

Yangon hosts Myanmar's first-ever international film festival with focus on human rights



88 Generation Students' Leader Min Ko Naing said that "holding film festivals about democracy and human rights is an endeavour at shining a light on all the darkened corners of the world."

PHOTO: HRHDIFF

Human rights films from across the globe are being shown free of charge at Junction Cineplex and Waziya Cinema in Yangon until 18 June as part of the Human Rights Human Dignity International Film Festival, with the award ceremony for best film taking place at Sule Shangri-La Hotel on 19 June, attended by an international panel.

26 international films, 9 from ASEAN members and 32 Myanmar movies are being screened from 10 a.m. with the last screening at 9 p.m., covering a wide range of topics from the Arab Spring in Egypt to political reforms in Chin State.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in a letter to organizers, that "The cinematic art created by our people are of high quality" and reflect "the human rights issues that take place all over the country as the raw materials serving as inspirations. The incidents of the violation of human rights and human dignities have taken place in our country at so many places, for so many years, and in so many forms that one only needs to be able to artistically present these incidents and experiences." She said that the films will "enable us to understand the very essence and the value of human dignity and human rights."

88 Generation Students' Leader Min Ko Naing said in a message, that "Myanmar People's chance to watch documentaries about democratization movements and people movements from Chile, Serbia, and Eastern Europe serves as a vital component of and a sustenance for our own movement here."

Among the films entering the national competition is the "Last Kiss"—a documentary about a woman who runs a women's shelter near the Kachin Independence Army HQ in Laiza. Amid the horrors of the civil war she writes poems to give a voice to those caught up in the conflict. "Solomon" digs deep into reforms in Chin State, Myanmar's poorest region and follows the commander of the Chin National Front Solomon Thang Ding.

In the student category, "Article 18: The Movie," shows how the authorities use Article 18 as a weapon to persecute activists and abuse human

rights. The film tells the story of students leaders and pro-peace activists who were unjustly arrested by the government, and how they fought back.

Poverty, disability and the struggle to get justice are reoccurring topics in the films that tells the many untold stories of the people of Myanmar. Igor Blazevic, International Adviser of the festival and founder of Prague's One World film festival, said in a statement that the country is "full of people who would like to have their stories told and heard by their compatriots and remembered for generations to come. It is full of people who are eager to hear, watch and learn more about what happened. This is the great mission that the (festival) can accomplish. Deeply traumatized societies can heal their wounds through storytelling and listening. Documentary film is one of the most potent storytelling mediums."

It is the first time an international film festival takes place in Myanmar, with organizers saying the event is the biggest human rights film festival in the ASEAN region.

NLM

Loi Hein Company donates "Endoscope" to Wachat Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills

By Saya Mya

YANGON, 16 June— "Loi Hein Co. Ltd and Family", an organization engaged in manufacturing, marketing, selling and distributing consumer products in Myanmar, has donated one unit of "endoscope" worth K100 million for the Wachat Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills.

At the donation ceremony held at Pun Hline Hospital in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon, Senior Surgeon Dr. Robin Chan from Italy said the instrument will be used for the marginalized, vulnerable and poor patients from upper Myanmar and elsewhere in the area. The event was attended by the donors, well-wishers and family members.

An endoscope is a device with a light attached that is used to look inside a body cavity or organ.

The official opening of

the "Endoscopic Unit" will be held at the Wachat Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills on Sunday 22 June 2014. Senior Awa-da (Counseling) Sayadaws, Sangha EC Members and donors will attend the libation in conjunction with opening ceremony at the

hospital located on Sagaing Hills.

Dr. Robin Chan, Senior Surgeon Dr. Minn Thein Thaung from the United States, Anesthetists Dr. Daw Hnin Aye Khaing, Dr. Daw Khin Pyone Nyunt and Dr. U Soe Myint currently working in foreign coun-

tries will provide necessary surgical treatments to the patients who have been registered and listed at the hospital in advance, according to a press release from the EC of the Wachat Hospital Supervisory and Logistic Team (Lower Myanmar) in Yangon.



Senior Surgeon Dr. Robin Chan from Italy speaking at donation ceremony of endoscope to Wachat Jivitadana Sangha Hospital.—PHOTO: SAYA MYA

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30,436 foreigners visited Shwedagon Pagoda in May 2014

By Thant Zin Win

YANGON, 16 June— Yangon's most famous tourist attraction, the Shwedagon Pagoda, has seen a steady increase in foreign visitors, with 30,436 tourists recorded from 1 May to 31 May 2014, the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees said on its website.

Most of the tourists came from Thailand, with officials saying around 6,700 Thai came in May, followed by Chinese with around 3,000 visitors and 2,200 Koreans.

On average 980 foreigners visited daily and paid the entrance fee of K8,000.

According to the Pagoda Board of Trustees, Vietnamese and Japanese were also among the main tourist groups with, 1,751 and 1,699 visitors, respectively.

WiFi in the pagoda compound has, meanwhile, received an upgrade as Myanmar Network Co. Ltd. and Redlink Co. Ltd made the necessary donations in May, with officials saying high speed connection can now be accessed.

NLM



SANITATION CARRIED OUT: Workers of Yangon West District Development Affairs Committee led by the head of Administration Department of Yangon City Development Committee carried out sanitation inside and outside Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Bo Cho Ward 1 in Bahan Township of Yangon on Saturday for enabling people to conveniently visit the museum on 67th Anniversary Martyrs Day.—KYEMON-597

Scholarship, stipend awards given to outstanding students in Sagaing



SAGAING, 16 June—The prize presentation for the Daw Khin Sein education foundation was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sagaing of Sagaing Region on Sunday. Chairman of the board of trustees of the foundation Dr U Kyaw Hla accepted cash donations from well-wishers. Townsellers committee and school officials presented prizes to outstanding

Collective sanitation carried out at ancient lake in Kyaukpadaung

KYAUKPADAUNG, 16 June—As part of environmental conservation, students and teachers carried out sanitation at Htein Lake and its environs in Kyaukpadaung of Mandalay Region on Sunday.

The lake is a water source for the local people. It was dredged over 200 years ago.

Under the arrangement of township authorities, 140 students from tuitions from Myoma Ward and Pyidawtha Ward together with teachers picked out the garbage around the lake.

Ko Nay
(Kyaukpadaung)



Reconstitution of election sub-committees coordinated



KYAUKPADAUNG, 16 June—A coordination meeting between Kyaukpadaung Township Election Sub-commission of Mandalay Region and ward/village administrators and clerks took place at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Kyaukpadaung on Sunday.

Chairman of the township sub-commission U Maung Maung Shein explained although the mid-term election will not be held in the township in 2014, preparations must be made for holding the 2015

general election. That is why, it is necessary to reconstitute the ward/village election sub-commissions, he added.

Officials and the respective sub-commissions submitted work plans for field trips to the grassroots levels.

The Union Election Commission will hold the mid-term election in 2014 and the general elections in 2015 with free and fair.

Ko Nay
(Kyaukpadaung)

Earthen lake dredged to irrigate farmlands in Taungdwingyi Tsp



TAUNGDWINGYI, 16 June—Kyaydaw Lake located between Kondan and Kywegan villages in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region is silting year by year.

In sequence, the local people face shortage of water to irrigate their farmlands.

On 10 June, Taungdwingyi Township Irrigation Department started dredging of the lake, spending the fund allotted by the Magway Region Government.

On Saturday, Lower

House MP U Than Win, township authorities and departmental officials inspected progress of dredging the lake.

The earthen lake is 450 feet long and 10 feet wide with the 15 feet high embankment. Upon completion, over 70 farmers from nearby villages will have the opportunities to grow pre-monsoon sesame, monsoon and summer paddy and other crops with the use of water from the lake all the year round.

Naing Win
(Taungdwingyi IPRD)

NATIONAL

Union government to prevent confrontations between locals and INGOs in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June —The union government had taken measures to prevent confrontations and conflicts between INGOs and locals arising from discontent over some activities of INGOs in Rakhine State, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun told the Upper House on Monday.

An Upper House representative said that discontent of the locals over some activities of INGOs was growing and people were worried that the situation might lead to undesirable confrontations between locals and INGOs.

The deputy minister said that UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs and INGOs had to submit their proposals, protocols and draft MOUs to the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and copies of these documents were sent to union ministries concerned before the Foreign Policy Committee, the Security, Stability and Law Enforcement Committee and the Union Government will approve their proposals.

The deputy minister also pointed out that in the past, the INGOs in Rakhine State had not run their

operations in a transparent manner. The lack of coordination between the local communities and INGOs had caused misunderstandings leading to undesirable problems.

He said union-level and state-level Emergency Coordination Centers were now working to prevent such problems. UN agencies and INGOs were also required to carry out activities stated in their MOUs in consultation with township management committees, township supporting committees and township development affairs committees, he added.

Rakhine State Govern-

ment and state emergency coordination centers were monitoring their activities to solve the problems immediately and transparently, he concluded.

Monday's session of the Upper House agreed to debate the proposal urging the union government to do more for the development of nuclear technology.

At the Lower House session on Monday, deputy ministers answered questions related to operations of the deed registry office, measures to prevent losses of peanut farmers and confiscated properties. —MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Iceland

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of the Republic of Iceland and His Excellency Mr. Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iceland, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Iceland, which falls on 18 June 2014.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Iceland counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Iceland, which falls on 17 June 2014.—MNA

Cash assistance provided to social organizations in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presented K46.5 million for six youth development schools, one philanthropic school for the women, 33 self-reliant pre-primary schools and three fibre boats to be used in natural disaster management tasks in the state on Sunday.

It was a ceremony to present cash assistance for social organizations in Hpa-an, Kawkaik, Papun

and Myawady districts at the hall in Hpa-an of Kayin State.

The Union minister and the chief minister of Kayin State visited training sessions for 50 youths from 20 villages each in the social welfare trainer course and the disaster risk reduction trainer course respectively.

Likewise, trainer courses on both subjects have been given to 260 youths from four districts in Ayeyawady Region.

MNA

Application for registration of political party

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—The Union Election Commission is allowing application of political parties for registration as a political party. The Chin

League for Democracy Party submitted its application for registration of political party to the Union Election Commission on Monday.—MNA

Outstanding schools, students honoured in Myaungmya

YANGON, 16 June—A ceremony to honour the school with the best pass rate in matriculation examination and outstanding students was held at the hall in Naung Yoe Hall in Myaungmya of Ayeyawady Region on Saturday.

Youth are try to become intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the State can rely, said Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan at the prize presentation ceremony, adding that youths are to take exercise of sports to have healthy for raising mental power.

The Union minister awarded prize to Headmaster U Tin Aye of Myaung-

mya Basic Education High School No 1 for the best pass rate school, Headmistress Daw Naw Phaw Lawel of Myaungmya BEHS No 2 the second, Headmaster U Htwe Yi of Myaungmya BEHS No 7 the third and special prize to Maha private school head U Aye Thein respectively.

The Union minister gave the gold medal to Ma Lamin Thawda Myint Soe for winning six distinctions and the Ayeyawady region minister, other distinction winning students.

The Union minister and officials accepted cash donations from wellwishers for prize presentation ceremony.—MNA



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presents prize to an outstanding students in Ayeyawady Region.—MNA

Myanmar youth golfers win two first prizes, one second prize in golf event



Kyaw Thet Oo, Zin Min Thu and Yin May Myo with prizes in 12th Mercedes Benz Junior Golf Championships Asia Masters Final 2014 held at Phoenix Gold Golf & Country Club. —NLM

YANGON, 16 June—The Myanmar youth golf team secured two first prizes and one second prize in the 12th Mercedes Benz Junior Golf Championships Asia Masters Final 2014 held at Phoenix Gold Golf & Country Club in Thailand from 11 to 13 June.

Kyaw Thet Oo stood first with 215 in the boys23 & under event and Zin Min Thu, second with 229 on a three-day aggregation.

Yin May Myo secured the first prize with 230 on a three-day aggregation in the girls23 & under event.

Over 100 youth golfers under 12 countries participated in the championship.

The Myanmar youth team arrived back in Yangon on Saturday.—NLM

Public notice for remonstrations

1. The Chin League for Democracy Party, headquartered at No. 1097, Pyidaungsu Road, 45 Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region, applied for registration as a political party on Monday in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In applying for the registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and seal to be used as

mentioned hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with the Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and seal may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



Flag of the Chin League for Democracy Party

Union Election Commission



Seal of the Chin League for Democracy Party

Thailand says no policy to 'sweep and clean' illegal migrants

BANGKOK, 16 June — Thailand's junta denied on Monday that they were pursuing a "sweep and clean" policy of driving illegal foreign workers out of the country, despite mass departures by fearful Cambodians since the military took power last month.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 100,000 undocumented Cambodian men, women and children have fled Thailand amid fears of a crackdown on illegal labour since the 22 May coup.

The military's ruling National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) insists Cambodians are leaving of their own accord and said 60,000 had crossed the border as of Saturday. It estimates there were 90,000 illegals in Thailand.

Highways leading to the Cambodian border were packed on Sunday with trucks and buses full of Cambodian workers opting to head home rather than face any confrontation with Thai authorities.

"The NCPO has no policy to sweep and clean, but teams must go to areas where there are illegal labourers to organize and manage the foreign work



Cambodian workers ride on military trucks as they prepare to cross the Thai-Cambodia border at Aranyaprathet in Sa Kaew on 15 June, 2014. —REUTERS

force as we have accumulated problems over the past 10 years," NCPO spokesman Winthai Suvarree told *Reuters*.

"We ask that those who employ foreign workers continue their activities as normal and maintain good order."

Cambodia's Foreign Ministry said it would ask Thailand to ensure better treatment for those leav-

ing.

"We request that they send workers in a humanitarian way, or without prosecuting, and facilitate the legalization of undocumented workers," said ministry spokesman Kuy Kuong.

Rights groups told *Reuters* they were unaware of departures by the more numerous community of migrant workers from

Myanmar.

The exodus could prove disastrous for the Thai economy, which relies heavily on foreign workers, mainly from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, to perform jobs most Thais are reluctant to do, including manual labour and domestic work.

Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha seized power in a bloodless coup

following six months of street protests aimed at overthrowing Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by the military in a 2006 coup, was seen by many as the power behind the Yingluck government and as the most divisive politician in recent Thai history.

Thailand has been

split for a decade between supporters of Thaksin and his policy of welfare benefits in the north and north-east and Bangkok-based royalist groups that accuse him of rampant vote buying and nepotism.

Despite a long history of enmity between Thailand and Cambodia, Cambodia's veteran leader, Hun Sen, became a close ally of Thaksin during his more than five years as premier.

Several leaders of the pro-Thaksin "red shirt" movement have sought refuge in Cambodia after bouts of turmoil in Thailand, including after last month's coup.

It remains unclear, however, whether any downturn in ties played a role in the mass departures.

Thailand's Foreign Ministry denied they were linked to politics.

"With Cambodia we have very good relations. They know that the rumors are unfounded and caused a lot of panic," ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee told *Reuters*.

"Cambodia has worked with Thailand to clarify to those going home that there is no threat to them here."

Reuters

Philippines calls on construction freeze in South China Sea

MANILA, 16 June — The Philippines said on Monday that China's "expansion agenda" in the disputed South China Sea threatened security and stability in the region, calling on all claimant states to halt construction activities that may raise tensions.

Albert del Rosario, foreign affairs secretary, said he supported US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Daniel Russel's proposal for China and Southeast Asian states to get together for dialogue.

"Let's call for a moratorium in terms of activities that escalate tension," del Rosario told ANC Television on Monday. "Now,



Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario

let's do that while we work on an expeditious conclusion of the code of conduct and effective implementation." Del Rosario said China and other claimant states have been rushing construction activities in their respective claimed territories to expand, cit-

ing works in Fiery Cross Reef, Johnson South Reef, Gaven Reef, and Cuarteron Reef.

"They're accelerating their expansion agenda for the following reasons, what are they? One is they want to do this before the conclusion of the code of conduct. They're also trying to do this very quickly in anticipation of the handing down of the tribunal award."

Southeast Asian states have been pressing China to conclude a Code of Conduct — a set of rules governing naval actions — for the South China Sea.

Last year, the Philippines filed a case at the UN Arbitral Court in the

Hague to clarify its rights to explore and exploit resources under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea.

China claims 90 percent of the South China Sea, believed to have huge oil-and-gas deposits and rich in fishery resources. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims over the sea where about \$5 trillion of ship-borne trade passes every year.

Del Rosario said Chinese construction in the Spratlys are an attempt to alter the character of the features, converting reefs into islands to be able to increase maritime entitlements.—*Reuters*

Cambodian PM heads for Bangladesh, 4 deals to be signed

PHNOM PENH, 16 June — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen left here on Monday for a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh where the two countries are expected to ink four deals, a senior official said.

The prime minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Agriculture Minister Ouk Rabun, Culture Minister Phoeurng Sackona, Secretary General of the Council for the Development of Cambodia Sok Chenda Sophea and other members of the government, Sry Thamarong, minister attached to the prime minister, told reporters at the airport be-

fore departure.

"It is the first time the prime minister visits Bangladesh to further enhance bilateral ties and co-operation," he said.

During the visit, Hun Sen and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold bilateral talks and witness the signing ceremony of three agreements and one memorandum of understanding (MoU), he said.

The agreements aim to promote bilateral co-operation in trade, investment, and culture, while the MoU will focus on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Xinhua

WORLD

Pakistan resumes air strikes to flush insurgents from volatile border region



Planes are seen near a section of a damaged building (L) at Jinnah International Airport, after Sunday's attack by Taliban militants, in Karachi on 10 June, 2014. — REUTERS

MIANSHAP, (Pakistan) 16 June — Pakistani fighter jets resumed air strikes in North Waziristan on Monday, a day after the army announced the start of a major military operation to flush insurgents out of the volatile region bordering Afghanistan.

Military sources said combat aircraft pounded targets in the region's Shawal sector, killing at least 21 militants.

Independent confirmation or other details were not immediately available in a region where journalists are not allowed to op-

erate freely. The army has imposed an all-day curfew and turned off mobile phone services to undermine the insurgency and restrict people's movements, leading to food shortages in some places.

Expecting an escalation of violence, two-thirds of families have fled from the ethnic Pashtun region, residents said, many heading for neighbouring Afghanistan, where they have relatives.

"We have packed up everything and are ready to leave as soon as the curfew is lifted," said Ethash-

am Khan, a resident of the regional capital of Miran-shah, its usually bustling streets empty of people and traffic.

The curfew will be relaxed in the next couple of days to allow residents to leave the area, a security official said.

On Sunday, Pakistan sent troops, artillery and helicopter gunships to North Waziristan in a long-expected military operation seen as a response to a deadly insurgent attack on its biggest airport a week ago.

For now, ground

troops — now numbering some 80,000 in North Waziristan, according to military sources — have not been involved in direct military action, leaving F-16 combat jets to conduct air strikes.

It was also unclear how long officials expect the operation to last in a region of forbidding mountainous terrain that has historically never been subdued by any government.

In a telling detail, the operation is called Zarb-e-Azb in Urdu, or "Strike of the Prophet's Sword".

Reuters

Japan, OSCE eye Ukraine, Asian security in Tokyo talks

TOKYO, 16 June — Japan and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe opened a two-day meeting on Monday in Tokyo at which officials from the two sides are expected to focus on regional security issues such as the crisis in Ukraine, China's muscle flexing in the East and South China seas, as well as North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Japan and the 57-member OSCE will also discuss enhanced connectivity in Asia and Europe from economic perspectives such as energy and water, as well as increasing the economic role of women, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.

In an opening address, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama said the security environments in Europe and Asia "have become more inseparable and increasingly severe" in an apparent reference to Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and China's attempt to undermine Japan's administration of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. Amid the crisis in Ukraine and China's increased territorial claims in the East and South China seas, Sugiyama said the meeting presents "quite a timely, to say the least, opportunity where representatives of both Europe and Asia get together and

mutually exchange their wisdom and lessons."

Sugiyama also noted the "powerful and sympathetic support" Prime Minister Shinzo Abe received from leaders of Europe and Asia during his recent visit to Europe and attendance of a regional security forum in Singapore last month about his policy of proactively contributing to peace based on the principle of international cooperation.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier referred to the Vienna-based body's efforts to deescalate the Ukraine crisis and expressed the organization's interest in promoting exchanges with Asian security forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit.

The Tokyo meeting brings together Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Sergiy Kyslytsya, Thomas Greminger, head of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE and representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, representatives from the OSCE member states and those from Japan and four other countries that are the organization's cooperation partners in Asia.

The meeting comes after Japan sent six diplomats and four experts on Ukraine as part of an OSCE mission to monitor the country's presidential election in May.—Kyodo

Iranian negotiators head to Vienna for crucial nuclear talks

TEHERAN, 16 June — Iranian negotiating team left Teheran for Vienna on Monday for crucial nuclear talks with the world powers.

Iran will do its best to start drafting a comprehensive nuclear accord in its meeting with P5+1 group (the permanent members of UN Security Council plus Germany), Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif, who heads the Iranian delegation, told reporters before leaving Teheran.

Despite "differences of views" over Iran's nuclear issue, it is "possible" for a comprehensive deal between Iran and the world powers before 20

July, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday.

The West demands that Iran dramatically lower its uranium enrichment capacity.

It has also expressed concerns over Iran's Arak heavy water reactor which might be used for building nuclear weapons.

But Iran insists on the "peaceful" nature of its nuclear activities, urging for a complete removal of sanctions.

Fresh round of high-level nuclear talks between Iran and the world powers will start on Monday in the Austrian capital of Vienna.

Xinhua

China sentences three to death for Tiananmen Square attack

BEIJING, 16 June — China sentenced three people to death on Monday for a deadly attack at Beijing's Tiananmen Square last October, state television reported, an incident blamed by the government on Islamist militants.

Another attacker was given a life sentence, and four others received jail terms ranging from five to 20 years.

Five people were killed and 40 hurt when a car plowed into a crowd at the northern edge of Tiananmen Square and burst into flames. Those killed included two bystanders and three people in the car.

Two of those sentenced, named in a state media report, appeared to have ethnic Uighur names. The western province of Xinjiang is the traditional home of the Turkic-speak-



Vehicles travel along Chang'an Avenue as smoke raises in front of a portrait of late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 28 Oct, 2013. — REUTERS

ing Uighurs, and China has blamed previous knife and bomb attacks on separatists who seek to establish an independent state there called East Turkestan.

China has been on edge since a suicide bombing last month killed 39 people at a market in Xin-

jiang's capital of Urumqi.

Police in Xinjiang have arrested or tried dozens of suspects in recent weeks for spreading extremist propaganda, possessing banned weapons and other crimes.

Knife-wielding attackers in western China

wounded four people in a crowded chess hall in the city of Hotan on Sunday, state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) said in a separate report on Monday. Two of the attackers died from serious injuries and a third was arrested.—Reuters

Iraq rebels seize Northwest town in heavy battle

MOSUL, (Baghdad), 16 June — Sunni insurgents seized a mainly ethnic Turkmen city in northwestern Iraq on Sunday after heavy fighting, solidifying their grip on the north after a lightning offensive that threatens to dismember Iraq.

Residents reached by telephone in the city of Tal Afar said it had fallen to the rebels from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant after a battle that saw heavy casualties on both sides.

“The city was overrun by militants. Severe fighting took place, and many people were killed. Shi’ite families have fled to the west and Sunni families have fled to the east,” said a city official who asked not to be identified.

Tal Afar is a short drive west from Mosul, the north’s main city, which the ISIL fighters seized last week at the start of a drive that has plunged the country into the worst crisis since US troops withdrew.

The advance has alarmed Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Shi’ite supporters in Iran as well as the United States, which



Iraqi security forces fire artillery during clashes with Sunni militant group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Jurf al-Sakhar on 14 June, 2014. — REUTERS

helped bring Maliki to power after its 2003 invasion that toppled Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

While expressing support for Maliki’s government, the United States has stressed the need for a political solution to the crisis. Maliki’s opponents accuse him of sidelining Sunnis,

which fuelled resentment that fed the insurgency.

In the face of the mounting security crisis, Washington on Sunday ordered military personnel to boost security for its diplomatic staff in Baghdad and said some staff were being evacuated from the embassy as the Iraqi government

battled to hold off insurgents.

The United States is also considering holding discussions with Iran on ways to push back Sunni militants in Iraq, a senior official said on Sunday, in what would mark a major step in US engagement with its longtime adversary.

A White House official cautioned no discussions had yet taken place, saying: “There has been no contact with Iran on this issue thus far, nor do we have any plans to preview.”

Iran has held out the prospect of working with the United States to help restore security in Iraq.

Tal Afar had been defended by an unit of Iraq’s security forces commanded by a Shi’ite major general, Abu Walid, whose men were among the few hold-outs from the government’s forces in the province around Mosul not to flee the rapid ISIL advance.

After sweeping through towns in the Tigris valley north of Baghdad, ISIL fighters appear to have halted their advance outside the capital, instead moving to tighten their grip on the north. Most of the inhabitants of Tal Afar are members of the Turkmen ethnic group, who speak a Turkic language. Turkey has expressed concern about their security.

The Turkmen and other residents of Tal Afar are divided among Sunnis and Shi’ites in a part of Iraq with a complex ethnic and sectarian mixture. The city is just outside Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region, whose own security forces have taken advantage of the collapse of government control to advance into the city of Kirkuk and rural areas with oil deposits.

Reuters

Colombians vote for president who will decide fate of peace talks



President Juan Manuel Santos gestures before casting his vote as he is accompanied by his wife Maria Clemencia and son Martin in Bogota on 15 June, 2014.

REUTERS

BOGOTA, 16 June — Colombians were voting on Sunday in the tightest presidential election in decades, a contest that will decide if the nation moves ahead on peace talks with Marxist FARC rebels or step up its battlefield offensive to end a 50-year war.

President Juan Manuel Santos, who has cast the election as a choice between

peace and war, faces right-wing challenger Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, a skeptic of talks, who nudged ahead of the incumbent in last month’s first-round ballot.

The candidates are locked in a race that polls show is too close to call and may have the narrowest margin for 20 years.

Santos, 62, began talks in 2012 with the Revolutionary Armed

Forces of Colombia (FARC) to end a conflict that has killed over 200,000 people and displaced millions. He has made the pursuit of peace the centerpiece of his campaign.

He announced this week that preliminary talks had begun with the nation’s second biggest insurgent group, the National Liberation Army.

Polls were set to close at 4 pm local time (2100 GMT).

“I voted for Santos because the solution to violence is not more violence, it’s dialogue. War only gives death, desperation and misery,” said Maria Paula Quintero, a 32-year-old accountant.

Zuluaga, 55, who accuses Santos of negotiating with terrorists, will impose new conditions on the drug-funded FARC, like prison terms for serious crimes and a ban on political participation, should he win.

Reuters

Biden to meet Central America leaders about child migrant

RANCHO, 16 June — US Vice President Joe Biden will go to Guatemala on Friday to meet Central American leaders about the influx of unaccompanied minors illegally entering the United States, senior administration officials said on Sunday.

Biden is adding the stop to an already scheduled trip to Brazil, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

Biden will meet the presidents of Guatemala and El Salvador as well as a senior government official from Honduras to follow up on the Obama administration’s efforts to discourage parents in those countries from sending their children on dangerous trips to the United States.

Between October and May, more than 47,000 unaccompanied minors, mostly from Central America, have crossed into the United States, nearly double the number in the previous 12 months, US Homeland Se-

curity Secretary Jeh Johnson told a news conference in Washington last week.

The US government is making available facilities, including three military bases, to house the children.

Johnson made clear that the children would not qualify to stay in the United States as part of immigration reform efforts before



US Vice President Joe Biden

the US Congress and said those apprehended at the border would be priorities for removal.

US officials said Biden would reiterate that message in an effort to discourage parents from putting their children in the hands of smugglers.

“It’s not worth subjecting children to a perilous journey when at the end of the day there’s no light at the end of the tunnel,” one official told reporters on a conference call.

Biden would also talk about ways that the United States can enhance its support for the affected countries. Violence and a lack of economic opportunity were contributing largely to the problem, the officials said.

Biden was likely to address the issue of Iraq publicly in the coming days, an official said, indicating that would happen during the trip. He did not give further details. President Barack Obama is expected to decide soon whether to authorize US air strikes to stem an insurgency in the country. — *Reuters*

WORLD

China's Li flies into UK to talk trade, seal deals worth \$30 billion

LONDON / BEIJING, 16 June — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will fly into Britain on Monday for the first time since taking office on a visit focused on moving the relationship beyond the political differences of the past and signing more than \$30 billion (17.6733 billion pounds) of deals.

Britain's relations with China took a nosedive in 2012 after Prime Minister David Cameron met the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader whom Beijing says is a separatist. Ties have recovered somewhat since, and Cameron visited China last year.

Tensions remain, however. Beijing warned London on the eve of Li's visit not to lecture it on the subject if it wanted good economic ties, after Britain angered China in April when it criticised its human rights record in a report.

Britain is expected to take the opportunity to announce it is easing some visa restrictions on Chinese citizens, a long-standing request from Beijing which has complained current arrangements are overly lengthy, bureaucratic and



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang waves hand as he arrives at Otopeni airport in Bucharest on 25 Nov, 2013. —REUTERS

opaque.

Li will hold talks with Cameron and will also meet the Queen. China's ambassador to Britain on Friday robustly rejected local media reports that Beijing had threatened to cancel the trip if Li was not granted an audience. In speeches to Chinese and British business people, as well as think-tanks, Li is expected to make reassuring comments about slowing growth in China to try to shore up confidence in the world's second biggest economy.

A Reuters poll in April forecast China's

economic growth could slow to 7.3 percent in the second quarter from a 18-month low of 7.4 percent in the previous quarter, with full-year growth of 7.3 percent in 2014, the weakest in 24 years. Li has signalled some flexibility in achieving this year's 7.5 percent growth target, but analysts say the government needs to prevent growth from falling towards 7 percent, something that could fuel job losses and threaten social stability.

Boosting business between Britain and China is one of the visit's main aims.

China views Britain as Europe's most open economy and is keen for its firms to invest in nuclear and high-speed rail projects.

It also wants the government to ensure London's Heathrow airport is expanded. Two large Chinese investment funds are expected to announce plans to plough new money into Britain during the trip.

London wants to develop as an offshore yuan trading hub and there may also be deals related to that. China has said the visit should yield business deals worth a total value of over

\$30 billion. Ahead of the trip, Vice Commerce Minister Gao Yan said China's investment in Britain had jumped from \$840 million in 2008 to \$12.4 billion in 2013. "China is willing to import even more high-tech goods, services and products from Britain," Gao said. She said she hoped Britain would push Europe to lift curbs on exports of high-tech goods to China and said Beijing wanted British help to explore an EU-China free trade deal.

Li arrives on Monday, but his main schedule is on Tuesday and Wednesday, after which he is due to fly to Greece for a on 19-21 June visit.

In Greece, Li is expected to focus on the debt-ridden country's privatization programme and the opportunities it offers Chinese firms. He is likely to visit Piraeus port, which is being privatised and where China's Cosco has been short-listed to buy a majority stake, and Crete, where Greece is seeking investment in a new major airport estimated to cost 1.5 billion euros (\$2.04 billion).

Reuters

S Korea's top nuclear envoy heads to Russia for talks on N Korea

SEOUL, 16 June — South Korea's top nuclear envoy left for Moscow on Monday for consultations with his Russian counterpart on North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

During his three-day visit to Russia, Hwang Joon Kook is scheduled to hold talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Ministers Igor Morgulov, the Russian top envoy to the long-stalled six-party talks on ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

"The meeting is expected to be a venue for exchanging the assessment on North Korea's nuclear programs and the situation on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia," Hwang told Yonhap News Agency.

Kyodo News

Israel arrests Palestinian parliament speaker in Hebron

RAMALLAH, 16 June — Israeli soldiers arrested the speaker of the Palestinian parliament, Aziz Dweik, in the West Bank city of Hebron early Monday, Palestinian sources said.

Dweik, a senior Hamas leader, was arrested after his house in Hebron was stormed, the sources confirmed. The arrest of the Hamas leader came amid Israeli search for three missing Israeli youth.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Hamas of abducting the three students of a religious school on Thursday near Hebron. However, Hamas denied any connection to the incident.

On Saturday, the Israeli army arrested around 80 Palestinians, including members of parliament and former ministers. The Israeli army said the arrest operation was part of security efforts to locate the missing teenagers.—Xinhua

Russia's Gazprom says Ukraine fails to pay debt by deadline

MOSCOW, 16 June — Russian gas exporter Gazprom said on Monday Ukraine had failed to pay at least part of its gas debts by a 0600 GMT deadline and would now have to pay up front for deliveries, suggesting that supplies could be cut. Kiev and Moscow failed to agree overnight on the price of future gas deliveries in a deal needed to secure flows to Ukraine and safeguard onward supplies to the European Union.

A gas cut would further complicate efforts to try to end the worst crisis in relations between the two neighbors since Soviet times and find a truce in eastern Ukraine, where Ukrainian troops are fighting pro-Rus-



Ukrainian Energy Minister Yuri Prodan talks to journalists as he leaves after talks with members of the Russian delegation and European Union Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger (not pictured) in Kiev on 16 June, 2014. —REUTERS

sian rebels. Russian officials said Alexei Miller, Gazprom's chief executive, and Energy Minister Alexander Novak would meet Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin later on Monday and then a decision would be taken on the gas issue.

Gazprom, which of-

fered a discount to Kiev on its gas supplies, said that from now on Ukraine would only get the gas that it paid for, and that Kiev had not paid for June.

"Today, from 10:00 am Moscow time, Gazprom, according to the existing contract, moved Naftogaz to prepayment for gas supplies ... Starting today, the Ukrainian company will only get the Russian gas it has paid for," it said.

Gazprom had demanded Kiev pay off at least \$1.45 billion of a gas debt that it puts at more than \$4 billion by the deadline, or face supply cuts and the prospect of paying up front.

A spokesman could not be reached for further com-

ment. Naftogaz declined to comment, saying it would issue a statement later in the day, but the Ukrainian pipeline operator Ukrtransgaz said it was operating normally.

Russian shares fell sharply on Monday morning. The dollar-denominated RTS index was down 2.5 percent to 1341 points at 0630 GMT, with Gazprom down 2.0 percent at 143.47 rubles. Talks brokered by the European Commission broke down in Kiev in the early hours, with the sides unable to reach agreement on prices and on changes to a 2009 contract that locks Ukraine into paying the highest price in Europe.

Reuters

No 2 US diplomat to take part in Iran nuclear talks this week



US Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns

WASHINGTON, 16 June — The No 2 US diplomat will travel to Vienna this week to take part in talks over Iran's nuclear programme, the State Department said on Sunday. In a statement, the State Department said Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns would be among the US officials taking part in the latest round of nuclear talks, which include six world powers and Iran and are scheduled for Monday to Friday. The participation of Burns, who led secret US-Iranian negotiations that helped bring about a 24 November interim nuclear agreement between Iran and the major powers, could signal that the United States is intensifying efforts to break a logjam in the nuclear talks. Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China set a 20 July deadline to reach a comprehensive agreement in an interim deal they reached in Geneva last November. The latest round of negotiations in Vienna last month ran into difficulty when it became clear the number of centrifuges Iran wants to maintain was well beyond what would be acceptable to the West. — Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 June, 2014

Chronic tax evasion problem delays development of Myanmar

By Aung Khin

The Myanmar government has formed the Tax Scrutiny Board in May to check that tax collection and fiscal responsibility meet international norms. The Internal Revenue Department (IRD) also published a list of companies that it said had failed to pay taxes for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Some international economists pointed out that tax evasion is one of the reasons for budget deficit in many countries. French economist Ga-

brriel Zucman, an assistant economics professor at the London School of Economics, has estimated that US\$7.6 trillion— 8 percent of the world's personal financial wealth— is stashed in tax havens. He also believed that if all of this illegally hidden money was properly recorded and taxed, global tax revenues would increase by more than \$200 billion a year. He added that the numbers are excluded from much larger corporate tax avoidance.

The governments have to use state revenues for education, health and social spending. Large-scale tax evasion are skewing key economic statistics of the respective country, hampering policy-makers' ability to manage the economy and to adopt appropriate policies.

Tax evasion is disrespect for the law, affecting the administrative mechanism of the state.

The Myanmar government has warned more than 60 businesses who are thought to be evading income tax that they will face a maximum 10 year prison sentence if found guilty of tax evasion.

Tax evasion is a chronic problem in Myanmar, with a lowest ratio of tax participants of GDP among ASEAN countries. The country should have better tax law and taxation system to be able to collect taxes effectively.

According to official statistics, the country received a tax amount of K1.53 trillion (\$ 1.53 billion) for the 2012 fiscal year and K2.71trillion (\$2.71 billion) for 2013. The expected amount of tax for 2014 is K3.4 trillion (\$3.4 billion).

To increase state revenue, the government needs to disseminate tax payment knowledge for people. Myanmar has lost state revenue for many years through the sieves of tax evasion. If Myanmar can tackle tax evasion problem, the country could reduce debt burdens and could conserve its natural resources more.

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.

Solar panels provided to villages in Sagaing Region for electrification

MONYWA, 17 June— Chief Minister for Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attended the merit sharing cere-

mony for completion of Mya Nan Thazin new building in the precinct of ShwedaungU Tipitaka

Maha Vihara monastery in Yinmabin of Sagaing Region on 12 June.

On 13 June, he attended the coordination meeting of engineers, planning officers and heads of Information and Public Relations Departments in Monywa.

The chief minister joined the ceremony to present solar panel equipment contributed by the rural development fund to the representatives from nine districts and Naga Self-Administered Zone.

At the ceremony, officials presented 180 sets of solar panels to six villages

of Sagaing District, 840 sets to seven villages of Monywa and Yinmabin districts, 720 sets to 12 villages of Shwebo District, 600 sets to 10 villages of

Katha District, 180 sets to three villages of Mawlaik District, 300 sets to five villages of Kalay District, 60 sets to one village of Tamu District, 180 sets to three

villages of Hkamti District and 180 sets to six villages of Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun from Naga Self-Administered Zone.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



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MNA

Students, faculty members, Red Cross Brigade members donate blood



MYEIK, 16 June—Led by Myeik Township Red Cross Brigade, 34 students and faculty members from Myeik Technological University, 11 from Myeik University for Computer

Studies and 10 from Township Red Cross Brigade donated blood at Myeik General Hospital on 14 June.

Deputy Commissioner U Aung Kyaw Tun of the district, Township Ad-

ministrator U Thein Win, members of social organizations and local authorities presented foods and refreshments to the blood donors.—Zaw Myo Naing (Myeik District IPRD)

Yenangyoung Tsp gets new pre-primary school

MAGWAY, 16 June—Thida Yaysin Pre-primary school was inaugurated in Nyaungsauk Chaung Village in Yenangyoung Township in Magway on Saturday.

The school building was constructed with donations—K5 million from World Vision Myanmar

and K1.5 million from locals.

At the opening, Head of Yenangyoung Township Information and Public Relations Department U Khin Win, U Saw Marku who is township official of World Vision Myanmar, and Village Administrator U Nyunt

Win explained the purpose of constructing the school building.

It is one of the Early Child Care Development pre-primary schools.

On the occasion, officials urged the local people to maintain the school building for its durability.

Township IPRD



LOCAL NEWS

Dhamma School opened for Buddhist trainees

MYEIK, 16 June—With the aim of enhancing morality of students, a Dhamma School was inaugurated at Yadana Bawdi monastery in Myeik on Saturday.

Buddhist monks and chairman of Township Writers Association U Po Khway explained durability of the school. Head of Myeik District Religious Affairs Department U Tin Oo supplicated on religious affairs to the venerable Buddhist monks.

About 210 trainees are attending the courses at the Dhamma School.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)



Value-added bamboo products to generate income in Magway

PAKOKKU, 16 June—A basic industrial course for bamboo products was held at the looming high school of Small Scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives in Pakokku of Magway Region on Monday.

“The government is implementing the eight points of rural development and poverty alleviation across the nation. If value-added bamboo

products are manufactured for household decorations on a commercial scale, lo-

cal people can earn an income,” said Assistant Director U Thurein Chit Swe

of Cooperative Department at the opening ceremony of the training course.

The department plans to export the value-added bamboo products and will help the local people manufacture the products on a commercial scale.

Altogether 30 trainees from Pakokku, Myaing, Pauk and Yesagyo townships are attending the 15-day course.—Aung (Mandalay University)



Blacksmith products of Kin village in Myaung Tsp marketable in major cities

MEIKTILA, 16 June—Most of the people in Kin Village of Myaung Township in Sagaing Region are engaged in blacksmith industries and they transport their products to the markets in Sagaing, Monywa, Mandalay and other major cities,

said a local of blacksmith industry.

The blacksmiths manufacture the carpenters' equipment and metal household goods. It is traditional works of the locals. They also send their products to Bagan, NyaungU, Pakokku

and Yesagyo,” said local people.

In the monarchial period, Kin Village was assigned duty to manufacture knives, spears, bows and arrows as military weapons for the royal Myanmar army. At present, the producers man-

ufacture the knife if they receive offers of customers. The products of the village are marketable and attract the customers. For example, they produce hammer meeting the standard of same product from China.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)



TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES

Water supply project to commence in 2015 in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 16 June—Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay will implement a water supply project with assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the hall of Mandalay City Development Committee on 13 June.

Member of MCDC U Tun Kyi explained implementation of the project and Mr Kuwamura of JICA, preparations for the project.

In implementing the project, the structures for water supply network will be constructed in Pyigy-

idagun Township so as to distribute potable water to the local people.

The survey and design creation will be undertaken for the first phase. Necessary machinery will be imported for the project as the second phase. For the third phase, construction tasks will be carried out and training will be given to engineers. The programme will kick off in 2015. It is expected to cost US\$20 million for the project, and it is expected to complete in 2017.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Dengue vaccine could be ready by end 2015

SINGAPORE, 16 June — A drug giant has achieved breakthroughs in the development of a dengue vaccine, which could be ready by the end of next year, the *Straits Times* reported on Monday.

Guillaume Leroy, head of the dengue vaccine unit of drug giant Sanofi Pasteur, announced the success of a clinical trial in Asia to test the effectiveness of the vaccine at the two-day ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Dengue Summit held in Angeles City, the Philip-

pines over the weekend, the newspaper said.

It may be the world's first dengue vaccine, as there has so far been no vaccines for dengue.

In the trial conducted by Sanofi Pasteur, dengue cases in the group of about 10,000 — including participants from Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia — fell by more than half after the vaccine candidate was administered. Another trial involving more than 20,000 people is currently under way in Latin America.

"We are at a very crit-



ical milestone," Leroy said. "By the end of the year, we will have a full analysis of all the results. The outcome of these latest trials brings

Sanofi Pasteur a step closer to a goal that has been more than 20 years in the making. The company's work on a dengue vaccine has been

hampered by the fact that dengue has four different strains. All must be effectively subdued before any vaccine can be counted a success, which the company said has managed to do. Dengue is the fastest spreading vector-borne viral disease, according to the World Health Organization, and is endemic in over 100 countries. Four in 10 people are at risk of getting infected.

More than two thirds of the world's dengue cases come from Asia, with Southeast Asia a major con-

tributor.

Sanofi Pasteur said it aims to put its vaccine in markets where it is most needed first, including the Southeast Asia. "The overall ambition is first to address the disease where it is most severe," said Leroy.

As soon as its vaccine is approved for use, Sanofi Pasteur will be able to churn out 100 million doses a year. Long before the vaccine neared completion, the company invested in a 350 million euro production plant located in France in 2009. —Xinhua

Actelion's heart-lung drug meets main goal in late-stage study

ZURICH, 16 June — Actelion Ltd said its experimental heart and lung drug Selexipag met its primary goal in a late-stage study, giving the Swiss biotech company a potential second big seller to replenish its product pipeline.

Results of the Phase III study involving 1,156 patients found that Selexipag reduced the risk of a morbidity/mortality event by 39 percent versus a placebo in patients suffering from pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Selexipag is the third drug from Actelion to treat PAH, a progressively worsening condition characterised by abnormally high blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs. The cause is unknown and the disease has no cure.

Chief Executive Jean-Paul Clozel said Actelion planned to submit the drug



for approval with health authorities as soon as possible once analyses of the study have been completed.

The positive data is a boost to Europe's biggest biotech company and should help reassure investors that the firm's long-term growth prospects are on course, after another PAH treatment, Opsumit, won approval in Europe and the United States.

Both drugs are successors to Actelion's mainstay product Tracleer, which makes up over 80 percent of sales, and loses patent

protection in 2015.

Selexipag is an oral drug and thus more convenient than some other treatments that target the prostacyclin pathway that must be inhaled or administered intravenously.

Analysts at Credit Suisse are forecasting 2020 sales of 575 million Swiss francs (\$655 million) for Selexipag.

Actelion said detailed results of the study will be presented at upcoming congresses and in peer review publications.

Reuters

Rupee hits over one-month low as oil prices surge

MUMBAI, 16 June — The rupee weakened to its lowest level in more than a month on Monday as surging crude oil prices threatened to push up domestic inflation pressures and aggravate the country's currency account deficit.

Brent crude rose above \$113 per barrel to near a nine-month high as Sunni insurgents advanced in Iraq, intensifying concerns over a potential disruption in oil exports from the second-largest OPEC producer. India imports nearly two-thirds of its oil needs, leaving its currency especially vulnerable to price swings.

The rupee fell to 60.0450 to a dollar in early trade, a level last seen on 12 May, as demand for dollars from oil companies weighed. Traders were also seen buying the greenback as they looked to square off their short dollar positions.

"As long as the Iraq crisis continues, this should be the trend for the time being. And, if RBI doesn't intervene, and the Iraq crisis continues, it will definitely remain below 60 to the dollar," said Ashtosh Raina, head of forex trading at HDFC Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to buy or sell dollars to prevent any excessive volatility in the

currency. Some traders expect the central bank to sell dollars around 60.10 per dollar to check the rupee's falls.

In recent months, the central bank has been aggressively buying dollars to prevent sharp gains in the rupee from hurting export growth while also building up its foreign exchange reserves.

Reuters



An employee counts rupee notes inside a private money exchange office in New Delhi on 5 July, 2013.

REUTERS

Asian shares slip, crude firms as market eyes Iraq



A pedestrian is reflected on an electronic board showing the graph of the recent fluctuations of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Stock Price Index (TOPIX), outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 2 June, 2014. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 16 June — Asian shares got off on the back foot on Monday, as crude extended gains and tested nine-month highs on fears the insurgency in Iraq could spread — disrupting oil exports. Sunni insurgents seized a mainly ethnic Turkmen city in northwestern Iraq on Sunday, while the United States boosted security for its diplomatic staff in Baghdad and said some personnel had evacuated from the embassy.

Brent LCOc1 rose about 0.5 percent to \$113.07 per barrel, after touching \$114.69 on Friday, its highest since September. Brent added more than \$4 last week. US crude rose about

0.4 percent to \$107.34, approaching Friday's nine-month high of \$107.68.

Gold hit its highest in nearly three weeks as the Iraqi crisis supported the metal's safe-haven appeal, rising about 0.1 percent to \$1,277.80 an ounce after hitting \$1,278.74 earlier in the session — the highest since late May.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down about 0.1 percent, moving away from a three-year high hit a week ago.

Japan's Nikkei stock average dipped 0.9 percent, weighed down by fears of higher materials costs, and off last week's three-month

highs. "Investors aren't expecting material costs will rise soon and have an immediate impact on companies' profits, but they are wary of these risks in the longer run," said Hikaru Sato, a senior technical analyst at Daiwa Securities. "The geopolitical concerns are lowering risk appetite."

Wall Street stocks edged higher on Friday, but ended the week with modest losses.

The dollar JPY slipped about 0.3 percent to 101.76 yen, moving back toward a two-week low of 101.60 yen marked on Thursday. The euro shed 0.2 percent to buy 137.79 yen.

Against the greenback,

the euro was slightly higher on the day at \$1.3541.

The dollar got little help from US Treasury yields, which edged down as prices rose in response to waning risk appetite. The yield on benchmark 10-year Treasuries stood at 2.586 percent, down from Friday's US close of 2.604 percent.

For further clues on the direction of US rates, investors will be focusing on the US Federal Reserve this week as it concludes its policy meeting on Wednesday. Markets will be watching for any signals on when the US central bank might begin hiking interest rates.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife alliance warns of illicit trade of ape

NAIROBI, 16 June — A global wildlife group on Sunday warned of rapid depletion of live chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos and orangutans due to thriving illegal trade.

In a statement issued ahead of the 1st UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) that will be held on 23-27 June in Nairobi, the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) said a total of 38 great apes have been confiscated thus far in 2014, an average of 1.8 per week, double the previous year's figure of 0.9 per week.

"The number of apes being trafficked and confiscated indicates that serious threats remain to wild pop-



ulations," GRASP coordinator Doug Cress said.

GRASP is a unique alliance of 95 national governments, research institutions, conservation organizations, UN agencies, and private companies committed to ensuring the long-

term survival of great apes and their habitat in Africa and Asia.

Cress said the UN officially recognized the illegal wildlife trade as "serious crime" in 2013, and the illegal trade in wildlife will be a major theme of the UNEA in Nairobi.

Law enforcement experts indicate that only a fraction of any contraband is ever confiscated. Cress said GRASP and its partners are in the process of building a great apes illegal trade database, which will track the illicit traffic.

All great apes are classified as "endangered" or "critically endangered," and are listed as Appen-

dix I by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Unlike wildlife contraband such as elephant ivory or rhino horn, the overwhelming majority of great ape confiscations occur within national borders. Only 5 percent of the total confiscations in 2013 and 2014 crossed international borders.

Cress said due to the social nature of great apes, a single confiscated ape can represent many more that died during the actual hunt or succumbed to injuries, illness or mistreatment while in captivity.

Xinhua

Digital tech can give London a \$20 billion boost in a decade

LONDON, 16 June — Over the next decade, London's digital technology sector could grow by 5.1 percent a year, creating an additional 12 billion pounds (\$20 billion) of economic activity and 46,000 new jobs by 2024, according to a forecast commissioned by the city.

The forecast, by Oxford Economics for London promotional organization London & Partners, said growth would be helped by proposed changes to immigration law that will give technology firms the right to bring in migrants on "exceptional talent" visas. It refers to Gross Value Added (GVA) and an average annual growth rate, London &

Partners said in a statement.

A spokesman could not immediately clarify if the forecast was conditional on the changes to immigration law. The extra 46,000 jobs would be nearly 30 percent more than the 155,600 currently employed.

Separately, South Mountain Economics said the broader tech/info sector in the British capital employed 382,000 workers in 2013, an increase of 11 percent since 2009. Tech and information businesses in London, southeast and east England — including the university cities of Oxford and Cambridge — are growing faster than in California, South Mountain Economics said.—Reuters

Mobile 'net neutrality' faces new day of reckoning at FCC

WASHINGTON, 16 June — A surge in mobile Internet usage has US regulators considering whether to apply the same rules to fixed and wireless Internet traffic, and large technology firms are siding with consumer advocates to call for such a change.

The Federal Communications Commission is now rewriting the so-called "net neutrality" rules, aimed at ensuring that Internet providers do not unfairly block or slow down users' access to content on the web, after their 2010 version was rejected in January by an appeals court. As part of that process, the agency is seeking comments on whether it should take a fresh look at distinctions now drawn between wireless and wireline networks.

Consumer groups have



A man types on a computer keyboard in Warsaw in this on 28 Feb, 2013 illustration file picture. —REUTERS

long advocated stricter anti-blocking and anti-discrimination rules for mobile web traffic. This year, they have powerful allies in Internet companies like Google and Facebook, who see mobile as an increasingly popular platform.

"The distinction between wireless and wireline is certainly not the same as

it was... The enforceable net neutrality rules should apply equally, whether you use the Internet on your mobile or home broadband," said Michael Beckerman, head of the Internet Association, which represents three dozen web companies including Amazon.com and Netflix.

Reuters

In China, LinkedIn must beat local rivals, win over 'loser' workforce to avoid Google syndrome

BEIJING, 16 June — After taking a social media drubbing in the West for accepting self-censorship in China, jobs networking site LinkedIn Corp faces bigger obstacles to growth in a market it is counting on — local rivals and a unique workforce mindset.

LinkedIn is intent on making the kind of breakthrough in China that eluded Internet giants like Google Inc, Yahoo Inc and Amazon.com Inc. To do that, beyond coping with censorship, it must match big domestic players, already tuned into a generation of self-styled Internet "losers" with their own, irreverent take on corporate culture.

Earlier this month, the West's most popular online career network censored posts from users in China marking 25 years since



The logo for LinkedIn Corporation, a social networking website for people in professional occupations, is shown in Mountain View, California on 6 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy activists in Tiananmen Square. If that earned LinkedIn scorn on Western social media, it passed largely unnoticed within mainland China, and Wall Street investors were unmoved. "The LinkedIn mission is to connect all the world's professionals, and the country with the most

professionals in the world is China," Reid Hoffman, the co-founder of the firm based in Mountain View, California, said at a Shanghai presentation last month. Established local peers like Dajie, Wealink and Tianji — with over 60 million members between them — stand in the way.

Reuters

Technology, French victory a win-win for football

PORTO ALEGRE, (Brazil), 16 June — Justice was done on all fronts in Porto Alegre on Sunday as goal-line technology passed its first World Cup test with flying colours and French free-flowing football conquered the heavy-handed tactics of Honduras.

With France leading 1-0 in Group E thanks to Karim Benzema's penalty just before halftime, the GoalControl system took centre stage three minutes into the second half.

Benzema's shot cannoned off a post, came



A video replay of France's Karim Benzema's goal using goal-line technology is pictured on a screen during their 2014 World Cup Group E soccer match against Honduras at the Beira Rio stadium in Porto Alegre on 15 June, 2014.—REUTERS

back across the face of goal before Honduran goalkeeper Noel Valladares inadvertently nudged the ball towards his own net.

To the naked eye it was almost impossible to tell if it had crossed the line. Adding to the confusion Benzema wheeled away in delight, while Valladares played on trying to convince Brazilian referee Sandro Ricci he had gathered the ball in time.

But there was no fooling GoalControl.

The system, which features 14 high-speed

cameras located around the pitch, seven focusing on each goalmouth, confirmed to Ricci that the ball had crossed the line and he blew for a goal to put France 2-0 ahead.

Benzema went on to crack home another for France, giving the 1998 World Cup winners a comfortable 3-0 victory, but had the technology not been available it is unlikely the referee would have been able to award the goal.

In 2012, FIFA President Sepp Blatter said it was "a historic day for in-

ternational football" when England midfielder Frank Lampard 'scored' his "ghost goal" against Germany at the World Cup two years earlier as it convinced him of the need for goalline technology.

While technology played its part in France's win, 'Les Bleus' fully deserved the three points.

Their pace, direct running and inventiveness was in stark contrast to the aggressive, confrontational approach of the Central Americans.

Reuters

Fewer bombs, but nuclear states “determined” to keep arsenals

VIENNA, 16 June — Nuclear-armed states are modernizing their arsenals and appear determined to keep sizable numbers of such weapons of mass destruction for the foreseeable future, the SIPRI think-tank said in its annual report on Monday.

Five years after US President Barack Obama set out a vision of a world without nuclear weapons, the findings by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute made clear just how distant that goal remains.

While there has been a steady decline in the number of nuclear warheads in the world over the past five years, nine countries still had a total of 16,300 such weapons in early 2014 — down by around 5.6 percent from the previous year — of which some 4,000 were operational.

And the pace of reductions seems to be slowing compared with a decade ago, the Swedish think-tank said.

“Once again this year, the nuclear weapon-possessing states took little action to indicate a genuine willingness to work toward complete dismantlement of their nuclear arsenals,” wrote SIPRI researchers Shannon Kile and Phillip Patton Schell.

The Cold War-era enemies United States and Russia together hold about



This US Navy handout image shows Baker, the second of the two atomic bomb tests, in which a 63-kiloton warhead was exploded 90 feet under water as part of Operation Crossroads, conducted at Bikini Atoll in July 1946 to measure nuclear weapon effects on warships.—REUTERS

93 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons and their reductions under the New Start treaty ratified in 2011 were the main factor behind the decline in global numbers.

SIPRI identified seven other nuclear weapon states — Britain, France, China, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea.

The United States, Russia, France, Britain and China are the world’s five officially recognised nuclear weapons states. The four others are outside the global Non-Proliferation Treaty, designed to prevent

the spread of atomic arms.

Non-nuclear weapon states often criticise the five for not sufficiently living up to their part of the central bargain of the 1970 NPT, when nations without atomic bombs pledged not to seek them and nuclear states agreed to pursue disarmament talks.

The United States and Russia “have extensive modernization programmes under way for their remaining nuclear delivery systems, warheads, and production facilities”, the SIPRI report said. The nuclear arsenals of the

others are considerably smaller, but they are “either developing or deploying new weapons or have announced their intention to do so”. Israel is widely assumed to be the Middle East’s only nuclear-armed power, drawing frequent Iranian and Arab condemnation. Israel for its part accuses Iran of developing a capability to assemble such arms, a charge Tehran denies. Obama gave new impetus to the often halting process of disarmament in his 2009 speech in Prague, and last year he proposed further cutting nuclear ar-

senals by a third.

However, his aim has produced mixed results so far, not least because of a plan by the United States and NATO to build an antimissile shield around Western Europe, which Russia has said could erode its nuclear deterrent.

Moscow has frequently said it is unlikely to go for further cuts in its nuclear arsenal unless its concerns are addressed. “Russia is in the middle of a broad upgrade of its strategic nuclear forces that over the next decade will retire all Soviet-era inter-continental ballistic missiles,”

SIPRI said.

Of the nine states covered in its report, SIPRI estimated that North Korea — which has carried out three nuclear tests since 2006 in defiance of international sanctions and condemnations — had the fewest weapons, with six to eight.

“There is an emerging consensus in the expert community that North Korea has produced a small number of nuclear weapons, as distinct from rudimentary nuclear explosive devices,” it said.

While North Korea has long boasted of making strides in acquiring a “nuclear deterrent”, there had been general scepticism that it could master the step of miniaturising a nuclear warhead to mount on a ballistic missile.

But there has been a shift in thinking since it conducted a nuclear test in February last year. There have been on-off indications that it is preparing another, and some experts now say it may be closer than previously thought to putting a nuclear warhead on a missile.

However, SIPRI said there was “no public evidence to date that it has developed a sufficiently compact nuclear warhead or other key technologies for a nuclear-armed ballistic missile”.—Reuters

NATO says not to blame for planes vanishing from radar

LONDON, 16 June — NATO said on Sunday it was not to blame for recent incidents in which dozens of aircraft briefly vanished from air traffic control radar screens in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The Slovak state Air Traffic Services company said on Friday that the brief disappearance of planes from radar screens on 5 and 10 June was connected to a military exercise whose goal was “the interruption of radio communication frequencies.”

It did not identify the military force organizing the exercise, but Austrian media said it was NATO.

The military alliance, in response to a request for

comment, said it did carry out some training that involved “localized and low-power jamming” in the skies over Hungary during the 2-6 June period and that it was currently conducting similar training in southern Italy from 9-20 June.

However, it said no jamming was conducted on 5 June.

“Our assessment is that NATO did not cause any interference with civilian air traffic control frequencies. When NATO conducts such exercises, we coordinate our activities with relevant civilian authorities and only use frequencies provided to us by the host nation,” a NATO military officer said.

NATO AWACS sur-

veillance aircraft that have been flying regular missions over Europe to monitor Russian activities near Ukraine could not have caused the interference because they did not have a jamming capability, the officer said.

The European air navigation safety organization EUROCONTROL and the European Air Safety Agency are investigating the incidents.

“We will cooperate with these authorities in order to be absolutely sure that there is no connection between our exercises and the frequency interference issues that have been reported,” the NATO officer said.

Reuters



Students view a 3D printer at the 3D LAB in Beijing No 2 Middle School Yizhuang School, in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 June, 2014. A total of 10 DM Cube desktop 3D printers were donated to this school on Monday.

XINHUA

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MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (106)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (106) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (239)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (239) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (019)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES
Phone No: 01-2301185

Invitation for Expression of Interest for the Positions of

1. Consultant to design a postal service policy and a new postal law

Post and Telecommunications Department (PTD) now invites eligible national and/or international individual consultants ("Consultants") to indicate their interest to provide hands on provision of Consulting Services to Design a Postal Service Policy and a new Postal Law in Myanmar that supports the implementation of the Government's economic reform program.

All submissions of the Expression of Interest are requested to deliver the documents (including CV/resume) to the address below by June 30, 2014.

**Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Post and Telecommunications Department**
Attn: Mr. Than Htun Aung, Building Number 2,
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Tel ; +95 67 407435
Fax; +95 67 407539
E-Mail : thanhtunaung@mptngw.net.mm
tsrproject2014@gmail.com

The Terms of References and Expression of Interest are available in the following links:

<http://www.mcit.gov.mm/news/invitation-expression-interest.html>

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Iron Dome rocket interceptors deployed in southern Israel

JERUSALEM, 16 June — The Israeli military on Sunday deployed a number of Iron Dome rocket interceptors to its southern region, following a recent spate of rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip and retaliatory strikes, local media outlets said.

One system was stationed near the port city of Ashdod, the *Ynet* news site said. "Iron Dome's deployment changes according to assessments," a spokesman of the military told *Xinhua*.

Israeli aircraft on Saturday night bombed six of what the military described as "terror activity sites" in southern and central Gaza, including weapon storage and manufacturing facilities, in response to three rockets fired from the Gaza Strip. —*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (863)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (863) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

S Korea to send back five rescued N Korean fishermen

SEOUL, 16 June — South Korea said on Monday it will send back to North Korea five fishermen found adrift on Friday in the Sea of Japan, after they requested to be return home.

"The North Korean fishermen will be repatriated to the North at 4 pm through the border village of Pan-jumjeom today in accordance with their wishes," Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Eui Do said in a press briefing. Kim said the North has agreed to accept the fishermen. South Korea's coast guard rescued the five men on Friday from their crippled 2-ton vessel in waters near some rocky outcrops controlled by South Korea but claimed by Japan.

Kyodo News

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

5.8-magnitude quake jolts Fukushima, northeast Japan

TOKYO, 16 June — A 5.8-magnitude quake jolted Fukushima Prefecture in northeast Japan on Monday at around 5:14 local time with tremor being felt

in the country's capital, Tokyo.

The epicenter was initially detected at 37.1 degree of north latitude and 141.2 degree of east lon-

gitude, with a depth of 50 kilometres.

The quake was registered at level four at Japan's seismic intensity scale of 7 in some parts

of Fukushima, Miyagi and Ibaraki prefectures.

No tsunami warnings were issued and no immediate reports on damage and injuries.—*Xinhua*

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Why Robert Pattinson is living in ex-girlfriend Kristen Stewart's home



Robert and Kristen separated in 2012 after she allegedly cheated on him with director Rupert Sanders —PTI

LOS ANGELES, 16 June — Actor Robert Pattinson is reportedly living in his ex-girlfriend Kristen Stewart's home so he can spend time with their dogs, Bear and Bernie.

The Cosmopolis star, who split from Kristen following her rumoured affair with her Snow White And The Huntsman director Rupert Sanders in 2012, is back in contact with his former co-star and often stays at her Los Feliz house when he travels to Los Angeles, reports contactmusic.com.

"Rob doesn't have his own place in L.A. When he's in town, he sometimes stays at the Chateau Marmont and very often at Kristen's when she's out of town. This gives him the chance to hang out with Bear and Bernie," a source told HollywoodLife.com.

However, the source insists the two are not dating.

"Rob and Kristen aren't romantic or anything, but they are still really close and would do anything for each other," the source added.—PTI

'Jump Street' guns down 'Dragon' to lead weekend box office



Cast member Channing Tatum (L) shoots a t-shirt at fans, next to co-star Jonah Hill (R) at the premiere of "22 Jump Street" in Los Angeles, California on 10 June, 2014. The movie opens in the US on 13 June. — REUTERS

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 16 June — "22 Jump Street," starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum as cops who return to college undercover, collected \$60 million in ticket sales at domestic theaters over the weekend, out-gunning animated "How to Train Your Dragon 2."

The sequel to the 2012 hit "21 Jump Street" handily topped "How to Train Your Dragon 2," a sequel to the 2010 blockbuster which took in \$50 million from Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian box offices, according to tracking firm Rentrak. "Maleficent," Disney's take on "Sleeping Beauty" starring Angelina Jolie as the spell-casting evil fairy, was third with \$19 million. "Maleficent" has totaled \$163.5 million since its 30 May release, for a global total of more than \$436 million.—Reuters

Chris Martin, Rihanna smitten with each other



Chris Martin

LOS ANGELES, 16 June — Coldplay frontman Chris Martin is said to be mesmerised by singer Rihanna and he's interested in seeing where things head with her.

Chris, who split from Gwyneth Paltrow in March after 10 years of marriage,

had an immediate chemistry with the 26-year-old singer when they collaborated on their hit, Princess of China in 2012. He is said to be keen to explore his feelings for her further, reports contactmusic.com.

"They plan on spending much more time together. Chris felt suffocated by Gwyn because she's such a perfectionist. But Rihanna is more down-to-earth and carefree and beautiful. He thinks she's intoxicating," said a source. Rihanna, who recently split from Drake, was spotted having

dinner with Chris at her favourite restaurant, Giorgio Baldi, in Santa Monica last week and is said to be equally attracted to him.

"Rihanna hasn't dated many men like Chris, but she's telling friends that she thinks he's sexy in his own way. She's willing to see where things go with him," said a source. —PTI



Rihanna

Uday Chopra: Acting is over for me



Uday Chopra was last seen in Dhoom: 3 and may come back for the fourth instalment of the series.—PTI

MUMBAI, 16 June — There is nothing like self-realisation. And after 14 years and about a dozen films, Uday Chopra has realised that acting is

not his cup of tea. He has decided to move on.

Currently he heads the international arm of Yash Raj Films and has shifted base to the Los Angeles

from Mumbai.

Asked about his acting dreams, he said: "That's over. My focus is not there. Also, I don't have time to act."

Last seen in Dhoom: 3, he can still bend rules for the next installment of the successful franchise being produced under his home banner.

"I would take time out for Dhoom: 4 if at all they want me in it or else its pretty much over," said Uday, who heads YRF Entertainment which recently released its joint venture Grace Of Monaco in India.

PTI

UK minister questions BBC state funding amount, model

LONDON, 16 June — A UK government minister on Sunday suggested the amount of money British viewers pay to finance the BBC should be reviewed, along with the state-funded broadcaster's funding model.

Every British household with a television currently pays 145.50 pounds (\$240) a year to the BBC, but that will end in 2016 and the corporation will be negotiating a new 10-year deal with the government at a time of austerity.

Sajid Javid, Britain's minister for culture and a member of the ruling Conservative party, suggested the current amount was too high in comments likely to raise fears that funding for the world's largest state-funded broadcaster could be cut. "I think it's a large amount and I think this needs to be looked at," Javid told BBC TV.

Changes in the way people are watching television in the Internet age would also have to be taken into account, he said.

"I don't think anything should be ruled out and nothing should be ruled in," he said. — Reuters

Kasabian and Ella Henderson top British album and single charts

LONDON, 16 June — Kasabian grabbed the top spot in the British albums chart on Sunday, while Ella Henderson, a former TV talent show contestant, went straight to the top of the singles chart, the Official Charts Company said.

Kasabian, a rock band from the English city of Leicester, shot to the top of the album charts after their latest release, "48:13", sold over 70,000 copies in the last seven days.

It was their fourth number one album in Britain and comes on the eve of their headlining the famous Glastonbury music festival.

Kasabian knocked English singer-songwriter



British band Kasabian perform at the 30th Brit Awards ceremony at Earl's Court in London, on 16 February, 2010. —REUTERS

Sam Smith off the top spot, a position he had enjoyed for two weeks. His album, "In the Lonely Hour", fell to third place. Coldplay and "Ghost Stories" held onto the second spot. In the singles chart, Ella Henderson, an 18-year-old former contestant in the "X Factor" TV talent show, scooped the top spot with her debut release "Ghost".

The track, co-written by One Republic frontman Ryan Tedder, sold more than 132,000 copies in the last seven days, the Official Charts Company said.

Ed Sheeran and "Sing", last week's number one, fell to second place.

Reuters

GENERAL

Rio police stop protesters from reaching World Cup arena



Protesters run from tear gas shot by riot police as they demonstrate against the public spending for the 2014 World Cup, in Rio de Janeiro on 15 June, 2014.

REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 June — Police blocked a small group of anti-World Cup protesters who were trying to reach the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday, before Argentina played Bosnia in

the city's first game of the tournament.

About 150 bandanna-clad protesters carrying banners that said "Fifa go home" marched towards the stadium, causing some stores to shut their doors

temporarily and one metro station to close briefly.

Police mounted on horseback formed lines to block the group's path to the stadium. Some deployed gas canisters and one protester was doused

with pepper spray, local television station Globo News showed. A spokesman said the military police were still compiling information on the protest and declined to comment otherwise.

A similar sized march was held ahead of the Switzerland-Ecuador game in Brasilia on Sunday, but the peaceful demonstrators simply laid down their banners in front of a police cordon and dispersed when the game started.

Protests against the World Cup have tapered off since Thursday, when police used stun grenades and tear gas against up to 600 masked protesters who were ripping up street signs and otherwise committing vandalism as they tried to reach Sao Paulo's Corinthians stadium on the tournament's opening day.

At least six injuries

were confirmed, including several foreign journalists.

But anti-World Cup protests have never reached the size of the widespread demonstrations that rattled Brazil a year ago, when up to a million Brazilians at a time took to the streets to protest issues ranging from corruption to police violence.

The tournament, now in its fourth day, has been much smoother than many expected and some days have been entirely protest-free.

While many Brazilians believe the \$11 billion spent to build stadiums in 12 host cities could have been better spent, most have resolved not to cause disruption as their country welcomes some 800,000 foreign visitors for the month-long event.

Reuters

Kaymer romps to eight-shot win at US Open

PINEHURST, (North Carolina), 16 June — Germany's Martin Kaymer, ice-cool in hot conditions, confirmed his status as one of the game's very best by coasting to his second major victory by eight shots in Sunday's final round at the US Open.

Five ahead at the start of another humid day at Pinehurst Resort, the 29-year-old from Dusseldorf left his closest pursuers trailing in his wake as he closed with a one-under-par 69 on the challenging No 2 Course.

Kaymer, whose first major win came at the 2010 PGA Championship, mixed two birdies with one bogey in the last six holes on a layout where danger lurked at every corner to post a nine-under total of 271, the second lowest ever at the event.

The former world

number one, who had struggled for much of 2012 while working on his swing to develop a draw, became the first German to win the US Open and the seventh player to complete a wire-to-wire victory at the year's second major. After soaking up a standing ovation as he walked along the 18th fairway and on to the green, Kaymer sank a 15-foot putt for par, dropping his putter in delight a few seconds before the ball disappeared into the cup.

"To win one major is already very nice in your career, but to win two, it means a lot more," Kaymer, who took a stranglehold on the championship by firing successive 65s in the first two rounds to lead by six shots, told reporters. "Even though I don't feel like I need to prove anything to a lot of people, somehow it's quite satisfying to have two

under your belt. I played really, really well on Thursday and Friday and that gave me a really nice cushion.

"But I would say it was probably the toughest day that I have played golf today especially the first

nine. If you have two or three Americans chasing you, playing in America, it's never easy being a foreigner."

Rickie Fowler, who played with Kaymer in the final pairing, carded a 72 to

tie for second at one under, level with fellow American Erik Compton, a double heart-transplant recipient who also signed off with a 72 in only his second major appearance.

Reuters



Martin Kaymer of Germany lifts his trophy after winning the US Open Championship golf tournament in Pinehurst, North Carolina, on 15 June, 2014.

REUTERS

Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian during clashes in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, 16 June — A young Palestinian was killed early Monday by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank city of Ramallah, medical sources said.

A 20-year-old man was shot dead during confrontations in Ramallah between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers.

Another young man

was critically shot in the back, according to the sources. These are the first Palestinian casualties since Thursday when Israel announced that three Israeli youths missed near Hebron City. The Israeli government accused the Hamas militant group of abducting the teenagers.

Xinhua

Nagatomo fired up to reverse trend of World Cup elimination

ITU, (Brazil), 16 June — Having suffered a devastating blow with a 2-1 defeat in their opening game to the Ivory Coast, Japan have the odds stacked against them as they attempt to reach the round of 16 at the World Cup finals for the second tournament in a row. Only four teams that have lost their first match have managed to advance to the

knockout stage of the tournament since the current 32-team format was introduced at France 1998.

While admitting the defeat inflicted by two quick-fire goals from Wilfried Bony and Gervinho was a bitter pill to swallow, Inter Milan defender Yuto Nagatomo insists historical data means nothing.

"Those past stats don't

matter to me and it just makes me motivated to reverse that trend," Nagatomo told reporters at the team's training camp in Itu on Sunday.

"The more the odds are stacked against you, the more determined it makes you to change it." "I was so gutted (about Saturday's loss) that I couldn't sleep last night. It is difficult to

forget. We have worked for four years for this so it is really frustrating." "But we can't look back. We have to move forward and see how far we can progress. We have already switched back on."

Japan play Greece next before wrapping up their Group C campaign against Colombia.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-6-14 07:00am~
18-6-14 07:00am) MST

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- * World News
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do

No 10s Messi and Benzema share World Cup limelight

SAO PAULO, 16 June — Lionel Messi ended an eight-year wait for a World Cup goal on Sunday as Argentina edged past debutants Bosnia at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, while fellow No 10, France's Karim Benzema, put two past Honduras in a man-of-the-match display.

The goals continued to rattle in across Brazil. France cruised to a 3-0 victory in Porto Alegre, and in the other Group E match, Switzerland came from behind to beat Ecuador 2-1 with a dramatic, counter-attacking winner in injury time.

The buildup to the fourth day of action at the 2014 World Cup had all been about Messi, the 26-year-old Barcelona forward who has lit up club soccer like few others but has so far failed to repeat those heroics on the biggest stage of all. His last World Cup goal came on 16 June, 2006, the sixth out of six Argentina put past Serbia & Montenegro in Germany.



Argentina's Lionel Messi (C) is surrounded by Bosnia's players during their 2014 World Cup Group F soccer match at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 15 June, 2014. — REUTERS

Messi's roar of delight after a fine left-foot strike from the edge of the area on Sunday suggested the goal would lift a huge weight from his shoulders.

"It was important to start with a win and to get three points, but we need to improve," Messi said after also being named man of the match in the 2-1 victory in Group F.

Until that point Messi's display had been lacklustre, but it proved a crucial goal when Bosnia scored late on to set up a tense end to a game many had expected Argentina to win easily.

There was a touch of fortune in the outcome, after Bosnia's Sead Kolasinac netted the fastest own goal in World Cup history in the third minute.

His side recovered from the shock and began to look the better team, but a lack of composure in front of goal saw several long-distance efforts fly high and wide.

Messi's successor as World Player of the Year, Cristiano Ronaldo, expects to start for Portugal against Germany in the pick of Monday's matches.

The 29-year-old said he was fit for the Group G encounter in Salvador, despite struggling with tendinitis in his left knee.

Asked whether a great World Cup was all that was missing from a glittering career, he replied: "I don't think I have to show anyone anything. If you look at my statistics and my resume... I have no words for that question".

"I think I do not have to demonstrate anything, not now, before, not after. What I have to do is just continue my career, which has been great so far".

In the other Group G clash, Ghana meet the United States in Natal, while Iran and Nigeria play in Curitiba in Group F.

FRANCE REUNITED

In Porto Alegre, France survived a bruising encounter with Honduras,

across the goal, only for Honduras keeper Noel Valadares to divert it over the line by inches.

Honduras were reduced to 10-men after Wilson Palacios charged into French midfielder Paul Pogba seconds before the break in a challenge that earned him a second yellow card.

Benzema stroked home the resulting penalty, and 18 minutes from time he struck again from a narrow angle, earning a rendition of "La Marseillaise" from the red, white and blue clad French fans.

The result will have delighted France coach Didier Deschamps, especially after Les Bleus' 2010 debacle in South Africa when they failed to win a game amid bitter squabbling that blew up into a national scandal.

SWISS SMASH-AND-GRAB

In arguably the most exciting contest of the day, substitute Haris Seferovic

finished off a breathtaking box-to-box counter-attack in stoppage time to give Switzerland a 2-1 win over Ecuador in Brasilia.

A brilliant block tackle by Valon Behrami in his own area instigated the break, which was allowed to continue by an excellent decision from Uzbek referee Ravshan Irmatov after the midfielder was body-checked.

With more than three goals a game on average, and a surprisingly expansive style of soccer for the early stages of a World Cup, action on the field has grabbed people's imagination in a country considered by many to be the sport's spiritual home.

The tournament has gone much more smoothly than many had expected, with protests against the \$11 billion spend on new stadiums and infrastructure small compared with mass demonstrations that rocked Brazil a year ago.

On Sunday, police blocked a small group of anti-World Cup protesters who were trying to reach the Maracana stadium before the Argentina-Bosnia game.

About 150 bandana-clad demonstrators carrying banners that said "FIFA go home" marched towards the stadium, but police on horseback blocked their path, leading to minor scuffles.

A similar-sized march was held ahead of the Switzerland-Ecuador game, but participants simply laid down their banners in front of a police cordon and dispersed when the game started. —Reuters



Ecuador's Cristian Noboa fights for the ball with Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri (C) as Ecuador's Antonio Valencia watches during their 2014 World Cup Group E soccer match at the Brasilia national stadium in Brasilia, on 15 June, 2014. — REUTERS

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing								
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Group A								
1) Brazil	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
2) Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
3) Cameroon	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
4) Croatia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Group B								
1) Netherlands	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	3
2) Chile	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
3) Australia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
4) Spain	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0
Group C								
1) Colombia	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
2) Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) Greece	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
4) Japan	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Group D								
1) Costa Rica	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
2) Italy	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) England	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
4) Uruguay	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Group E								
1) France	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
2) Switzerland	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) Ecuador	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
4) Honduras	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
Group F								
1) Argentina	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
2) Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
3) Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4) Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group G								
1) Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2) Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3) Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4) USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group H								
1) Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2) Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3) Korea Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4) Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

World Cup 2014 Brazil				
		22:30 MST (17.6.2014)		
	Match-15	Belgium		
		01:30 MST (18.6.2014)		
	Match-16	Brazil		
		04:30 MST (18.6.2014)		
	Match-17	Russia		
World Cup 2014 Results				
Match 9	Switzerland	2-1	Ecuador	
Match 10	France	3-0	Honduras	
Match 11	Argentina	2-1	Bosnia & Herzegovina	