstill," he said.

Cameron, under pressure from anti-EU hardliners in his own Conservative party and in the UK Independence Party (UKIP),

has agreed to hold a referendum in 2017 on whether his country stays in the EU. His party is not in the EPP.

Before the referendum he is trying to renegotiate the terms of Britain's mem-

bership. He has said that he wants to prevent mass migration and EU interference in police and judicial matters and that he wants national parliaments to be able to work together to block unwanted European

European legislation.

Weber said the EPP still fully supported former Luxembourg Prime Minister Juncker's bid to become the next European Commission president.

"We must keep the commitments that we made to our voters: he will be the next president of the Commission," said Weber.

Britain has opposed Juncker's bid, which is supported by several EU members including Germany. Cameron fears Juncker is too aligned to old-school federalists to bring in change.

Citing no sources, *Der Spiegel* magazine reported that conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel did not want Social Democrat (SPD) Martin Schulz to become Germany's Commissioner in Brussels despite pressure from SPD leader Sigmar Gabriel. Merkel leads a 'grand coalition' with Gabriel's SPD.—Reuters

Italy stresses political solution for Syrian crisis

BEIRUT, 8 June — Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini said here on Saturday that the only way to end the crisis in Syria is to find a political solution calling for a re-launch of the Geneva conference in the coming few weeks.

Mogherni made these remarks at a joint Press conference with her Lebanese counterpart Gebran Bassil, adding that their previous discussions focused on the need to work on three levels to solve the crisis, "starting with eliminating the regime's chemical weapons, then addressing the humanitarian aid and launching the political solution which is a must." She also pointed out the Italian efforts in supporting the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, revealing that Italy has donated so far 150 million euros for this purpose.

For his part, Bassil stressed the importance of finding a political solution for the Syrian crisis, adding that Lebanon is directly affected by the spillover of the crisis in Syria "due to the influx of more than one million refugees."

On the domestic level, Mogherini stressed that the Lebanese army "should be offered all the necessary support to maintain stability in Lebanon."

Xinhua

Sri Lankan navy arrests 73 Indian fishermen

COLOMBO, 8 June — The Sri Lankan navy arrested 73 Indian fishermen for poaching in Sri Lankan waters, a navy spokesman said on Sunday.

The arrest comes just days after 33 Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody were freed on the instructions of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Navy spokesman Kosal Warnakulasuriya told *Xinhua* said that 41 Indians were arrested off the northern Thalaimannar seas together with seven boats overnight while another 32 Indians were arrested with eight boats off the Delft Islands in the north.

He said that the fishermen were brought ashore to be handed over to the relevant officials for the

next course of action.

Last week President Rajapaksa had freed 33 Indians as a goodwill measure towards the new Indian Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However Sri Lankan fishermen have accused India of failing to reciprocate the goodwill measure by releasing Sri Lankan fishermen in Indian custody.

The issue of fishermen from India and Sri Lanka crossing the international maritime boundary line has led to a conflict between fishermen of both countries.

An attempt last month to resolve the issue failed after talks between fishermen from both countries ended in a deadlock.

Xinhua

M5.2 quake jolts northeastern Japan

TOKYO, 8 June — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.2 jolted northeastern parts of Japan on Sunday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 2:24 pm quake originated around 70

kilometres underground on the southern coast of Iwate Prefecture, the agency said.

The quake registered intensity 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in parts of Miyagi Prefecture.

Kyodo News

Cuba delivers first patrol ship built for Venezuela

HAVANA, 8 June — Cuba on Saturday delivered the first coastal patrol ship for Venezuela, the official daily *Granma* reported.

Operations of the vessel, with a crew of 18 members, are controlled by computers, according to the report.

The ship is good for patrolling, security investigations and salvage in coastal waters, it said.

Besides the patrol ship, Cuba also delivered the fourth cargo ship built for the Venezuelan Armed Forces. Venezuela is Cuba's top political and economic ally. At present over 45,000 Cuban professionals are serving in the South American country, while Caracas provides Havana with 100,000 barrels of oil per day.—Xinhua

17 killed in twin bombings in Iraq's Diyala

BAQUBA, 8 June — At least 17 people were killed and 65 others wounded in a double bomb attacks targeting a Kurdish party office and a security headquarters in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala on Sunday, a provincial police source said.

The attack occurred in the morning when a booby-trapped car exploded at a parking lot outside the office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and a nearby Kurdish security headquarters in the city of Jalawlaa, some 130 km northeast of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Minutes later a suicide bomber blew up his explosive vest at a crowd of security personnel, party members and civilians who

gathered on the site of the first blast, the source said.

Four Kurdish security officers were among the killed, while many of

the wounded were security members and party officials, the source added. He said the powerful blasts also caused severe damages

to the security headquarters and the PUK office, which is headed by the Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

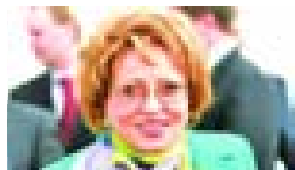
Xinhua



A man inspects the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 8 June, 2014.

REUTERS

Russia says ready for talks with Ukraine when there are no artillery fires



Valentina Matviyenko

Moscow, 8 June — Russia is ready for talks with Ukraine only when there are no artillery fires in the country, said Valentina Matviyenko, head of the Russian parliament's upper house on Saturday.

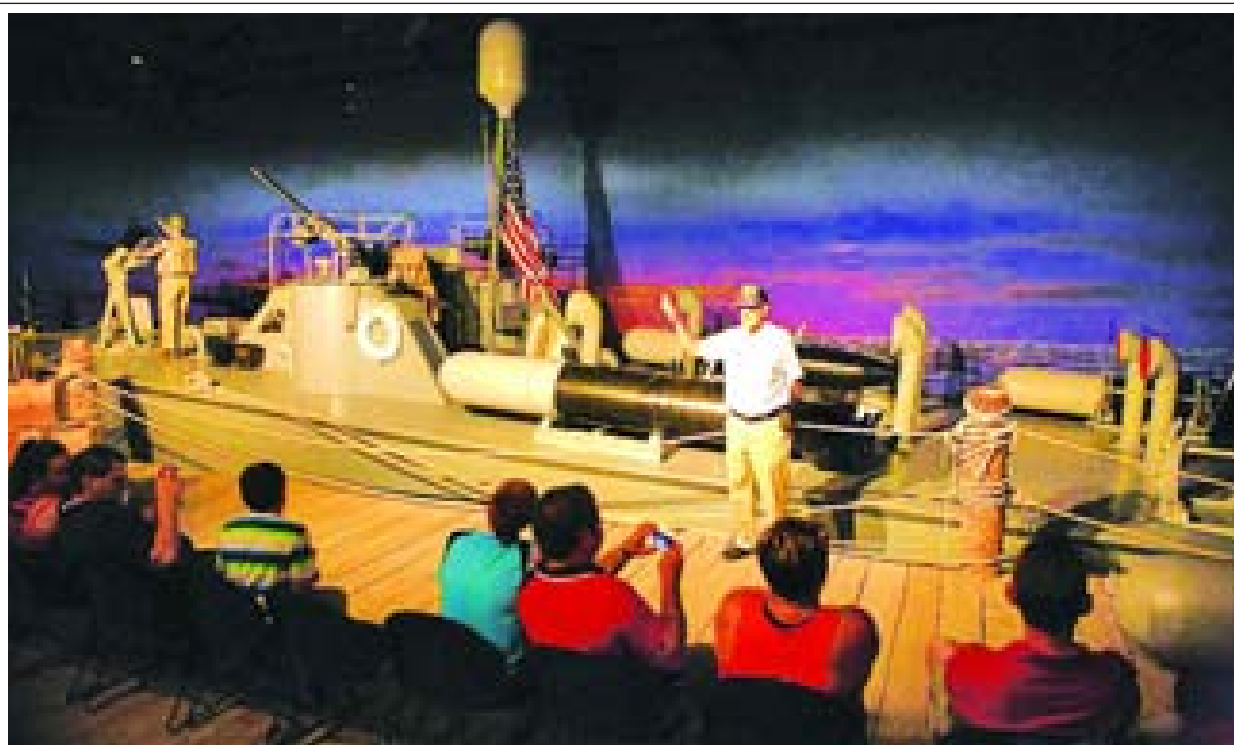
"We're ready for talks," Matviyenko said, "we'll hold negotiations and we'll meet." Stressing "artillery fire is unacceptable for such meetings and talks," Matviyenko insisted that Ukraine "terminate the punitive operation."

Petro Poroshenko was sworn in Saturday as the fifth Ukrainian president at an inauguration ceremony held in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

Matviyenko also said that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko should make it clear that his country cannot overcome the crisis without Russia.

"It is impossible to resolve the political and economic crisis in Ukraine without Russia," she said.

"The presidential elections in Ukraine don't correspond to international standards in full. There are certain problems," Matviyenko said, "but we respect the Ukrainian people's choice." — Xinhua



A volunteer interpreter tells stories about the Pacific War to visitors in the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg of Texas, United States, on 7 June, 2014. The National Museum of the Pacific War is a museum dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II, and to honoring the eight million Americans who served in the war against Japan, including the more than 100,000 who gave their lives.

XINHUA

Dozens killed in massacre in eastern Congo

SOUTH KIVU, 8 June — Up to 37 people including women and children were killed in Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern province of South Kivu on Saturday in an attack that government officials blamed on a dispute over cattle.

The victims, who included several pregnant women, had been shot, stabbed or burned inside their homes. A Reuters cameraman on the scene in the village of Mutarule counted 37 bodies, some of them lying inside a village church.

Residents and religious leaders said patients in a medical centre had also been attacked. Apart from the dead, more than 20 people were injured, with 10 of them in critical condition.

"It is Congolese who

have carried out these attacks. It was about a dispute over cows," South Kivu governor Marcellin Cishambo told Reuters. "The problem is that everyone in this area carries a weapon."

He gave a lower estimate of 27 for the number of dead. Government spokesman Laurent Mende said the incident was a revenge attack by the community of a cattle herder killed during an attempt to steal cows belonging to another farmer.

"The army commander (in the locality) has been arrested because he reacted too slowly. He is now with military police.

Authorities also arrested a local leader suspected of coordinating the attacks," Mende added.

He said 34 people had

died in the violence.

South Kivu, a mountainous region rich in minerals including gold, is home to members of tribes who fled neighbouring Burundi after the end of a civil war in 2005 as well as numerous rebel groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

Some locals from the Congolese Bafuliru tribe blamed rebels from Burundi's National Liberation Forces (FNL) for the attacks.

Residents said that last August eight people had been killed by unidentified armed men in the same village; a concrete grave with eight small crosses marks their final resting place.

"The first massacre took place, then the second one has just happened —

and we did not even get to know what happened with the first massacre," village elder Amuri Kikukama told Reuters.

"We wonder why the killings should go on while the government is watching." A second resident said there an armed militia had a base about 20 km (12 miles) from the village. Many locals were packing their belongings on Saturday to move to another village.

Martin Kobler, head of the UN mission in Congo MONUSCO, said it was sending reinforcements to protect the population.

"These violent acts are unacceptable and need to stop immediately," he said in a statement.

The Congolese government has said it plans to target foreign rebels operating in its eastern region after the defeat of the M23 rebel group late last year.

Reuters

Oil tanker missing off Ghana coast amid report of piracy

ACCRA, 8 June — A Liberia-flagged oil tanker has gone missing off the coast of Ghana and a senior port official told Reuters on Saturday the captain sent a distress call to say the vessel was attacked by pirates.

The Liberia-flagged MT Fair Artemis last made contact with its manager, Fairdeal Group SA, at 6 pm (1800 GMT) on Wednesday when it was operating off the coast of Ghana, the company said. The ship failed to make contact the next day. Pirate attacks jumped by a third off the coast of West Africa last year, pushing up insurance costs for shipping firms operating in a key commodities export hub. "Our primary concern ... is for the safety of those on board the vessel. We would like to assure their families and all stakeholders that we are

fully committed to returning the crew and vessel to a safe port," said Fairdeal fleet director John Gray in a statement.

A spokesperson for the company said on Saturday the ship remained missing but gave no further details.

A senior official at the port in Tema, east of Ghana's capital, told Reuters: "We had a distress call from the master of the ship yesterday (Friday) saying he was 36 nautical miles away from our waters after he was hijacked and looted in Togolese waters early Wednesday. The official declined to be identified.

West African piracy has its roots in an uprising in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta that has given rise to criminal networks. Gangs target cargo, which is often fuel, and rob or kidnap crew members. — Reuters



British police team equipped with Ariel Atom, the world's fastest police car, to stop motorcyclists' drag-racing, on 5 June, 2014. — XINHUA

Chinese envoy attends inauguration of Ukrainian president

KIEV, 8 June — Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, Cai Wu, attended the inauguration ceremony of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Saturday.

In a brief conversation with the Ukrainian leader, Cai passed on Xi's warm congratulations.

He said that China highly values its strategic partnership with Ukraine and

is willing to promote the sound and steady development of China-Ukraine relations on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

Poroshenko said the relations between Ukraine and China have been developing smoothly, with fruitful results yielded in various fields of cooperation.

He invited Chinese leaders to his country at any

time convenient for them.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk met Cai, who is Chinese cultural minister, later Saturday. Speaking highly of the bilateral ties, the two sides expressed willingness to work together to further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two countries and advance practical cooperation in various fields. — Xinhua

HEALTH & BUSINESS

The Alibaba culture: kung fu commerce with a dash of theater

BEIJING / HONG KONG, 8 June — When Jack Ma and his colleagues sat down in 2001 to lay out Alibaba's defining values, they named them after a martial arts technique drawn from Ma's love of kung fu novels and their heroic themes.

But the corporate culture of China's biggest e-commerce company also draws heavily from Western values in a mix of East and West that Ma dubbed 'Hupan culture' after the apartment block in Hangzhou where he set up his business.

These core values, now named the 'Six Vein Spirit Sword' — customer first, teamwork, embrace change, integrity, passion and commitment — shaped Alibaba Group Holding, which began as an online bulletin board for companies in Ma's Hupan Huayuan apartment complex in eastern China.

Alibaba's aspirations helped it grow from just 18 employees to more than 20,000 today. Along the way, it knocked eBay Inc out of China and is now preparing for a US stock listing that could be the biggest tech IPO to date.

But its romanticism — and even cultishness — has sometimes side-

lined the business reality, almost bankrupting Alibaba in its early years and more recently denying Ma his preferred Hong Kong stock listing.

"Alibaba is not like a Chinese company, it's a blend of the good parts of East and West," said Andrew Teoh, a former Alibaba executive and founder and managing partner at Ameba Capital. "It's grown huge, but they maintain a start-up culture. Alibaba is a flat structure, bureaucracy is a pet hate there."

Crucial to this was Savio Kwan, a former General Electric executive, who lifted from the US conglomerate's playbook to introduce a reward system that was new to China at the time. Half an employee's annual appraisal was to be based on their performance. The other half depended on how well they embodied Alibaba's core 'kung fu' values.

"We wanted to make sure that even in a company of 10,000 people it had this Hupan culture, a start-up culture," said Porter Erisman, a former vice president at Alibaba and director of "Crocodile in the Yangtze", a documentary on Alibaba's first decade. "We didn't want to lose the sense of

innovation and teamwork, so those were the systems Savio helped introduce."

Kwan, who joined Alibaba as chief operating officer in 2001 and left the company in 2012, did not respond to e-mail and phone requests for comment.

From day one, Alibaba lacked nothing in ambition.

"Our core mission was, and is still, to make it easy to do business anywhere," Joe Tsai, Alibaba's executive vice chair, told *Reuters* in March. "The mission ... is our religion."

Armed with that quasi-religious fervor, Alibaba grew from a simple business-to-business website hooking up overseas companies with their Chinese suppliers.

"Savio came and said he would change us from a rough bunch of rebels into a regular army," recalls Li Zhiguo, a former Alibaba employee and now CEO of accounting site Wacai.com. By 2003, Alibaba began work on its first major departure from business-to-business e-commerce. Ma summoned a small group of employees, giving them the option to carry on with their normal work or sign a document and begin a secret project, said Shou Yuan, a former



A woman stands next to a door inside the headquarters of Alibaba in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 23 April, 2014. —REUTERS

employee who took that second option.

The group gathered in the original Alibaba apartment to create Taobao, the consumer-to-consumer e-commerce site that was launched in 2003 and faced off against eBay, which that year bought rival Chinese site EachNet for \$180 million.

At 4 pm every day, the Taobao project group would break from work to swim, do handstands and play video games. "We were just a group of country bumpkins, and our competitor was eBay," Shou recalled.

By 2006, eBay effectively conceded defeat, shutting down its EachNet site. Today, Alibaba dwarfs its US rival, with the Chinese group's estimated value of around \$150 billion more than double that of eBay, and the goods traded over its sites are worth more than eBay's and Amazon.com Inc's combined.

Driven by Ma's force of personality, Alibaba was able to tilt at windmills, said Duncan Clark, managing director of Beijing-based tech advisory BDA and a former consultant for Alibaba. "He

likes to win. They're the company that humbled eBay in China."

PUTTING THE CULT IN CULTURE

Alibaba goes a long way to embracing its employees.

Days after the company filed for its US IPO last month, Ma presided over the company's ninth corporate mass wedding, blessing 102 couples who performed "wedding rituals of ancient times" clad in traditional scarlet and black robes from a 2,000-year-old Chinese dynasty, state media reported.

Reuters

China's May exports gain steam but imports fall unexpectedly

BEIJING, 8 June — China's exports gained steam in May thanks to firmer global demand, data showed on Sunday, but an unexpected fall in imports signaled weaker domestic demand that could continue to weigh on the world's second-largest economy.

Exports rose 7 percent in May from a year earlier, quickening from April's 0.9 percent rise, while imports fell 1.6 percent, versus a rise of 0.8 percent in April, the General Administration of Customs said.

China's trade surplus widened sharply to \$35.9 billion in May from April's \$18.5 billion, the customs office said.

That compared with market expectations in a Reuters poll of a 6.6 per-

cent rise in exports, a 6.1 percent rise in imports and a monthly trade surplus of \$22.6 billion.

"We do not think the May trade data will change the policy stance significantly," Louis Kuijs, an RBS economist in Hong Kong, said in a note.

"While the export data is reasonably positive, the weakness of domestic demand implied by the import data may keep the pressure up for initiatives to support growth," he said.

China's commerce ministry had predicted that the trade picture could brighten in May as base efforts fade and government support measures kick in. Analysts have attributed the weak trade figures partly to an inflated compari-



A shipping container is lifted by a crane at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province on 10 April, 2014.

REUTERS

son base with last year due to a rash of fake invoicing of exports to beat currency restrictions. Authorities have cracked down on such activities since May of last year. "The data shows

that the country's exports growth has returned to a normal level and will continue to improve," customs office spokesman Zheng Yuesheng told state television.—*Reuters*

Global economy likely to grow at 3% in 2014: gov't outlook

TOKYO, 8 June — The global economy is predicted to grow at about 3 percent in 2014 on the back of continued economic recovery in the United States and Europe, the Japanese government said in a report on Saturday.

As one of the risk factors, the Cabinet Office report on trends in the world economy cited the US Federal Reserve's scaling down of its quantitative monetary easing.

The United States will likely see growth of at least 2.5 percent as it stays on a moderate recovery path due to an improved job situation and rises in stock and house

prices, according to the report. Europe will likely post growth of about 1 percent due to steady economic performances in Britain and Germany.

Asia is projected to post an economic expansion at a more modest pace than before partly because of slower development in China's real estate sector, the office predicted. The report said China is predicted to post economic growth of about 7.5 percent and India about 5 percent, while South Korea and Taiwan will both see their economies grow around 3.5 percent on the back of global shipments of semiconductors.

Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 9 June, 2014

It is raining!

By Aung Khin

Rain drops are now scattering over the ground in many corners of Myanmar as the monsoon period begins. Farmers are ploughing their fields, hoping for high yields from their paddy in the coming harvest. But, they are not confident of using enough agricultural “helpers”, which will have to be purchased at high prices.

Schools are alive again with teachers and children who spent the summer away from the classes. And although the young students really enjoy their school time, they cannot predict what kind of future will be welcoming them. Parents are making all-out efforts to support their children, but the cost of school dresses and books are considerable for families with lower incomes.

Homeless people, labelled as squatters, must take whatever shelter they can from the rain as they cannot afford home rental. And, although they are accustomed to the threat of seasonal diseases such as dengue fever or diarrhea, they have to pass long nights falling asleep to the sound of raindrops. They need to survive for tomorrow as they have not completed their tasks.

Although people see the rainy season from

various points of view, everyone wants a secure life without concern for their livelihoods under the raindrops.

Residents in flood-prone areas do not welcome torrential rain that could sweep away their property, but they cannot abandon these areas despite the threat of flood as they dare not suffer more hardships in their lives.

But when new green shoots emerge with the rains, nobody hopes their expectations will be in vain.

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.

Bronze statue of Alinkakyawswa Shwemann U Tin Maung unveiled



Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu unveils bronze statue of Alinkakyawswa Shwemann U Tin Maung at National Theatre in Mandalay.

MANDALAY, 8 June—A ceremony to unveil the bronze statue of Alinkakyawswa Shwemann U Tin Maung was held at the northern wing of the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu,

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Region Minister Dr Myint Kyu and Academy U Nyunt Win formally opened the statue.

Artistes of Mandalay performed entertainments to those present. Alinkakyawswa Shwemann U Tin Maung was awarded a gold medal by national leader

General Aung San due to his excellent performance in independence struggle of the nation.

On the Independence Day ceremony, the government conferred Alinkakyawswa title on him in 1956. Shwemann U Tin Maung died at 51 in Minhla Township of Thayet District in Magway Region on

30 November 1969.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

large stood first with 67.35 per cent pass rate, followed by Yintaikkon BEHS 58.59% and Dauntgyi BEHS Branch 57.45%.

Khin Maung Zaw Myint

Experiences in MMCWA meeting recounted to members in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 8 June—Mandalay Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held a ceremony to recount experiences in the 24th MMCWA annual general meeting on Friday at its office in Mandalay.

Chairperson of the region supervisory committee Daw Htay Htay Aung explained six resolutions and 17 future tasks adopted

in the meeting.

The committee officials presented prizes to outstanding township associations for their excellence performances.

The region association provided 10 kinds of teaching aid including bicycles to pre-primary schools of the association and textile, snacks and refreshments to 21 delivery rooms.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Israeli Ambassador donates books to libraries, hospital in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 8 June—The book and publication donation of the Israeli Ambassador to public libraries in Mandalay was held at the hall of Aungmyethazan Township Information and Public Relations Department in Mandalay on Friday, attended by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint.

Israeli Ambassador Mr Hagay M Behar presented 400 copies of book for pub-

lic libraries in Mandalay Region to Head of Mandalay Region IPRD U Kyaw Than Tun and 30 copies to China national library through the librarian.

The ambassador also donated books and toys for child patients at Children's Hospital (Mandalay) (550-bed) in Chanayethazan Township through Mandalay Region Minister Dr Win Hlaing.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Israeli Ambassador Mr Hagay M Behar presents books to Mandalay Children's Hospital.



Sagaing District to hold Monsoon Football Tournament

MANDALAY, 8 June—With the assistance of former Union Minister for Construction Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint, the 4th Shwe Zeyar Cup Monsoon Football Tournament will be held in Sagaing District Football Ground in Sagaing in the last week of June.

The football teams wishing to take part in the tournament must pay

K30,000 as fee to the Assistant Director U Than Htay of District Sports and Physical Education Department, Tel: 07222285, U Chit Phu, Shwe Hnin Si Literary House, Tel: 07222135 and U Aung Than, District Sports Ground, Tel: 092021000.

The group fixtures will be arranged on 17 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



38.51% students pass matriculation exam in Pantanaw Tsp

PANTANAW, 8 June—Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region scored 38.51 per cent of pass rate this year.

A total of 737 students of 1,914 passed the matriculation examination with

one four-distinction winner, 47 three-distinction winners, 80 two-distinction winners and 190 one-distinction winners.

In the township, Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kyungyar Vil-

LOCAL NEWS

Drains dredged for proper flow of water in Dala



DALA, 8 June—Aimed at creating the better hygienic environment for the residents, engineer U Tin Maung San of Dala Township Road and Bridge Section of Yangon City Development Committee on Saturday supervised dredg-

ing of drains for proper flow of water with the use of heavy machinery in Kamakasi, Bo Min Yaung and Bo Ottama wards in Dala of Yangon South District.

The drains along both sides of roads will be dredged due to blockage

caused by roadside shops. The shops have been removed from the roadsides. The drains will be 2,200 feet in total length, said officials.

Drain water will flow into Seikkyi Creek via Sapachaung Creek through the drain of Maha Bandoola

Road.

A shop owner said, "It was a correct act of Township Development Affairs Committee. I will rebuild my shop in my fence. I moved back my shop for public interest."

Than Htay (Dala)

Wall magazine, photo and book show marks world environment day

INSEIN, 8 June—Insein Township Information and Public Relations Department displayed the wall magazine, photo and book show in commemoration of the World Environment Day on Friday, opened by Staff Officer Daw Khin Thida Oo of the District IPRD.

Staff of the department demonstrated use of e-books downloaded from the device of public digital library service. They also



presented a documentary video on the world environment to the students.

School children par-

ticipated in the painting contest to mark the world environment day.

Hsan Kyaw Oo

35 six-distinction winners emerge in Mandalay Region



MANDALAY, 8 June—A total of 27,296 students from 79,353 passed the matriculation examina-

tion in all townships of Mandalay Region, with a 34.40 per cent pass rate in 2013-14 academic year. Of

them, 85 students won six distinctions in the region. Chanayethazan Township stood first in the pass rate

Mandalay MEB branch provides cash and kind to students

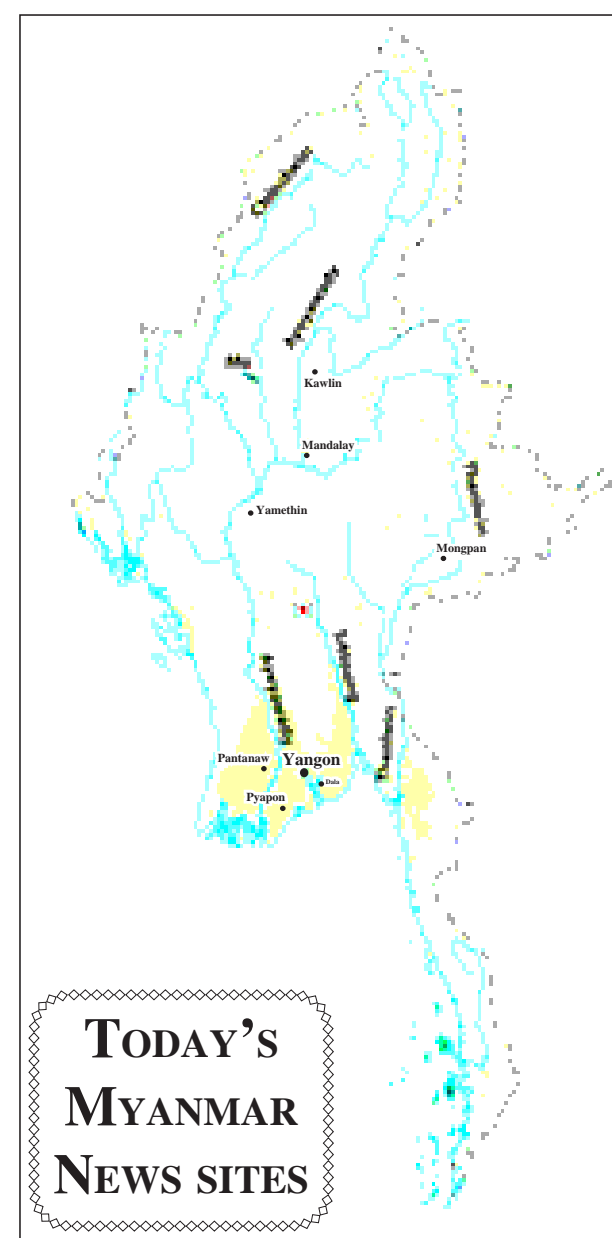
MANDALAY, 8 June—A ceremony to provide stationery and health assistance to offspring of staff of Myanmar Economic Bank was held at the bank office at the corner of 24th and 83rd streets in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday.

General Manager U Than Lwin Oo and officials presented stationery and cash assistance to the students. At the ceremony, 349 dozens of copy books, 146 dozens of ball-pens, 146 dozens of pencils, 30 dozens of erasers and K480,000 were presented to the students.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

with 54.75 per cent, including 35 six-distinction winners and 86 five-distinction winners.

In 2013, the pass rate of the region scored 39.46 per cent.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Sithu Aung of Yangon United transferred to Yadanabon FC

MANDALAY, 8 June—The Yadanabon FC representing Mandalay Region signed an agreement with Sithu Aung, the midfielder of Yangon United FC for the second leg of the Myanmar National League, at the office of Bahtoo Stadium on Saturday.

Yadanabon FC exchanged Than Htut Aung and Wunna with Sithu Aung of Yangon United FC in the agreement. The transfer fee, agreement term and salary were not released.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Philippine, Vietnam navies hold 'friendly games' in S China Sea

MANILA, 8 June — Philippine and Vietnamese sailors played football, volleyball and tug-of-war on Sunday on Southwest Cay, a Vietnamese island in the disputed Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea, a spokesman for the Philippine Navy said.

"There will also be cultural presentations," Cmdr Gregory Gerald Fabic wrote in a text message to *Kyodo News*.

Asked if the sailors will be "playing over

beers," Fabic said, "I don't know the specific beverages, but definitely there are food and drinks."

In a statement to the media, Fabic said the day's activity was "part of the efforts to improve relations and cooperation between the Philippine Navy and the Vietnamese People's Navy."

He said the activity is not intended to raise tension in the South China Sea where China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan all

have competing claims to some areas.

Fabic added he hoped the "friendly games and socialization" could ease the tension and that other claimants would "imitate" the activity.

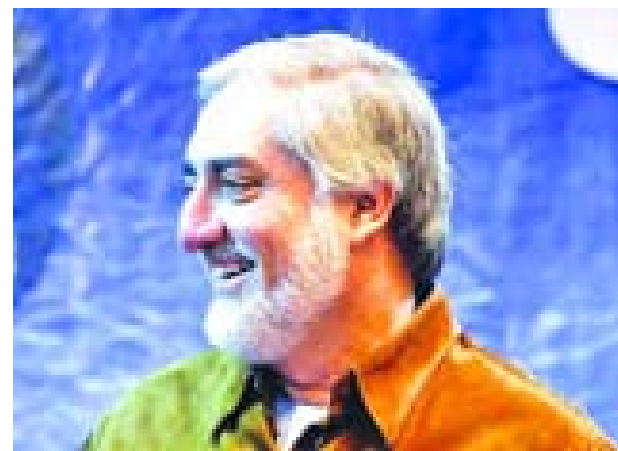
"Both navies deem that this activity serves as a proof that disputes do not hinder development of practical and tangible cooperation between the two navies," Fabic said. "This also serves as a model of cooperation for the other navies to emulate."

The Philippines used to control Southwest Cay, 2.7 kilometres from Northeast Cay, a 7-hectare island still garrisoned by the Philippines.

Vietnam gained control of Southwest Cay in the 1970s when Philippine soldiers manning the island were allegedly tricked into leaving.

Vietnam then prevented them from returning and has since transformed Southwest Cay into a naval outpost with a working lighthouse.—*Kyodo News*

Afghan election front-runner escapes assassination attempt



Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah arrives to attend an election campaign after a bomb attack on his convoy in Kabul on 6 June, 2014.

REUTERS

KABUL, 8 June — Abdullah Abdullah, front-runner in Afghanistan's presidential election, escaped assassination on Friday when two bombs blew up outside a hotel where he had just staged a rally, killing six people.

The midday blasts, one caused by a suicide bomber, destroyed a car in Abdullah's convoy, police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzai said. One of the dead was a bodyguard. Twenty-two people were injured.

Television images showed the charred remains of the car alongside shattered shop fronts in a densely populated western district of Kabul.

"When I was leaving the rally from the People's Islamic Unity Party, our car was hit by a roadside bomb and destroyed," Abdullah said at another rally soon afterwards.

Abdullah, a former leader of the opposition to the Islamist Taliban, came first in the largely peaceful first round of the poll to replace Hamid Karzai, winning 45 percent of the vote.

Former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani scored 31.6 percent and the runoff between the two leaders is set for 14 June.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on Abdullah but the Taliban, seeking to set up an Islamic state, have vowed to disrupt the election. They could not be reached by phone.

It was the most serious attempt on Abdullah's life since the start of the presidential race and the first such attack close to a rally. In February, he survived an assault on his convoy as he was travelling between the capital and the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Reuters

Ex-Chinese State Councilor Tang urges improved ties with Japan

FUKUOKA, 8 June — Former Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan on Saturday stressed the need to improve ties between Japan and China that have been soured by bilateral disputes over territorial and historical issues.

"The two countries have common interests and important roles to play in promoting peace in Asian and the world," Tang, head of the China-Japan Friendship Association, said at a meeting held in Fukuoka to facilitate bilateral exchanges. Tang also contended that the current confrontation between the two countries "is blamed on some policy decisions" by the Japanese government.

Tokyo and Beijing remain at odds over the



Former Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan visits a Confucian temple in Nagasaki, southwestern Japan, on 7 June, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

sovereignty of the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea that are claimed by China, as well as over historical perceptions of Japanese wartime aggression.

The meeting held in the southwestern Japan city, attended by some 700 people involved in bilateral exchange activities in the Kyushu region, adopted a declaration underscoring the importance of bilateral exchanges both at the private-sector and government levels. Before taking part in the conference, Tang visited a museum in Nagasaki, which exhibits items related to the friendship between the 1911 Chinese Revolution's spiritual leader Sun Yat-sen and a Japanese supporter.

Kyodo News

Colombia's FARC declare poll ceasefire, take a swipe at Zuluaga

BOGOTA, 8 June — Colombia's leftist FARC rebels declared a ceasefire on Saturday for a three-week period covering a tight presidential election race on 15 June, campaigning for which has centered on how to end five decades of war with the guerrilla group.

The June 9-30 ceasefire was announced in a scathing open letter to opposition candidate Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, posted on the group's website, in which it accuses him of making inflammatory statements and trying to foment more war.

The FARC are keen to avoid Zuluaga's election, analysts say, because conditions he would impose to continue peace talks could

lead to their breakdown and a return to all-out war. The talks were started in Havana in 2012 by President Juan Manuel Santos.

"We want to tell the country, through you (Zuluaga), our decision to declare another unilateral ceasefire for the occasion of the second round of elections to the Presidency of the Republic," said the letter signed by FARC leader Timoleon Jimenez, who is known as Timochenko.

The long letter, announcing the ceasefire only near the end, appeared designed to convince voters a week before elections that Zuluaga would undo progress towards peace achieved under Santos and

reduce hopes of ending the war if voted into power.

The election has divided voters between Santos backers who want to give more time to peace talks and Zuluaga supporters who doubt the rebels will disarm and walk away from the lucrative illegal drugs trade if a deal is signed.

Three voter polls on Thursday and Friday failed to predict a clear winner in next Sunday's election. A Gallup poll put the two in a dead heat, while two others gave a solid lead to one candidate or the other.

Zuluaga is backed by popular ex-president Alvaro Uribe who, from 2002-2010, led an unprecedented US-backed assault against



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) lead negotiator Ivan Marquez (R) speaks to the media beside fellow negotiators Pablo Catatumbo (C) and Marcos Carratala during a conference between Colombia's government and FARC in Havana on 7 June, 2014. —REUTERS

the FARC that is estimated to have halved their ranks to around 8,000. Many

Zuluaga backers believe continuing that onslaught is the only realistic way to

end a conflict that has killed around 220,000 people over five decades.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SoftBank to cut smartphone charges in Japan



A man holding an umbrella walks past the logo of Softbank Corp at its branch in Tokyo on 22 April, 2014. — REUTERS

TOKYO, 8 June — SoftBank Corp (9984.T), Japan's No 3 mobile carrier, will cut its smartphone charges in Japan with a flat rate for unlimited voice calling and cheaper data plans, in a sign that price competition may be starting to pick up in Japan's mobile market. The lower rates, to take effect next month, are similar to reductions this month by rival NTT DoCoMo Inc (9437.T), Japan's largest

wireless provider. Regulators have grown increasingly critical of the three dominant carriers, blaming them for high smartphone fees and oligopolistic practices. The authorities' complaints came at an awkward time for SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, as he tries to convince US regulators that a proposed acquisition by his Sprint Corp (S.N), the No 3 US mobile carrier, of No 4 T-Mobile US Inc (TMUS.N) would boost

competition in the US market, by giving the top two carriers more of a run for their money.

In addition to flat-fee unlimited voice calling, SoftBank will offer options allowing users to roll over unused data communications to the next month or to share them with family members.

It also will launch special offers or discounts for family plans, long-term users and subscribers aged 25 and under.

A voice-only smartphone service will be priced at 2,700 yen (\$26.33) per month, while data plans will run from 3,500 yen per month for 2 gigabytes up to 22,500 yen for 30 GB. Japan's wireless carriers had typically offered only high-end smartphone plans with minimum charges of 5,700 yen per month for 7 GB of data communications.

Reuters

NASA beams video from space via laser

WASHINGTON, 8 June — US space agency NASA said on Friday it has successfully beamed a high-definition video from the *International Space Station* to Earth using a new laser communications instrument, a technology demonstration that could help fundamentally change the way of communication in future deep space missions. The transmission of the 175-megabit video entitled "Hello, World," took only 3.5 seconds, which corresponds to a data transmission rate of 50 megabits per second and would have taken more than 10 minutes using traditional downlink methods, NASA said.

The entire video test, which occurred on Thursday, lasted 148 seconds, the agency said. NASA said the technology demonstration called Optical Payload for Lasercomm Science (OPALS) focused laser



NASA to Beam Data from Space with Laser

energy to reach data rates between 10 and 1,000 times higher than current space communications, which rely on radio waves.

"Because the space station orbits Earth at 17,500 mph, transmitting data from the space station to Earth requires extremely precise targeting," the agency said in a statement. "The process can be equated to a person aiming a laser pointer at the

end of a human hair 30 feet away and keeping it there while walking."

To achieve this extreme precision during Thursday's demonstration, NASA said the OPALS locked onto a laser beacon emitted by the Optical Communications Telescope Laboratory ground station at the Table Mountain Observatory in Wrightwood, California. —Xinhua

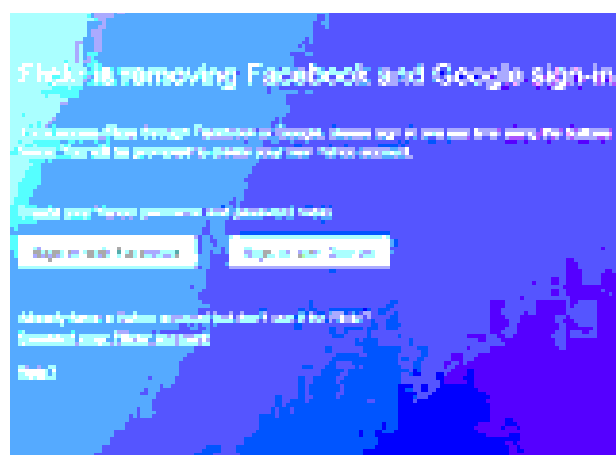
Yahoo removing Flickr sign-in via Facebook and Google Accounts by 30 June

NEW DELHI, 8 June — If you used to access Flickr by signing-in through your Facebook or Google accounts, things are going to change for you from 30 June onwards.

Yahoo, the parent company of Flickr, has started informing users that it will remove the option to sign in with a Facebook or Google account by the end of the month. Users will only be able to sign in using a Yahoo account.

At present, users can sign-in one last time using their old Facebook or Google credentials, after which they will be prompted to create a new Yahoo account.

Users can either use



an existing Yahoo account, or create a new one, while keeping the same Flickr account.

"We're streamlining our sign-in process. As a result, you'll need to use a Yahoo account to access

your Flickr account," Yahoo noted on its help page.

The company also notes that this procedure won't affect any paid services used already, such as Flickr Pro. Notably Yahoo had integrated these

third-party logins three years ago in 2011.

Back in March this year, the company had announced that it will stop letting consumers access its various online services, including photo-sharing site Flickr and Fantasy Sports, by signing-in with their Facebook or Google credentials. Notably the change has been already deployed to Fantasy Sports.

"Yahoo is continually working on improving the user experience," the company had said in a statement, noting that the new process "will allow [it] to offer the best personalized experience to everyone".

PTI

Moto X 64GB Variant Launched at \$449

NEW DELHI, 8 June — Motorola has officially announced a 64GB variant of its flagship smartphone, the Moto X, in the US. Carrying a price tag of \$449 (Rs. 26,500 approximately), the phone costs \$100 (Rs. 5,900) more than its 16GB counterpart.

Interestingly, the company has also launched a 'try then buy' program for the Moto X, which entitles customers to try the smartphone for two weeks

tively ran Android 4.2 Jelly Bean; however Motorola rolled out the Android 4.4.2 KitKat update for it in November last year, and the Android 4.4.3 KitKat update is also said to be now rolling out for the smartphone.

The Moto X features a 4.7-inch display with a resolution of 720x1280 pixels. It is powered by a 1.7GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM8960Pro Snapdragon processor along with 2GB



before making a purchase, Android Central reports.

The Moto X (16GB) was launched in India at Rs. 23,999 in March. The Moto X launch came a few weeks after the successful launch of the budget smartphone Moto G in the country, also via Flipkart.

The Moto X, a customisable Android smartphone, was launched in August last year and was initially available in US only. The smartphone na-

of RAM. The storage is non-expandable. It also sports a 10-megapixel rear camera accompanied by an LED flash and a 2-megapixel front-facing camera.

The highlight of the Moto X is its software features like Active Display, Touchless Control, Quick Capture Camera, and customisability. There is no word yet on when, and indeed if, the 64GB Moto X will be launched in India.

PTI



A human-like robot, which can detect people's emotions and chat with them, will be for sale in February, 2015, according to Softbank Corp. This robot is nicknamed "Pepper", priced at 12,000 RMB. XINHUA

Senior US, Iranian officials to meet Monday-Tuesday in Geneva — US

WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, 8 June — The United States said on Saturday it will send its No 2 diplomat to Geneva to meet senior Iranian officials on Monday and Tuesday in what appeared an effort to break a logjam in wider negotiations over Teheran's nuclear programme.

Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, who led secret US-Iranian negotiations that helped bring about a 24 November interim nuclear agreement between Iran and the major powers, will head a US delegation. Under Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, the primary US negotiator with Iran, will accompany him on a team that will include senior White House national security staff.

The most recent round of nuclear talks between Iran and six major powers in Vienna last month ran into difficulties, with each side accusing the other of having unrealistic demands in negotiations aimed at curbing Teheran's atomic programme in exchange for an end to economic sanctions.

The US decision to travel to Geneva and meet with the Iranian delegation, which a senior US official said might be led by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, appeared to reflect Washington's desire to try to break the deadlock.

"In order to really seriously test whether we can reach a diplomatic solution with Iran on its nuclear programme, we believe we need to engage in very active and very aggressive diplomacy," the senior US official told *Reuters*.

"We're at a critical moment," the US official added. "We've always said that we would engage bilaterally with the Iranians if it can help advance our efforts, in active coordination with the P5+1."

The United States is set to join the other members of the six-power negotiating group known as the P5+1 — Great Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — plus Iran for a full round of negotiations on 16-20 June in Vienna. The talks are coordinated by European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

A French diplomatic source said next week's US-Iran talks were being carried out in concert with the rest of the major powers, which the US official confirmed. "This meeting is in consultation with the other five. There are specific American aspects regarding lifting of sanctions in case of an agreement that they need to go through with the Iranians," the French diplomatic source said.

Ashton's spokesman Michael Mann said EU



US Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns addresses a news conference in Tunis on 1 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Political Director Helga Schmid would join the US-Iranian talks, which he said were taking place "in the context of the intensified ... negotiating process with Iran."

Mann added that the US delegation would be meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi.

Robert Einhorn, a former top US non-proliferation official, said he viewed the Burns trip as an effort to meet what appears to be an extremely challenging deadline of 20 July to

secure a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear programme.

"There were growing concerns, I think, on all sides that the 20 July target date was becoming increasingly difficult to meet," said Einhorn, now at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington. "Because the engagement at Bill Burns' level proved instrumental in reaching the interim agreement in November, I think both sides thought it would be useful to try that channel again," he added.

Although the United States has pursued the six-power negotiating track with Iran, any workable deal will likely have to be based on a bilateral agreement between Washington and Teheran. The United States cut off ties with Iran during a hostage crisis shortly after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

High-level bilateral meetings between the United States and Iran, virtually unthinkable in years past, have become almost routine on the sidelines of the nuclear talks with Teheran,

which began in Geneva last October and moved to Vienna in February.

In announcing the Burns trip, the State Department stressed the talks were taking place "in the context of the P5+1 nuclear negotiations led by EU High Representative Cathy Ashton." This appeared to be an effort to quiet any discontent on the part of other members of the group, some of whom were displeased last year that they were not fully informed of the details of the secret US-Iran talks led by Burns.—*Reuters*

Bowe Bergdahl's father receives death threats

SALMAN IDAHO, 8 June — The father of Bowe Bergdahl, the Idaho soldier released from captivity in a controversial prisoner swap with the Taliban, has received e-mailed death threats that authorities are investigating, an Idaho police chief said on Saturday.

The first of the death threats sent to Bob Bergdahl at his home near Hailey, Idaho, was received on Wednesday, the same day the city canceled a planned rally celebrating the release of his son, Hailey Police Chief Jeff Gunter said.

"There were four specific emails with death threats given to the FBI and they are looking into it," Gunter told *Reuters* in an interview.

Authorities are providing security to Bob Berg-



Bob Bergdahl, father of US Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, speaks during a news conference as his wife Jani looks on at the Idaho National Guard headquarters in Boise, Idaho on 1 June, 2014. — REUTERS

dahl and his wife, Jani, but Gunter declined to elaborate on those measures.

Bergdahl's release after being held for nearly

five years in Afghanistan provoked an angry backlash in Congress among lawmakers over the Obama administration's failure

to notify them in advance. Some of Bergdahl's former comrades have charged that he was captured in 2009 after deserting his post.

US military leaders have said the circumstances of Bergdahl's capture are unclear, with Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel urging critics to wait for all the facts to be known before rushing to judgment on Bergdahl.

The threats came as Hailey, a tourist community of some 8,000 people in the mountains of central Idaho, was buffeted by hundreds of vitriolic phone calls and emails.

The celebratory spirit that infused Hailey a week ago with news of Bergdahl's release turned to apprehension as an onslaught of angry messages were directed at city officials, businesses and friends of the Bergdahls over a hometown rally to mark his freedom planned for 28 June.

As many as 15,000 supporters and protesters were expected to descend on Hailey for an event that would have overwhelmed the resources and infrastructure of the remote mountain town and potentially risked public safety and property, city officials have said.

Residents of the close-knit community have been surprised and dismayed by an angry backlash that seemed to fault them for seeking to aid the Bergdahls in a time of need, Gunter said. "We've always come together in tragedy or crisis, whether it be fire or one of our own being a prisoner of war. Whatever the problem is, the community will be there to help the people experiencing it," he said.—*Reuters*

GENERAL

Somali pirates free 11 crew kidnapped in 2010

MOGADISHU, 8 June — Eleven crew members held hostage by Somali pirates for more than three years have been released, regional and United Nations officials said on Saturday.

The number of attacks by Somali pirates has fallen over the last two years due to increased naval patrols and the presence of well-armed security teams on ships. However, 38 crew members remain in captivity, the UN said.

The 11 men freed on Friday were crew on Malaysian-owned cargo vessel *MV Albedo* which was hijacked 900 miles (1,500 kms) off Somalia in November 2010 while sailing from the United Arab Emirates to Kenya.

"They are all healthy," said Abdi Yusuf Hassan, the interior minister of Galmudug region. He said no ransom was paid.

MV Albedo's 23-man crew was made up of sailors from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Iran when it was seized.

Seven of the ship's crew were released in 2012 while four others drowned when the ship sank last year. Media reports have suggested one hostage was killed soon after the vessel was hijacked.

Nick Kay, the UN's envoy to Somalia, said the 11 crew have been flown to Kenya and will be sent back to their respective countries in coming days.

Reuters

Nepal prepares to procure six more aircraft from China

KATHMANDU, 8 June — After receiving one aircraft from China and five still in the process, the Nepali government has begun preparations to procure six more planes from China, officials said on Sunday.

The board meeting of Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC), Nepal's national flag carrier, over the weekend approved the decision to procure more planes. The proposal was approved by the Aviation Minister Bhim Acharya himself. "The NAC board will now send a proposal to the line ministries including Finance Ministry seek-

ing approval to procure the planes," NAC spokesperson Ram Hari Sharma told *Xinhua*.

According to him, the Aviation Ministry will soon decide either to procure the aircraft in grant or in soft loan. Sharma added that the NAC wants to procure more planes given the growth in aviation market in Nepal and to benefit the common Nepalis to the most. "The ministry will then send the proposal to the Chinese authorities to help Nepal by providing the planned number of planes," said Sharma. "It would be much beneficial to Nepal

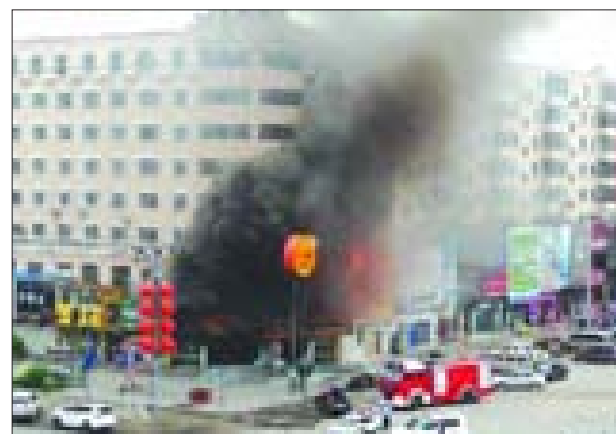
if the Chinese government provide planes in grant, if not in soft loan."

As per the plan, the NAC will get two Modern Ark 60 (MA60) and four Y12e planes.

On 28 April, the Nepali government received the first China-made air carrier, a 58-seater MA60. Earlier on 28 December last year, the government had signed an agreement with its Chinese counterpart to procure and purchase six aircraft from China on concessional loan.

The NAC said it will receive rest five planes by this year.—*Xinhua*

NE China restaurant blast suspected as man-made



HARBIN, 8 June — The explosion that injured two policemen at a fast food restaurant in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province is suspected to have been a deliberate act, local authorities said. The incident happened at 9:34 am at a Dicos restaurant in Anda City under Suihua City. Two policemen were slightly injured by the blast. Sheng Wei, head of the public security bureau of

Suihua City, said, around 9:30 am, police in Anda City received an anonymous phone call claiming that there would be an explosion within about five minutes in the restaurant. Police rushed to the scene to evacuate people. The explosion occurred during the evacuation and the two policemen were injured, Sheng said. The incident is under investigation.

Xinhua

Chinese navy fleet ends friendly visit to Angola

LUANDA, 8 June — The 16th escort fleet of Chinese navy ended a three-day friendly visit to Angola and left the Luanda harbour on Saturday for Namibia on its African tour.

At 4:00 p.m. local time, missile frigate *Yancheng*, the flag ship of the fleet, left the harbor with another frigate *Luoyang* and supply ship *Taihu*. Chinese Ambassador to Luanda Gao Kexiang, Military Attache Xu Xiaosong, representatives of the Angolan navy and hundreds of Chinese expatriates in Angola bid farewell to the fleet.

During the visit, Commander of the task force Li Chengpeng met with city officials of Luanda, senior officers of the Angolan navy. Staff members of the fleet visited Angolan navy's warships and exchanged expertise with their Angolan counterparts.—*Xinhua*

Korea launches foundation for labourers forced to work for Japan

SEOUL, 8 June — South Korea launched a foundation on Sunday to help Koreans, and their survivors, forced to work for Japanese institutions and companies during Japan's occupation of the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45.

Yonhap News Agency said the Foundation to Support Victims of Forced Labor by Japan "will spearhead diverse projects to honor the victims and to care for their families as well as conduct research on the history of the matter."

Millions of Koreans are believed to have forced to work for Japanese government institutions and Japanese companies on the Ko-

rea Peninsula, in Japan and across much of Asia during the 35-year occupation.

The Japanese government and the companies that used forced labor have refused to pay compensation to the victims, but the foundation is expected to continue to press Japan and the companies to recompense the victims and their families. South Korean courts have already ordered compensation in many cases, but Japan and Japanese companies argue their responsibility for monetary payments ended with the signing of a treaty normalizing diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea in 1965.—*Kyodo News*



Thai artists perform during the 3rd International Theatre Festival in Kolkata, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal on 7 June, 2014. The festival attracted artists from India, Bhutan, Thailand, Romania and Lithuania.—XINHUA

Egypt court sentences 10 Brotherhood supporters to death

CAIRO, 8 June — An Egyptian court sentenced 10 supporters of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to death in absentia on Saturday but postponed the sentencing of its leader and other senior members, judicial sources said.

Those sentenced were convicted on charges including inciting violence and blocking a major road north of Cairo during protests after the army toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi last July.

All 10 were assumed to be in hiding amid a state crackdown on the group since Mursi's ouster. One of those sentenced was Abdul Rahman al-Barr, a member of the Brotherhood's Guidance Council, the movement's executive board.

Mohamed Abdel-Maqoud, a well-known Salafi preacher who fled to Qatar after Mursi was toppled, was also sentenced in absentia.

Death sentence recommendations in Egypt are passed on to the country's grand mufti, the highest religious authority, for his review. The court can ignore his opinion and its rulings can be appealed.

Judge Hassan Fareed said the verdict for the remaining defendants would be announced at a hearing on 5 July.

Those 38 defendants include the Islamist movement's General Guide Mohamed Badie and senior member Mohamed El-Beltagy, along with former ministers from Mursi's government.

Al-Barr, a Muslim scholar, was nominated by the Brotherhood for the influential position of grand mufti, the country's top cleric, during Mursi's year in office.

"Down with the military court!" shouted the defendants in the courtroom. Speaking from the cage where defendants are held in Egyptian courtrooms, Beltagy yelled condemnations against the judiciary, which he said was serving Egypt's militarised state.

He was given a one-year prison sentence in April for insulting the judiciary, the first sentence handed to a leader of the organisation since it was outlawed.

Egypt's biggest political force until last year, the Brotherhood has been driven underground and declared a terrorist organization.—*Reuters*

Akshay Kumar: Self defence school for women my way of paying back to society



Akshay says the initiative is not for personal gain.—PTI

MUMBAI, 8 June — Bollywood's action hero Akshay Kumar, who has started a school with Aditya Thackeray to train women in self-defence, says the initiative is not for personal gain, but to give back to the society.

"We are here to give something to the society. There is no monetary gain from it. I am doing it because I have earned a lot in

life due to martial arts and it is my way to give back to the society," the actor, who is trained in martial arts and has a black belt in taekwondo, told reporters here at a Press conference on Friday.

Akshay has also promised active participation in the training sessions.

"Whenever I will get time and if I'm in Mumbai, I would teach martial arts

to them (the women). I am starting the whole thing on 29 July," said the actor, who is set to go away on a holiday soon, to return in time for the training sessions.

Akshay's latest film *Holiday* released on Friday, and he will soon start shooting for *Singh Is Bling* with Kareena Kapoor.

PTI

Jane Fonda honoured with AFI Lifetime Achievement Award



Michael Douglas presented Jane Fonda with the award.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 8 June — Veteran actress Jane Fonda has become the 42nd recipient of the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award.

Meryl Streep, Sally Field, Sandra Bullock, Lily Tomlin and Cameron Diaz were among the actresses saluting the 76-year-old Oscar winner, who accepted the honour at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre, reported *People* magazine.

Accepting the award, Fonda said, "I'm so happy to add another woman's name to the list." She also offered a bit of advice for the roomful of Hollywood celebrities. "Ask questions, stay curious. It's much more important to be interested than to be interesting."

Michael Douglas, who received the honour in 2009, presented Fonda with the award. But first he said that while working with her on 1979's *The China Syndrome*, "I learned that not only is Jane an amazing actress, but she is the world's greatest multitasker."

"She was simultaneously an actress, she was a mom, she was a fitness expert and a brave, very courageous political activist. So, deep down, who really is Jane Fonda? She is one of a kind," he said.

Fonda may have been following in the footsteps of her father, Henry Fonda, the sixth recipient of the AFI's award in 1978, but as Douglas put it, "Jane, you are true film royalty, not through birth, but through your talent."—PTI

First lady, Bill Clinton herald Maya Angelou as force in history

WINSTON-SALEM (NC), 8 June — First lady Michelle Obama remembered poet, author and civil rights champion Maya Angelou on Saturday as a dominant cultural force who taught black women and people of all races to celebrate their own worth and beauty.

Obama credited the writer's works, including her pioneering 1969 autobiography "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," with helping carry a young black girl from the South Side of Chicago to the White House.

"She celebrated black women's beauty like no one ever had before," Obama said to more than 2,000 people at Angelou's private memorial service in North

Carolina. "She told us our worth had nothing to do with what the world might say." Former President Bill Clinton, media magnate Oprah Winfrey and actress Cicely Tyson also honored Angelou during the service at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, where she lived and taught for three decades.

Angelou was 86 when she died at her home on 28 May after years of failing health. Her only child, son Guy B Johnson, said she never lost her mental acuity. The tribute to her was celebratory and solemn. Winfrey and Tyson each wept over the loss of their "rock," while rousing performances by singers Lee Ann Womack, BeBe



US poet Maya Angelou

Winans and Alyson Williams brought the audience to their feet.

Speakers recalled the courageous spirit that allowed Angelou to overcome rape and racism during her childhood in the segregated South and produce a vast body of work that includes reading list staples in American

classrooms. The voice she found after years of not speaking due to her abuse was one of rare power and clarity, Clinton said. Angelou wrote the poem "On the Pulse of Morning" and read it at Clinton's first presidential inauguration in 1993.

"She had the voice of God, and he decided he wanted it back," Clinton said. Angelou wrote more than 30 books of fiction, poetry and memoir during her prodigious career. She also was a Tony-nominated stage actress, Grammy Award winner for three spoken-word albums, civil rights activist, streetcar conductor, singer, dancer, movie director and playwright.—Reuters

Jeremy Renner returns to join Tom Cruise, Simon Pegg in Mission: Impossible 5



Actor Jeremy Renner

LOS ANGELES, 8 June — Actor Jeremy Renner has confirmed that he will return with Tom Cruise and Simon Pegg for another adventure in *Mission: Impossible 5*.

In an interview with Yahoo, the actor was asked whether he might consider joining HBO's *True Detective*. Renner then pointed out that he had a busy schedule which will prevent him from doing the show, reported the *Wrap*.

"I'm kind of strapped time-wise doing *Avengers*

2 and *Mission: Impossible 5* is rearing its head, and then they want to do another *Bourne* movie," Renner said.

"Even if I really wanted to do it, which I don't, I couldn't," he added.

The fifth film in the *Mission: Impossible* series will be directed by Christopher McQuarrie, based on a screenplay by Drew Pearce. Produced by Skydance Productions, the Paramount Pictures release will release in 2015.

PTI

Riteish, Genelia Deshmukh expecting first child

NEW DELHI, 8 June — Bollywood actors Riteish and Genelia Deshmukh are expecting their first child. An excited Riteish confirmed the news in an interview to the *The Times of India*. "Yes, she is pregnant and we are looking forward to the baby and are very excited about it," Riteish said when asked if the couple was expecting a visit from the stork.

The 35-year-old actor also opened up about his equation with his wife and revealed that they dated for 10 years before getting married in 2012. He said, "Genelia and I are one person, we are not two people. Falling in love with your friend and that becoming your life is the best thing that can happen to a person. I love her energy and her smile. She will always put me ahead of herself on any given day, which is endearing." He revealed that when they met for the first time, Genelia ignored him because she thought he would

be arrogant because he was the son of a chief minister.

"We both like simple things and are not materialistic. For example, we both would like to go and eat bhel-puri. She knows how to prioritise her life completely between her work and family, my time management is pathetic and something, both she and my mom don't like about me,"

gushed the doting husband.

In the interview, Riteish also spoke about his Bollywood journey and his relationship with father Vilasrao Deshmukh, who he lost to a liver ailment in 2012. He said, "I respected him immensely, seeing the respect people gave him. Nothing can be worse than losing your dad. I remember him everyday and there

has never been a single day when I have gone out and not heard stories about things he has done for people. After losing him, I understand why one suddenly grows up when you lose your father. Thankfully, I had both my brothers to hold my hands and I was holding theirs, which made it easier as you don't feel alone."—PTI



Riteish and Genelia were married in 2012.—PTI

GENERAL

Cotto clobbers Martinez, wins middleweight title



Sergio Martinez takes a punch from Miguel Cotto in the first round of WBC World Middleweight fight at Madison Square Garden. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 8 June — Miguel Cotto used a furious start to win the World Boxing Council middleweight championship as title holder Sergio Martinez of Argentina surrendered the crown when he did not answer the bell for the 10th round on Saturday. Cotto, with a ferocious left hook and punishing combinations, knocked Martinez down three times in the first round, and continued to dominate the scheduled 12-round bout at Madison Square Garden.

Martinez's corner waved an end to the fight as the bell rang for round 10.

The Argentine, who wore supportive sleeves on both his knees, was cut near his right eye and over his left eye and his knees buckled several times during the one-sided contest.

Cotto, 33, became the first Puerto Rican ever to win titles in four different weight divisions after previously holding the junior welterweight, welterweight and super welterweight

crowns.

"This is the biggest achievement I ever had in my career," said Cotto, who improved to 39-4 while the 39-year-old Martinez fell to 51-3-2.

Martinez said he never recovered from Cotto's stunning start.

"I got hit and I never recovered after that. I tried my best," said Martinez, speaking through a translator. "He caught me cold, he caught me hard at the beginning and I didn't recover

from it."

Martinez looked set to continue, despite buckling after another powerful left in the ninth round that the referee ruled a knockdown even though the Argentine did not touch the canvas. But his corner surrendered.

"More than a boxer, he's my brother and he's my friend," said trainer Pablo Sarmiento. Freddie Roach, Cotto's trainer, said the winner executed the game plan to perfection.

Reuters

Over 36 kg of marijuana captured in Macedonia

SKOPJE, 8 June — A total of 36.3 kg high-quality marijuana was captured in southeast Macedonia, said the Macedonian Interior Ministry on Saturday.

The marijuana was found in a Greek registered Peugeot Partner car by the customs officers at the crossing border to Greece

in Bogorodica, southeast of Macedonia. The car's driver is a 32-year-old Albanian citizen. A gun and some ammunition were also found in the car, according to the Interior Ministry.

The drug, originated from Albania, is designated to be transferred into western Europe via Macedonia.

This patch of drug is estimated to be valued at 100,000 euros (about 136,000 US dollars) if sold in the illegal market. The Albanian driver will be charged for illegal drug production and trade of narcotics as well as illegal possession of arms.

Xinhua

PKK militants in Turkey attack gendarmerie station

ANKARA, 8 June — A group of militants of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) attacked a gendarmerie station in eastern Turkey on Saturday evening, no casualties caused, private *Dogan* news agency reported on

Sunday.

The rebels opened fire from two different locations on the gendarmerie station in a village of Ovacik town of Tunceli Province with long barreled weapons, said the report, adding that the

clashes between rebels and soldiers lasted for 15 minutes.

The Turkish military has launched a large-scale operation against the PKK militants after the raid, said the report.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(9-6-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:45 am
- * Documentary
- 7:00 am
- * News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- * People Talks
- 8:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- * ASEAN Programme
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * Cartoon Series
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:25 am
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 11:00 am
- * Teleplay (Health)
- 12:00 pm
- * News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- * Myanmar Movie
- 2:35 pm
- * Song Programme
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:30 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Zoology)
- 4:50 pm
- * Teleplay (Health)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 5:15 pm
- * Songs of Yester Years
- 6:00 pm
- * News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- * Traditional Boxing
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:25 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- * Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- 9:30 pm
- * Documentary
- * Documentary
- * Mono Classical Songs

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-6-14 07:00am~10-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
- * World News
- * In The Studio : May Phyu Phyu
- * Local News
- * Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure - Inle lake
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * Glass Noodle Soup
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * Local News
- * Home Made Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations (Gem Stone Painting)
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Ja Som (The Myth)
- * Local News
- * Oboist and His Life
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * Cruising to Precious Islands (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Cosplayer
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Women's Forum 2013
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper



Croatian kids competes during the Dukatino Baby Marathon race at Zrinjevac park in Zagreb, Croatia, on 7 June, 2014. This is part of international street festival "Cest is d'Best" held here on Saturday. — XINHUA

Yadanabon FC stands first in first round of MNL 2014

The 11th fixture of the Myanmar National League 2014 continued at Aung San Stadium in Yangon on Saturday.

Manawmyay FC beat Zwegabin FC 1-0 in the match after both teams had made attacks each other. Although some first line-up players did not participate in the today's match, all the players of both teams showed off their skills with all-out efforts.

In the first, strikers of Manawmyay FC did not get the chance to score the goal into Zwegabin FC because the defensive zone of Zwegabin could be built completely. Their Zaw translated the corner kick into the goal through header in the 65th minute of the second half.

At the Youth Train-



ing Centre in Thuwunna, Kanbawza FC routed Chin United with 3-1 in the match. Kanbawza thumbed up with three goals came from Soe Min Oo, Min Min Tun and Maing Aik

Naing. The single goal of Chin United was scored by Matuna.

After the first round matches, Yadanabon FC stood first with 27 points, followed by Magway FC

24 points, Nay Pyi Taw FC with 22 points, defending champion Yangon with 21 points and Kanbawza FC 21 points.

News and Photo: Shine Htet Zaw

Scotland beat US in Cotter's first match in charge

HOUSTON, 8 June — Vern Cotter began his reign as Scotland coach with a solid three-try 24-6 win over the United States in Houston on Saturday.

Winger Tim Visser and fullback Stuart Hogg crossed for five pointers either side of a penalty try for the Scots, awarded after continued scrum infringements by the hosts close to their try line.

Scrumhalf Greg Laidlaw converted all three and added a penalty for the tourists, who were guilty of wasting several other chances to score in the Texas sunshine.

"Was very pleased to see the opportunities created and we will be working next on how we can get over the line and score more points," New Zealander Cotter, who joined from French club Clermont Auvergne, told reporters.

The Scots will next face Canada in Toronto on Saturday with the north Americans hoping to pick themselves up after a disappointing second-half collapse against Japan in their Pacific Nations Cup opener.

The Canadians led the Brave Blossoms 25-9 at the break in British Columbia but the Asian Five Nations champions roared back with three second-half tries to claim a 34-25 win.

Japan will face the US next week in California and can claim the Asia Pacific Conference with a record extending ninth consecutive victory.

In the Pacific Islands conference of the tier two tournament, Samoa and Tonga played out an 18-18 draw in Apia on Saturday.—Reuters

Shrieking Sharapova silences Halep in Paris



Simona Halep of Romania (L) poses with the trophy as French Tennis Federation (FFT) President Jean Gachassin applauds during the ceremony after being defeated by Maria Sharapova of Russia during their women's singles final match to win the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 7 June, 2014.—REUTERS

PARIS, 8 June — Maria Sharapova claimed her second French Open title when she floored Romanian fourth seed Simona Halep 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-4 after a

marathon encounter in Saturday's final.

The seventh seed from Russia claimed her fifth grand slam title after Wimbledon 2004, the 2006 US

Open, the 2008 Australian Open and her first Roland Garros title two years ago.

Halep, who had not lost a set entering the final, put up a great fight but bowed out after three hours and two minutes — the longest women's final in Paris since 1996.

Sharapova wrapped it up on her first match point when Halep could not return one of her opponent's sizzling forehands.

"This is the toughest grand slam final I have ever played. I respect Simona a lot, I thought she played an unbelievable match today," Sharapova said with smudged mascara under her eyes.

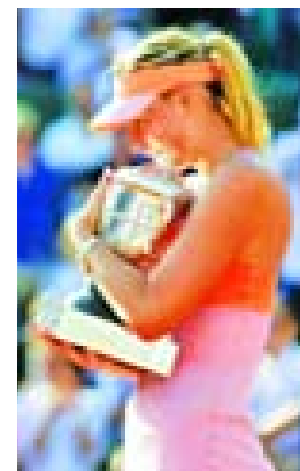
"I can't believe it, seven or eight years ago I would not have thought that I would win more Roland Garros than any other grand slam.

"To think I won it twice... I'm so emotional now I can't talk."

The wily Romanian had forced a decider just as Sharapova seemed to have ended her resistance.

The Russian, however, had won the last 19 three-set matches she had played on clay since losing to Justine Henin in the third round at Roland Garros in 2010 and made it 20 with a characteristically gutsy display. Halep, hoping to become the second Romanian woman to win a grand slam title after her manager Virginia Ruzici won at Roland Garros in 1978, broke in the first game of the match when Sharapova sent a backhand long despite having an open court at her disposal.

Sharapova unsettled Halep with her crosscourt shots but the Romanian



Maria Sharapova of Russia holds the trophy as she poses during the ceremony after defeating Simona Halep of Romania during their women's singles final match to win the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 7 June, 2014.—REUTERS

held on for 2-0.

The Russian bombarded Halep with powerful forehands and managed to break back for 2-2 on her fourth chance when Halep's crosscourt backhand went wide.

Sharapova's third double fault gave Halep another break point, which the Russian saved with another forehand winner down the line before holding for 3-2 after four deuces.

The Russian broke for 4-2, went to 5-2 and then lost two games before taking the set on her opponent's serve when Halep fired a crosscourt forehand wide.

Sharapova won the first game of the second set to love and broke in the second with the contest seemingly heading for a swift conclusion.

Reuters

FIFA instructor lauds introduction of Goal-line technology in World Cup

LAGOS, 8 June — FIFA instructor Adegboye Onigbinde on Saturday described the introduction of goal-line at the 2014 Brazil World Cup as a welcome development. Nigeria-born Onigbinde, former head coach of the Super Eagles, told reporters in Lagos that the introduction of the technology would clear all doubts about shoddy goals.

For the first time at a World Cup, the officials would be assisted by goal-line technology. The 2010 World Cup was a catalyst for the decision to adopt the technology after England was wrongly denied a goal in their round 16 tie against Germany, when Frank Lampard's goal was disallowed against Germany. According to



Onigbinde, there has been test runs in some FIFA competitions including the 2013 Confederation Cup. The new technology will give confidence to all participants, he added, noting that it will clear all doubts and it will also reduce controversies.

The 2014 World Cup kicks off on 12 June and ends on 13 July.—Xinhua

Van Persie undergoes tests in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 June — Robin van Persie reportedly underwent medical exams of his troublesome groin on Saturday, raising fresh doubts about his fitness just five days before the World Cup.

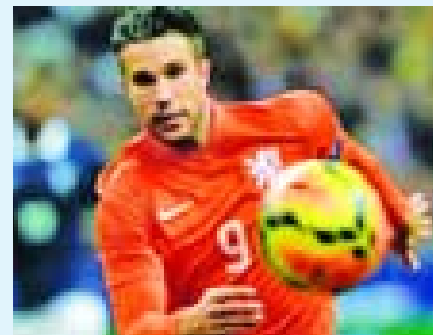
The 30-year-old was withdrawn at halftime during the Netherlands' 2-0 friendly victory over Wales on Wednesday.

Despite the move described as a precautionary measure to reporters, the Manchester United striker underwent tests near the team's base in Rio de Janeiro while the rest of the squad worked out in the gym.

"VanPersie is ok, today was only a light session. We will wait until tomorrow to evaluate him better," Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal was quoted saying by news portal Uol.

The Netherlands will begin their World Cup campaign against defending champions Spain in the northeastern city of Salvador on 13 June.

Their other Group B rivals are Australia and Chile.—Xinhua



Robin van Persie