

Land owners protest housing construction on their land by companies



Protestors have demanded of Development Human Settlement and Housing Department to give their land back or to pay cost for their land at street value.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 17 June — Owners of land leased to the Ministry of Defence and

Ministry of Trade have protested construction of housing on their land.

“It is questionable why Department of Human

Settlement and Housing Development has allowed four private companies to construct housing on our land without permission of

the owners of the land and Yangon City Development Committee,” said U Myint Aung, who owns a plot of land in the area and who led

the 13th protest on Tuesday.

Their parents had leased their land in the area in Botahtaung Township about 15 minute drive from downtown Yangon to the Ministry of Defence in 1931 and to Ministry Trade from 1964 to 1994, the protestors said.

The area comprises more than 700 plots each has 25 ft x58 ft.

Over 190 owners of the land have demanded their land, said a protestor.

During the demonstration by about 50 protestors, they said they have the ownership certificates of the land granted by the government for 90 years and got fees from the ministries for leasing the land.

They showed the certificates and slips to local authorities at the negotiation between them and Human Settlement and Housing Development Department, the protestors said.

(See page 2)

Myanmar's Natma Taung National Park on tentative list for World Heritage nomination

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 17 June — UNESCO's Division of Public Information sent a message to The New Light of Myanmar regarding a question on whether Natma Taung National Park, proposed by Myanmar on 25 February, 2014 for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List, has been rejected, saying the “Natma Taung site will not be considered for nomination this year by the World Heritage Committee which takes place in Doha until 25 June”.

“It has not been rejected but is not being considered this year,” Agnès Bardon, Division de l'information du public de l'UNESCO, told The New Light of Myanmar on Monday in the email. He said the Natma Taung site submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February is on the tentative list, meaning it may be examined in coming years

by the committee. Following a National Consultation Meeting between the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and UNESCO in February, the recommendations for Natma Taung National Park in Chin State and Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Kachin State emerged for future World Heritage listing.

The meeting conducted under the UNESCO project “Safeguarding Natural Heritage in Myanmar within the World Heritage Framework”, supported by the government of Norway through the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, was held in Nay Pyi Taw.

Noel Boivin, media and communications officer of UNESCO Bangkok, clarified in his email to the newspaper that “the Tentative List is the list each country puts together in preparation for preparing World Heritage nominations and contains sites

that the country thinks may have possible potential as World Heritage.

“The preparation of a World Heritage nomination is usually a quite lengthy

process and requires sufficient scientific documentation and expert consultation to articulate the World Heritage significance of a site, as well as

provisions for its protection and management”, he continued.

Boivin added, “Once the assessment results are finalized, then the minis-

try can decide upon the next steps of how it wishes to proceed for its natural World Heritage nominations.

(See page 2)



A scenic beauty of Natma Taung National Park in Kanpetlet Township in Chin State.

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INSIDE

Myanmar, Japan to emphasize cooperation in friendly ties

PAGE-3

Plan to extend Union Highway linking Dagon South and North Tsps

PAGE-3

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japanese Ambassador

PAGE-3

Platforms

PAGE-8

Myanmar Still Needs A Strong Push For Reforms in Education

PAGE-8

ISR Taekwondo Tournament commences in Loikaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—The Kayah State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region Taekwondo Tournament kicked off at the gymnasium in Loikaw on Sunday, attended by Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo.

The Union minister presented sports gear and books on sports events to

the chief minister.

Before the tournament, selected players of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation demonstrated their skills.

The state minister accepted cash donations from wellwishers. Col Tun Kyaw of KaLaLaTa presented K200,000 to the gymnastic squad that showed off sports skills.

The union minister

and the chief minister enjoyed competitions of participants in the 2014 Kayah State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-University/School Karatedo Contest, Inter-Club Volleyball Tournament and U-20 football tournament.

The union minister attended a dinner hosted to the athletes by the chief minister in the evening.

MNA



Athletes show off their skills in Kayah State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region Taekwondo Tournament.—MNA

Suggestions sought for selection of townships to be covered by community-based project

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, has sought suggestions at a meeting regarding the selection of a township in the Nay Pyi Taw council area, where his ministry and the World Bank will jointly conduct a community-base project.

The meeting took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre here on Tuesday, with the union minister saying that the government is making all-out efforts to bridge the development gulf between urban and rural areas by

creating job opportunities and providing health care and vocational training for rural people.

According to the union minister, rural development projects are being carried out in 13 villages in the capital city, while plans are under way to launch community-based projects in more 3,000 villages in cooperation with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Italian Development Cooperation groups.

The World Bank has distributed US\$80 million to rural development and poverty reduction meas-

ures being taken in Myanmar, he said.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the community-based project was conducted in Namhsan township of northern Shan State, Kanpetlet township of Chin State and Kyunsu township of Taninthayi Region, he stated. In this 2014-2015 fiscal year, the community-based project will cover townships in Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Rakhine State and the Nay Pyi Taw council area for three consecutive years, he mentioned.

MNA

Preparations made for 51st Myanmar Gem Emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Preparation measures were discussed in the second meeting of central committee for 51st Myanmar Gem Emporium held at Mani Yadanar Jade Hall on Tuesday here.

U Than Tun Aung, deputy minister for Mines and chairman of Central

Committee for the gems show said: "As many as 10 thousand jade lots were exhibited at the 50th gems show, but around 7,500 jade lots will be displayed in upcoming event."

He said that Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association

will lead manufacturing of value-added jewellery in long term after controlling the sales of raw jades.

In the previous shows, jade and pearl lots were sold through both open tender or competitive bidding rounds.

MNA

Land owners protest housing...

(from page 1)

In 1995, the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development announced that the area was nationalized. However, some land owners got fees for leasing the land until 2001, the protestors said.

The DHSHD has granted permission to construction companies to establish housing, according to protestors.

"We want to get back

our land or they must pay the cost for our land at street value," said U Ohn Kyaw, a protestor.

"We will wait until September to get back our land because the government has announced that the land grabbed by ministries will be abandoned by September," says U Myint Aung. "If they don't release our land, we will set up a protest camp on our land until we get our land back."—MNA

Myanmar's Natma Taung...

(from page 1)

According to a UNESCO Bangkok press release, Myanmar, a signatory to the World Heritage Convention since 1994, does not yet have any sites inscribed on the List.

Natma Taung, one of two high-priority sites identified out of the seven natural sites on Myanmar's Tentative List, is home to more than 800 plant species, including a rich variety of orchids, and several endemic bird species.

The other five sites on the tentative list are the Northern Mountain Forest

Complex containing snow-capped Mt. Hkakaborazi, which rises to 5,880m, the Myeik Archipelago of 800 islands surrounded by extensive coral reefs in the Andaman Sea, the Hukauing Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, an important habitat for globally threatened wildlife, notably tigers and Asian elephants, the Tanintharyi Forest Corridor, the largest remaining lowland evergreen forest in mainland South-East Asia, and the Ayeyawady River Corridor, home to the threatened freshwater Irrawaddy Dolphin.

Inaugural Myanmar Music Festival to be held in Yangon from 18 to 22 June

By Myint Win Thein

YANGON, 17 June—The first Myanmar Music Festival will be held in various venues in Yangon from Wednesday to Sunday, featuring several international and local music stars.

The festival is being organized by Myanmar and international organizations, embassies, individuals and students and aims create a platform that brings international musicians together with Myanmar musicians and audiences.

Performers at the music festival will include Artistic Director Kimball Gallagher, a US pianist, Executive Director Huang Kai-Yin, a Taiwanese pianist, US violinist William Harvey, Swiss mezzo-soprano Kirsty Griffiths and Myanmar cellist and conductor Saw James.

The performances will be at a variety of venues, including the Myanmar Institute of Theology, No 37 Basic Education Primary

School in Hlinethaya Township, Mother's Music School, Legacy Music Academy, The Khayay School, Monument Books and the Waziyar Cinema on Bogyoke Aung San Street.

In addition to concert performances, master classes, workshops and lessons will be held at the Myanmar Institute of Theology together with students from the MIT, Gitameit and Mother's Music schools.

At a press conference

at Monument Books, participants explained the festival's purpose festival and violinist William Harvey entertained attendees with a short performance using one of 10 violins to be donated to Myanmar children as a gift from the festival.—NLM



US violinist William Harvey performs during the press conference on first Myanmar Music Festival.—PHOTO: MYINT WIN THEIN

NATIONAL

Plan to extend Union Highway linking Dagon South and North Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—The Lower House continued its parliamentary session for 13th day here on Tuesday morning, with officials saying that a query about climate change and rising temperature stole the show.

Thura U Aung Ko queried whether there was any plan to draw a national policy against the possible impact of water shortage as a direct consequence of climate change and rising

temperature, sources said.

In his response to the query, U Zin Yaw, Deputy Minister for Transportation, said the government respects the outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adding that Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction has been drawn with the cooperation of foreign and local NGOs and UN agencies.

“As for regional co-operation, Myanmar is a

member to the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change,” he said, adding that plans are under way to draw national climate change strategy and action plans and to form a climate change core unit.

Issues raised in the Upper House session included ‘reconsideration of age restriction for overage graduates to apply for governmental posts’ and ‘overpasses to be constructed in Yangon and the extension

of Union Highway linking South Dagon and North Dagon townships’.

The Upper House approved a bill that amends the Leave and Holidays Act of 1951.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan to emphasize cooperation in friendly ties

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi

Higuchi at the hall of Lower House in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to hold talks on cooperation in friendly relationship between the two countries.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japanese Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi at the Zeyathiri Beikman

hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning.

They cordially discussed preservation of the long friendship history of the two countries, cooperation opportunities between

the armed forces of two countries, related issues on international cooperation, and cooperation in defence for contributing to regional peace and stability.

MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets EU ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa received EU Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia at the hall of the Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed experiences on constitution

of the European Union member countries, and assistance to be provided by the EU to reform process of Myanmar.—MNA

Ministry of Cooperatives to give loans in Sagaing Region



NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Ministry of Cooperatives will give loans and sell machines to people in Sagaing Region, said union minister.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said on Tuesday

that the ministry will give K 9 billion in loans, K3 billion worth of sewing machines, tricycles and 750 units of agricultural machinery to locals through Myanmar Microfinance Bank for the 2014 cultivation season.

Ministry of Cooperatives has loaned K146 billion, and sold K 6 billion worth of agricultural machinery and 5000 units of other machines in installments since 2012 October.—MNA

‘Land belongs to the future, let’s climate-proof it’: UN secretary-general sends message for World Day to Combat Desertification

YANGON 17 June—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a message for the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June, according to a press release from the United Nations Information Centre in Yangon.

In his message, the UN boss warned that land degradation, caused or exacerbated by climate change, is not only a danger to livelihoods but also a threat to peace and stability.

He also mentioned there are some signs of

insecurity in global food market volatility, international displacement and mass migration.

His message said more than 1.5 billion people, the majority of whom are small farmers, subsist on land that is degrading.

Ban noted freshwater resources are declining, food-growing areas are shifting, crop yields are faltering in many regions, but more than two billion hectares of land have potential for restoration and rehabilitation.

He also urged the world community to manage land sustainably, avoid further degradation, and reclaim and repair land which has been damaged.

He is, however, optimistic that the world can preserve vital ecosystem services such as water retention, which can protect the international community from floods and drought.

He commented that a comprehensive and large-scale approach to land recovery could create new jobs, business opportuni-

ties and livelihoods, allowing populations to not only survive but thrive.

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to raise public awareness of the issue and to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.—NLM

Suggestions invited for advertisement policy of socially responsible media

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—The Ministry of Information has drafted an announcement on advertisement policy of socially responsible media, inviting people to

post their suggestions on the web portal www.moi.gov.mm and the Facebook of the ministry on 31-5-2014.

Suggestions over the announcement can be sent

to the Office No 7 of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, not later than 30-6-2014 or adnew2014@gmail.com.

MNA

Media may attend 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—The 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 24 June to 6 July.

Local and foreign media may cover the news about the emporium from 24 to 26 June. The press release will be issued at the reception house outside the Jade Hall at 4 pm in the remaining days.

Local and foreign media may send the filled

applications to the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw not later than 20 June to get media accreditation cards and may take out the applications at the Copyrights and Registration Division and the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club. For further information, may dial 067-412125 and 067-412126 of the NPE.

MNA

Community policing course kicks off in Thanlyin



YANGON, 17 June—The community policing course No 6/2014 was opened at the hall of Thanlyin Township Police Force of Yangon on Monday.

It was jointly organized by the European Union and Myanmar Police Force.

Commander of Supporting Branch of Yangon

Region Police Force Police Lt-Col Myo Min Oo and Mr Friedrich Schwindt explained the policing course for the people.

Altogether 12 police

officers are attending the course that will last up to 11 July. Officials will give lectures in practical and theoretical courses.

Soe Win (MLA)

Farmers hope for good price for sesame

GANGAW, 17 June—Local farmers cultivate sesame in the farmlands and alluvial lands before paddy in Gangaw of Magway Region.

Due to the showers in early June, not only the sesame plantations but also weed plants are thriving in the

farmlands.

Farming workers can earn K3,000 per day for weeding the sesame plantations.

“Residents of Myoma and Sibinhaya awards grow sesame as a main business. Rural people from Kan,

South Khayan and Hantawady villages also cultivate sesame on large acres of croplands as of mid-May,” said a sesame grower.

“Brokers manipulate prices of sesame yearly. Although price of sesame was up in the

harvesting time, the brokers reduced it sesame sales period. Sesame growers rely on their products for fulfilling their basic needs.

So, the brokers should have sympathy for the sesame growers,” said a local grower.—Linlet Kyel Sin

Gwa Township to get asphalt road

GWA, 17 June—Gwa Township Development Supervisory Committee

and Township Development Affairs Committee supervise the construction

of the 900 feet long gravel road of 1400 feet long asphalt road in Gwa of Rakh-

ine State.

The construction started on 1 June. At present, gravels were stockpiled along both sides of the road. The authorities allotted K5 million for the road in 2014-15 fiscal year. The remaining section of the road will be finished in 2015-16 with the fund to be demanded in the fiscal year, said an official.

District IPRD

Medicine and medical equipment kits distributed

WUNTHO, 17 June—A ceremony to present first-aid kits provided by Sagaing Region Meat and Fish Production and Rural Living Standard Development Committee and emergency traditional medicine kits by Wuntho Traditional Medicine De-

partment was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Wuntho of Sagaing Region on Sunday.

Township Administrator U Thaik Wai Phyto explained the purpose of providing the medical kits.

tional Medicine Clinic Daw Nu Nu briefed all the people on use of medicines and medical equipment and gave the first-aid kits and emergency traditional medicine kits to village authorities.

Nu Nu (Wuntho)

Kyaiklat BEHS No 1 stands top of chart in pass rate in the entire nation

KYAIKLAT, 17 June—Mon State stood first in the pass rate of matriculation

examination for 2013-14 academic year. Ayeyawady Region

secured the second position among regions and states with 44.85% pass rate.

A ceremony to honour the best pass rate township and school and outstand-



ing students was held at the city hall in Patheingyi of Ayeyawady Region on Sunday. At the ceremony, Basic Education High School No 1 of Kyaiklat won the first prize with 67.37% pass rate among the schools in 26 townships of the region.

“I managed the students to attend the matriculation class one month earlier than that schedule. All the lessons finished in October. Then, teachers grouped 5-6 students each for revising the lessons. Thanks to all-out efforts of the teachers, the school and students won the achievements,” said Daw Myint Myint Thein, headmistress of BEHS No 1 in Kyaiklat.

A total of 192 students from 285 from the school passed the examination. Of them, one student on four distinctions.

Athawka

Traffic rules enforcement, travel insurance discussed

THANDWE, 17 June—The traffic rules enforcement and travel insurance meeting was held at the hall of Thandwe Township All Bus-line Control Committee in Thandwe of Rakhine State on 13 June.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Khin Zaw explained formation of traffic police squad, educative talks for enforcement of traffic

rules, surprise checks, taking action against offenders.

Departmental officials discussed the bus line law and rules, travel insurance, sale of insurance at the Thandwe-Yangon highway bus terminal at K300 per insurance, plans to enforce traffic rules, formation of bus lines and the runs of tuk-tuk.

District IPRD

New school building handed over to education department

NATMAUK, 17 June—A ceremony to hand over new school building identified as Kyan Sit Min to the Ministry of Education was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Wapan Village-tract of Natmauk Township in Magway Region on Sunday.

U Aung Naing Lin (a) U Lin Lin, wife Daw Hnin Hnin Wai and daughter Ma Ei Phyu Hnin donated the school building.

The new school building is 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high reinforced concrete structure, costing K35 million.

U Nay



Emergency traditional medicine kits distributed to 115 villages

MAGWAY, 17 June—A handover ceremony of emergency traditional medicine kits was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Minbu of Magway Region on Sunday.

Township authorities, Head of Township Health Department Dr Tint Lwin and officials presented 115 kits to 115 villages from 58 village-tracts through village administrators.

The ceremony was attended by township departmental personnel and local authorities totalling about 150.—Khin Marlar (Magway)

REGIONAL

Thai rice farmers paid \$2.9 billion of arrears, state bank says



A Thai farmer works on his rice field in Nonthaburi Province, on the outskirts of Bangkok on 1 March, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 17 June — Thailand's military government has paid rice farmers all the arrears of 92.4 billion baht (\$2.86 billion) owed under a controversial state purchase scheme, a senior official of the bank that funded the programme said on Tuesday.

The move ended the government's biggest ex-

penditure on the costly scheme, following a vow by the junta government to halt it for now. Farmers had been waiting for their money since last October.

"The government and the BAAC have managed to pay all those 800,000 farmers now and we don't have any plan to spend on buying rice from now on,"

Supat Eauchai, an executive vice-president of state-owned Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), told *Reuters*.

The farmers had been left unpaid for months after former premier Yingluck Shinawatra dissolved parliament in December, turning her government into a

caretaker one that had no power to borrow money to pay off the arrears.

An anti-government group staged a 6-month-long protest that led Thailand into a political impasse until the military took control on 22 May.

Thailand's military leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Friday

the ruling military council had no immediate plans to maintain the rice-buying scheme begun by the ousted Yingluck.

The scheme was one of the major policies that brought Yingluck to power in 2011, thanks to a promise to pay farmers grain prices way above market rates.

Supat said the government had spent 8.80 billion Thai baht in buying rice from farmers since the policy was adopted in October 2011.

The scheme was expected to run up huge losses as the government was forced to sell rice from state stockpiles at market prices that were more than 50 percent less than the price of 15,000 baht per metric ton it had paid farmers.

Yingluck's government never revealed the exact losses to the media during its time in power.

However, the military government had said it would start checking on rice stocks throughout the country immediately before preparing a plan to manage the remaining stocks, amounting to more than 10 million tonnes, and to cover the losses.

Reuters

Top China diplomat to visit Vietnam amid oil rig row



China's State Councilor Yang Jiechi makes remarks during the Ecopartnership event of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) at the State Department in Washington on 11 July 2013.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 17 June — China's top diplomat will visit Vietnam this week, China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday, amid an increasingly ugly spat over a Chinese oil rig in the disputed South China Sea.

China's State Councilor Yang Jiechi, who out-

ranks the foreign minister, will visit Hanoi on Wednesday, ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing. It will be the highest level direct contact between the two sides since the rig began its operations in May.

Reuters

Two soldiers wounded in clash with rebels in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 17 June—Two soldiers have been wounded in fighting against leftist rebels in southern Philippines on Monday, the police said on Tuesday.

The latest clash happened as troops from the army's 26th Infantry Battalion chanced upon some 10 New People's Army guerrillas in Mt Ararat village, Bayugan City in Mindanao's Agusan del Sur province Monday morning, according to Superintendent Martin Gamba, spokesperson of Caraga police regional office.

Gamba said soldiers were on combat patrol when they ran into NPA gunmen, sparking a brief gunfight that left two soldiers wounded, who were promptly brought to a local hospital for treatment.—*Xinhua*

Police curfew lifted temporarily in southern Sri Lankan town after communal clashes

COLOMBO, 17 June — A police curfew that was in effect from Sunday in two southern Sri Lankan towns following communal clashes between Buddhists and Muslims have been lifted temporarily for four hours, police said on Tuesday.

The suspension of the curfew is to enable residents to stock up on food supplies and other essentials after curfew imposed on Sunday afternoon resulted in blanket closure of shops. Many people took advantage of the short time to move around, *Xinhua* noticed, with food and oth-

er items purchased before curfew is re-imposed.

"All this happened so suddenly. I didn't have a lot of vegetables and other things stocked at home. So now I'm quickly buying things and going back home. People are still very nervous," M Piyasena, a resident in Aluthgama, told *Xinhua*. Rioting engulfed Aluthgama and the adjoining town of Beruwala on Sunday afternoon following a rally held by Buddhist hardline group Bodu Bala Sena (BBS). Eyewitnesses in the area told *Xinhua* that thousands of people who

attended the rally, most from areas outside of the region, went on a rampage on Sunday evening torching dozens of shops and houses.

Hundreds of army, police and police special forces deployed in the southern Sri Lankan town of Aluthgama dispersed a large Buddhist mob on Monday as communal tensions that killed three and wounded about 80 continued despite an indefinite curfew.

Meanwhile the Australian government in its latest travel advisory issued on Tuesday advised its cit-

izen traveling to Sri Lanka to exercise a high degree of caution in Sri Lanka at this time "because of the unrest situation in some part of the country."

US and Canadian governments on Monday condemned the outbreak of communal violence and called on the Sri Lankan authorities to act quickly to ensure the safety of all communities.

Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa issued a short statement on Monday calling for restraint and promising an investigation into the incident.—*Xinhua*

Singapore president to receive honorary doctorate in Australia

SYDNEY, 17 June — Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam will arrive in South Australia on Tuesday to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Adelaide, where he studied a PhD in applied mathematics in the 1960s.

The Adelaide stop-over is part of Tan's six-day state visit to Australia, which began in Canberra on Sunday where he met Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott among other officials. It is his first visit to Australia as Singapore president and he said the two countries shared strong ties. "Our ties in fact go back to before Singapore's independence," Tan said on his Facebook page.

"Singapore and Australia enjoy excellent ties and strong relations in various fields including education, economics and defense." "This visit will further strengthen the people-to-people ties and promote closer co-operation between our two countries." Tan's last stop is Perth where he will meet the Western Australia's Governor Malcolm McCusker and Premier Colin Barnett.

He will also host a reception for the Singaporean community and visit the Republic of Singapore Air Force Pearce Detachment in Western Australia.

Xinhua

US considers air strikes on Iraq, holds talks with Iran

MOSUL, (Iraq), 17 June — President Barack Obama considered options for military action to support Iraq's besieged government on Monday but made no decision on the US response to a Sunni militant onslaught that has threatened to tear the country apart.

Obama, who discussed the crisis with his top national security advisers, has made US action contingent on Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's taking steps to broaden his Shi'ite-dominated government.

"The president will continue to consult with his national security team in the days to come," the White House said, without elaborating. A senior US official said Obama had not yet decided on a course of action.

Militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant group have routed Baghdad's army and seized the north of the country in the past week, threatening to dismember Iraq and unleash all-out sectarian warfare with no regard for national borders.

The fighters have been joined by other armed Sunni groups that oppose what they say is oppression by Maliki. The UN human rights chief said forces allied with ISIL had almost certainly committed war



A CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter launches from the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde during preparations for a field exercise in the Mediterranean Sea in this US Navy picture taken on 24 Oct, 2011.—REUTERS

crimes by executing hundreds of non-combatant men in Iraq over the past five days.

US and Iranian officials discussed the crisis in Vienna on the sidelines of separate negotiations about the Iranian nuclear programme, the two sides each said. Both ruled out military cooperation.

A US official said the talks did not include military coordination and would not make "strategic determinations" over the heads of Iraqis.

"Iran is a great country that can play a key role in restoring stability in Iraq and the region," a senior Iranian official told Reuters. But he added: "Military cooperation was not discussed and is not an option."

Any joint action between the United States and Iran to help prop up their mutual ally in Baghdad would be unprecedented since Shi'ite Iran's 1979 revolution, a sign of the alarm raised by the lightning insurgent advance.

US Secretary of State John Kerry called the advance an "existential threat" for Iraq. Asked if the United States could cooperate with Tehran against the insurgents, Kerry told Yahoo News: "I wouldn't rule out anything that would be constructive."

As for airstrikes: "They're not the whole answer, but they may well be one of the options that are important," he said. "When you have people murdering, assassinating in these

mass massacres, you have to stop that. And you do what you need to do if you need to try to stop it from the air or otherwise."

Iran has long-standing ties to Maliki and other Shi'ite politicians who came to power in US-backed elections.

In Baghdad, Brett McGurk, the State Department's point man on Iraq, and US Ambassador Stephen Beecroft, met with Maliki on Monday, US officials said. The meeting is part of a US effort to prod

Maliki to govern in a less sectarian manner.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Obama had not yet decided on political demands to be presented to Maliki.

Returning to Washington from a weekend trip to California, Obama convened a meeting of nearly 20 top advisers, including Kerry, Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel, CIA Director John Brennan and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.

Hewing to a cautious approach to the Iraq crisis just 2-1/2 years after Obama withdrew US troops from the country, the White House released scant information about the meeting. The senior official said the gathering yielded "no updated timeline" for Obama to render a decision on US action.

ISIL seeks a caliphate ruled on medieval Sunni Muslim precepts in Iraq and Syria, fighting against both Iraq's Maliki and Syria's Bashar al-Assad, another ally of Iran. It considers Shi'ites heretics as deserving of death and has boasted of massacring hundreds of Iraqi troops who surrendered to it last week.

Its uprising has been joined by tribal groups and figures from Saddam's era who believe Maliki is hostile to Sunnis.

Reuters

Barrel bomb attacks in Syria's Aleppo kill 25



A man tries to pull a casualty from under the rubble of collapsed buildings at a site hit by what activists said was a barrel bomb dropped by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Aleppo's district of al-Sukari on 16 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 17 June — At least 25 people were killed in barrel bomb attacks

in Syria's northern city of Aleppo on Monday, a monitoring group said.

Barrel bomb attacks are strikes in which helicopters drop highly destructive

improvised explosives. Western powers have condemned their use as a war crime, but they continue to be used almost every day in Aleppo and other parts of Syria.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday afternoon's strikes occurred in the al-Sukkari neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria's largest city, now divided between government and rebel forces. At least two children and one woman were among the dead, as were two men from a local governing council, the Observatory said. The toll was expected to rise because there were a number of people seriously wounded in the attack. Over 160,000 people have been killed in Syria's conflict, which started over three years ago as a peaceful protest movement and became an armed rebellion after a government crackdown.—Reuters

UN's Pillay says almost certain of war crimes in Iraq



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay looks on after her address to the 26th session of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva on 10 June, 2014.—REUTERS

GENEVA, 17 June — Forces allied with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) have almost certainly committed war crimes by executing hundreds of non-combatant men in Iraq, the UN human rights chief said on Monday.

Corroborated reports

showed that soldiers, military conscripts, police and others who had surrendered or been captured had been summarily executed in the past five days, Navi Pillay said in a statement.

"Although the numbers cannot be verified yet, this apparently systematic series of cold-blooded executions, mostly conducted in various locations in the Tikrit area, almost certainly amounts to war crimes," she said.

The Islamist militants have also executed 13 imams in Mosul for refusing to pledge allegiance to ISIL, she said.

"The provocative language used by ISIL, which has been talking about 'liquidating herds of sheep' and inciting sectarian tensions is clearly intended to sow further chaos and bloodshed in the country," she added.—Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Staring at screens all day linked to changes in eye secretions

NEW YORK, 17 June — Office workers who spend long hours looking at computer screens have changes in their tear fluid similar to people with the disease known as dry eye, according to a study from Japan.

The protein MUC5AC, secreted by cells in the upper eyelid, makes up part of the normally occurring mucus layer, or “tear film,” that keeps the eye moist. But study participants with the most screen time had MUC5AC levels nearing those of people with diagnosed dry eye.

“To understand patients’ eye strain, which is one of major symptoms of dry eye disease, it is important that ophthalmologist pay attention to MUC5AC concentration in tears,” said Dr Yuichi Uchino, an author of the new study.

Uchino is an ophthalmologist at the School of Medicine at Keio University in Tokyo.

“When we stare at computers, our blinking times decreased compared to reading a book at the table,” he told Reuters Health by email.

People staring at screens also tend to open



A dealer eats his lunch as he monitors his screens on the trading floor of IG Index in London on 6 May, 2010. — REUTERS

their eyelids wider than while doing other tasks, and the extra exposed surface area in addition to infrequent blinking can accelerate tear evaporation and is associated with dry eye disease, he said.

Dry eye may be chronic for some but can be managed with over the counter or prescription eye drops.

Past research suggests that up to 5 million men and women over age 50 in the United States suffer from dry eye disease, the

researchers write in their report. In Japan, tens of millions of people report some dry eye symptoms, often associated with computer work, they add.

The study team tested the tears from both eyes of 96 Japanese office workers, about two-thirds of them men, and measured how much of the total protein content of the tears was MUC5AC.

Workers employed in jobs involving computer screens filled out question-

naires about their working hours and symptoms of any eye problems.

Seven percent of men and 14 percent of women were diagnosed with ‘dry eye disease,’ meaning they reported symptoms of eye problems like irritation, burning or blurred vision and had poor quality or quantity of tear film, according to the tests.

Overall, participants looked at screens for work for just over eight hours a day and had an average of

about 6.8 nanograms of MUC5AC per milligram of protein in each eye.

However, people who worked with computer screens for more than seven hours per day had an average of 5.9 ng/mg of MUC5AC, compared to 9.6 ng/mg for people who spent fewer than five hours daily with screens.

Similarly, people with definite dry eye disease had an average of 3.5 ng/mg of MUC5AC compared to 8.2 ng/mg for people without the disease.

“Mucin is one of the most important components of the tear film,” said Dr Yuichi Hori, who was not a part of the new study. “Mucins (like MUC5AC) function to hold water on the ocular surface of the epithelia that synthesize them, hence, they are major players in maintenance of the tear film on the ocular surface,” Hori told Reuters Health by email.

He is chair of the department of Ophthalmology at Toho University Omori Medical Centre in Tokyo.

Concentration of the protein was also lower for people with symptoms of

eye strain than for people without symptoms, according to the results published in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

People with dry eyes at work tend to be less productive and are more likely to be depressed, according to previous studies, Uchino said.

Office workers who are worried about dry eye can make some simple changes to decrease their risk, Uchino said.

“The exposed ocular surface area can be decreased by placing the terminal at a lower height, with the screen tilted upward,” Uchino said.

Doctors also recommend using a humidifier at the office and avoiding being in the direct path of the wind from an air conditioner, he said.

“We advise the office workers suffering from ocular fatigue and dry eye symptoms that they should blink more frequently in an intended manner during (screen use), and that they should use artificial tears,” Hori said.

“And they should ask an eye care doctor if their symptoms still remain.”

Reuters

British scientists develop “drill-free” tooth treatment

LONDON, 17 June — Drillings and fillings at the dentist’s are always dreadful and make tooth decay treatment very unpleasant.

But British scientists have developed a new approach of fixing tooth decay, which could get rid of all the drillings, injections and fillings — and unpleasantness, a Press release by

approach, one that re-builds the tooth and heals it without the need for drills, needles or amalgam.

By accelerating the natural process by which calcium and phosphate minerals re-enter the tooth to repair a defect, the device boosts the tooth’s natural repair process. The new method could be in use at the dentist’s



King’s College London (KCL) said on Monday.

Dentists normally treat caries in a tooth by drilling to remove the decay and filling the tooth with a material such as amalgam or composite resin. But scientists at King’s College London (KCL) took a different

chair in the next 3 years, according to researchers.

The two-step method first prepares the damaged part of the enamel outer layer of the tooth, then uses a tiny electric current to ‘push’ minerals into the tooth to repair the damaged site. —Xinhua

Asian shares soft on anxiety over Iraq, Ukraine

TOKYO, 17 June — Asian shares struck a cautious tone on Tuesday as the double-whammy of a deepening conflict in Iraq and a gas dispute between Ukraine and Russia sapped investors’ appetite for risk.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 0.3 percent. Japan’s Nikkei bucked the trend with rise of a 0.5 percent, though it was still down on the week so far.

Oil prices remained near nine-month highs after militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant seized a large swathe of northern Iraq and threatened to capture a key oil refinery.

The insurgent advance forced Washington to not only consider options for military action but also hold brief talks with Iran, its long-time foe, to support the besieged government in Baghdad.

US crude futures edged down on Tuesday to \$106.76 per barrel after having climbed as high as \$107.68 on Friday, but

investors remain wary of potential disruptions to oil exports. “The advance of extremists to Baghdad or bombing by US forces will be a trigger to justify rise in US oil prices above \$110. That would be a burden for the world economy in the near term,” said Daisuke Uno, chief strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

Higher energy costs are likely to curb growth in oil-importing economies, with the Indian rupee already falling victim to worries over rising inflation to hit a one-month low on Monday.

Tension in Ukraine showed no sign of abating as Russia cut off gas to Ukraine on Monday in a dispute over unpaid bills that could disrupt supplies to the rest of Europe and set back hopes for peace between the former Soviet neighbours. As investor risk sentiment was hit, flight-to-quality bids underpinned US Treasuries prices despite solid US industrial output data on



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

Monday. The 10-year yield stood at 2.593 percent, off last week’s peak of 2.662 percent.

Immediate focus is on the Federal Reserve’s monetary policy statement on Wednesday, when the US central bank is expected to announce it will continue paring its bond purchase programme and cut its growth projections.

In the currency market, the Australian dollar slipped after minutes of the Australian central bank’s June 3 meeting were more dovish than expected.

The Aussie dipped 0.4 percent to \$0.9361 as the minutes showed the Reserve Bank of Australia was not sure the current stimulus would be enough to offset a drag from falling mining investment and government belt-tightening. The British pound held near a five-year high hit on Monday, maintaining momentum after Bank of England chief Mark Carney surprised markets last Thursday by suggesting the Bank of England may tighten its policy before year-end.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 June, 2014

Platforms

By Aung Khin

The term 'platform' refers to different aspects. It is used in various ways, such as diving platforms, oil platforms, railway platforms, etc., as physical objects and features; party platform in politics; computing platforms, platform browser, platform technology, etc., in technology.

In technology, platform is any base of technologies on which other technologies or processes are built. Nevertheless, any type of platform must be able to offer safety and facilitation for

the people.

In terms of physical objects and features, sidewalks are colloquially called a 'platform', a path along the side of a road.

Actually, every sidewalk or platform should have enough space. Sometimes, urban development committees narrow the platforms, which are still in good condition, intending to get more space for vehicles on the roads.

However, when the space of a platform is not big enough for walking safely and it is blocked by obstacles, people have to choose the street as an alternative passage, an option that is very dangerous for them.

Platforms should also be kept clean and tidy. Walkers are annoyed by dirty or rough platforms. Some platforms even have uneven concrete slabs and holes for drainage channels that can cause a people to suffer a bad fall. Platforms

should not be problems for the people; they should be built for the convenience of people.

Some platforms have no electric or other lighting, leaving only a dim path for walkers. Some vehicles park on the platforms, especially in the streets, imposing serious restraints on walking safely. These actions have some advantages for a few people but leave bad results for the majority of people.

Therefore, useful and pragmatic platforms should be constructed for the welfare of the country, and the people.

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.

Myanmar Still Needs A Strong Push For Reforms in Education

By K. Thura

It is without exaggeration that Myanmar had basked in a glorious past of being one of the countries of excellent education in the world. History does not lie. What is interesting, though known to all, is the country's slide into a downward spiral of educational standard. The blame lies with the fact that in Myanmar learning and teaching have been passive rather than active, mainly focusing on rote-learning.

No transition is ever completed without some hardship. In the effort to change from the teacher-centred approach to the student-centred approach, the worst culprit is the mindset some teachers entertain. In addition, they are critical of modern teaching methods and still find it hard to abandon the old teaching techniques, with which they had all grown up. There is every reason to believe that they fail to grasp a clear concept of what the student-centred approach means. In reality, the role of a teacher is central to the success of the student-centred approach. In the new learning/teaching setting, it is necessary for teachers to be well-informed and well-read. In this respect, teaching is no longer an ordinary, boring process. Instead, teaching will become more active and more interesting, depending on the teacher's ability to handle.

Undeniable is the fact that conventional learning/teaching methods tend to

consider students as passive receivers of information, neglecting the need to actively participate in the learning process. One negative thing about the conventional setting is that it prevents students from asking questions and challenging the theories in textbooks—a practice that kills their curiosity, enthusiasm and self-confidence. All that students have to do is just learn and repeat what is taught parrot-fashion.

What makes the matter worse is that students in the traditional learning settings draw motivation from competition among themselves, largely focusing on higher grades. It would be more appropriate to term the motivation of this sort as 'jealousy', which can harm the friendship, thereby triggering aggression and illusion. Bit by bit, the whole education system has sunk deeper and deeper into the mire.

Yet, the student-centred approach, as the term suggests, is a method of learning or teaching that puts students at the heart of the learning process. Simply put, it is a system in which learners are to take responsibility for their own learning. As stated by Jonassen in 1995, learner-centredness is a teaching approach that requires teachers to pay more attention to the active role students are playing in the learning process. Teaching is meant to engage learners in interaction and collaboration. In this respect, teachers need to stop acting as the centre of instruction and transferring knowledge through the interpretation

of meaning to learners. In other words, teachers should act facilitators of learning by 'providing students with opportunities to learn independently and from one another and coaching them in the skills they need to do so effectively'. Collins & O'Brien (2003) pointed out that "the student-centred approach includes such techniques as substituting active learning experiences for lectures, assigning open-ended problems and problems requiring critical or creative thinking that cannot be solved by following text examples, involving students in simulations and role plays, and using self-paced and/or team-based learning. Properly implemented, the student-centred learning can lead to increased motivation to learn, greater retention of knowledge, deeper understanding, and more positive attitudes toward the subject being taught".

There is a lot of strong research evidence in support of the implementation of the learner-centred approach instead of the teacher-centred approach. The American Psychological Association integrated their research into five domains as follows:

1. The knowledge base

The conclusive result of decades of research on knowledge base is that what a person already knows largely determines what new information he attends to, how he organizes and represents new information, and how he filters new experiences, and even what he determines to

be important or relevant. (Alexander & Murphy, 2000)

2. Strategic processing and executive control

The ability to reflect on and regulate one's thoughts and behaviors is an essential aspect of learning. Successful students are actively involved in their own learning, monitor their thinking, think about their learning, and assume responsibility for their own learning (Lambert & McCombs, 2000)

3. Motivation and affect

The benefits of learner-centered education include increased motivation for learning and greater satisfaction with school; both of these outcomes lead to greater achievement (Johnson, 1991; Maxwell, 1998; Slavin, 1990). Research shows that personal involvement, intrinsic motivation, personal commitment, confidence in one's abilities to succeed, and a perception of control over learning lead to more learning and higher achievement in school. (Alexander & Murphy, 2000)

4. Development and individual differences

Individuals progress through various common stages of development, influenced by both inherited and environmental factors. Depending on the context or task, changes in how people think, believe, or behave are dependent on a combination of one's inherited abilities, stages of development, individual differences, capabilities, experiences, and environmental conditions. (Alexander & Murphy, 2000)

5. Situation or context

Theories of learning that highlight the roles of active engagement and social interaction in the students' own construction of knowledge (Bruner, 1966; Kafai & Resnick, 1996; Piaget, 1963; Vygotsky, 1978) strongly support this learner-centered paradigm. Learning is a social process. Many environmental factors including how the instructor teaches, and how actively engaged the student is in the learning process positively or negatively influence how much and what students learn (Lambert & McCombs, 2000). In comparison studies between students in lecture and active learning courses, there are significantly more learning gains in the active learning courses (Springer, Stanne, & Donovan, 1999).

Judging from their findings, it is clear that the merely raising of course standards is not an answer to the call for higher standards of education, especially with students of big dreams. It is therefore important in any school setting to create an environment that fosters students' learnability, accommodates different learning styles, and motivate students to accept responsibility for their own learning. With

this end in mind, now is the time to create a powerful learning environment in the philosophical, practical, pedagogical, organizational and infrastructural sense.

As methods of teaching and learning keep developing over time, the ways in which knowledge is imparted keep changing too. The same thing can be applied for the learning/teaching environments and the tools that students use to learn. With this in mind, every effort should be made to grasp every opportunity at a time when voices for the educational reform have become louder in the wave of reforms sweeping across the country. One thing crucial to note is that reform efforts will never yield fruitful results without a rhythmic cooperation between educators, learners, parents, researchers and policy-makers, all of whom have their part to play in the reform process—an important but mostly neglected factor. All in all, it is vital for those involved in the education process to develop a common identity and a sense of belonging to a wider reform-minded community, if the student-centred approach is to be applied with any measure of success.

GOLD PRICE (17-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K658,300 per tical: Selling K659,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K658,300 per tical: Selling K669,000

LOCAL NEWS

New medicine introduced in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 17 June — A ceremony to introduce a medicine indentified as Neo Entrostop produced by Kalbe pharmaceutical company of India was held at the Oriental Hall at the corner of 27th and 64th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

The Indian medicine has been registered at the Food and Drug Administration of Myanmar so as to



distribute it to the market.

Marketing Manager Daw Thinza Nwe ex-

plained the advantages of Neo Entrostop medicine that can relieve dysentery



disease caused by bacteria and virus.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Women's School turns out two matriculation exam-passed students

KYAIKLAT, 17 June—A ceremony to honour the students who passed the matriculation examination for 2013-14 fiscal year was held at the women's school

in Kyauklat of Ayeyawady Region on 15 June.

Two of three students passed the examination. Ma Win Nanda from Basic Education High School

No 1 and Ma Thuza Win of BEHS No 2 passed the exam. Entrepreneurs, social organizations and donors presented cash awards and gifts to them.

“Depending on their marks in the exam, the school will provide them to attend the universities,” said Chairman of the school U Maung Win.

The school established by nun Daw Pannawati in 1973 has turned out one teacher in 2010-11 fiscal year.

The Social Welfare Department provided K2.6 million for the school in 2013-14 fiscal year and K2.9 million in 2014-15.

At present, the school is nurturing 38 children under care of head of the school Daw Nwe Yi.

Athawka

Basic education schools sprayed for students to be free from DHF



NYAUNGLEBIN, 17 June — As part of health care activities for the basic education students, the township authorities sprayed 16 basic education primary schools in Nyaunglebin of Bago Region on Saturday.

It was aimed at taking

prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever for the school children.

The spray was donated by U Thet Naing-Daw Su Su Khin (Shwe Nattaung) with the assistance of the Township Education Office, officials of Township

Health Department and local authorities.

Khin Maung Lwin

Modern housing project under implementation in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 17 June— The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction and private construction companies are jointly implementing the Seiktaramahi modern housing estate project between 26th and 27th streets in Seiktaramahi Ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

The nine-storey building will have shopping centres, car parks, playground

and other facilities.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 13 June inspected progress of implementing the project and instructed officials to complete the project in time meeting the set standard.

The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development plans to implement more housing projects in Mandalay.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Course on worksite safety, management conducted in Hlinethaya Tsp

HLINETHAYA, 17 June — The course on factory/workshop management and worksite safety, health and legal affairs was opened at Kanaung Hall in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-1 in Hlinethaya of Yangon North District on Monday,

attended by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Affairs U Aye Myint.

Director-General U Myo Aung of Labour Department explained the purpose of conducting the course for employers, man-

ager and supervisors of the factories and managers and the subjects to be lectured.

Altogether 180 trainees from 15 industrial zones in Hlinethaya Township are attending the 10-day course.

Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)

**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**



The war that never ends between the Koreans

YEONPYEONG, (South Korea), 17 June — On a clear day, residents of Yeonpyeong Island can see North Korea, 10 kms (six miles) away. They can also sometimes watch South Korean warships chase North Korean and Chinese fishing boats. These waters in the Yellow Sea are among the world's richest for blue crab.

Lately, however, North Korea has been making life riskier for residents of this fishing community. On 22 May, they were ordered into bomb shelters after the North fired artillery shells around the island, without hitting anything. Earlier that week, the South Korean navy fired 10 warning shots at North Korean ships after they crossed the maritime boundary between the two sides.

The line was drawn up unilaterally by the US-led United Nations command after the 1950-53 Korean War. That conflict ended in an armed truce that has continued until now, leaving the two Koreas in a technical state of war.

Tensions are especially high along the string of five South Korean islands that define the maritime frontier, known as the “Northern Limit Line” (NLL). Lately, the area has seen a sharp increase in artillery exchanges between the two Koreas.

North Korea doesn't recognize the NLL. The line is not recognized internationally, either. North Korea warships and fishing boats routinely sail over the line, which commands strategic sea lanes into the industrial heartland of both Koreas. This has led to a



Residents wash seaweed in the sea on a beach on the island of Baengnyeong, which lies on the South Korean side of the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea in this on 13 April, 2014 file photograph.—REUTERS

spate of sea battles and artillery exchanges over the last 15 years.

The movements of foreign media are restricted on the militarily sensitive islands. A recent *Reuters* visit found the chase scenes between the South Korean navy and Chinese fishing boats are practically a daily occurrence. The North Korean military has been making money for years selling Chinese ships the rights to fish in the area, the South Korean coast guard and local officials on the island say.

The disputed maritime frontier, the economic and strategic importance of the area, and a history of violent confrontations have made these otherwise sleepy islands one of

the world's most dangerous flashpoints — one that could drag in the United States and China as parties to the armistice.

“The West Sea boundary is the weakest link in the chain that holds the two Koreas from outright conflict, and the regular appearance of a third party—Chinese fishermen— adds a destabilising element into an already volatile mix,” said John Delury, assistant professor at Yonsei University in Seoul.

Delury added that “the dangers of entangling the US and China are also very real, at a time when they already have enough maritime disputes to worry about in the East and South China Seas.”

A Fraught History

The Korean War ended roughly where it started — near the 38th parallel. The armistice of 30 Aug, 1953, stipulated that both sides withdraw their forces two kilometres from there to form a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). It remains the world's most heavily-fortified frontier.

Extending the line out to the Yellow Sea was far more problematic due to the jagged coastline and a sprawl of islands and islets, and the two sides failed to agree on one. So a month after the armistice was signed, United Nations Commander Mark Clark, a US four-star general, drew a line in the sea to keep southern warships from straying too far north and to reduce the like-

lihood of sea clashes.

The South Koreans have always regarded the NLL as a seaward extension of the DMZ and a de facto boundary between North and South Korea. “The NLL, however, has no legal basis in international law,” according to a CIA document declassified in 1974.

A US Embassy spokeswoman in Seoul did not directly address the question of the line's international legality when asked for comment. “For 60 years, the Northern Limit Line has served as a practical measure to separate military forces in the Yellow Sea and to reduce tensions and the risks of military confrontation,” she said.

North Korea, however, has long declared a 12-nau-

tical mile territorial sea limit in the area - one that includes the five islands. In recent years, it has been more forceful about that claim. In June 1999 and June 2002, clashes between North and South Korean warships erupted at the start of the crab fishing season. A South Korean patrol boat sank and a North Korean boat was heavily damaged in the 2002 incident.

After that, the two sides began talking about joint fishing areas in a “West Coast Peace Zone”, which was eventually agreed at an inter-Korean summit in October 2007. The pact unravelled, however, in a fire storm of protest by conservative lawmakers in the South and was never implemented. The election of a conservative government in the South the following year and North Korea's leadership succession have marked a steady worsening of ties. In one of the worst incidents since the Korean War, North Korea lobbed 170 shells at Yeonpyeong Island in November 2010, about half of them landing on civilian and military targets. Two civilians and two South Korean soldiers were killed. Only days before, North Korea revealed to a visiting American scholar a vast new uranium enrichment facility. Over the next three years, North Korea embarked on a series of long-range missile and nuclear tests. On 30 March of this year, Pyongyang publicly announced it would not rule out “a new form of nuclear test.” Analysts speculated that could mean a nuclear warhead capable of being carried by a ballistic missile.—*Reuters*



People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers fire weapons during training in Heihe, Heilongjiang Province, on 14 April, 2014.

REUTERS

China's army eases curbs to draw more educated recruits

SHANGHAI, 17 June — China's military is setting its sights on better educated entrants, relaxing height, weight and vision requirements while cutting back on candidates without high school diplomas, the *China Daily* said on Tuesday.

China has the world's biggest military, with 2.3 million men and women in uniform, and its defence spending is second only to that of the United States. In the past decade it has kicked off an ambitious modernization drive,

developing new weapons systems and upgrading the force.

The People's Liberation Army has lowered the minimum height requirement for recruits, raised the maximum weight limit, reduced eyesight standards and even begun taking on recruits with once-taboo tattoos, the English-language newspaper quoted the Defence Ministry's recruitment office as saying.

“Enlisting more high-quality soldiers is ex-

tremely important to building a strong and capable military,” it said.

The PLA has also removed mental illnesses including schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorder, as barriers to recruitment, it said.

The cities of Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing will only accept recruits with at least a high school diploma, and other regions will gradually accept fewer enlistees without diplomas, it said.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Green managers stuff funds with Apple after environmental reforms

BOSTON, 17 June — Apple Inc, criticized in the past for greenhouse gas emissions, use of toxic materials and the hiring of underage workers, has improved its practices and earned better scores from groups such as Greenpeace. That's good news for environmentally-aware mutual funds that hold Apple for another big reason — it makes money.

The Cupertino, California-based maker of the iPhone, the world's biggest public company by market capitalization, has adopted a slew of green policies such as expanded product recycling and using solar power at its data centers. For managers who have made it a favorite of the largest "green"



The leaf on the Apple symbol is tinted green at the Apple flagship store on 5th Ave in New York on 22 April, 2014.— REUTERS

mutual funds tracked by Thomson Reuters' Lipper unit, the improvements bolster the appeal of a stock that's risen 15 percent this year, 19th best among the Standard & Poor's 100

index.

The confluence of a rising price and improving environmental performance make Apple "the one stock you just can't ignore," said Anthony Tursich, senior

portfolio manager of the \$498 million Portfolio 21 Global Equity Fund, a green fund that bought Apple in 2011 after the company began providing more emissions data.

Tursich's biggest holding is Google Inc, which he bought only after it made progress on renewable energy, reflecting how top US corporations are embracing green goals, and how the funds jump on those firms once they start making those environmental moves.

Environmental fund managers may be broadening their shopping lists in part because they have more money to deploy: For the 12 months ended April 30 investors put \$1.9 bil-

lion of new money into the 72 funds tracked by Lipper that use environmental criteria in their investment decisions. That's still tiny relative to the \$247.6 billion that went into all US equity funds, but represents a 5 percent inflow that Lipper research head Tom Roseen said was significant. The bulk of the new money, more than \$1 billion, went into the dominant \$9.5 billion Parnassus Core Equity Fund, Lipper said.

Apple is the top holding of the Parnassus fund, which bought most of the shares in 2013, the year the fund rose 34 percent and beat 72 percent of peers, according to Morningstar. Through 13 June the fund

was up about 7 percent in 2014, beating 87 percent of peers. Apple is also the top holding of the \$2.9 billion Calvert Equity Portfolio and the \$118 million Green Century Balanced Fund, and is the third-largest stock in the \$2 billion Pax World Balanced Fund, according to the funds' latest filings.

Fund managers cited a mix of reasons for warming up to Apple, including reforms pushed by Chief Executive Tim Cook and the stock's outlook. It is up 15 percent in 2014 through on Monday on enthusiasm for its iPhones and other pending products, as well as a stock split and a dividend increase.

Reuters

Hackers steal Dominos Pizza customer data in Europe, ransom sought



Signage at a Domino's pizza restaurant is pictured in Burbank, California on 16 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

BOSTON, 17 June — Hackers have stolen data on more than 600,000 Dominos Pizza Inc customers in Belgium and France, the pizza delivery company said, and an anonymous Twitter user threatened to publish the data unless the company pays a cash ransom. Customer names, delivery addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and passwords were taken from a server used in an online ordering system that the company is in the process of replacing, Dominos spokesman Chris Brandon said on Monday.

He said he did not know if the stolen passwords had been encrypted.

A Tweet directed at Domino's customers through an account of somebody listed as "Rex Mundi" said hackers would publish the customer data on the Internet unless the company pays 30,000 eu-

ros (\$40,800), according to an article in *The Telegraph*.

The Rex Mundi account was later suspended.

Brandon said he was not familiar with the ransom demands, but that the company would not be making any such payment.

Dominos' Vice President of Communications Tim McIntyre said the hacking was "isolated" to independent franchise markets of Belgium and France, where the company's online ordering system did not collect credit card orders, so no financial data had been taken.

"This does not affect any market outside of France and Belgium," he said via email. "The site has been secured."

Dominos has some 11,000 stores worldwide, including 229 in France, 24 in Belgium and about 5,000 in the United States.

Reuters

EU to team up with South Korea in global 5G race

BRUSSELS, 17 June — The European Union is teaming up with South Korea to jointly research the next generation of mobile broadband technology, hoping the Asian country's expertise will help it catch up in a field crucial for economic growth and jobs.

South Korea has one of the fastest mobile broadband networks and is home to Samsung, the world's biggest smartphone maker.

Europe had led the competition in GSM technology — the original standard for mobile networks — in the 1990s, but fell behind the Unit-



A commuter uses her mobile phone as she walks past a Samsung Galaxy mobile phone advertisement at a train station in Singapore on 23 May, 2014.— REUTERS

ed States and Asia in the rollout of faster 4G connections. The putative 5G mobile network promises better connections to cope

with the ever-increasing number of mobile internet users. The EU estimates a high-definition movie could be downloaded in six

seconds with the new technology, up from six minutes with 4G.

Businesses have repeatedly called on the EU to improve the quality of its mobile communications infrastructure, saying that inadequate networks hinder job creation and growth at a time when Europe is slowly pulling itself out of recession.

"5G will become the new lifeblood of the digital economy and digital society once it is established," Neelie Kroes, the EU commissioner for telecoms, said in a statement on Monday.—Reuters

Alibaba discloses powerful partners, reveals slowing growth



People walk at the headquarters of Alibaba in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 23 April, 2014. — REUTERS

BEIJING, 17 June — Alibaba Group Holding IPO-ALIB.N revealed the members of its powerful 27-person partnership and board on Monday, while disclosing that the Chinese e-commerce giant's growth has slowed from the red-hot pace of recent quarters.

In an updated prospectus for what could be the largest tech IPO in history, Alibaba said the partnership

includes founder Jack Ma, Executive Vice Chairman Joseph Tsai and Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Lu. The group has the exclusive right to nominate a majority of Alibaba's nine-member board, effectively ensuring control of the company rests in the hands of insiders.

Among four independent directors asked to join a post-IPO board were former Hong Kong Chief Execu-

tive Tung Chee Hwa, Yahoo Inc YHOO.O founder Jerry Yang, and J Michael Evans, former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs Group Inc GS.N.

Alibaba is expected to eclipse Facebook Inc's FB.O \$15 billion initial share sale in 2012 when it debuts late this summer. But investors and governance experts have raised questions about Alibaba's scant disclosures, and Ma's murky web of third-party transactions. Tung's inclusion may open doors for Alibaba, though his tenure was marked by controversy. He is uncle to the wife of corporate finance chief Michael Yao. "His family relationship is a negative from a Western governance point of view, but probably a positive from an Asian" perspective, said Boston

University School of Management professor James Post. "The board will be the place where 'East meets West' governance happens at Alibaba in the years to come." The company's five executive board directors are Ma, Tsai, Lu, Chief Operating Officer Daniel Zhang, and Masayoshi Son, founder of SoftBank Corp 9984.T, Alibaba's biggest shareholder with a 34.3 percent stake.

Alibaba previously said its partnership encompassed 28 members, elected annually. It did not explain the change on Monday.

Monday's filing also divulged more information about the operations of Alibaba, which handles more transactions than Amazon.com AMZN.O and eBay EBAY.O combined.

Reuters

Miami exiles pressure US to loosen policy on Cuba

MIAMI, 17 June — Cuban exile Joe Arriola at one time would never have dreamed of returning to his homeland while it was under communist rule.

But after 53 years in the United States, the former manager of the city of Miami swallowed his pride and decided he had waited long enough.

Arriola, 67, said a weeklong trip to the island last year had opened his eyes to what he now believes is a failed US policy of trying to isolate Cuba.

“The number one weapon we have is capitalism, and we are not using it,” he said over breakfast at the Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables, a bastion of older, conservative-minded exiles in Miami-Dade County. “We should be flooding the place with tourists and commerce.”

Tired of waiting for the end of communism in Cuba, more and more Cuban-Americans have concluded that it is time for the United States to allow more engagement with the island they left behind, polls show.

“Our president has not had the guts to do the right thing,” said Arriola, who helped raise funds for Barack Obama’s campaign and whose son, Ricky, sits on the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

Advocates of policy change say the administration’s caution stems less these days from concerns about a Miami backlash than from the hard-line stance of lawmakers like Bob Menendez, a Cuban-American and the influential chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The New Jersey Democrat and other members of Congress, including Senator Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican who is also of Cuban descent, have lashed out at exiles who favor lifting a five-decades-old trade embargo against Cuba, accusing them of betraying the cause of democracy and putting money in the pockets of the Castro dictatorship.

But a poll set for release Tuesday by Florida International University is expected to show a tilt in the exile community, with a majority favouring closer ties with the communist-run island.

Such widespread sentiment could ease the way for the Obama administration to revise US-Cuba policy by permitting greater travel and commercial activity to help an emerging private sector on the island.

“The old understanding was that you could not do anything in Cuba without causing a tempest among the exiles,” said



Joe Arriola, 67, a Cuban-born former manager of the city of Miami, poses for a photo near the Bay of Pigs in Miami, Florida, on 17 May, 2014.
REUTERS

Peter Schechter, director of the Latin America Center at the Atlantic Council think tank. “Now it’s clear there really isn’t a political price to pay.”

Taking to the Skies

The poll is the latest in a series of developments seemingly destined to undo the last vestiges of US-Cuba policy crafted during the height of the Cold War.

Many Cuban exiles are letting their feet do the talking, taking advantage of relaxed travel restrictions Obama introduced in 2009. Between January and June,

there were 2,345 flights to Cuba from the United States, and about 82 percent of the 282,450 passengers were Cuban-Americans visiting family, according to Emilio Morales, president of the Miami-based Havana Consulting Group.

He calculates that 650,000 people, mostly Cuban-Americans, will travel between Cuba and the United States this year. The exiles will also send \$3 billion in cash remittances.

George Feldenkreis, owner of Miami-based fashion company Perry

Ellis, led a group of 12 family members back to Cuba in 2011 for the first time.

“I wanted to make a trip to show my grandchildren what I came from, how poor I was,” he said, describing how he took the family to see his humble home near Havana’s train station.

For Feldenkreis, 78, age was also a factor. “I didn’t want to go while he (former Cuban President Fidel Castro) was still alive, but I am getting old,” he said.

Feldenkreis is frustrated with Cuba policy, but remains a staunch opponent of loosening US sanctions.

A chorus of voices from Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state under Obama, to John Negroponte, the director of national intelligence under President George W. Bush, have recently spoken in favor of rethinking Cuba policy.

The head of the US Chamber of Commerce visited Cuba last month and praised Havana’s free-market reforms, saying the US trade embargo was an impediment for American companies.

In February, a poll by the Washington-based Atlantic Council found a strong majority of Americans nationwide favored loosening Cuba sanctions.

Obama has hinted he is considering a policy shift. In November he told a Miami area fundraiser that it might be time for the United States to “update” its policies toward Cuba.

But administration officials have repeatedly said in recent months that there are no plans to change current policy.

Policy analysts say Cuba sits low on the list of White House priorities, even as the potential costs of bolder moves appear to diminish.

“The Obama administration expects civil society to be ahead of public policy,” Schechter said. “Before it leads, it wants civil society to agitate and create an atmosphere that will be ripe for its own leadership.”

With that in mind, groups in Miami have set about stirring things up to press for more engagement with Cuba. In April, a group calling itself CubaNow advertised on posters on the Washington, DC, metro system that Obama should “stop waiting.”

To be sure, Cuba still arouses local sensitivities in Miami. When Florida gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist questioned the embargo in May and announced his intentions to visit the island, a Miami Herald columnist warned: “We will punish you.”

Reuters

South Korea ferry crew say rescue was coastguard’s job

GWANGJU, (South Korea), 17 June —The surviving crew of a South Korean ferry that sank in April killing more than 300 people and sparking a nationwide outpouring of grief argued

on Tuesday that it was up to the coastguard to rescue the passengers, not the crew.

Lawyers for the 15, who face charges ranging from homicide to negli-

gence, made the case that once coastguard rescuers had reached the sharply listing vessel, the crew’s job was over.

“The crew share the belief that they thought the

coastguard should be fully capable of the rescue because there was a distress call and they arrived and they were the ones with professional skills and equipment,” lawyer Im Ju-young told the court on the second day of the trial in Gwangju, the closest city to the scene of the disaster.

The *Sewol*, overloaded and traveling too fast on a turn, sank off the southwest coast on 16 April on a routine journey from Incheon on the mainland to the southern holiday island of Jeju.

Of the 476 passengers and crew on board, 339 were children and teachers from the same school on the outskirts of Seoul. Only 172 people were rescued and the remainder are all presumed to have drowned.

Reuters

German experts train Kenyan police on terrorism

NAIROBI, 17 June — German police experts on Monday begun conducting training for Kenyan police officers and prosecutors in methods to fight and prosecute terrorism.

“The 16-20 June workshop which is being in the coastal city of Mombasa involves investigation after terrorist attacks,” said a statement from the German embassy in Nairobi.

The statement said the police and prosecution officials will also be trained in and establishing of facts, investigation via internet, fight against cyber crimes and data processing after major incidents. “Analysis of radicalization and recruitment of terrorists will be addressed as well as aspects of surveillance in procedures against terrorism,” the statement said.

Since 2009, the Ger-

man Federal Criminal Police Office has supported the Kenyan criminal police forces with a number of workshops, trainings and equipment. Kenya’s counter-terrorism officers have in the recent past been kept busy stemming spreading Islamic extremist militancy especially in the coastal city of Mombasa and in northern Kenya where the Somali militant group Al-Shabaab has cells.

The Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) has also previously denied allegations that they have been carrying out acts of anguish on accused persons.

However, the Kenyan government has on various occasions credited ATPU with thwarting dozens of terrorist plots and arresting suspects in an ostensibly robust counter-terrorism response.—Xinhua



A Coast Guard ship passes near the upturned South Korean ferry “Sewol” in the sea off Jindo on 16 April, 2014.—REUTERS

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -043(14-15)	1500 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (5) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB -044(14-15)	2900 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (4) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB -045(14-15)	900 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (11) Sets	US\$
(4)	IFB -046(14-15)	55 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane (1) Unit	US\$
(5)	IFB -047(14-15)	Spare Parts for Mud Pump Engine ydraulic Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (11) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -048(14-15)	Spare Parts for Drilling Trailer Hydraulic System Ex HDD Rig (16) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -049(14-15)	Spare Parts for Main Engine Hydraulic Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (7) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB -050(14-15)	Roller Chains for EMSCO Drilling Rig (4) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB -051(14-15)	Mast Raising Line for ZJ50D Sr-I Rig (2) Nos	US\$
(10)	IFB -052(14-15)	Oil & Gas Production Accessories (27) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB -053(14-15)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8" Tubing (2) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB -054(14-15)	Valves & Fitting (7) Items	US\$
(13)	DMP/L-009(14-15)	Telephone Cable (No. 24 AWG 100 Pair, 50 Pair, 20 Pair & 10 Pair) (4) Items	KS
(14)	DMP/L-010(14-15)	Dell Server & Accessories, Laser Jet Printer, Scanner, Fax Machine & Copier (1) Lot	KS
(15)	DMP/L-011(14-15)	Motor for CNG Compressor (3) Items	KS

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

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 18th 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

New York woman's body mistakenly donated for scientific research

NEW YORK, 17 June — The body of a recently deceased New York woman was mistakenly released from a city morgue and donated for medical student research, city officials and a family attorney said on Monday. Children of the late Aura Ballesteros, 85, made arrangements with the New York City's Office of Chief Medical Examiner in mid-May to hold their mother's body at a city morgue while they planned a funeral, attorney Sanford Rubenstein said.

Shortly after Ballesteros' body arrived at the Jacobi Medical Center morgue in the Bronx, it was erroneously donated to the nearby Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Rubenstein said.

"Obviously it was negligence ... carelessness, recklessness," Rubenstein said. Ballesteros died of natural causes at a local

nursing home and her body was eventually returned to her family, but it had already been embalmed, Rubenstein and officials said.

That caused her children additional "emotional distress" in the aftermath of her death and they planned to sue the city, Rubenstein said. Chief Medical Examiner's Office spokeswoman

an Julie Bolcer confirmed that Ballesteros' body was inadvertently donated for scientific research but said it was only embalmed and not dissected.

A Bronx morgue worker had failed to observe a "hold" notice on the body and the department was addressing the incident, she said.

Reuters

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Egypt swears in new government to tackle economic woes

CAIRO, 17 June — Egypt's Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb was sworn in on Tuesday at the head of a new government that retained key economic and security ministers but created a new investment post to attract funds to an economy racked by years of political turmoil. Mehleb, followed by his ministers, took the oath of office in front of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the former army chief who re-appointed him after Sisi won a landslide election victory in May.

Trying to project a sense of urgency and purpose in the new government's mission, the early-rising former military president had summoned the ministers to a palace in northern Cairo at 6 am for a ceremony that began promptly, an hour later.



Egypt's Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab talks during a news conference at the presidential palace in Cairo, on 2 March, 2014.— REUTERS

His prime minister echoed the need to move quickly, promising an energetic, focused and better coordinated regime. "There is no time for rest," Mehleb was quoted as saying on the front page of the state's *Al-Masry*

Al-Youm newspaper.

"We will start our work from the early hours of the morning as there is a strict plan and new technique of work to tie all the ministers to work together and not work as if they were isolated

islands," he added.

Egypt's economy is forecast to grow at just 3.2 percent in the fiscal year that begins on 1 July, well below levels needed to create sufficient jobs for a rapidly growing population of 86 million and to ease widening poverty.

The turmoil of the last three years, when two presidents were overthrown, hundreds of people were killed and tourism and investment were battered, have contributed to high unemployment and a widening budget deficit. The government will also have to tackle the legacy of decades of corruption and red tape and a costly subsidy system — fuel subsidies alone cost the state nearly \$19 billion a year.

Mehleb said ministers will provide him with

a weekly plan that he will review at meetings with his cabinet, which he said was chosen after interviews with more than 90 candidates for the various ministerial portfolios. The new cabinet includes 34 ministers, of whom 14 were newly appointed. Just four of the ministers are women.

"I swear by God to sincerely protect the republican system, to respect the constitution and law and take full care of the people's interests, protect the independence of the nation and the unity and safety of its lands," Mehleb said at the early morning ceremony at the presidential palace in Cairo. His cabinet includes veteran banker Ashraf Salman as investment minister. His appointment, and the creation of a separate invest-

ment ministry, reverses a decision earlier this year to merge the ministry with that of industry and trade.

Salman, a US-educated investment banker is the co-founder and co-CEO of Cairo Financial Holding, an Egyptian asset management, corporate finance and investment banking firm.

He previously held a senior position at Arab African International Bank-Egypt and has worked on privatisation policies, according to the Cairo Financial Holding website. Other new faces in the government include former ambassador to Washington Sameh Shukri, who was appointed foreign minister, and Naglaa El Ahwany, a university professor who was named minister for international cooperation.—Reuters

Calista Flockhart flies to injured Harrison Ford's bedside

Why Preity Zinta has always been Bollywood's most fearless actress

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — Harrison Ford's actress wife Calista Flockhart has flown to Britain to comfort her husband who was injured on the set of Star Wars Episode VII.

Initial report claims that he broke his ankle, but a new report suggests the injury could have been more serious than initially suspected, reported Ace Showbiz.

The 71-year-old actor's son, Ben Ford, said that his father would possibly need a plate and screws put into his ankle. Ben also said the film's crew might adjust filming to his father's



Actor and producer Harrison Ford and actress Calista Flockhart

hit theaters on 18 Dec, 2015. JJ Abrams serves as a director and writes the script with Lawrence Kasdan. —PTI

condition since they need to shoot the actor from the waist up during his recovery.

While he is hospitalized, the filming for the next Star Wars film continues. Episode VII is set 30 years after the events of the 1983 film Return of the Jedi. It will

MUMBAI, 17 June — Actress-businesswoman Preity Zinta, who filed a complaint against her business partner and ex-boyfriend Ness Wadia alleging molestation, has always been among the bravest of Bollywood actresses. Be it off screen or on screen, Preity has been fearless and taken risks.

Here is a timeline of Preity's career that tells us more about the gutsy actress: In 2000, Preity began her movie career with a controversial film - director Kundan Shah's Kya Kehna — where she played an unwed mother. The film was delayed and Preity made her debut with Mani Ratnam's Dil Se, where she memorably made Shah Rukh blush by asking him if he was a virgin. In 2001, she played a prosti-

Salman Khan: Jacqueline Fernandez will be a star like Zeenat Aman



Salman and Jacqueline at the trailer launch of Kick

MUMBAI, 17 June — Salman Khan seems to be in awe of his co-star and Sri Lankan beauty Jacqueline Fernandez and says that she has the calibre to attain the same status in film-dom that 1970s glamour girl Zeenat Aman did.

Salman will be seen with Jacqueline in his forthcoming film Kick, which is producer Sajid Nadiadwala's first project as a director.

"There is one actress whom I love a lot and that is Zeenat Aman. And I feel Jacqueline is the one who will reach that stardom," he told reporters on 15 June 1st the trailer launch of Kick.

Still working hard to improve her Hindi diction, Jacqueline got ample support from Salman on the sets of the movie.

"I taught her some basics in Hindi and I must say she speaks Hindi well with the spotboys," said Salman. —PTI

tute-turned-surrogate mother in Abbas-Mustan's Chori Chori Chupke Chupke, opposite Salman Khan and Rani Mukerji. In 2003, Preity became the first Bollywood insider to testify against the underworld in court, in the Bharat Shah case.

In 2005, Preity filed a defamation suit against a Mumbai tabloid for publishing a transcript of a tape allegedly featuring the voice of Salman Khan speaking in less than respectful tones about her. In 2007, actress-singer Suchitra Krishnamoorthi blamed Preity for the failure of her marriage to Shekhar Kapur. Preity retaliated by calling Suchitra 'unstable'. In 2008, Preity co-bought the Kings XI IPL cricket team and decided to focus on building her cricket than her acting career. PTI

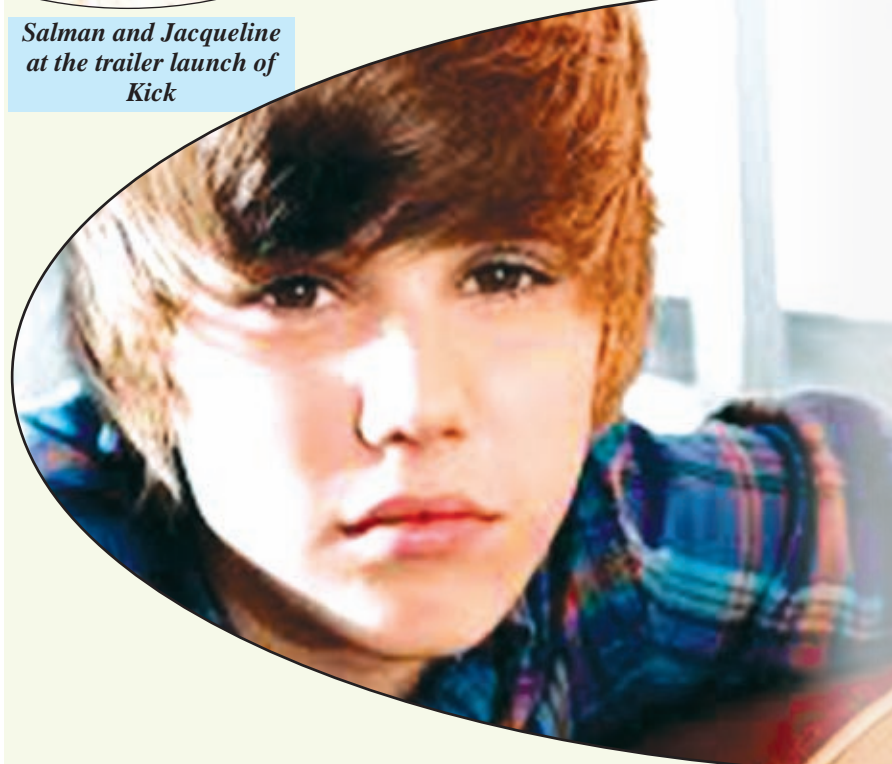
Justin Bieber cleared in LA attempted robbery case

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — Justin Bieber has been cleared of wrongdoing in an attempted robbery investigation in which the Canadian pop star was accused of trying to take a woman's mobile phone, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office said on Monday.

Prosecutors rejected the allegations because of insufficient evidence to back up the claims, City Attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan said. Bieber, 20, was accused in May of trying to take the woman's mobile phone after she was suspected of taking photos of him at an amusement park in Van Nuys, California, in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. Representatives for Bieber did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The "Boyfriend" singer has had a string of recent legal issues, including an assault charge in Toronto and charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and using an expired license in Miami Beach, Florida.

Bieber is also under investigation for allegedly pelting a neighbor's home in nearby Calabasas, California, with eggs and causing damage. —Reuters



GENERAL

Sudden death linked to watching World Cup overnight

NANJING, 17 June — An overnight session watching the FIFA World Cup may have caused the death of a 25-year-old man in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou, said a local hospital on Monday.

The man was found dead in his room early on Saturday morning with his TV set still airing the football. Doctors in the Xiang-

cheng People's Hospital to which he was sent said they suspect his death was linked to staying up late watching the games, which are taking place in the middle of the night in China due to the time difference with tournament host country Brazil.

Although the doctors did not specify what exactly may have caused this fa-

tality, exhaustion or a heart attack are possible factors. They warned football fans to be cautious about their health.

China may not be represented at the 2014 FIFA World Cup, but Chinese have nevertheless been burning the midnight oil to watch games broadcast from midnight to 6 am Beijing Time. — *Xinhua*



Graduates of Ningxia Medical University jump for graduation photos on the campus in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 16 June, 2014. As annual college graduation season comes, graduates are busy with having photos taken on campus as a memento. — XINHUA

British activists to complete month-long bike ride in raising funds for displaced Syrians

ISTANBUL, 17 June — A group of British activists kicked off their last leg of a month-long bike-ride from Scotland to Turkey border area with Syria in the hope of raising support for a project for displaced Syrians. The team of nine activists, who began their journey last month from Scotland,

pedaled through England, France, Switzerland, Italy and Greece. They arrived in Istanbul on Saturday. The project, called "new safe village" is being supported by the United Kingdom-based charity organization Human Appeal. In a Press conference in Istanbul's historic Eminonu District, the group

announced that Human Appeal has raised around 60,000 pounds (101,808 US dollars) of aid through via social media for the programme.

Human Appeal representative Enes Swalaim told reporters that their target is 250,000 pounds (424,193 dollars). The project aims

to build a safe village for hundreds of orphans and widows at a safe location in Syria close to Turkey's border.

In addition to shelters, the activists hope to provide other facilities including a kitchen, a medical center, a school and a mosque.

Xinhua

Heavy rain to hit S, N China

BEIJING, 17 June — Heavy rain will hit China's southwest and southern regions, as well as areas to the south of the Yangtze River over the next three days, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said on Tuesday.

The NMC issued a blue alert for torrential rain, saying that rainstorms will hit parts of Yunnan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning, according to a statement on the centre's website.

The southeastern part of Yunnan will see torrential rain with precipitation of 100 to 110 mm, the observatory warned.

It also forecast that thunderstorms, gale and hail will sweep north and northeast China, including parts of Hebei, Liaoning and Jilin provinces and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(18-6-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am
* Classical Songs

7:20 am
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* India Drama Series

9:30 am
* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am

* News

11:15 am
* Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

12:00 pm
* News / International News / Weather Report

2:30 pm
* Science and Technology Programme

3:00 pm

* News

3:30 pm
* FIFA World Cup (2014) (Belgium & Algeria)

5:30 pm
* India Drama Series

6:00 pm
* News / Weather Report

6:20 pm
* Shwe Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm

* News

7:25 pm
* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
* News/International News/Weather Report

8:45 pm
* People Talks

9:00 pm
* News/Weather Report

9:30 pm
* Documentary
* Fine Arts Bosom of Dramatic Performance Fashion Show

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-6-14 07:00am~ 19-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-3) Part-1

* World News
* Cosplayer

* Local News
* Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab

* World News
* The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"

* Local News
* A Simple and Peaceful Life

* World News
* Snake Dancer

* Local News
* Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-2) Part-1

* World News
* Talented Musicians

* Local News
* Travel to the Southern Part of Shan State "Inlay Lake"

* World News
* Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise

* Local News
* The Eel Business

* World News
* Dhamma School

* Local News
* Halin, A Treasure Trove of the Ancient Pyu City

* World News
* In the Studio: Ja Som (The Myth)

* Local News
* Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-1)

* World News
* Independent Filmmaker

Thomas Muller grabs first hat-trick of World Cup on Day 5

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 June — Thomas Muller grabbed the first hat-trick of the 2014 World Cup five days into the tournament as Germany blew away Portugal 4-0 in Group G's first game on Monday.

In the group's other game, a goal in the first minute by Clint Dempsey that was one of the fastest in World Cup history set the United States on the road to a 2-1 victory over Ghana, while Iran and Nigeria played out the tournament's first goalless stalemate in Group F.

In Salvador, Muller got his first goal from the penalty spot in the 12th minute and the three-time World Cup winners doubled their lead when Mats Hummels rose above a mass of Por-



Thomas Muller

tuguese defenders to power home a corner in the 32nd.

Five minutes later things fell apart for Portugal when defender Pepe saw red, catching Muller in the face with his hand and then making matters worse with a seeming head-butt as the Bayern Munich striker was sitting on the turf.

Muller soon capital-

ized on Pepe's absence, getting the better of Bruno Alves in the box as Toni Kroos delivered a cross in first-half injury time and lashing past keeper Rui Patricio, who could only get a foot to it.

There was no way back for the depleted Portuguese in the second half, with talisman Cristiano

Ronaldo struggling to make an impact, despite a decent shout for a penalty when Eder went down in a tangle with Benedikt Howedes.

Muller bagged his hat-trick in the 78th minute, pouncing on the loose ball just two meters out when Patricio could only parry a low cross.

Dempsey scored after just 29 seconds in Natal for the fifth fastest goal at a World Cup finals, and while Andre Ayew pulled one back after 82 minutes in a game that the Black Stars largely dominated, it was the United States who had the last word when John Brooks scored in the 86th minute. Dempsey's opener was a piece of wonderful skill as he skipped past John Boye in the area and slotted

home and Ghana seemed shell-shocked for the first quarter of an hour.

But they rallied and forced the United States increasingly deep for the rest of the half, although the Black Stars were missing the penetrative ball and only really opened up the United States in the final minute of first-half extra time when Jordan Ayew was found in the area by Christian Atsu but he scuffed his shot.

The United States tried to push out after the break but Ghana soon took control again and this time were far sharper in attack, and it was no surprise when Ayew struck after being put through with a clever back-heel by Gyan.

But as Ghana pushed

for the winner in the dying minutes, Brooks headed home from a Graham Zusi corner and the United States avenged their defeat by Ghana in the round of 16 at the 2010 finals in South Africa. In Curitiba, Iran picked up Asia's first points at this World Cup after Australia's and Japan's earlier respective defeats to Chile and Ivory Coast. South Korea, the last of the four teams from Asia to set foot on the stage, will face Russia on Tuesday.

Iran were overwhelmed by the athleticism of Nigeria in the first half, mustering just one shot on target, a header by Amirhossein Sadeghi from a corner that was kept out by goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama. — *Kyodo News*

Germany mark World Cup century in style, US upset Ghana

MANAUS, (Brazil), 17 June — Germany marked their 100th World Cup game in style on Monday by thumping shambolic Portugal 4-0 in the midday sun to confirm their billing as title contenders while the United States snatched a win over Ghana.

The tournament continued to live up to its reputation as one of the best in recent years and in a hugely enjoyable, fast-paced game the US grabbed a late goal for a surprise 2-1 victory over their deflated opponents.

Earlier, African champions Nigeria could only stumble to a dire goalless draw with Iran in the first really poor game spectators have seen in Brazil.

Germany became the first team to notch up a century of World Cup games and Thomas Mueller's hat-trick — the first of the tournament — easily saw off of Portugal in a 4-0 win in their Group G opener in Salvador.

The occasion had been billed as clash between two European heavyweights but was effectively over in the opening 45 minutes when the Germans scored



Ghana's players react as John Brooks of the US (6) celebrates his goal during their 2014 World Cup Group G soccer match at the Dunas arena in Natal on 16 June, 2014. —REUTERS

three times and combative Portuguese center back Pepe was sent off.

In the second half, Germany played at a much slower pace as the stupefying heat took its toll but still scored a fourth goal through Mueller.

"It was incredibly hot on the pitch. It's nice to get a great win like this today but we've still got a long way to go", Germany captain Philipp Lahm said.

Portugal coach Paulo Bento suggested the

referee was biased in favor of Germany but his players let him down badly.

World player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo had a disappointing game and there must be doubts now about the prospects for Portugal, who next face a buoyant United States on

Sunday in Manaus.

In the other Group G match, Clint Dempsey scored after 29 seconds in Natal, the fifth fastest goal in World Cup history, and the Americans then faced a Ghanaian onslaught for the rest of the game.

After a string of

goalmouth scrambles, near misses and fine saves by US keeper Tim Howard, Andre Ayew equalized in the 82nd minute. But four minutes later US substitute John Brooks headed in from a corner for his first international goal.

"There are things we can improve on but we got the three points we badly wanted", US coach Juergen Klinsmann said.

"Ghana is a good team, they know how to grind the game. It was what we expected".

The victory represented revenge over the team who had ended US participation in the last two World Cups. It also meant Klinsmann had made a winning start in all five World Cups he has been involved in as coach and player.

Sheer Excitement

The sheer excitement of this tournament — which contrasts painfully with the many boring games in South Africa in

2010 — has fans buzzing. "The World Cup has been dull and too tactical for years and this has been wide open", said England fan Ross Letham as he watched a game on a big screen in Sao Paulo.

Brazil attacking midfielder Zico said he believed coaches were largely to thank.

"I think the coaches have adopted the philosophy of first scoring and then defending", he told a FIFA media briefing. Just to remind fans what they had not been missing, Iran and Nigeria served up an appalling draw in Curitiba. Neither side seemed able to pass the ball or shoot on target and it was Iran who had the best chance to score. Brazilian supporters will be expecting much better when their side take on Mexico in their second Group A match in Fortaleza on Tuesday. Both teams won their opening games.—Reuters

Klinsmann gets reward for global recruitment strategy

NATAL, (Brazil), 17 June — Berlin-born John Brooks grabbed an 86th-minute winner for the United States against Ghana in World Cup Group G on Monday as Juergen Klinsmann's policy of recruiting dual-nationals from Europe paid off.

With Frankfurt-born midfielder Jermaine Jones arguably the best player for the US in their 2-1 victory, dominating in midfield and creating the opening goal for Clint Dempsey, there was a distinctly German flavor to the win.

Although he is unlikely to crow, the victory was vindication for former Germany players and coach Klinsmann. The US coach has faced criticism for his policy of searching out eligible players in Europe and Mexico to add to the home-grown talent.

Brooks was the hero but another German-American, Fabian Johnson, produced pace and work-rate on the right side and former Iceland Under-21 international Aron Johannsson had to work tirelessly as a lone striker after coming on for the injured Jozy Altidore.

Bruce Arena, who was coach of the US team at the 2002 and 2006 World Cups, has been vocal in his

criticism of the policy and just before the World Cup also objected to having a non-American like Klinsmann as coach. There have been others who have questioned whether the German-Americans have the same commitment to the cause as their team mates born on American soil.

The apparent hesitation of players such as Timothy Chandler, who have grown up in the German youth system, to commit fully to the US team before making the decisive decision, added to the doubts.

Reuters



US coach Juergen Klinsmann (L) celebrates their win against Ghana after their 2014 World Cup Group G soccer match at the Dunas arena in Natal on 16 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) Iran	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
3) Nigeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
4) Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	
Group G									
1) Germany	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3	
2) USA	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	
3) Ghana	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	
4) Portugal	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	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

Match-18		22:30 MST (18.6.2014)	
	Australia		Netherlands
Match-19		01:30 MST (19.6.2014)	
	Spain		Chile
Match-20		04:30 MST (19.6.2014)	
	Cameroon		Croatia

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 12	Germany	4-0	Portugal
Match 13	Iran	0-0	Nigeria
Match 14	Ghana	1-2	United States