

Union ministers discuss education and job creation on visit to Rakhine State



NAY PYI TAW, 13 June— Three union ministers visited Rakhine State on Friday to discuss regional development tasks with local authorities, including the improvement of school education and the creation

of jobs.

At a meeting with faculty members and students of Sittway University, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein urged school officials to implement reforms of the education sector to change the management system at universities and produce “more outstanding intellectuals” who will in future manage the resources of the state in a responsible manner.

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Union Ministers meet locals in Sittway for holding talks on development, education and security matters.

MNA

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Myanmar Railways to fence Yangon circle line to keep squatters out and avoid accidents

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 13 June— Myanmar Railways will build brick walls along the tracks of the Yangon circle line to put an end to squatting on railway property, reduce the number of accidents and keep the area clean, according to the MR's civil engineering department.

“We are hoping to complete the project this fiscal year,” U Maung Maung Than, assistance general manager of the department, told the NLM in a phone interview on Friday.

A budget of K 636.2 million has been allocated to fence the 45.9- kilometre Yangon circle line and its 39 stations. According to the department, tenders for erecting fences at the three sections of the loop network have been invited.

“A tender winner for fencing along the railroad between Hledan and Kamayut stations will be announced soon and con-



Insein railway station is one of the 39 stops on the Yangon circle line that will be fenced off to keep locals from crossing the tracks and leaving garbage on the property of the MR.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

struction work is expected to start before the end of this month,” said the official.

As erection of boundary marks for building

fences has been completed at three sections, fencing along the section between Kamayut and Thiri Myaing and the section between Tadagale and Kyaukyed-

win railway stations will follow, he added.

Upon completion of the project that will seal off rail property from residential areas. U Maung Maung

Than said the number of accidents should be reduced substantially as people won't be able to cross the tracks anymore, but will have to use bridges.

Statement of the Ministry of Health concerning food poisoning case in Zeyathiri orphanage in Toungoo

In the Street View Journal Vol-3, No-19 published on 26-5-2014, Sandi Tun and Phyu Phyu Khaing, based on an interview with Chairman U Ba Oak Khaing of the Consumer Protection Association, who said that food poisoning was caused by Deedo soft drinks, wrote the cover story “Ministry of Health and FDA responsible for food poisoning from imported Deedo soft drinks”.

The food poisoning case broke out in Zeyathiri fe-

male orphanage in Toungoo Township, Bago Region, on 19-5-2014. A total of 68 people suffered from food poisoning, with no fatalities. Forty-six of them were treated as outpatients and 22 as inpatients at Toungoo Hospital. It was found that Deedo soft drinks (pineapple and lychee) and rice noodles were served at the orphanage that morning. Officials took samples of the water used for making the soft drinks, as well as samples of vomit and feces of

the victims. The hands and nostrils of the people who had prepared the food were also examined, and tests conducted at the Public Health Laboratory.

According to the test results, the rice noodles contained a bacterium that caused the food poisoning and no bacteria were found in Deedo soft drinks, the water used in making the drinks and other things tested.

Therefore, it is announced that the cause of the food poisoning in the orphanage was the contaminated rice noodle dish and not Deedo soft drinks.

The Ministry of Health

Union minister inspects construction of roads, bridge in Thaton

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win visited the site for construction of the Border Region National Youths Development School in Thaton of Mon State on 7 June.

On 9 June, the Union minister inspected maintenance of Kawtkaw Bridge

linking the Mepale-Htiwagale-Tarlay road and the Htokawko-Kyawkho-Kawtkaw road. The bridge is financed through the border region development fund.

The Ministry of Border Affairs built the 17 miles long Mepale-Htiwagale road section as the

gravel road in 2012-13 fiscal year. The ministry is building the 30-mile long Htiwagale-tarkay road section in 2013-14 fiscal year. It plans to construct the 20-mile long Tarkay-Showhta road section in 2014-15 fiscal year.—MNA

Villagers in Mandalay receive permission to set up firewood plantations



Union Minister U Win Tun presents earthen stove to a local in NyaungU Township.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun presented documents to locals of Kabani and Yedwin-nyaungbin villages in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region on Thursday, allowing them to set up five firewood plantations.

So far, a total of 300 acres in Kabani Village have been used for planting firewood, financed by the Japan International Forestry Promotion & Co-

operation Center-JIFPRO.

During the event, the Union Minister also donated stationery to students of Maythintwin Village before he attended the Chhaukkhan-ZeO-Ywathaaye connecting road opening ceremony in ZeO village in Mandalay Region.

On his tours of Mandalay, U Win Tun also urged residents of several villages to participate in the maintenance of forests.

MNA

Confiscated farmlands handed over to local owners

ZIGON, 13 June—A ceremony to hand over confiscated farmland to farmers took place at the hall of the General Administration Department in Zigon Township of Bago Region on Thursday.

Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Tin Ko Oo explained rules and regulations for farming rights, with departmental officials and local authorities returning farmland to their rightful owners.—Township IPRD



Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials on 12 June. (News reported)—MNA

Economic policies of the State discussed



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw holds talks with Lt General (Rtd) Sir David Bill of the Royal College of Defence of Britain.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw held a talk with Lt General (Rtd) Sir David Bill of the Royal College of Defence of Britain at the ministry on Thursday.

Union ministers discuss...

(from page 1)
Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane urged students to “work hard” to help speed up the nation’s development.

In a meeting later with locals in Sittway, U Soe Thane said that priority will

be given to the improvement of the education standard of local people in addition to the creation of job opportunities and regional development. Union Minister U Aung Kyi, meanwhile, told locals that efforts are being made for transforming the analogue to a digital system

They discussed four economic policies of the State, four tasks of people-centred development, process of rural development.

ment and poverty alleviation, seven priorities for enhancement of living standard of the people, comprehensive national development plan, and foreign direct investment.—MNA

in broadcasting TV channels. Now, FM radio stations are under construction in the cities along coasts to help raise awareness of natural disasters.

Another plan is to establish digital libraries and to deliver dailies to rural places in time, the union minister said.—MNA

ment and poverty alleviation, seven priorities for enhancement of living standard of the people, comprehensive national development plan, and foreign direct investment.—MNA

Students can now receive exam result documents to apply for college

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 13 June—Matriculation students who have passed the examination in the 2013-2014 academic year can now start applying for their exam result documents earlier in order to be able to enroll at

Students who passed matriculation examination are filling in application forms to receive exam result documents at MICT in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

university, with officials saying they should send their application to the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology-MICT in Kamayut Township in Yangon, which is responsible for the whole country. According to an official, the department started issuing on 10 June 2012 and 2013 exam result documents to students who can pick up the forms at the MICT, with students requiring to buy a K400-stamp to be able to receive their mark sheets.

ceive their mark sheets.

Many students in Yangon have expressed their wish to attend the University of Distance Education as they want to receive international diplomas from non-government schools. According to figures by the examination board, more than 480,000 students took the 2013 exam across the country, with over 170,000 students passing the exam. Most distinction holders came from the Yangon Region.—NLM



NATIONAL

Request to allow representatives to take off turban during Hluttaw sessions rejected



Friday's session of Upper House in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June — A Lower House representative's request to allow male representatives to take off their turbans after the speaker has taken his seat at the Hluttaw sessions was rejected by a member

of the health promotion committee on Friday. The lower house representative said that wearing turbans

for a long time during Hluttaw sessions is harmful to

health.

However, the health promotion committee member said that wearing turbans is a tradition in Myanmar and male representatives are required to wear turbans on their head as a token of respect, auspiciousness, nobility, dignity and grace. Therefore, it is a historical tradition for parliament representatives to wear turbans as an insignia.

The member of the health promotion committee continued to say that people consider those who wear turbans as the ones working in the interest of the country and honouring the national tradition.

From a health point of view, the head might feel tight from wearing turbans and heat might be kept inside, causing hair loss, but

this is not a serious health problem considering that the tradition should be honoured, the health promotion committee member pointed out. Dr Maung Maung Wint of Health Promotion Committee submitted a proposal to debate the Myanmar Medical Council Bill, with the Lower House approving to debate it. At the Upper House session on Friday, deputy ministers answered questions concerning the construction of roads and schools in the constituencies of representatives who raised the question.

The Upper House also agreed to debate a proposal urging the union government to lay down a policy to address inflation, submitted by Representative Dr Myint Kyi of No 8 Constituency in Yangon Region.—MNA

World Bank supports Myanmar with agricultural growth

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation met Mr Paul van Hofwegen of the World Bank and Mr Sergyi Zorya, senior agricultural economist at the Sustainable Development Unit, at his office here on Thursday, officials said.

They discussed matters related to agricultural development projects to be initiated in Myanmar as part of World Bank's low-interest loans designed to help boost the agricultural sector.

The World Bank officials briefed the union minister on the United Nations Millennium Development

Goals dedicated to fight poverty and prioritize projects that ensure long-term and immediate benefits.

U Myint Hlaing expressed his thanks to the World Bank, saying that he appreciated WB's generous offers by placing trust in his government's reform process for agricultural development.

In line with the UN Millennium Development Goals, steps are being taken to reduce the percentage of poverty in Myanmar from 26 to 16, as formerly agreed by experts from the World Bank and the ministry.

He continued that under the UN Food Security

Goal, experts from both sides have listed areas with dams in order of priority to ensure the cultivation of major crops, deal with possible food shortages resulting from changes in weather patterns, and meet the food demand for the increasing population.

World Bank's loans will help farm produce grow, thereby ensuring food security and improving the living standards of farmers with low incomes, the union minister said.

The WB officials stressed the importance of transparency in the use of loans for agricultural development.

MNA

Media training course with U.S. experts starts in Nay Pyi Taw



Official speaking at media training course organized by Information Ministry.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—With the cooperation of the Ministry of Information and the U.S. Embassy, a three-day media training course began

on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw, with an opening speech by Director-General U Ye Tint of the Information and Public Relations Department. On Friday, Trainer Ms. Margueite Hoxie Sullivan conducted a course on press releases and press statement to 16 trainees from the ministries.

According to an official, the trainer will also give lectures on camera, interview methods and conducting press conferences for spokespersons on 16 June and media management for international meetings on 17 June. The course is supported by the United States Agency for International Development-USAID.—MNA

Union Ministers meet with UN agencies and NGOs



Union Minister U Soe Thane and union ministers meet officials of UN agencies in Sittway.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June — Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Aung Kyi, U Khin Yi and Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin met with UN

agencies and NGOs and discussed the situation in Rakhine State at the Union EEC Office in Rakhine State on Friday. Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Khin Yi urged the agencies and NGOs to provide humanitarian aid without bias and to cooperate with local people peacefully.

The UN agencies and the NGOs reported to the union ministers on their security situation during their stay in Rakhine State and matters related to their aid operations. The union ministers have arranged monthly EEC meetings with NGOs on regional development tasks. —MNA

Stability and development of Rakhine State discussed by union ministers during visit

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi met officials from Sittway Township in Rakhine State on Friday to discuss plans to restore peace and stability and the development of the state.

At the meeting in Sittway, Union Minister U Khin Yi elaborated on the definition of "citizen", the

census-taking process in Rakhine State, and citizenship security tasks in Myebon Township.

He also "clarified" other issues, including issuing visas on arrival under government policy, the national reconciliation process for Myanmar, and implementation of Moe Pwint-6 plan of the Ministry of Immigration and Population to issue citizenship security cards to eligible persons in the state.—MNA

Talks on consumer protection issues to be held in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 June—A talk on consumer protection, jointly organized by the Department of Commercial and Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce and Mandalay City Development Committee, will be held at the hall of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the fourth floor of Ya-

danabon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday, officials said.

Director of Food and Drug Administration Dr Tun Zaw gave talks on tests of foods at food and drug administration branches in border areas, and taking sample foods from the market, the director of Department of Commercial

and Consumer Affairs on consumer protection and head of the Mandalay Region department U Swe Tin Kyu, on educative works being undertaken at markets, department stores, food production factories and oil mills for production of safety and quality products.

*Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)*

Nawngkhio's rural people get easy access to reading dailies

NAWNGHKIO, 13 June—People from 10 villages in Nawngkhio Township of northern Shan State can now read newspapers namely the Myanmar Alinn, the Mir-

ror and the New Light of Myanmar, as newspaper agent U Zaw Myo Lwin of Nilar Pwint fuel station delivers dailies to local readers in the morning.

“We live in rural are-

as, too far from Nawngkhio. So we missed out on the chance to read newspapers due to the poor transport system.

As our village is located beside the motor road, entrepreneurs visit here to invest in the establishment of sugar mills, cement plants and other businesses. In the future, our area will become a town and newspapers will be essential for all,” said local Ko Thant Sin of Bantbwe village.

*Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



Drain dredged to benefit over 300 acres of farmland in Kalay Tsp

KALAY, 13 June—Overflow of Thantada Creek in the rainy season destroys crops on over 300 acres of farmlands between Myasidaw and Mingala Uyin monasteries in Mingala Uyin Ward of Kalay, Sagaing Region.

Local farmers have been facing difficulties to grow crops on their farmlands for four years.

With the help of Buddhist monks from two monasteries and contributions of 36 farmers, a 1,000-foot-long drain is

now being dredged to link Thantada Creek.

Upon completion, farmlands and crops will be free from floods, said local farmer U Maung Gyi.

Under the instruction of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye,

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo inspected progress of dredging the drain on Wednesday and urged local farmers to grow monsoon crops in time.

Joe Net



Copy books, computers, school uniforms provided to students



PADAUNG, 13 June—The donation of copy books and computers was held at Basic Education High School in Padaung of Bago Region on Thursday.

Bago Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Kyaw Myint presented copy books and one set of computer, Township Administrator U Win Zaw

Htwe, school uniforms and Kyaw Soe Linn (Singapore Land Authority) K1.8 million and four sets of computer to the school officials.—*Aung Myint*

Pyapon BEHS No 1 needs traffic rules enforcement

PYAPON, 13 June—Basic Education High School No 1 in Pyapon of Ayeyawady Region has admitted a larger number of students than BEHS No 2

and No 3 this year, with the increase of ferries, tuk-tuks and motorcycles to drop off the children at school causing traffic congestion around the school.

“My children are learning at Pyapon BEHS No 1. The road to the school is very narrow due

to the parking of school ferries. So students face traffic danger frequently,” said a parent.

Local people said that authorities must assign traffic police to ensure traffic rules enforcement around the school.

Chan Thar (Pyapon)

Taikkyi Tsp Forest Department ready to distribute saplings to people



TAIKKYI, 13 June—Taikkyi Township Forest Department of Yangon Region nurtures saplings at the nurseries to distribute them to the local people in the 2014 monsoon season to establish village-owned firewood plantations.

The department grows 150,000 saplings at Lathagon, Okkan and Phalon nurseries. So far, the department has distributed over 8,000 saplings to local people against the target of 118,794 saplings. Moreover, about 37,500 saplings are being nurtured under the arrangement of

Yangon Region government.

Taikkyi Township has grown 256,200 saplings near 85,400 households and 398,400 hardwood saplings near 19,200 households from the 2009-2010 to 2013-14 fiscal year, officials said.

The Forest Department has urged locals to green their environments as part of efforts for environmental conservation, said Staff Officer U Thein Naing Kywe of the department.

*Tun Hlaing
(Myaing)*

REGIONAL

Interim Thai government by August: military leader

BANGKOK, 13 June — The head of the junta that seized power in Thailand last month said on Friday that an interim government would be set up by August, the first time he has given a clear date on delegating any sort of power in the country.

General Prayuth Chan-ocha, in an address to senior military officials, announced the date as part of a three-phase plan of reconciliation, formation of a government and elections to be rolled out by the ruling National Council for Peace and Order.

“A government will be set up by August, or at the very latest September,” Prayuth told a meeting devoted to the 2015 national budget.

The army took power on 22 May in a bloodless coup after six months of sometimes violent street protests pitting mainly rural supporters of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra against her Bangkok-based, royalist opponents.

Prayuth repeated in his address that a temporary constitution would be drafted within three months. It would take at least a year until a new general election



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks during a meeting with Thai ambassadors at the Royal Thai Army Headquarters in Bangkok on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

could take place.

“In the next three months we must do everything properly, whether it is the constitution or other matters. Everything for the first phase should be complete by August,” Prayuth said.

Since taking power, the military has silenced

dissent and rounded up at least 300 politicians, activists and journalists. Many are linked to exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, alleged by his opponents to have directed from abroad the government headed by his sister Yingluck.

On Thursday, police

charged prominent activist Sombat Boonngamanong with inciting unrest, violating cyber laws and defying the junta’s orders. He had spearheaded an online campaign promoting street protests against the coup.

Thailand has been polarized for nearly a decade between supporters of Yin-

gluck Shinawatra and her brother, former telecommunications tycoon Thaksin who was ousted by a 2006 coup. The country remains split broadly between supporters of Thaksin in the north and northeast and the Bangkok-based royalist groups that see Thaksin and his policies of benefits

to disadvantaged voters as a threat to the old order.

A court found Yingluck guilty of abuse of power on 7 May, for transferring the country’s security chief to another post so that a relative could benefit from related job moves, and ordered her to step down after months of street protests aimed at toppling her government.

Military leader Prayuth says he stepped in to restore order and has made the economy and the welfare of farmers a priority. The army has begun payments to hundreds of thousands of farmers under a costly rice-buying scheme, one of the key policies that brought Yingluck to power in 2011.

Prayuth told Friday’s meeting that the military had no plans to maintain the scheme. “Today, if you ask me, there will definitely be no rice pledging scheme, but whether we have one in the future or not is a different matter,” he said.

Opponents said the scheme ran up huge losses. Farmers are owed more than \$2.5 billion under the programme, a key element in a court ruling that removed Yingluck from office.—Reuters

Passenger ferry crash injures 70 in Macao

HONG KONG, 13 June — At least 70 passengers were injured after a Turbojet ferry hit a breakwater near Macao on Friday, according to authorities and media reports.

Most of the injured — 45 men and 25 women — suffered minor injuries, the Macao government said in a statement. Hong Kong’s TVB said one crew member was seriously injured.

The catamaran Cailhas, run by Shun Tak-China Travel Ship Management Ltd, left Hong Kong at around 8:30 am for Macao and was carrying 220 passengers and 13 crew members when it crashed shortly before reaching the pier in Macao, Macao’s Marine and Water Bureau spokesman Eric Lam said.

The cause of crash was being investigated, he added.

A spokeswoman for Shun Tak-China said among the injured people are two South Korean and one Japanese visitors.

“There were a few bumps and the boat dipped and tilted, some passen-

gers were bumped off their seats,” Hong Kong’s ATV quoted a passenger as saying.

The company operates passenger ferries between the two ports at a 15-minute frequency in peak hours. Another catamaran, Universal MK 2013, collided last month with a

freighter 30 minutes after departing Hong Kong. The accident left 35 people injured.

Eighty-seven people aboard Macao-bound commuter boat Madeira, also operated by Shun Tak-China, were injured after it hit an unidentified object at sea in the early hours of 29

November last year.

A collision between a chartered boat and a passenger ferry off Hong Kong’s Lamma Island in October 2012 left 39 people dead and some 90 people injured, one of the territory’s deadliest sea accidents.

Kyodo News



Rescuers transfer an injured passenger at a ferry terminal in Macao, south China, on 13 June, 2014.—XINHUA

South Korea’s Park replaces finance minister in cabinet reshuffle



South Korean President Park Geun-hye

SEOUL, 13 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye replaced her finance minister with a three-term member of parliament and close policy confidant in a cabinet reshuffle on Friday in the aftermath of a ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people.

Choi Kyung-hwan, 59, has previously served as industry and energy minister and ruling party parliamentary floor leader and is seen as having extensive experience in both national politics and the bureaucracy.

Choi, who will serve as deputy prime minister, is expected to spearhead Park’s plan to bring innovation to boost Asia’s fourth-largest

economy by focusing on stimulating domestic demand and creating jobs.

Choi inherits a tough role of driving Park’s three-year economic revival plan to shifting the focus of economic policy away from backing big exporting industries to strengthening domestic business.

“I will try hard to help revive the livelihoods of economic players,” Choi told reporters after the nomination, but declined to discuss details such as his view of foreign exchange and interest rate policies. “I think it’s important (for me) to produce achievements in the government’s efforts to further reform,” he said.

Park named new ministers to six other cabinet posts including science, education and safety and government administration.

All nominee cabinet members have appear at parliamentary hearings, although the assembly cannot block appointments except for the nominee prime minister.

Reuters

Thousands of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon forced to work

BEIRUT, 13 June — At least 50,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are working, often in dire conditions and for 12 hours a day, to pay for food and shelter for their families, aid organization CARE said.

More than a million Syrian refugees live in Lebanon, making up a quarter of the country's population, having fled a civil war in its fourth year, which has left more than 160,000 dead.

Only 50 percent of Syrian refugee children in the region attend school, and only 30 percent in Lebanon, CARE said.

Children working as street vendors say they are earning less than \$5 (2.9 pounds) a day. Others work at coffee shops and markets or on farms and construction sites. Some say they commute for hours on buses into the capital Beirut.

Mohammad, a 14-year-old shoe shiner who



A Syrian refugee child works with his father in the south of Sidon, southern Lebanon on 30 April, 2014. —REUTERS

fled Syria a year ago, said he makes about \$6 a day, picking up work as he walks up and down the streets of Beirut's Hamra shopping district.

Mohammad said the money goes towards feed-

ing his younger siblings. Asked if he would like to return to school, he said: "God willing, when I return to Syria."

Other children beg, often with family members, in Hamra and others pack

bags in minimarkets or work as car valets.

In Jordan, where nearly 600,000 Syrian refugees live, child labour has doubled nationwide to 60,000 since the start of the war, CARE said this week.

The group is giving cash to families in Jordan and Lebanon, which has banned refugee camps, to allow children to attend school rather than work, but funds are insufficient, CARE said. "The conditions are harsh and safety and security of the children is not guaranteed," Johanna Mitscherlich, Regional Emergency Communications Coordinator for CARE Jordan, said in an email, noting that housing is inadequate and that families struggle by on one or two meals a day.

"There are also quite a few children who have injuries from the war or who are still traumatised and can therefore neither work nor go to school," she said.

Thursday marks International Day against Child Labour with about 168 million children working worldwide, down by a third since 2000, according to the International Labour Organization.—Reuters

NATO Secretary General says sees no role for alliance in Iraq



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

MADRID, 13 June — NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Thursday he saw no role for Western alliance in Iraq after Islamist militants seized swathes of territory in the country and took 80 Turkish citizens hostage.

"NATO's role is the defence of our allies... and we don't have a mandate or request on Iraq," said Rasmussen, who also condemned the violence and called for immediate release of the hostages.

"We urge the hostage takers to release the hostages immediately. Nothing can justify this criminal act ... I don't see a role for NATO in Iraq, but of course we follow the situation closely and urge all parties involved to stop the violence," he said during a conference in Madrid.

NATO ambassadors held an emergency meeting at Turkey's request on Wednesday at which Turkey briefed the other allies on the situation in the Iraqi city of Mosul and the hostages.

Rasmussen also said that Spain had agreed to send four fighter aircraft to reinforce NATO air patrols over the Baltic states this autumn.

It was another step by NATO allies to reinforce security in its eastern European member states, which have been alarmed by Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

A number of NATO allies, including the United States, Britain, Denmark, France, Canada and Germany, have offered extra fighters to patrol the skies over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania or elsewhere in eastern Europe.

Reuters

Resurgent violence underscores morphing of al-Qaeda threat

WASHINGTON / ISLAMABAD, 13 June —In Iraq, an al-Qaeda splinter group is threatening Baghdad after seizing control of two cities. In Pakistan, the Taliban attacked a major airport twice in one week. And in Nigeria, the Islamist militant group Boko Haram was blamed for another mass kidnapping.

A cluster of militant attacks over the past week is a reminder of how the once-singular threat of al-Qaeda has changed since the killing of Osama bin Laden, morphing or splintering into smaller, largely autonomous Islamist factions that in some cases are

now overshadowing the parent group. Each movement is different, fueled by local political and sectarian dynamics. But this week's violence is a measure of their ambition and the long-term potential danger they pose to the West.

Between 2010 and 2013, the number of al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda-related groups rose 58 percent and the number of "Salafi jihadists" — violent proponents of an extreme form of Islam — more than doubled, according to a report by the RAND Corp think tank. Daniel Benjamin, former US State Department counterterrorism coordi-

nator under President Barack Obama, said he was "considerably more optimistic 18 months ago than ... now" about the threat posed by al-Qaeda-related groups. Few examples are more vivid than the fall of northern Iraq, which has raised the prospect of the country's disintegration as a unified state. Sunni insurgents known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, seized the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday, and then overran an area further south on Wednesday, capturing the city of Tikrit and threatening Iraq's capital, Baghdad.

Reuters



Fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) stand guard at a checkpoint in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Iran says it is redesigning Arak reactor to cut plutonium capacity



A view of the Arak heavy-water project 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran on 26 Aug, 2006.—REUTERS

DUBAI / VIENNA, 13 June—Iran is "busy redesigning" a planned research reactor to sharply cut its potential output of plutonium, a senior Iranian official said in comments that seemed to address a thorny issue in negotiations with big powers.

The future of the Arak plant is among several sticking points that Iran and six world powers need to resolve if they are to reach a deal by late July on limiting Iran's controversial nuclear programme in exchange for an end to sanctions.

The main stumbling block is the permissible scope of Iran's uranium enrichment. The lack of progress in bridging negotiating gaps has left the self-imposed 20 July deadline for a long-term settlement looking increasingly unrealistic, and Iran has said a six-month extension may be necessary. The West is worried that Arak, once operational, could provide a significant supply of plutonium — one of two materials, along with highly enriched uranium, that can produce a nuclear explosion.

Iran says the 40-megawatt Arak reactor is intended to produce isotopes for cancer and other medical treatments. It agreed to halt installation work at Arak under a six-month interim deal struck with the powers last November that was geared to buy time for negotiations on a comprehensive accord.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Women with breast cancer don't get enough exercise: study



NEW YORK, 13 June — Only one in three women living with breast cancer is meeting current physical activity guidelines, suggests a new study.

African American women, who tend to have higher rates of death from breast cancer than white

women, were less likely to meet the guidelines.

"Physical activity is thought to lower the risk of other diseases among breast cancer survivors, increase their overall quality of life and reduce their mortality from breast cancer and other diseases,"

Andrew Olshan told Reuters Health in an email.

He worked on the study at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

About one in eight US women will develop breast cancer at some point in

Apps for gay, bisexual men tied to STI risk

NEW YORK, 13 June — Gay and bisexual men who use smartphone apps to meet other men for sex are at an increased risk of some sexually transmitted infections, suggests a new study.

Men who used the apps were more likely to be diagnosed with gonorrhea and Chlamydia than men who met potential partners in other ways, researchers report in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections*.

"We want to make people aware of the risks and benefits with any new technology," Matthew Beymer said. "We just want gay and bisexual men to love safely and love carefully." Beymer is the study's lead author and an epidemiologist at the Los Angeles LGBT Centre.

He and his colleagues write that apps such as

Grindr and SCRUFF have become increasingly popular among members of the gay and bisexual community since their introduction in 2009. The apps, which are marketed toward men who have sex with men, use the GPS capabilities of smartphones to find other people nearby using the same apps. Similar products exist for people seeking opposite-sex partners, and for women looking for other women.

While people may use the apps for various purposes, many use them to find sexual partners.

In August 2011, the Los Angeles LGBT Centre began asking its clients — specifically men who have sex with men — about their use of these types of apps on health questionnaires.

For the new study, the researchers compared rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among men who reported different types of networking, such as with apps, websites and in-person meetings.

They had data on 7,184 men who visited the clinic between August 2011 and January 2013.

About 34 percent of the men said they only met sexual partners through in-person methods, such as at bars or the gym.

About 22 percent said they only connected with men over the Internet and 17 percent said they met men only through apps. The rest used a combination of methods.

Reuters

Asia stocks fall, oil up on escalating Iraq war

TOKYO, 13 June — Asian stocks slid and crude oil scaled nine-month highs on Friday as escalating civil war in Iraq hit risk appetite.

The yen benefited from its safe-haven status and a decline in US Treasury yields following soft US data that dented economic optimism.

Sunni Islamist militants have extended their advance south towards Baghdad prompting President Barack Obama to warn of possible US military intervention, while Iraqi Kurdish forces took control of the oil hub of Kirkuk amid the chaos.

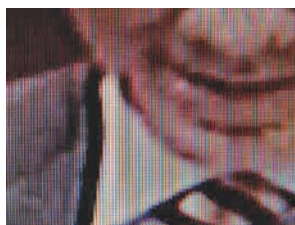
Weaker-than-expected US retail sales and jobless claims data released on Thursday further tempered economic optimism felt earlier in the week that had propelled Wall Street to record highs.

Taking its cue from an overnight slide in US stocks, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS shed 0.4 percent. The index, which hit a three-year high on Monday, was still poised to scrape up 0.1 percent this week. Tokyo's Nikkei .N225 lost 0.6 percent, on course to end the week on a 1.3 percent loss.

"Geopolitical tensions in Iraq have hit risk appetites. People are concerned as developments in Iraq could have a big impact on oil prices and the US market, and there could be repercussions in Japan," said Hiromichi Tamura, chief strategist at Nomura Securities in Tokyo.

US crude CLC1 rose 73 cents to \$107.26 a barrel, after going as high as \$107.68, its highest since September.—Reuters

Sharp to boost output of advanced liquid crystal panels



OSAKA, 13 June — Sharp Corp will boost its production of advanced liquid crystal panels by investing several billion yen amid strong demand from Chinese manufacturers, sources close to the matter said on Thursday.

The struggling Japanese electronics maker will start production in July of

crystal panels

low temperature polysilicon liquid crystal panels with what it says is the highest level of resolution in the world.

Sharp aims to increase the production capacity at its plant in Taki, Mie Prefecture, in central Japan by about 10 percent while upgrading its facilities in stages through June next year. The investment could eventually amount to 10 billion yen (\$98 million).

The company has faced growing calls from Chinese manufacturers such as major telecommu-

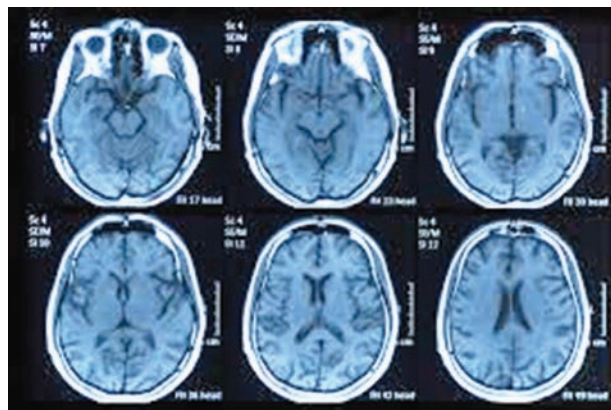
nications equipment maker ZTE Corp. for liquid crystal panels for their high-end smartphones as well as tablets.

Sharp developed low temperature polysilicon around 2000 and the material helped the company make a panel with a pixel density of well over 500, compared with 300 to 400 with its current main product "Igzo" panels.

Sharp plans to supply low temperature polysilicon for luxury products and Igzo for mass-production models, the sources said.

Kyodo News

Brain Scans detect early signs of Parkinson's



LONDON, 13 June — British researchers have developed a simple and quick brain-scanning technique that offers promise for early diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, providing hope of tackling the disease before it starts to cause symptoms, it was announced on Thursday.

The research team demonstrated that their new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) approach can detect people who have early-stage Parkinson's disease with nearly 90 percent accuracy, according to their paper published in US scientific journal *Neurology*.

The team compared 19 people with early-stage

Parkinson's disease and 19 healthy people, matched for age and gender. They found that Parkinson's patients had much lower connectivity in the basal ganglia.

The researchers were able to define a threshold level of connectivity. Fall-

ing below this level was able to predict who had Parkinson's disease with 89.5 percent specificity, meaning only a few healthy people were wrongly diagnosed.

"At the moment we have no way to predict who is at risk of Parkinson's dis-

ease in the vast majority of cases," Clare Mackay, one of the joint lead researchers at Oxford University, said.

"We are excited that this MRI technique might prove to be a good marker for the earliest signs of Parkinson's. The results are very promising," she added.

Parkinson's disease is characterised by tremor, slow movement, and stiff and inflexible muscles. It's thought to affect around 1 in 500 people in Britain. There is currently no cure for the disease, although there are treatments that can reduce symptoms and maintain a good quality of life for as long as possible.

Xinhua



A pedestrian looks at an electronic board showing the stock market indices of various countries outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 2 June, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 14 June, 2014

Tourism industry has huge potential

By KyawThura

Most Southeast Asian countries make tourism a mainstay of their economy. Sadly, Myanmar used to be an exception. Nevertheless, as the saying goes 'It's never too late to mend', Myanmar is preparing itself to catch up with other countries in attracting more tourists to earn more foreign currency. In other words, tourism is the best of all foreign income generators. Take two Asian countries.

For most of the tourists visiting Cambodia, cultural heritage sites such as Angkor Wat are top tour-

ist destinations. Cambodia announced that it welcomed more than 4.2 million tourists in 2013, a 17% increase from the previous year, earning US\$ 2.5 billion, which accounted for 16% of its GDP, and created 400,000 jobs for people. This enormous revenue almost equals the total foreign income Myanmar earns from a year's sale of natural gas, which is estimated to stand at around \$3 billion.

Another country earning a lot of US dollars from the tourism sector is Nepal. As is known to all, Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, and other ice-capped tall mountains act as magnets to tourists and mountaineers from all over the world.

With eight of the highest mountains in the world in Nepal, the country is a paradise for people seeking adventure. It earns Nepal \$500 million every year. Again, that huge amount of foreign income equals Myanmar's total income generated from a year-long export of fishery products.

One thing for sure is that these countries do not

boast as many tourist attractions as Myanmar. Aside from the countless ancient sites here, Myanmar's scenery is breathtaking, and offers great trekking opportunities for all fitness levels.

For example, Mount Khakabo and Mount Gamlang in Kachin State are said to be the highest in Southeast Asia. According to a survey back in 1925, Khakabo was measured at 5,881 meters and Gamlang at 5,834 meters. However, as shown by satellite and digital data of US climbers, the highest peak is now controversial. This controversy will itself be of great interest to trekkers from all over the world.

With this in mind, it is never too early to breathe new life into the tourism industry in Myanmar.

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.

Long Lasting old Capital Inwa Part III
Second Inwa under Nyaung Yan dynasty

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

(Continued from 11-6-2014)

Both Rakhine and Inwa Kings held royal monopoly on rice and ruby trade. Particularly with regard to rice, they wanted to prevent shortage of food supply in their kingdoms. Through revenue inquests carried out under their orders from time to time, the Kings had a fairly correct estimate of annual yield of paddy, home consumption and surplus. After enough supply had been stored in granaries for any eventuality—war, drought, flood, pestilence, fire and famine, surpluses were sold to foreign buyers by the royal brokers at the price fixed by the kings. They Kings knew when to lower or raise the price because by their agents they were well informed of the situation in foreign market. Kings Thiri Thudhamma of Rakhine Kingdom and Tha Lun of Inwa sent their envoys to Batavia to gather information there. They knew that the Dutch were badly in need of rice. Their envoys reported the political situation in the East Indies. The Dutch were fighting the last Portuguese strongholds and Malacca was being blockaded by the Dutch with that knowledge both Rakhine and Inwa Kings knew that their rice had the seller's market. The Dutch Governor General at Batavia instructed the Dutch factories Rakhine and Inwa to buy up all rice even at royal monopoly rate. Besides, private merchants also conveyed information of rice trade abroad. Hindu, Armenian and Mohamedan merchants were only too happy to supply Myanmar kings with news about the

Dutch who were their commercial rivals. They called at seaports of South-east Asia and gathered all available news there to be transmitted to the kings for royal favour, reward or trading privilege.

Revenue Inquest of Tha Lun

In Myanmar history there were two Revenue Inquests recorded. First Inquest was by Tha Lun and the second by king Bodawpaya. There could have been previous inquests by previous kings, but they might have been lost. Revenue Inquests are research and review of revenues and taxes of the kingdom particularly agricultural lands were of three types—royal lands, lands donated to religion [temples, pagodas and monasteries] called globe lands and public lands belonging to the farmers. These 3 types of lands were recorded by inscribing on stone slabs, palm leaf or folding parchments [parabike]. In course of time, some were lost, destroyed or facts and figures were altered. So revenue and taxes begun to decline. King Tha Lun sent out his men to compile Revenue Inquests. Revenue Inquest not only compiled economic data but also carried out demographic census. These two Revenue Inquests by Tha Lun and Bodawpaya were much credited and used by the British colonial Government. Mr. J.S. Furnival, I.C.S., Settlement officer made references to these Inquest on his books on Myanmar's economy. Because of his Revenue Inquest Tha Lun recovered lost revenues and taxes and his kingdom's agriculture and trade grew.

King Tha Lun's thrift and parsimony

Tha Lun was noted for thrift and parsimony in Myanmar history. Two events of his reign were often mentioned to prove that. During one of his incognito visits to the countryside to gather public opinion, he punished a village girl for wasting boiled water from her rice cooking pot in the street by beating and blaming her and telling her to feed nutritious boiled water from the rice pot to children or animals. He gave her some money because she was poor. The second event was that on seeing his daughter learning against a daily post, publicly reprimanded her saying that she should not spoil her dress that was made out of public taxation.

A shrewd business man

Second Inwa was an international emporium in South East Asian peninsula of that time became king Tha Lun annually held royal rice sale and ruby auction in the country and he personally participated. Envoys and merchants from Java (Batavia) Aceh, Penang, Ceylon, Bengala and the Netherlands were warmly received at the royal audience. A grand royal banquet was held at which they were accorded red carpet reception, with the entertainment of performances. In the following days, the king conducted the sale and auction. When the Dutch merchants bargained the price of rice, the king gave them lecture on rice. He told them that rice eater should know not only how to eat rice, but also he should know how to cook rice, meaning the quality of rice determined its price. As regards ruby, Tha Lun gave the Dutch buyers some words of good advice. After touching upon the es-

sential qualities of good ruby, the king said that there was no standard price for a good ruby. The prize was settled between the buyer and the seller privately. The Dutch merchants were so much impressed with Tha Lun's business acumen that they stopped bargaining and bought all they wanted. In their report to headquarters at Batavia. They remarked that Inwa King was a shrewd businessman.

Second Inwa boomed

Religious monuments we see till to-day at and around this old capital bear witness to peace, prosperity and program of Second Inwa. A gigantic dome shaped Pagoda commonly called "Sagaing Kaung Hmutaw Paya" was one among them. King Tha Lun sent a party of monks, architects, engineers and craftsmen to India to take the design of San Chi Stupa for it officially it was named Rajamani Cula. The scared Tooth Relic of the Buddha his grand father King Bayint Naung received from the Kandy Temple was enshrined in it. A monumental fane of solid brick and mortar, rising to a height of 151 feet on the base of 400 feet in circumference, surrounded by a palisade of stone lamp posts, 812 in total, this pagoda commemorates the founding of Second Inwa by Tha Lun. We can get a fair sketch of booming Second Inwa by reading the stone inscription Tha Lun set up at the Pagoda. Built in 1636 A.D. (The Pagoda not only was to enshrine the scared Tooth Relic, but also to commemorate the re-establishment of Inwa as Capital and to record arts program and prosperity. The inscription mentions detail of objects enshrined in it, including the gold image of

Buddha of Tha Lun's body weight, crown jewels and several other precious treasures, many acres of land dedicated to religion, places where earth and clay were dug for making bricks for the Pagoda were turned into water tanks and lakes to breed fish and store rain water for cultivation, many servicemen were dedicated for the upkeep of the Pagoda. They were granted paddy land and tax immunity.

To ease too much urbanization of Second Inwa, surplus population was moved to Sagaing where three villages were founded for the Pagoda service. They are (1) Si Tee village, the villagers assigned to the duty of playing drums or instruments at Pagoda festival (2) Let Htote village, the villagers assigned to the duty of dancing or singing performance, at the festival and (3) Swan chet village, the villagers assigned to the duty of cooking rice for offering to the Pagoda and monks. Till today the people at these three villages faithfully carry out their duties, while still enjoying their privileges hereditarily. Royal patrols (police) made duty rounds day and night to maintain law and order and to send information to the King. This stone inscription is a brief history of Second Inwa in its heyday.

The decline of Second Inwa

Not all successors of Tha Lun were his equals. They failed in their statesmanship, administration or economy. Besides changes of circumstances at home and abroad no longer favoured them to succeed like Tha Lun.

Firstly, political situation changed. In Rakhine kingdom the Dutch were gradually involved in the power struggle between the Portuguese, the Mugal and Rakhine kings, particularly

in their contention for control of the Bay of Bengal. In Second Inwa kingdom, the Dutch merchants were politically implicated in the politics of Myanmar-China borders. Since they did not get a base at Bhamo, they turned to clandestine trade with the Chinese merchants. They were denied royal permit to manufacture gun powder from saltpetre found plenty in upper Myanmar, also expert of copper for making cannons.

Secondly, in China, Ming dynasty was overthrown by the Manchu dynasty. The Last Ming emperor Yung Li took political refuge in Myanmar. The Manchu authorities asked Inwa King to surrender Yung Li to them. Not only, China-Myanmar border areas became restless but also Second Inwa was no longer peaceful. Although King Pyey of Second Inwa [1661-1672 A.D.] delivered the refugee Yung Li to who Manchu authorities, relations between the two countries were not restored to normal. Four Kings of Second Inwa after King Pyey, were weak, unable to retain Second Inwa intact and strong. They got involved in quarrels with the Mons of Lower Myanmar, and gradually turned to war games.

It was King Mahadhamma Yaza dipati [1733-1752 A.D.] the last king of Second Inwa, who had to account for all mistakes of his predecessors and finally met his ill fate at the hands of the invading Mons from Pegu. The invaders besieged Second Inwa, burnt it down, after any capturing its king and with all war booties they took him to Pegu and put him to death. So he was given a derogatory name in Myanmar history, "Hanthawaddy par Min" "The King who was taken captive to Hanthawaddy". Thus ended Second Inwa.

(to be continued)

LOCAL NEWS

Monks, nun honoured in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 13 June—A ceremony to honour 14 religious title winners, including nine monks, one nun and four lay persons was held at Maha Atulawaiyan (Atumashi) monastery in Mandalay on Thursday.

Chief Minister of the region U Ye Myint and his wife offered alms to the monks and presented certificates to the nun and lay persons. The region government, departmental personnel, military station families and social organizations donated rice and alms worth about K 11 million to the title winners.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

UNWTO International Conference on Tourism & Heritage Protection commences

MANDALAY, 13 June—With an every-growing number of tourists coming to Myanmar, “It is expected that three million will come this year,” Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said at the UNWTO International Conference on Tourism & Heritage Protection at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay on Thursday.

The master plan (2013-2020) for sustainable development of the Myanmar tourism industry was approved with the assistance of the Asia Development Bank and Norwegian Government. The Myanmar government is implementing several projects in cooperation with the UNWTO, JICA, ADB,



Hanns Seidel and Lux Development. Emphasis is being placed on raising investment in the tourism industry to ensure development of tourism infrastructure, human resource development and improvement of services, he said.

At present, Myanmar is practicing responsible tourism policy for sustainable development of the tourism industry, he added.

Mr Zhu Shanshong, Executive Officer of Technological Cooperation and Services and Mr Mason

Florence, Executive Officer of MTCO gave speeches.

The Union minister and his delegation visited souvenir shops and food-stuff shops of the tourism ministries of Mekong countries.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Post at Taungthaman Lake Bridge catches fire

AMARAPURA, 13 June—A fire broke out at No 48 post of Taungthaman Lake Bridge (U Bein Bridge) in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region on 4 June, according to the Department of Archaeology and Museum.

According to officials, local vendors saw smoke come from post No 48 and informed the



bridge maintenance squad at Taungmingyi Monas-

tery. Although the squad arrived quickly and poured water over the post the fire, severe damage was done, said an official of the Department of Archaeology and Museum.

“We have now assigned duty to security personnel to watch and maintain the bridge. And we have asked people not to smoke. But we do not

have enough staff at our department to maintain this ancient cultural heritage. We need the help of local people and vendors at the bridge to help the department,” he explained.

U Bein Bridge was last maintained in April, with a cost of K13 million, officials said.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Specialists give health care free of charge to people in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 13 June—A specialist team provided healthcare services to people at Kyauktada Basic Education Primary School in Lamaing Village-tract of Madaya Township in Mandalay Region on Wednesday.

They gave talks about heart attacks, dengue haemorrhagic fever, the

need to use mosquito nets, the dangers of smoking, AIDS and ART therapy to the local people.

The medical team provided health care and medicines free of charge to 733 people from the villages and donated 154 pairs of glasses to eye patients.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Roads, residences inundated in Dagon East Tsp



YANGON, 13 June—Local authorities in Dagon Myothit (East) Township of Yangon Region began to dredge drains along Shwepadetha Road and Saya Tin

Road in Ward 9 for proper flow of water on 9 June — one month after the project was supposed to have started.

Locals complained to authorities about the lack of action taken as rainy season has led to floods in many parts of Yangon, with residents voicing their concern about a spread of dengue haemorrhagic fever and other infectious diseases that are especially dangerous for children.

In many parts of town, rainwater cannot flow in the drains properly due to blocks of soil from late dredging works.

Nay Win Tun

Russia holds military exercises in Baltic in response to NATO

MOSCOW, 13 June — Russia has begun military exercises in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad in what the Defence Ministry said was a response to drills by NATO allies in parts of eastern Europe that were launched after Moscow's intervention in Ukraine.

In a further sign of friction between Russia and NATO, Latvia said on Thursday that NATO fighters that carry out air patrols over the Baltics scrambled a record four times on Thursday after a total of 16 Russian military planes were spotted close to Latvia's air space.

Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and a pro-Russian separatist revolt in the country's east after its Moscow-backed president was ousted by protesters have led to the worst East-West crisis since the end of the Cold War.

The Defence Ministry



Russian military aircraft are on display during the event titled the "Innovations Day" organized by Russia's Western military command at Levashovo airbase outside St Petersburg, on 6 June, 2014.—REUTERS

did not reveal the scale of the Russian exercises but said the equipment and number of troops involved "corresponds" to the size of the NATO manoeuvres.

"The training of the army's group in the Kaliningrad operational (theatre)

is being held simultaneously with the international (NATO) exercises of Saber Strike-2014 and BALTOPS-2014 launched in Europe," its statement said.

Kaliningrad is a sliver of territory that is unconnected to the rest of Russia

and sandwiched between NATO member states Lithuania and Poland.

NATO countries responded to the annexation of Crimea by sending fighter planes and ships to eastern Europe to reassure allies alarmed by Russia's

action.

The US-led alliance and its member states have also stepped up military exercises in eastern Europe, including the three former Soviet republics in the Baltics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — that now belong to the Western alliance.

Two large US-led military exercises are under way in the Baltic region.

A US-led exercise, named "Saber Strike", involving around 4,700 soldiers from 10 countries, is taking place in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Forces from 13 countries are participating in a US-led naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, dubbed BALTOPS.

Russia's Defence Ministry said that 24 ships from Moscow's Baltic Sea Fleet were patrolling Russian territorial waters while its regional air force had been beefed up with extra Su-27 fighter jets.—Reuters

Ukrainian forces surround rebel-held port city

KIEV, 13 June — Ukrainian forces surrounded the strategic rebel-held port city of Mariupol on Friday in a dawn attack launched as part of a broader military operation to reclaim control of eastern Ukraine.

The rebel forces, who oppose the pro-European leadership in the capital Kiev and want to be part of Russia, said five of their fighters had been killed in the battle for Mariupol, Ukraine's largest Azov Sea port. Mariupol, which has changed hands several times in weeks of conflict, is strategically important because steel is exported through the port and the city lies on major roads from the southeastern border with Russia into the rest of Ukraine.—Reuters

Wave of crime against women continues in India's biggest state

LUCKNOW, (India), 13 June — A woman was hanged from a tree in India's state of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and another was allegedly raped in a police station, police said, the latest incidents in a wave of crimes against women reported in the country's most populous region over the past two weeks.

Police suspect the hanged woman was raped before being murdered, bringing to five the number of rapes reported in the past 36 hours in the state,

including two women who were then killed.

"The sub-inspector accused of committing the rape of the woman has been put under arrest while we have launched a manhunt for the three constables accused of being party to the crime," a spokesman at state police headquarters said.

The latest reports come after two girls, aged 12 and 14, were gang-raped and hanged from a tree on 27 May, the day after Narendra Modi was sworn in

as prime minister.

The two cousins, from a low-caste community, went missing from their home in Uttar Pradesh when they went to an outdoor toilet. The next morning, villagers found their bodies hanging from a mango tree in a nearby orchard.

Workers from Modi's party clashed with police when they tried to march on the office of Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav to protest against the violence, and opposition parties have de-

manded Yadav's dismissal.

Yadav has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the country's top crime-fighting agency, to investigate the case. The CBI on Thursday said it registered a case against three people and two police officials.

Uttar Pradesh is one of the world's poorest regions and has largely missed out on the economic boom that swept much of India over the past decade. Its population of 208 million is larger than that of Russia, and it has endured a string of revolving door governments that have pandered to narrow caste interests.

Yadav met businessmen in New Delhi on Thursday to drum up investment and said reports of lawlessness were exaggerated.

"In Uttar Pradesh, not only is the atmosphere good but law and order, compared with many other states, is also better," Yadav told reporters.

His government later issued a press release that some of India's most prominent companies, including Reliance Industries Ltd and ITC Ltd, had pledged \$9.2 billion (5.4 billion pounds) in investment in the state at the meeting.

Reuters

Italy's Renzi faces party revolt over constitutional reform



Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi gestures as he speaks during a meeting with businessmen at the Shanghai Italy Centre in Shanghai on 10 June, 2014.

REUTERS

ROME, 13 June — Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's reform agenda for Italy suffered a setback on Thursday when 13 senators from his centre-left Democratic Party (PD) withdrew their backing in protest against his moves for constitutional change. The 39-year-old former mayor of Florence will not be assured of a majority in the Senate without the 13 defectors and their absence will make it extremely difficult for him to push through legislation.

Renzi's plan to abolish the Senate as an elected chamber in order to streamline the passage of legislation, set out when he took office in February, has been held up in the Senate Constitutional Affairs Committee. This week, Renzi removed

two PD opponents of the plan from the committee. In a shock response on Thursday, 13 PD senators said they were "suspending themselves" from the party, accused Renzi of authoritarian tactics at odds with the constitution and said they wanted an open discussion with the prime minister. Giuseppe Cívati, a PD deputy frequently critical of Renzi, said his removal of the senators from the committee was "a political error" and rebuked him for trying to "eliminate dissent" in the party.

The senators did not say they would leave the PD itself and their action was seen more of a warning shot to Renzi than an immediate threat to his government's survival.—Reuters



Supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) shout slogans as police use a water cannon to stop them from moving towards the office of Akhilesh Yadav, the chief minister of the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, during a protest against recent rape and hanging of two girls, in Lucknow on 2 June, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Startup launches 'first wearable health record' for Google Glass

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 June — Google Inc's futuristic eyeglasses are finding their way into hospitals and clinics throughout the United States.

To meet the growing demand for Google Glass from physicians, Drchrono, a Mountain View, Calif, based electronic medical record company has developed a new application for the device it claims is the first "wearable health record."

Doctors who register for the Drchrono app for Glass can use it to record a consultation or surgery with the patient's permission. Videos, photos and notes are stored in the patient's electronic medical record or in Box, a cloud-based storage and collaboration service and can be shared with the patient on request.



A woman wears Google glasses after a media presentation of a Google apartment in Prague on 15 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Dr Bill J Metaxas, a podiatrist based in San Francisco, warned fellow physicians to take precautions before using Glass, such as obtaining patient consent and "locking down

security settings." He also said Glass is no more or less secure than tablet devices such as the iPad, which are routinely used in clinical practices.

Metaxas, who uses

Glass in the operating room and in patient consultations, said 99 percent of his patients agree to the gadget, but it is still early days and most of his fellow physicians have yet to adopt the technology. It is primarily used by the "bleeding edge" minority, he added.

Still, Box spokeswoman and former Google Health employee Missy Krasner said she is aware of at least 20 venture-backed startups catering to this niche of physicians. The majority of these Glass apps, including Augmedix and Pristine, are complying with federal regulation that protects privacy, known as HIPAA.

To develop the service, Drchrono worked closely with Box, one of its early investors, and the Google Glass team.—Reuters

BlackBerry in deal with EnStream on mobile payments system

TORONTO, 13 June — BlackBerry Ltd said on Thursday it has signed an agreement with EnStream LP, a mobile payments joint venture owned by Canada's three large wireless carriers, to provide a secure platform for transactions between banks and consumers.

Under the deal, EnStream would use BlackBerry infrastructure so financial institutions and mobile operators can securely store sensitive payment card details on any smartphone capable of using a near field communication (NFC) tag.

NFC tags allow mobile devices to communicate with each other or other machines like credit card payment systems, by merely tapping the two together. The institutions would

include top Canadian lenders Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The three-year deal marks the renewal of a preliminary tie-up initially struck in late 2012 between BlackBerry and EnStream, which is jointly owned by Rogers Communications Inc, BCE Inc and Telus Corp.

The deal marks the latest move by the smartphone pioneer to expand its services business. Waterloo, Ontario-based BlackBerry has been trying to reinvent itself under new Chief Executive Officer John Chen as its phones have lost ground to Apple Inc's iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's Galaxy devices.

Reuters



The company logo is seen at the BlackBerry campus in Waterloo, on 23 Sept, 2013. —REUTERS

Bachelor party finds rare mastodon fossil in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, 13 June — A group of men attending a bachelor party stumbled across a rare fossil of a mastodon skull, complete with its tusks, in sand at a lakeshore in a New Mexico state park, a museum spokesman said on Thursday. Randall Gann of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science said the partygoers discovered the fossil earlier this week in Elephant Butte State Park, an area of arid hills surrounding a reservoir about 155 miles (250 km) south of Albuquerque.

He said the museum's head paleontologist was amazed by the find, calling it "the most complete mastodon skull with attached tusks he has seen in 20 years."

Mastodons were Ice Age relatives of the elephant that stood 10 feet (3 meters) tall and migrated to North America

some 15 million years ago. They ranged across the continent with saber tooth tigers, giant sloths and American camels, before becoming extinct about 10,000 years ago.

The revelers who made the discovery first contacted a professor at the University of New Mexico, who then put them in touch with the museum's head paleontologist Gary Morgan. Gann said scientists from the museum planned to act quickly. "Because it is in sand and not buried in rock, Dr. Morgan feels he can excavate the skull, cast it, and remove it today," the spokesman said. Shannon Parill, an employee of Elephant Butte State Park, said it was surprising the fossil was found in such a popular area, which attracts thousands of outdoor enthusiasts every year with its boating, hiking, fishing and camping opportunities.—Reuters

China put FY-3C into operation to improve earth observation

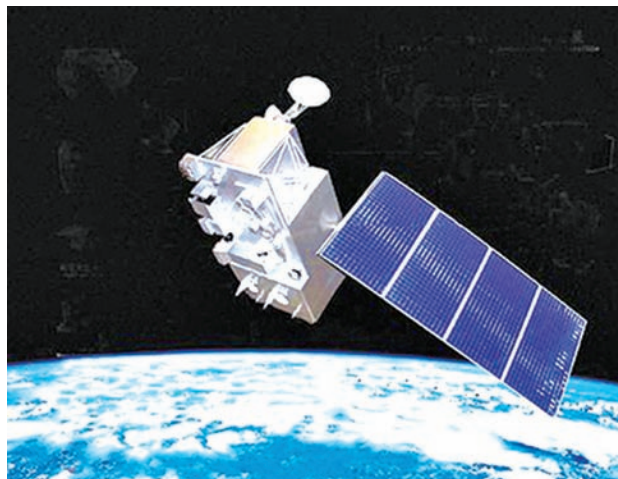
BEIJING, 13 June — On 10 June, the meteorological satellite *Fengyun-3C* has been put into operation officially which replaced *FY-3A* to observe in a morning orbit with *FY-2B* in an afternoon orbit. The operation of *FY-3C* will realize all-weather, mul-

tispectral, quantitative and 3D observation of global atmosphere and Geophysical factors to insure stable operation of polar-orbit meteorological satellites, provide better observation data for monitoring disasters, environment and addressing climate change,

and further improve the monitoring capabilities.

As *FY-3C* started to operate, the four ground stations in Guangzhou, Urumqi, Jiamusi of China and Kiruna of Sweden have begun to accept observing data and Beijing station became to backup. Meanwhile, the *FY-3C* will provide users with various data products, such as global atmosphere and Geophysical data on atmosphere, clouds, earth surface, sea surface and space environment, grid data of climate and so on. In addition, it will disseminate products automatically to CMACast network, FTP real-time data areas or other special service lines, and offer data services for users in many ways.

Xinhua



Fengyun-3C

Not just koala chow: genetic secrets of eucalyptus tree revealed



A zoo keeper offers eucalyptus leaves to a Koala joey named 'Boonda' in his enclosure at Wildlife World in Sydney on 28 June, 2011 file photo.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 13 June — Eucalyptus leaves are the main food supply for Australia's koalas, but there is a lot more to the tree than that.

It is native to Australia but has become the world's most widely planted hardwood tree. The eucalyptus

tree is a source of timber, fuel, cellulose and medicinal and industrial oils, and scientists are looking to maximize its potential in biofuels.

An international team of researchers this week unveiled the genetic blueprint of the tree species *Euca-*

lyptus grandis and identified among its 36,000-plus genes the ones involved in critical biological processes controlling tree growth and wood formation, flowering and other qualities.

"The main interest is understanding how these trees grow so fast and how they are able to produce such large amounts of cellulose," scientist Zander Myburg of the University of Pretoria's Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute said in a telephone interview on Thursday. "There's an interest in cellulose in the context of breaking the cellulose down into sugars, which can be fermented into biofuels. But really these trees are widely used industrially for cellulose-related products and timber, pulp and paper production."—Reuters

When Priyanka, Salman and SRK 'Avoided' bumping into each other

MUMBAI, 13 June — Priyanka Chopra, Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan may have all come to Mehboob studios on Monday for their respective projects but what's interesting is that they didn't get a chance to meet each other.

An on-looker says, "Salman Khan and Ran-deep Hooda have been shooting at Mehboob

studios for their film, Kick, since quite a few days now. It is a long schedule and when it rained on Monday,

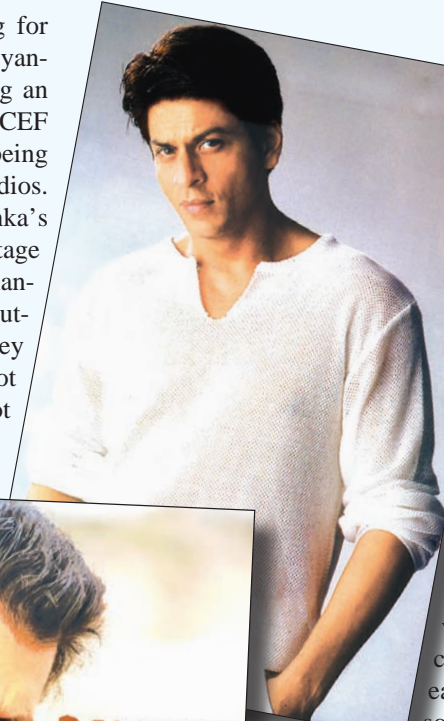
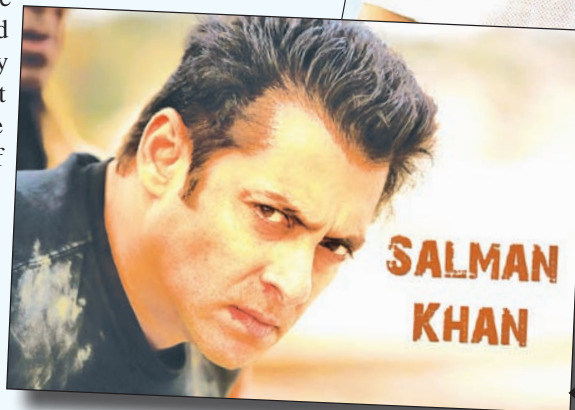
director Sajid Nadiadwala asked his actors to take a break.

They were anyway looking at shooting an open-air sequence in the garden, so Sajid postponed the shoot till evening. Salman, after waiting some time for the rain to stop, went home. He returned to Mehboob studios in the evening and this is why he couldn't attend the launch of Dilip Kumar's autobiography."

Interestingly, around the time that Salman and

Randeep were waiting for the rain to stop, Priyanka Chopra was making an appearance at a UNICEF event that was also being held at Mehboob studios. A source says, "Priyanka's event took place at stage four and Salman and Randeep were spotted outside the venue. But they left before the event got over, so they could not meet Priyanka."

To add to this, soon after Priyanka left the studio, Salman returned to complete his shoot. "By sheer coincidence, Shah Rukh Khan too dropped in at the same time, as he had to shoot for his film, Happy New Year. He spent quite some time on the sets and all this while, Salman was present in the same vicinity. They never came face-to-face with each other," says the source. —PTI



Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra and Shah Rukh Khan were at the Mehboob studios on Monday for their respective projects. PTI

New musical shines spotlight on forgotten composer Bert Berns



Cassandra Berns and Brett Berns, the children of songwriter Bert Berns, speak before a rehearsal for the play "Piece of My Heart: The Bert Berns Story" at the Pershing Square Signature Centre in Manhattan, New York on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 13 June — Hits such as "Brown Eyed Girl," "Twist and Shout" and "Hang on Sloopy" made Bert Berns one of his era's most successful songwriters and producers before he died in 1968, yet few people outside the music industry ever knew about him. That could change with a new musical, "Piece of My Heart: The Bert Berns Story" which begins previews on 25 June and opens Off-Broadway on 21 July. *Rolling Stone* magazine described the songwriter's life as "one of the great untold stories of rock and roll."

Denis Jones, the director and choreographer of "Piece of My Heart," believes now is the time to tell it.

"He was not supposed to live past 30," Jones said during sneak preview of the show that includes more than 20 of the songwriter's hits. "Interestingly, the entire body of work that he generated was between his 30th birthday and his passing."

As a teenager Berns suffered from rheumatic fever, which damaged his heart. He died from a heart attack at the age of 38.—Reuters

Winner crowned in 10th annual New York toilet paper wedding dress contest

NEW YORK, 13 June — There was something old, something new, something borrowed and something double-ply for 10 designers who battled it out on Thursday for \$10,000 and the top prize in the 10th annual toilet paper wedding dress contest held in New York City. The elaborate gowns, headpieces, purses and lace veils showed off at the competition could be made of nothing but rolls of Charmin Ultra Soft toilet paper, and materials like glue, tape and thread, organizers of the event by Cheap-Chic-Weddings.com said. "I am blown away," said Kate Pankoke, a contest judge who also owns Elaya Vaughn Bridal and was a contestant on seasons 11 and 12 of the reality television show Project Runway.—Reuters



Designer and model Susan Brennan of Orchard Lake, Michigan is helped by an assistant while modeling during the 10th annual toilet paper wedding dress contest in Midtown, New York on 12 June, 2014.—REUTERS



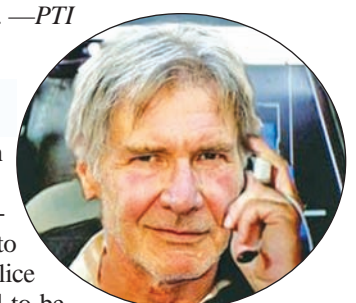
Actress Mila Kunis

Mila Kunis warns future dads: Stop saying 'We are pregnant'

LOS ANGELES, 13 June — Actress Mila Kunis warns all future dads not to call themselves pregnant when their wives are expecting. The pregnant 30-year-old actress appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live! on 10 June evening, and started speaking about preparing to welcome their children into the world.

But the chat show host angered Mila when he harmlessly insinuated that he and his wife are with (expecting a) child, reports contactmusic.com. "My wife and I are pregnant," Kimmel said, whose wife Molly McNearney is carrying the couple's first child. "We are having a baby very soon, as well," he added. An angered Mila quickly replied: "Oh, you're both having a baby?"

in a sarcastic manner. "You and your wife are pregnant?" At this moment, the Jupiter Ascending actress abruptly stood up, grabbed a microphone and began a passionate rant. "Hello, I'm Mila Kunis with a very special message for all you soon-to-be fathers," she stated while dramatic music suddenly started playing in the background. "Stop saying, 'We are pregnant'. You're not pregnant. When you wake up and throw up is it because you're nurturing a human life? No. It's because you had too many shots of tequila. Do you know how many shots of tequila we had? None. Because we can't have shots of tequila. We can't have anything!" she added. —PTI



Actor Harrison Ford

Harrison Ford injured on set of 'Star Wars: Episode VII'

LONDON, 13 June — Actor Harrison Ford was injured on the set of "Star Wars: Episode VII" on Thursday and taken to a hospital for treatment, a Disney representative said.

Ford, 71, hurt his ankle while filming at Pinewood Studios, on the outskirts of London, Disney spokesman Paul Roeder said. Filming will continue on schedule while Ford recovers. The actor was taken to nearby John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Thames Valley Police said on its official Twitter feed that police responded to an incident where "a 71-year-old man was airlifted to hospital with injuries not believed to be life-threatening." A second tweet said the mishap "is believed to have involved a garage door."—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN NING JIANG VOY NO (206)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN NING JIANG VOY NO (206) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (22)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(12/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -028(14-15)	Cement Additives (4) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -029(14-15)	Mud Logging Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB -030(14-15)	Spare Parts for 1.1 MW KG-2 Kongsberg Gas Turbine (25) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -031(14-15)	Materials for Cathodic Protection System (2) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -032(14-15)	Electrical Spares for ZJ50D Drilling Rigs (18) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -033(14-15)	7" Liner Hanger and Accessories (10) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -034(14-15)	4" Steel Line Pipes (6,000) MTR & Assorted Sizes of Gate Valves	US\$
(8)	IFB -035(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipes (12) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB -036(14-15)	Pump Spares (12) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB -037(14-15)	Spares for Cementing Units (1) Lot	US\$
(11)	IFB -038(14-15)	Industrial Raw Materials (24) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB -039(14-15)	Spares for Perkins Engine Ex 435TC P & H crane (31) Items	US\$
(13)	IFB -040(14-15)	Spares for Nissan RD & Engine Ex 435 TC P & H mobile crane (35) Items	US\$
(14)	IFB -041(14-15)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer (D 155A-1) (7) Items	US\$
(15)	IFB -042(14-15)	Spares for Mitsubishi 6 D B10C-K Engine Ex P & H Crawler Crane (24) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Nicaragua modernizes military fleet with Russia's help

MANAGUA, 13 June — The Nicaraguan Army (EN) is modernizing its military fleet with Russia's help, state news website El 19 Digital quoted a senior military officer as saying on Thursday. The head of the army, Gen Julio Aviles, made the statement on Wednesday during the inauguration of a mechanics workshop belonging to the army's Mechanized Infantry Brigade. The Russian government donated the workshop's machinery to help Nicaragua upgrade its facilities. Aviles has been committed to the modernization of the Special Operations Command (COE), located in Laguna de Jilao, 13 km west of the capital Managua. The overhauled mechanics workshop, built for repair and maintenance of armored vehicles, will allow the army to extend the life of fleet units, and lower operational costs, said Aviles. "This workshop endows Nicaraguans and the EN with capacities we didn't have before, such as the optimal and combat readiness of our means of transportation, so we can fulfill all the missions and tasks assigned to us," said Aviles. Russian Ambassador to Nicaragua Nikolai Vladimir said Russia was pleased to be able to cooperate with Nicaragua in this field and numerous others, including education, culture, trade, economy and fight against drug trafficking, as well as in handling natural disasters.

Xinhua



Residents paddle boats at a flooded street in Ayolas, Paraguay, on 12 June, 2014. The overflowing of the rivers Parana and Paraguay caused flooding in Ayolas of southern Paraguay. —XINHUA

China unveils pavilion, event programme for Expo Milano 2015

MILAN, (Italy), 13 June — The China Pavilion design and event programme was unveiled on Thursday in a joint Press conference held in the heart of Milan, the Italian business capital set to host the next world exposition between 1 May and 31 Oct, 2015.

As the second-largest global economy and an important agricultural country, China attached great importance to Expo Milano 2015, Vice-Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and Commissioner General of China Pavilion Wang Jin-zhen said.

In the upcoming expo

themed "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life," for the first time China will present to the world "the history, present condition and especially the idea of sustainable development for the future of its agriculture," Wang highlighted. Not only China for the first time will participate in an overseas expo with a self-built pavilion, but two Chinese enterprises will also be present with their own pavilions, making China one of the participants in the Expo Milano 2015 with most diverse forms and most abundant contents, he said. With a surface area of 4,590 square meters second only to Germany in

size, China Pavilion will be inspired by the values of harmonious coexistence, Wang explained in the presence of local authorities.

The traditional lines of Chinese architecture, he noted, will be enhanced with the use of technology also reducing energy consumption, in line with sustainability promoted by Expo Milano 2015. Five areas will guide visitors around a journey into China's traditions, spectacular landscapes and great progress, all tied together by the search for balance between man and nature, he added. "I am certain that China will be one of

the most successful participants at Expo Milano 2015," Commissioner of Italian Government for Expo Milano 2015 Giuseppe Sala said.

The world exposition, he stressed, will be a precious opportunity for people to "discover the Chinese culture and contribution of this country to the great challenge of sustainable development for the next generations." The organizers' goal was bringing to Expo Milano 2015 around one million Chinese visitors, Sala said noting that 500,000 expo tickets have already been sold to Chinese tour operators.

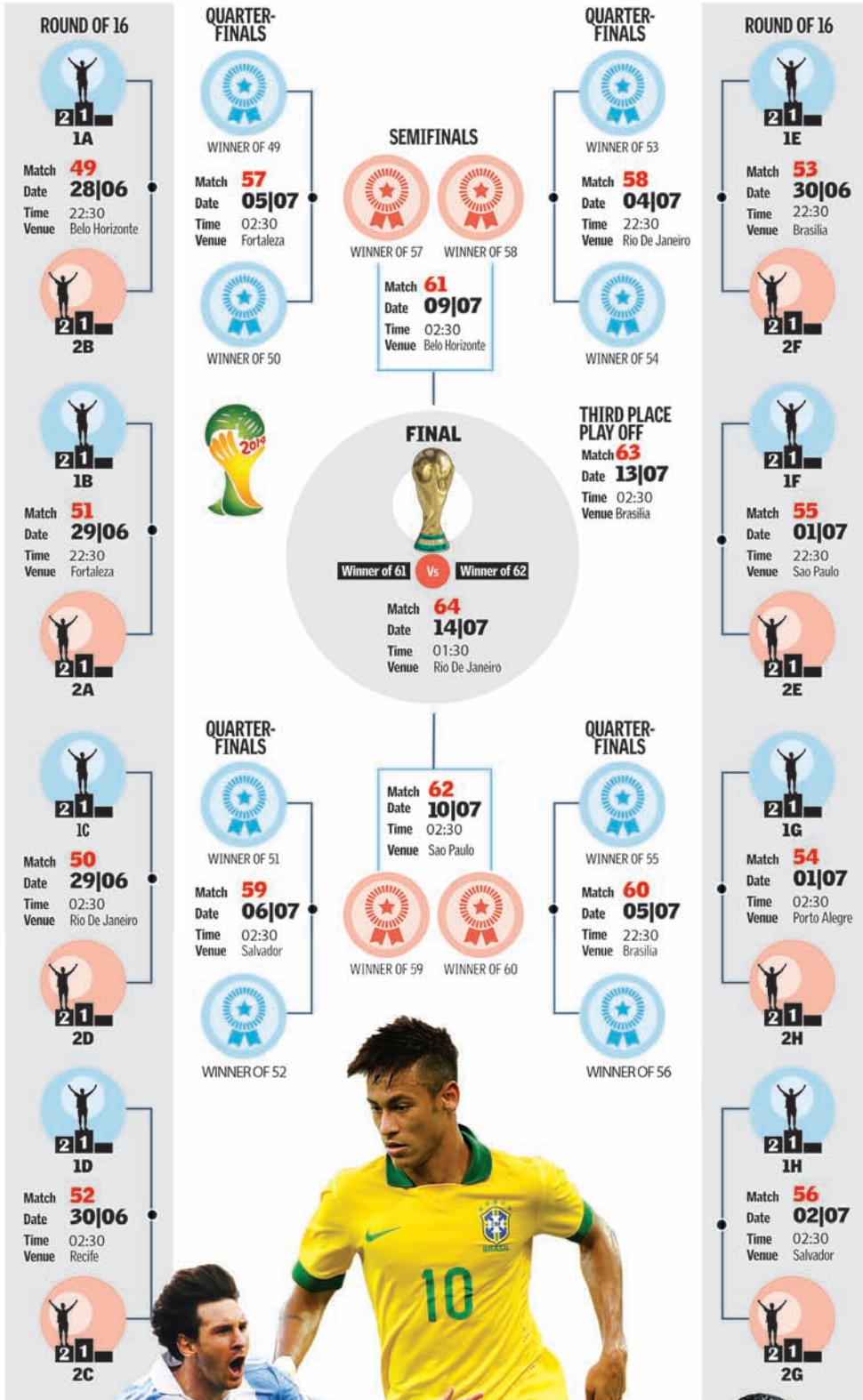
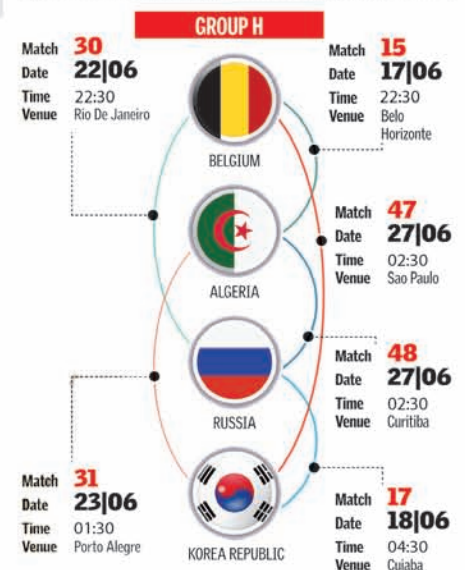
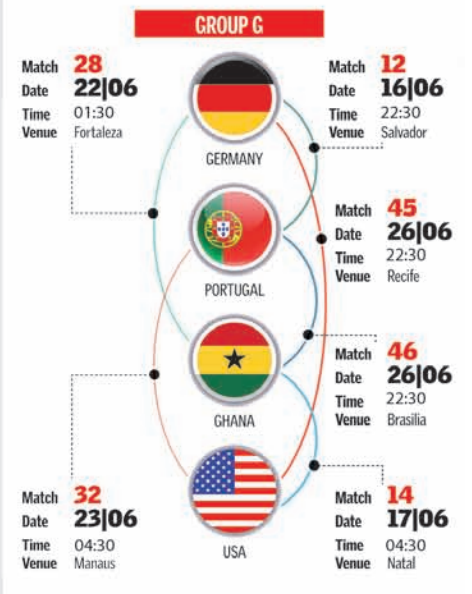
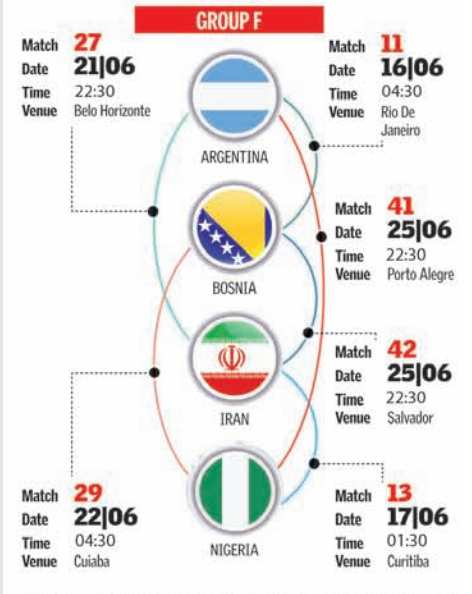
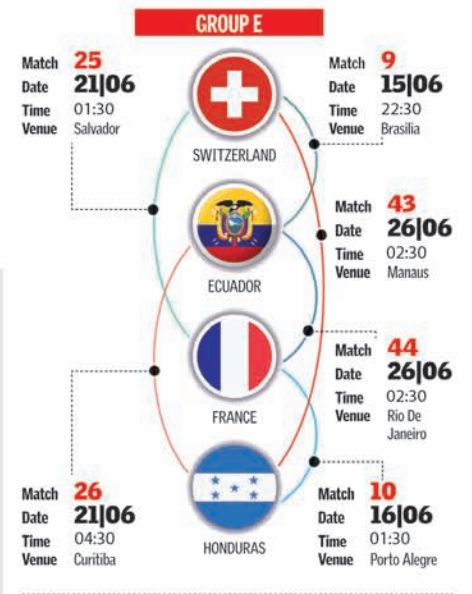
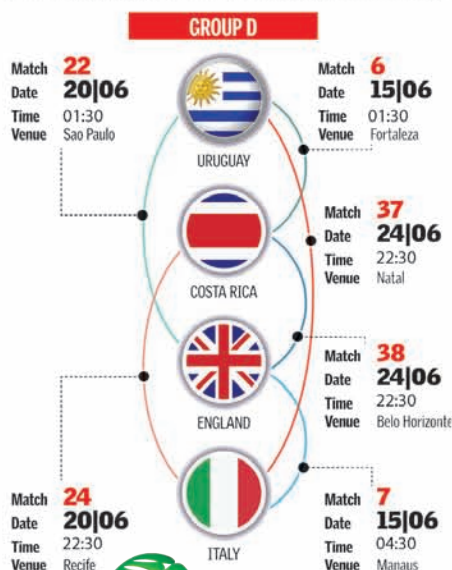
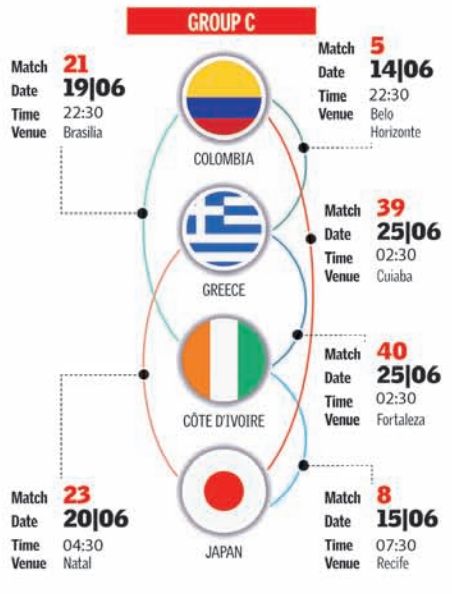
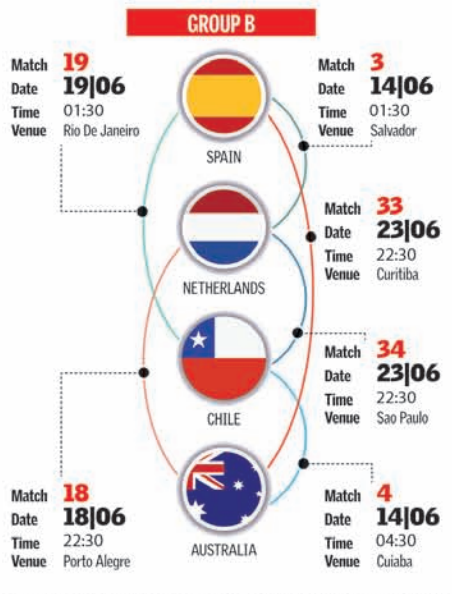
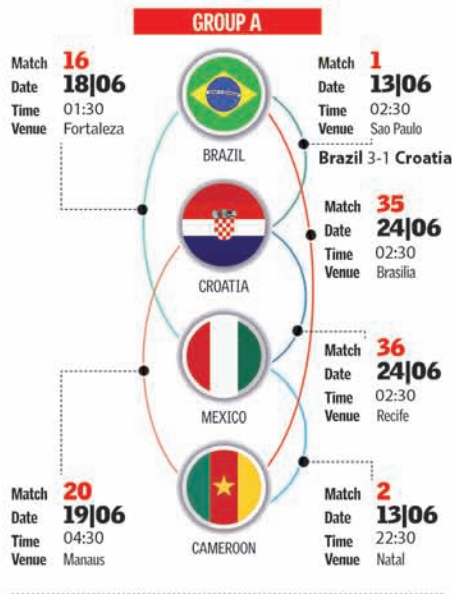
Xinhua

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Applicants take interviews during the 2014 Independence Day Job Fair in Manila, the Philippines, on 12 June, 2014. More than 35,000 job vacancies were offered in commemoration of the 116th Philippine Independence Day. —XINHUA

2014 FIFA WORLD CUP SCHEDULE



INFOGRAPHIC: KANNAN SUNDAR



2014 FIFA WORLD CUP Brazil

GENERAL

Beaten Murray can't be King of Queen's again



Andy Murray

LONDON, 13 June — Andy Murray's hopes of recreating the joyous British celebrations after winning Wimbledon 2013 did not look promising on Thursday as he lost to Czech Radek Stepanek in the Aegon Championships third round.

Top seed Stanislas Wawrinka ousted American Sam Querrey 6-2, 6-2 and will play Marinko Matosevic in the quarter-finals after the Australian overcame an ankle injury to spring another shock by defeating a below-par Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-4.

World number six Tomas Berdych also progressed with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over Frenchman Adrian Mannarino.

The manner of Murray's 7-6 (10), 6-2 defeat by Stepanek will do nothing to boost the British num-

ber one's confidence as he squandered eight set points in the opener before tamely surrendering the second.

The result snapped the world number five's 19-match winning streak on grass, a sequence that started in 2012 with his run to Olympic gold in London.

"I have only got myself to blame that I lost the first set. I don't know how many set points I had but quite a lot of them were on my serve," defending champion Murray told reporters.

"On this surface especially you shouldn't really be losing sets like that. That's what is disappointing really about the match."

New coach Amelie Mauresmo, a former Wimbledon champion herself, kept a poker face as the match headed towards a disappointing conclusion but she would have noted

the challenge that lies ahead over the next 10 days before Murray opens Centre Court proceedings at the All England Club on 23 June.

Murray's dropshots were off target, often falling short of the net, his backhands kept misfiring and there seemed to be a never-ending stream of forehand errors flying off his racket.

If such errors prove costly against a player he had beaten in five of their six previous meetings, the Scot's chances of overcoming rivals such as Rafa Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer at the grasscourt major look rather perilous. "I need to spend time on the courts practising some things," admitted Murray. "Returning first serves, I wasn't quite as sharp on that as I would have liked."

"I didn't win that many points when he made his first serve. Normally that's quite a strong part of my game. 'I'll need to practice that a little bit over the next few days. I have played well on grass over the last few years so I would have hoped to have done a bit better,'" said Murray.

A year after completing a Queen's Club-Wimbledon double, Murray was strangely off colour as he allowed Stepanek to steal the opening set with a delightful crosscourt volley.

Any hopes of a revival fell flat early in the second set when he surrendered the opening game with a forehand error and Stepanek made sure he made the most of his chances.

The wily Czech, who at times gave Murray the run-around, sealed an impressive victory when his opponent sliced a backhand into the net on match point, leaving the crowd stunned and the home favourite frustrated.

"When you play the best in the world you have to come up with the best ... they bring the best out of you and it was a great win for me," Stepanek said courtside after setting up a quarter-final with South African Kevin Anderson. Wawrinka was impressive in dispatching Querrey for the loss of four games in 50 minutes but has spent little time on court this week after second-round opponent Marcos Baghdatis retired hurt after five games on Wednesday.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(14-6-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am

* Physical Exercises

7:45 am

* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

* News/ International News

8:30 am

* India Drama Series

9:00 am

* News / International News

9:30 am

* Documentary

10:00 am

* News

11:30 am

* Game of Children

12:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

1:05 pm

* Round up of The Week's Hluttaw News

2:15 pm

* Musical Programme

3:00 pm

* News

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Law)

5:00 pm

* News

5:20 pm

* Songs for World Blood Donor Day

6:00 pm

* News / Weather Report

6:20 pm

* MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm

* News

7:15 pm

* Telepay

8:00 pm

* News/International News/Weather Report

9:00 pm

* News

* Myanmar Series

* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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

* Local News

* "Great Shwedagon" Reopitory of the Buddhist Scriptures and Archives of Shwedagon Pagoda

* World News

* Myanmar Harpist

* Local News

* Myanmar Traditional Festival

* World News

* In the Studio:

Shin Min Eain

* Local News

* Vocalist, L-Jar Ngaing

* World News

* Ngapali Beach:

Real Paradise

* Local News

* Rakhine Tourist Area

* World News

* Myanmar Movies

Review "The Giggles"

* Local News

* Welcome to Naga Land

* World News

* Food Trip

* Local News

* Flying Without Wings— My Great Limitless Adventure — Bagan

* World News

* Dengue Fever

* Local News

* Myanmar Martial Art (EP-1)(Bando)

* World News

* Porcelain and Glass

* Local News

* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-5)

* World News

* Myanmar Railways

City Circular Train



Election commission workers carry ballot boxes at a warehouse in Nangarhar Province, east Afghanistan, on 12 June, 2014. The runoff between Afghan leading presidential candidates Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai is slated for 14 June and the final results will be announced on 22 July.—XINHUA

UN warns of using environmentally hazardous refrigerators in Africa

KIGALI, 13 June — The United Nations Environment Programme has warned African refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment suppliers against using chemicals that may damage the earth's ozone layer.

At an ongoing meeting held in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, UNEP representatives asked air-conditioning and refrigeration business owners to consider putting a limit on the amount of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment that they buy which use hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC).

Air-conditioning units

and refrigeration systems that use HCFC cooling chemicals cause damage to the section of the earth's atmosphere that protects us from the sun's harmful rays.

HCFC is the most popular refrigerant currently on the market. It is said to be a non-toxic, non-flammable mixture of chemicals that goes back and forth between liquid and gas forms as it heats or cools appliances such as refrigerators or air-conditioners.

Marvin Kamthunzi, a UNEP consultant noted that Europe has banned HCFC and is now using alternative refrigerant chemicals that

do not cause the same damage to the environment. And the market has responded accordingly.

Developing countries that signed the UN Montreal Protocol on phasing out substances that cause damage to the ozone layer have committed to reducing their HCFC usage by 10 percent by 2015 and eventually to abandoning it completely by 2030.

Officials say Rwanda has already reduced its use of HCFC in air-conditioning and refrigeration systems by 30 percent. "We are part of this global village which is called the world.

We have to comply, at least to help others," said Rose Mukankomeje, the director general of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority. She added that people have started to understand the negative impact of those chemicals.

HCFC-22, the most dangerous of the HCFC refrigerants, is believed to have 1810 times more potential to contribute to global warming than carbon dioxide, which contributes to more than 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. HCFC-22 chemicals stay in the atmosphere for 12 years.

Xinhua

PREVIEW — Greece out to clip Colombia's attacking wings

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 13 June —Containing Colombia's potent attacking game, even without injured striker Radamel Falcao, will be key to defensive-minded Greece's attempt to upset the World Cup Group C favourites on Saturday.

The Greeks, who also play Japan and Ivory Coast in the group, have long said their first game will be the most crucial one with Colombia, who finished second in the South American qualifiers after a superb campaign, seen as the team to beat.

"We have it in our own hands to beat them," said Greece's versatile defender Giorgos Tzavellas. "Colombia will have to find a way to score against us and that will be very difficult and I hopeful we will win this game. This first game is extremely important."

Greece, who 10 years ago staged a major upset

by becoming European champions, have forged a reputation as a hard-working defensive team, conceding just four goals in their 10 qualifiers.

"They have a high

striker Falcao for the tournament, having outstanding attacking options with Jackson Martinez or Carlos Bacca and a constantly changing system.

For 64-year-old Co-



quality attack but everyone of us is experienced. We will only play to win," said Greece defender Kostas Manolas. "We are a good team and we will prove it on Saturday."

Greece will need to be at their well-organized best with Colombia, despite the absence of talismanic

Colombia coach Jose Pékerman any result other than victory would be a disappointment and he will be banking on his European mercenaries to deliver, with 15 of his 23 players plying their trade across the Atlantic.

"Colombia cannot simply change its playing

style," captain Mario Yepes told reporters. "Throughout the qualifiers we relied on possession of the ball and that is what makes us strong."

That possession game includes attacking full-backs and the ability to launch rapid counter-attacks.

"Sometimes, in some games, it is normal that it does not work, but we will try to do it," said the defender nicknamed 'Super Mario', who plays for Italy's Atalanta.

Yepes said Colombia would miss Falcao, injured defenders Aldo Ramirez and Luis Perea, along with midfielder Edwin Valencia, but their style would be the same whoever was on the pitch on Saturday.

"The idea is that Colombia plays the same way even though the names may change. We want to have the ball to play our flowing game." —Reuters

Japanese ref Nishimura "out of his depth," Croatia coach says

SAO PAULO, 13 June — Croatia manager Niko Kovac blasted Japanese referee Yuichi Nishimura for awarding Brazil the deciding penalty in the 3-1 defeat to the World Cup hosts on Thursday.

Croatia were penalized in the 69th minute, when Nishimura pointed to the spot after Brazil's Fred went down, booking defender Dejan Lovren in the process.

Neymar was fortunate to convert, making it 2-1 for Brazil but off the palms of goalkeeper Stipe Pletikosa who had read the Barcelona striker well.

Nishimura's decision did not sit well at all with former Croatia star Kovac, who tore into the former Asian referee of the year after the match.

"If anybody saw the penalty, raise your hands," Kovac said. "I didn't. If that is a penalty then we will have 100 penalties during this World Cup. It's ridiculous."

"The referee was totally out of his depth. We fought for two years to qualify and to be faced with such a deci-

Japanese referee Yuichi Nishimura (far L) awards Brazil a penalty, judging Dejan Lovren (6) of Croatia to have fouled Brazil's Fred in the second half of the opening match of the FIFA World Cup at Arena de Sao Paulo in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 12 June, 2014. Brazil beat Croatia 3-1. — KYODO NEWS

sion...But I am proud of my team. We are still capable of progressing through the group stage." Kovac went on to say the 42-year-old Nishimura had no business refereeing the opening match of football's flagship competition. He also said Brazil's players routinely dive, and that Thursday's game needed someone capable of seeing through it.

In Kovac's eyes, that person was not Nishimura.

"I should have mentioned it in yesterday's Press conference," he said. "This was expected. At FIFA workshops, we were shown many times how players fall to the ground without fouls." "If this goes on, we will have a circus. Hope the standard improves. (Nishimura) was not up to scratch. Not just the penalty, but there was a foul against my player before their third goal." "In hindsight, this referee was a bad solution. The World Cup demands a top-notch referee." — Kyodo News

Scolari defends penalty, praises Neymar after win



Brazil's coach Luiz Felipe Scolari shakes the hand of player Neymar as the latter leaves the pitch during the 2014 World Cup opening match against Croatia at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 12 June, 2014. — REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 13 June — Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari rejected claims they were favoured by the referee and heaped praise on Neymar after the forward scored twice in a 3-1 win over Croatia in the World Cup opening game on Thursday.

Scolari said his team showed great character after bouncing back from an early own goal and singled out 22-year-old Neymar for his man of the match performance.

"The only thing we want is that Neymar is happy playing ball. He's a special player," Scolari told reporters after the win gave

Brazil a great start in their bid for a record-extending sixth World Cup title.

Brazil fell behind after 11 minutes through Marcelo's own goal but Neymar led the comeback, scoring with a left-footed shot from outside the area and then with a controversial penalty awarded by Japanese referee Yuichi Nishimura.

Croatia's coach Niko Kovac was furious about the award of the soft 71st-minute spot kick and said the World Cup could become a "circus" if Brazil continued to get favourable calls. Scolari, who said he agreed with the call, responded by reminding

Kovac that Brazil has won the World Cup more times than any country and did it without any help from referees.

"I'm not going to comment on what my colleague (Kovac) said. The only comment I can make is that Brazil has five World Cup titles," he said. "Those weren't five circuses in favor of Brazil."

"The referee saw a penalty. It's the referee that has to decide."

Scolari, Neymar and the rest of the Brazil team are under intense pressure as local fans expect their team to deliver the country's first World Cup title on home soil.

Neymar delivered in style on Thursday, leading the comeback alongside excellent midfielder Oscar.

"He (Neymar) doesn't need all of you (the media) to demand that he become the best player in the world. His responsibility is to play for Brazil, and that's what he did today," Scolari said.

Neymar said the victory was "more than I ever dreamed or imagined. The merit belongs to the team as a whole, which remained cool and calm to come from behind and win." Scolari also heaped praise on the Brazil supporters in the 62,103 crowd

in Sao Paulo, a city with notoriously fickle fans who booed the team in their final warmup match for the World Cup.

"Our players were excellent, they showed determination to be able to come from behind. They were fantastic," Scolari said.

"But who really deserves praise are the fans. It was wonderful, the support we received here in Sao Paulo. If there's still any notion out there Sao Paulo doesn't root for the national team effusively enough, that was put to rest today."

Reuters

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
Match-5		22:30 MST (14.6.2014)	
	Colombia		Greece
Match-6		01:30 MST (15.6.2014)	
	Uruguay		Costa Rica
Match-7		04:30 MST (15.6.2014)	
	England		Italy
Match-8		07:30 MST (15.6.2014)	
	Côte d'Ivoire		Japan
World Cup Match 1 result Brazil 3-1 Croatia			