

UNESCO: Myanmar's first site inscribed to World Heritage List

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 22 June—The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage Committee on Sunday has given green light to Myanmar for its entry of Pyu Ancient Cities onto the World Heritage List.

The three old cities of Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Kestra with brick walls and moats were inscribed on the list during the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Doha of Qatar, according to an official announcement by the Committee.

The Myanmar Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture submitted an application to the World Heritage Committee for Pyu cities to enter the World Heritage List under the category of culture on October 1996.

These ancient cities are located in vast irrigat-



A temple in ancient Pyu city which has been put into World Heritage List.

PHOTO: DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM

ed landscapes in the dry zone of the Ayeyawady River basin, and reflect the Pyu Kingdom that were prosperous for over 1,000 years between 200 B.C and 900 A.D. The three cities

have been partly excavated archaeological sites, and more excavation works remain for excavated palace citadels, burial grounds and early industrial production sites, as well as monumen-

tal brick Buddhist stupas, partly standing walls and water management features—some still in use—that underpinned the organized intensive agriculture.

Hanlin, excavated in

1904, 1929-30 and 1962-67, had a rectangular city wall in brick of 3 by 1.5 km with a palace site at the centre. Beikthano with a side of 3 km quadrangular (See page 3)

Crimes against women unaddressed with Myanmar in the top 10 countries on Sexual Violence in Conflict Index



Sexual assault on women has been downplayed in Myanmar, but pressure from women's organizations are forcing a debate on the subject.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 22 June—Legal protection and rights for women are a major issue in Myanmar, with the

government urged to enact more laws to support women, said Ei Thanda Kyaw, trainer of Akhara Women

Team, on Saturday at a talk on violence against women at the Akhara Women Team in Sangyoung Township in Yangon Region.

At the talks, team leaders discussed the current

situation of women in Myanmar, women's rights, existing laws and government participation to help raise awareness.

With Myanmar among the top ten countries on the Sexual Violence in Conflict Index 2013, measures must be taken to combat the problem, including life imprisonment or the death penalty for offenders, she said.

Sexual abuse as a form of control and power in the conflict-ridden areas of the country has, however, been denied and is not being discussed by officials.

Sexual violence is a taboo in Myanmar, but team trainer San Myint Lwin said that mothers should teach their sons not to commit violence against women and to protect them. She also urged women to speak out about domestic violence and sexual abuse of children by fathers and

brothers. Myanmar women need to know the existing laws that protect women's rights and should contact women organizations if they are harassed by someone, another trainer said.

Sexist commercials and derogatory comments made by "comedians" on TV would further aggravate the problems, she said, urging film directors and artists to stop showing beer advertisement with skimpily dressed women.

According to the team, its office is always open to disseminate information on sexual abuse and ways of self-defence, with members offering advice on the problems, she added.

The team also gives training and weekly talks on violence against women and invites everybody to participate in activities to raise awareness and help the victims.

An official of the team

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urged the women's organizations to open branches in wards, villages and schools to help the victims.

The Sexual Violence in Conflict Index 2013 states that the ten countries with the worst rate are Central Africa, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

According to a WHO report, the most common crime is violence against women and every one in three women—one billion—all over the globe experiences violence. Among those who have endured violence, there is an increasing number of children and teenagers.



Hospital recreation trolleys donated to Children's Hospital in Yangon

YANGON, 22 June — The Embassy of Israel to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar donated hos-

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attends recreation trolleys of Israeli Embassy for Children's hospitals in Yangon.—MNA

pital recreation trolleys for children's hospitals in Yangon at a ceremony in Yankin Children's Hospital on Sunday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said that the donation would benefit child patients and contribute to the relation between the two countries.

Ambassador of Israel to Myanmar Mr Hagay Moshe Behar explained the purpose of the donation.

Head of the hospital expressed his thanks to the donor.

The hospital recreation trolleys will offer poems, stories, drawing books and toys for child patients.

MNA

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 22 June— According to a study, the Android operating system is used by more than 90 percent of the smartphone users in Myanmar, said Michiel Bakker, country manager at House.com.mm, on Thursday at a press conference introducing the first free Android application for house-hunters.

He added the app is designed to meet the growing demand for mobile Internet services in emerging markets. The recent State of the Internet report highlighted the pace of growth for mobile in these regions. In Asia, the number of mobile users now accounts for more than a third of all Internet usage.

"Android is the future of the smartphone market, not just in Myanmar, but worldwide," said Antonius Salis, Lamudi's co-founder

and managing director.

On his economic point of view, Bakker said, "Internet and other challenges have not made it easy to operate in Myanmar, but the country is rapidly developing around us. I am very much looking forwards to further successes the coming years."

Rocket Internet, the global online company, raised US\$7 million to fund development in six Asian countries, including Myanmar, in April, he added.

The recent survey said most house-hunters visited websites to buy the apartments while some searched condominiums to rent, most of them foreigners.

Plans are underway to introduce more perfect applications for Myanmar, said Ma Yu Yu Maw, head of PR and marketing of House.com.mm.

NLM



An aerial view of downtown Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



MISS UNIVERSE MYANMAR

2014: On his way back home from abroad, the Chief Editor of NLM got a chance to take a snapshot of Myanmar beauties at 115th Mile Rest Camp on Nay Pyi Taw — Yangon expressway on 22 June.

"The 20 finalists are on their way to Bagan and will then visit PyinOoLwin. They want to engage in philanthropic tasks in the country. We also have a plan for them to go to Phuket, Thailand, to put them under training for beauty contests," said National Director Soe Yu Wai of Hello Madam Media Group, Miss Universe Myanmar Organization, who sponsored the trips.

NLM

NATIONAL

Union minister calls for close cooperation among parents, teachers, students

YANGON, 22 June—A coordination meeting on the new programme for close cooperation among parents, teachers and students took place at the Yangon Institute of Education on Sunday.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein said at the meeting that the government is doing research on the new programme of close cooperation among parents, teachers and students to raise the education standards in Myanmar as committees from the ministry of education alone cannot achieve the goal.

After the speech of



the union minister, rectors, pro-rectors faculty members discussed findings on their researches.—MNA

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein speaking at a coordination meeting on the new programme for close cooperation among parents, teachers and students.—MNA

Workshop to discuss boosting livestock and fishery sector held



Union Minister U Ohn Myint addresses a workshop on the development of the livestock and fishery sector.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—The livestock and fishery sector is essential for food security, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint said at a workshop on the development of the livestock and fishery sector held in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Union minister

also pointed out the needs to expand livestock breeding farms, to train more veterinary surgeons and to set up model farms and laboratories for the development of the sector.

Departmental officials, advisors, members of Council of Veterinary Medicine, Society of Myanmar Veterinary Surgeons, My-

anmar Livestock Breeding Federation and Myanmar Fisheries Federation and faculty members of the veterinary university participated in the workshop, which aims at training livestock breeding experts, creating job opportunities and forging technical cooperation with international veterinary universities.—MNA

Kaladan multimodal transit transport discussed

YANGON, 22 June—The Ministry of Transport held a work coordination meeting to discuss a project on the multimodal transit transport of the Kaladan River at the Myanmar Port Authority here on Sunday, sources said.

Officials gave progress reports, giving an account of ships being built for the project and mutual coordination

between Myanmar and India.

Deputy Minister U Han Sein urged both sides to make collective efforts and play their respective parts for the speedy completion of the project, which he described as a

project that reflects the close friendship between the two countries.—MNA



Photo shows the map reference of Sri Kestra ancient city.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Grand Duke, PM of Luxembourg

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Royal Highness Henri, The Grand Duke of Luxembourg and His Excellency Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, on the occasion of the National Day of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which falls on 23 June 2014.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Luxembourg counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, on the occasion of the National Day of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which falls on 23 June 2014.—MNA

Union ministers join mass walk activities in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—In commemoration of International Olympic Day, mass walk activities and sports contests were held in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and delegation joined mass walk activities from Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market to Jade Hall near

Thabyegon Market.

They presented prizes to winners in both women's and men's cycling contests.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan enjoyed participation of athletes in the archery, swimming, Sepak Takraw, wrestling, volleyball, Petanque, boxing, Judo and shooting events in Wunna Theikdi sports complex and Lewe Sports Training Centre-2 and awarded the winners.—MNA

Union Minister U Tint Hsan and delegates participate in mass walk activities in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



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city walls and gateways was excavated in 1959-63. Sri Kestra, the largest Pyu City, was enclosed by a circular city wall in brick with a diameter of 4.4 km.

The cultural relics and religious buildings, located

in Natma Taung National park, are now under consideration by UNESCO to be designated as world heritage sites, according to UNESCO.

Ancient Pyu people spoke a language closely related to Myanmar, with

the stone inscriptions found in some of their monuments providing the only knowledge of this language.

The Pyu culture is characterized by specific artifacts of coins, ceramic and metalware. Archaeological evidence confirms the emergence of Buddhism in Myanmar during the Pyu period.

Large reclining Buddha image under construction in Natmauk Tsp

MAGWAY, 22 June—Shwenatke Abbot Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi and disciples are making preparations for building a 1,500 feet long and 300 feet high reclining Buddha image, which may be the largest of its kind in the world, near Saigaung Village of Natmauk Township in Magway Region. The reclining Buddha image will be built on the Myaseinyang Hill, 37 miles from Pyawbwe-Natmauk road and four miles from Ywamon junction.

The stake driving ceremony took place for the image on 27 October 2013. Construction tasks will be carried out with the assistance of donors from all corners of the nation.



The Buddha image and statues of 500 Buddhist monks have been built at the entrance to the missionary area of the Abbot. Zeyatu (Magway)

Onion of Pakokku hopes for better trading



PAKOKKU, 22 June—Onion produced from the areas of Yaw Creek and Kyaw Creek get price at

K400 per viss (1.6 kilos) in the market.

“Due to heavy rains, the water levels rose at

Kyaw and Yaw creeks. So, the trucks carrying onion cannot arrive in Pakokku region. At present, lesser

amount of onion is kept in hands of brokers,” said a local onion broker.

Now, the onion market is cool due to lack of buyers as the onion brokers suspended export of products to Thailand.

Onion is grown along the banks of Yaw Creek that crosses Pakokku, Pauk and Seikpyu townships. About 100 villages along the creek started cultivation of onion in January and February and harvested it in April and May.

Last year, the farmers and brokers exported 25,817 tons of onion and fetched US\$10.933 million.

Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

Local youths join inter-village/ward football tournament in Phekhn Tsp

PEKHON, 22 June—The final match of the Phekhn Township Hlutaw MP's Cup inter-village/ward football tournament took place at the township sports ground in the township of southern Shan State on Sunday. New Ward team

emerged champion in the tournament with a 2-1 victory over Flamingo team.

Officials presented K400,000 to second prize winner Flamingo team and K600,000 to first prize winner New Ward team.

Lower House MP

U Francisco of Phekhn Township awarded the championship trophy to New Ward team.

A total of 28 football teams from wards and villages participated in the tournament from 17 to 21 June.—Ko Htwe (Phekhn)



Myanmar-Thai mobile team performs animal health care in Monghsat District

MONGHSAT, 22 June—Mae Fah Luang Foundation and Monghsat District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary jointly formed the mobile veterinary unit with personnel of Myanmar Police Anti-Drug Squad, local police station, Monghsat District LBVD and responsible persons led by Ms Patawee Cholkiravech of Thai Office of Narcotic Control Board of Thailand to perform veterinary tasks in Monghsat District from 16 to 20 June. They gave

medical care to animals in Mongtwam and Saton village-tracts of the district. Members of the squad performed medical checkups for poultry, pigs, cattle and dogs.

During their veterinarian tour, the Myanmar-Thai combine squad members gave animal health care to 4,830 poultry, 1,438 pigs, four goats, six dogs and cats and 89 cattle, totalling 6,367 in Monghsat District project area.

Mawgyi (Triangle Region)



Paddy seeds provided to farmers in Tachilek District

TACHILEK, 22 June—A ceremony to provide high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds to local farmers who had surrendered to grow poppy in the region was held at the hall of Tachilek District Agriculture Department in eastern Shan State on Saturday.

Head of District Department U Hla Win deliv-

ered paddy seeds to Kengluk Sub-Township and village-tracts of the farmers through officials. At the ceremony, local authorities handed over 1,043 kilos of paddy seeds for Tachilek Township, 1,030 kilos for Mongphyat Township and 1,029 kilos for Mongyawng Township.

Mawgyi (Triangle Region)

Collective fertilizer feeding held in Kawkareik Tsp



KAWKAREIK, 22 June—The fertilizer feeding ceremony was held at farmlands in Ngataing Village of Kawkareik Township in Kayin State on Saturday.

District and township

authorities, departmental officials and local farmers totalling about 90 participated in the fertilizer feeding ceremony with the use of tractors.

Head of District Agri-

culture Department U Hla Thein explained advantages of fertilizer feeding the paddy plantations and development of agriculture sector.—Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)

REGIONAL

Mud flung as Indonesia presidential race heats up

JAKARTA, 22 June — One of the two hopefuls in Indonesia's presidential election has been accused of being a closet Christian, the other of being a for-foreigner and unfit to lead the nation.

As the race for the presidency tightens, mud-slinging between supporters of Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and ex-general Prabowo Subianto is increasing, forcing even the police to get involved. Jokowi's team asked the police this month to arrest the publisher of a little-known tabloid after it falsely reported that the Muslim governor from the Javanese city of Solo was an ethnic Chinese Christian. A national police spokesman said authorities were investigating the case against Obor Rakyat, or People's Torch, a newspaper available in Islamic boarding schools and



A woman walks past a poster of Indonesia's presidential candidates Prabowo Subianto (L) and Joko Widodo during a debate in Jakarta on 15 June, 2014. — REUTERS

mosques across Java.

Jokowi has been forced to defend himself against the attacks, which are mainly focused on his race and religion — potent topics in a country that is 95 percent native Indone-

sian and has the world's largest Muslim population.

Some opinion polls show that Jokowi's once huge lead over Prabowo has shrunk to single digits, a rapid decline that pollsters attribute to a success-

ful smear campaign against the frontrunner ahead of the 9 July election.

"People in rural areas and people with middle to lower income and education tend to believe the black campaign (against

Jokowi). That is why the electability of Jokowi is decreasing significantly," said Burhanuddin Muhtadi, the executive director of pollster Indonesian Political Indicator, which surveyed thousands of potential voters on the topic.

Jokowi's party, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, recently posted a photo on social media showing the candidate among Haj pilgrims in 2003, proof, it said, that he is Muslim.

Meanwhile, some of Jokowi's supporters have stepped up their own negative campaigning against Prabowo. Wimar Witoelar, a Jokowi supporter and former spokesman of former president Abdurrahman Wahid, apologised last week for posting on his Twitter and Facebook accounts a picture of Prabowo's team alongside Osama bin Laden and other

militants, according to the Jakarta Post.

Attacks against Prabowo have also included questions about his mental well-being and claims that he is a Jordanian citizen. But the majority of the negative campaigning has been on Prabowo's human rights record as a top general, in particular during unrest that brought down his former father-in-law and long-serving autocrat Suharto in 1998.

Wiranto, Prabowo's former military boss and now a leader of a small party backing Jokowi, has released details of a military council's findings which said Prabowo had deliberately misinterpreted orders and told troops who were not under his command to arrest political activists.

Wiranto insisted that he was not making the announcement in his capacity as a politician. — Reuters

55.4% oppose Japan exercising right to collective self-defence

TOKYO, 22 June — Some 55.4 percent of respondents in a *Kyodo News* survey are opposed to the government's plan to lift a self-imposed ban on Japan's exercise of the right to collective self-defence, up from 48.1 percent the previous month.

In the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Saturday and Sunday, 57.7 percent said they are also against the plan by the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to lift the

long-standing ban by reinterpreting the pacifist Constitution.

The approval rating for Abe's Cabinet slipped to 52.1 percent from 54.7 percent in May.

Abe hopes to change the constitutional interpretation and allow the Self-Defence Forces to defend allies under armed attack in time for the planned revision by the end of the year of US-Japan defence cooperation guidelines.

Kyodo News

Australian authority to announce new search area for MH370

CANBERRA, 22 June — The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) confirmed with *Xinhua* on Sunday that the agency is working on analyzing existing data and information to refine a new search area for the missing Malaysian Airline flight MH370.

Chief Commissioner Martin Dolan said the new search area will be announced by ATSB on Wednesday.

Dolan told local media earlier that the new search area would be hundreds of km south of where the first phase of underwater search

had covered.

Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Bluefin-21 had searched some 850 square km of ocean floor in an area some 1,600 km off the coast of Western Australia.

The area was defined on the basis of the four acoustic signals detected by the Towed Pinger Locator deployed on Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield.

Since Bluefin-21 had found neither the "black box" nor any debris of the aircraft after searching for more than 40 days, the

Joint Agency of Coordination Centre (JACC) for the search of the MH370 announced on 29 May that that area can be discounted as the final resting place of MH370, which disappeared on 8 March carrying 239 people.

Inmarsat, the British satellite telecommunications company, told BBC last week that their data had pointed to a "hotspot" — a crash zone of the highest probability — to the southwest of the recent undersea search.

Earlier this month, a commercial ship, Fugro

Equator, joined Chinese ship Zhu Kezhen to conduct a bathymetric survey — mapping of the sea floor — on an arc area of 60,000 square km, which was defined based on seventh arc where the aircraft last communicated with satellite.

The survey is expected to take three months. The ATSB has also invited organizations to submit proposals to conduct the underwater search through a request for tender process. Companies can hand in submissions by 30 June, 2014.

Xinhua

South Korea troops surround soldier who killed five comrades

SEOUL, 22 June — South Korean troops were engaged in a shootout on Sunday with a conscript soldier who had killed five comrades in a grenade and gun attack the previous night, media reports said.

The soldier opened fire on troops after they tracked him down near a school in the Goseong region close to the border with North Korea, YTN television news reported. A platoon leader was wounded in the arm during shootout, and 'shoot

to kill' orders were given unless the fugitive soldier surrenders, YTN reported, citing military officials.

Yonhap news agency reported that the soldier had been surrounded and his parents had been taken to the site, where his mother pleaded with him to surrender.

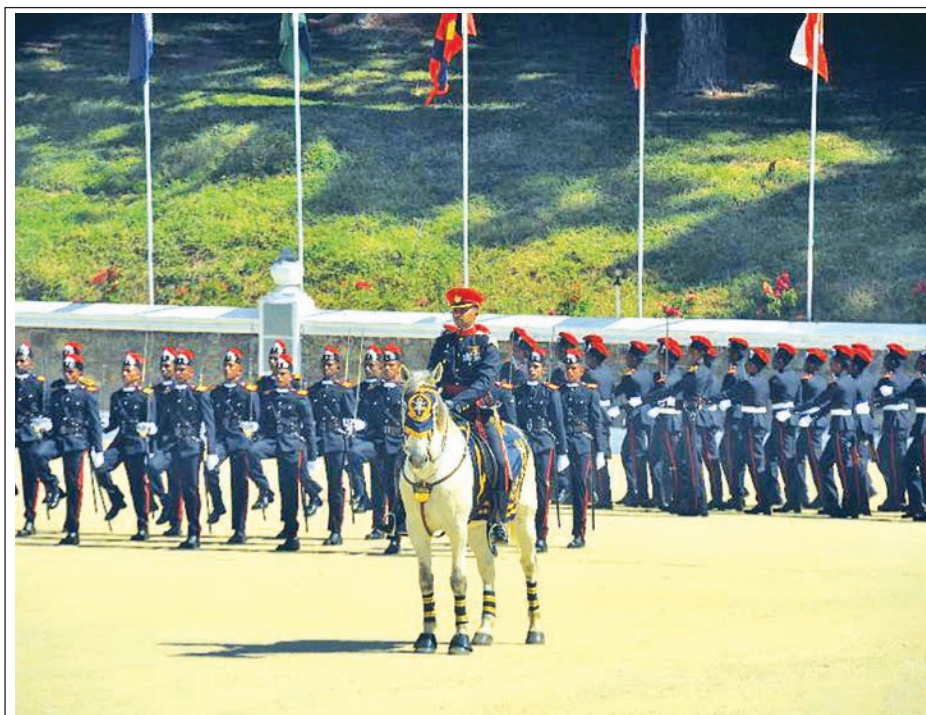
The soldier, identified by *Yonhap* news agency as Sergeant Lim, shot dead five of his fellow unit members and wounded seven others late on Saturday at an outpost in the

base at Goseong county, a mountainous region that borders the North on the eastern coast of the peninsula.

Helicopters scoured the forested hillsides once dawn broke on Sunday, and South Korean special forces joined a manhunt.

The number of military personnel involved in the search was the equivalent of nine battalions, a colonel with the Army's Eighth Corps told a media briefing.

Reuters



Cadets are seen during a graduation ceremony for 60 army cadet officers at Diyathalawa army camp, Sri Lanka, on 21 June, 2014. — XINHUA

Sectarian tensions set stage for Iraq conflict, Obama says



A vehicle belonging to Kurdish security forces fires a multiple rocket launcher during clashes with Sunni militant group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on the outskirts of Diyala on 14 June, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 22 June — Iraq's conflict is the result of sectarian divisions that have been allowed to fester, and it is up to Iraq's people and leaders to resolve those differences, US President Barack Obama said on Friday.

In excerpts of longer interviews on several television networks, the president sought to place

responsibility for holding off the threat posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has seized areas in the north of the country, and emphasized that US support would be limited and conditional.

Obama suggested that failure to acknowledge minority concerns coupled with uncertainty in forming

a government after elections in April had left Iraq vulnerable.

"Some of the forces that have always possibly pulled Iraq apart are stronger now, (and) those forces that could keep the country united are weaker," he told NBC Nightly News.

"It is ultimately going to be up to the Iraqi leadership to try to pull the politics of

the country back together again."

Obama is sending up to 300 US military advisers to Iraq and has threatened air strikes as Sunni Islamists have gained control of the north of the country and made a push toward Baghdad. Growing mistrust between Shia and Sunni Muslims has heightened tensions in the country, where the United States fought a war from 2003 to 2011, the president said.

Obama, who is under fire from some Republicans for his decision to pull US troops out of the country when he did, defended his decision. "Just because something is stable two years ago or four, doesn't mean that it's stable right now," he told NBC.

The president said Iraq's challenge is to assemble a government in which Sunni, Shia and Kurd constituencies feel adequately represented.

"Part of the task now is

to see whether Iraqi leaders are prepared to rise above sectarian motivations, come together, compromise," Obama told CNN.

"If they can't, there's not going to be a military solution to this problem. There's no amount of American firepower that's going to be able to hold the country together," he said.

Obama said US advisers will determine whether there is a functioning chain of command in Iraq's military. US assistance in establishing joint operations depends on cooperation among Iraq's ethnic and religious groups, he said.

"The terms on which we send in any advisers would be dependent on us seeing that within the military and with the political structure that there remains a commitment to a unified and inclusive Iraqi government and armed forces," he said. Full interviews with the president are scheduled to air on Monday.—Reuters

Taleban attacks NATO air base in east Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 June — Taliban militants fired eight rockets into a NATO air base at one of Afghanistan's main airports on Saturday evening, provincial authorities said.

While there were no casualties or damage to buildings at the base at Jalalabad airport, the attack comes just two weeks after militants attacked Pakistan's Karachi airport, killing dozens.

Haji Mohammad Sediq, the district governor of Behsud in eastern Nangarhar Province said one or two of the missiles landed near the US-run military airfield.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying it had executed eight heavy explosions inside the airfield.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed the attack on Pakistan's busiest airport. The groups share a similar jihadist ideology but operate as separate entities.

Afghanistan's Taliban have sustained a high level of violence even as most foreign troops are due to pull out of the country this year, leaving Afghan security forces to face the insurgents on their own.

In a separate attack on Saturday in Nangarhar Province, at least four people including a police official were killed when a bomb exploded near a police checkpoint in Jalalabad city. "Its target was a police check post in that area but most of its victims are innocent civilians," Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the Nangarhar governor said.—Reuters

Iraq militants take border post with Syria

ANBAR, (Iraq), 22 June — Sunni fighters seized a border post on the Iraq-Syria frontier on Saturday, smashing a line drawn in 1932 by colonial powers and linking hundreds of miles of land they control to create an Islamic Caliphate from the Mediterranean Sea to Iran.

The militants, led by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), first moved into the nearby town of al-Qaim on Friday, pushing out security forces, the sources said.

Once border guards heard that al-Qaim had fallen, they left their posts and militants moved in, the sources said.

Sameer al-Shwiali, media adviser to the commander of Iraq's anti-terrorist squad, told Reuters that the Iraqi army was still in control of al-Qaim.

Al-Qaim and its neighbouring Syrian counterpart Albukamal are on a strategic supply route. A three-year civil war in Syria has left most of eastern Syria in the hands of Sunni militants, including the Al-bukamal-Qaim crossing.

With stunning speed, ISIL, an offshoot of al-Qaeda, has captured swathes of territory in northwest and central Iraq, including the second city, Mosul. They have seized large amounts of weaponry from

the fleeing Iraqi army and looted banks.

The fighting has divided Iraq along sectarian lines. The Kurds have expanded their zone in the northeast to include the oil city of Kirkuk, which they regard as part of Kurdistan, while Sunnis have taken ground in the west.

The Shi'ite-led government has mobilised militia to send volunteers to the front lines.

President Barack Obama has offered up to 300 US special forces advisers to help the Iraqi government recapture territory seized by ISIL and other Sunni armed groups across northern and western Iraq.



Kurdish Peshmerga troops travel in a tank as they secure an area in the town of Sulaiman Pek in Salahuddin Province on 21 June, 2014.—REUTERS

But he has held off granting a request for air strikes to protect the government and renewed a call for Iraq's long-serving Shi'ite prime minister,

Nuri al-Maliki, to do more to overcome sectarian divisions that have fuelled resentment among the Sunni minority.

Reuters

Hundreds of thousands vote in Hong Kong democracy "poll" in defiance of Beijing

HONG KONG, 22 June — Nearly 600,000 votes have been cast in three days of an unofficial referendum on democratic reforms in Hong Kong, part of a civil campaign that has been branded illegal by the former British colony and by Communist Party authorities in Beijing.

Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 with wide-ranging autonomy under the formula of "one country, two systems", along with an undated promise of universal suffrage.

But social tensions have risen steadily, with many residents concerned

that civil liberties are being eroded and with pro-democracy activists threatening to blockade part of

the city's financial district if China doesn't stick to its promise. Polling in the unofficial referendum was

extended from 22 June until 29 June after the voting website received billions of hits in an apparent cyberat-

tack last week that prompted organisers to open 15 polling booths to across the city on Sunday. Residents have so far voted online and via smartphones.

While Beijing says Hong Kong can go ahead with a vote in 2017 for the city's top leader, Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, specifies that only a nominating committee can pick leadership candidates. Pro-democracy activists say this should be changed to allow public nominations.

"What is the point of one man, one vote if at the end of the day we have to vote from three puppets

or four puppets anointed by Beijing?" Anson Chan, Hong Kong's former top civil servant and a key supporter of the vote, said on Sunday.

The unofficial referendum comes a week after Beijing released a white paper in which it reasserted its authority over Hong Kong, a move that unnerved and enraged many in the city, raising fears of direct intervention.

At one polling station, about 20 people from pro-Beijing group Caring Hong Kong Power shouted at voters who braved the rain, urging them not to cast ballots.—Reuters



Former Hong Kong Chief Secretary Anson Chan (L) gives a thumbs-up after voting at a polling station during a civil referendum held by the Occupy Central organizers in Hong Kong on 22 June, 2014. REUTERS

WORLD

Speedier overhaul of HPP Djerdap agreed with Russian firm



MOSCOW, 22 June — Serbian Minister of Energy and Mining Aleksandar Antic has agreed with representatives of the Russian company Silovije Masini in Moscow to step up repair works on the turbines in the hydro power plant (HPP) Djerdap on the Danube River.

“At a meeting with representatives of the company Silovije Masini, it was noted that certain problems

arose due to delays in the repair works on Djerdap, and that they still exist, but we agreed that the Serbian ministry of mining and energy should make sure that all Serbian obligations are met, and the Russian side will do its best to efficiently deliver its part of the job,” Antic told *Tanjug* on Friday.

The minister also said that he had a meeting with Russian Energy Minister

Alexander Novak, during which they touched upon the issue of Serbia’s debt to the Russian state and Russian companies for the supply of energy sources.

“There is a high level of understanding from the Russian side concerning the floods in Serbia, because of which our country is in a difficult situation at the moment, and I have underscored that we appreciate this and that we will together with the Russian side be committed to agreements aimed at resolving the issue of debts,” Antic said.

During the meeting, the officials also discussed the operations of Russian companies in the energy sector, and oil and gas industry in Serbia, agreeing that both ministries should watch their work and solve problems that might arise along the way.

Tanjug

EU should outvote Cameron to elect Juncker



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron speaks during a joint news conference with NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Downing Street, central London on 19 June, 2014.

REUTERS

officials said on Friday, seeking further talks on an alternative to former Luxembourg premier Juncker.

The effort to block Juncker, seen in London as

a bar to EU reform, comes before a meeting of EU leaders in Belgium next week. Momentum is gathering to choose Juncker for one of Europe’s most influential policy jobs.

If Cameron fails to block Juncker, his authority at home and abroad would be diminished, his pledge of trying to renegotiate Britain’s EU ties if re-elected undermined, and his ability to keep his own Eurosceptic lawmakers in line lessened.

But the Commission presidency is elected by a “qualified majority” — larger countries get more votes than smaller ones. Without the backing of big countries like Germany, Cameron would need the support of a number of smaller countries, equal to about 38 percent of the EU population. He looks increasingly unlikely to win that much support.—*Reuters*

Poroshenko’s Ukraine peace plan gets limited support from Putin

MOSCOW/KIEV, 22 June — Russia’s Vladimir Putin on Saturday voiced limited support for Ukraine’s unilateral ceasefire in its conflict with pro-Russian separatists, but told President Petro Poroshenko there had to be talks with the rebels to prevent the truce collapsing.

The Kremlin set out Putin’s view after overnight fighting in Ukraine’s east in which pro-Russian separatists, according to Ukrainian government forces, attacked military bases and customs posts within hours of the ceasefire coming into force on Friday night.

While welcoming Poroshenko’s truce, the Kremlin said Putin believed his peace plan should not be an “ultimatum” to the rebels and warned the ceasefire would not be “viable and realistic” unless there were practical moves to start talks between the opposing sides.

Poroshenko, who has unveiled a 15-point peace plan to end the insurgency in the east, has met regional leaders and offered to respect the use of the Russian language in the east but has refused to enter into direct dialogue with separatist leaders. “The opportunity which the ceasefire opens up should be used to



Armed pro-Russian separatists of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic pledge an oath during a ceremony in the city of Donetsk on 21 June, 2014.—REUTERS

start meaningful negotiations and political compromise between the opposing sides in eastern Ukraine,” the Kremlin quoted Putin as saying. In an apparently conciliatory gesture, he called on “all parties to the conflict to cease fire and sit down at the negotiation table”. Poroshenko is gearing up for a diplomatic push to sell his plan but, with rela-

tions with Moscow at rock bottom and Kiev accusing Russia of fomenting the unrest, his biggest challenge will be to win over Putin.

The week-long ceasefire announced by Poroshenko came under pressure overnight when separatists attacked Ukrainian posts on the border with Russia and a military base and tried to storm an air force base, gov-

ernment forces said.

A government forces spokesman said the separatists used mortars and sniper fire to attack Ukrainian posts at Izvareno and Uspenka on the border, wounding nine Ukrainian officers.

Rebels with large-calibre machineguns and grenade-launchers also attacked a Ukrainian position at Avdiyivka, near the main

regional town of Donetsk, and a Ukrainian post at Kreminna. Separatists controlling Slaviansk also attacked Ukrainian forces on Karachun hill overlooking the town with mortars and grenade-launchers, the spokesman, Vladyslav Seleznyov, said. “In all these episodes, the attacks of the (rebel) fighters were deflected” without loss, Se-

leznyov said. Poroshenko announced the week-long ceasefire on Friday night, urging the rebels to lay down their arms and warning that Ukrainian forces would hit back if attacked.

Ukrainian forces also repelled two attacks by around 50 heavily-armed fighters in the early morning on an air defence base at Avdiyivka, which houses surface-to-air missiles, the defence ministry said. No Ukrainian personnel were hurt.

The rebels, who have seized strategic points in major towns including Donetsk and set up “people’s republics”, saying they want to join Russia, insisted Ukraine had broken its own ceasefire.

Alexander Borodai, prime minister of the self-styled Donetsk People’s Republic, told a news conference the ceasefire was not working and appealed to Russia to send in peace-keeping forces. “Since last evening, combat activities are continuing. Poroshenko’s artillery is bombing Slaviansk and the air force has made several raids. Words about a ceasefire as always were just that - words,” Borodai said.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 June, 2014

People take an interest in a “clean” government

By Aung Khin

Everybody expects a clean political system in their country. In a true democracy, the people are in charge, not the elected officials. Elected leaders should fulfill the will of the public as they are public servants. People are genuine contributors to infrastructural development such as building roads and schools and other projects with tax money. In return they expect to get laws

passed to benefit them.

In young democracies, clashes among the executive pillar, legislative pillar and judiciary pillar are very common. These clashes or challenges affect the implementation process of a clean political system in fledgling democracies. Every government tries to adopt better political platforms than the previous governments—at least on paper.

Whether a government can pursue its policies is a litmus test. Implementation of a clean government and good governance faces many challenges. No one should get extensive immunity rights. The reform processes of the government will tarnish with such special privileges.

Genuine reform needs to be free of immunity rights. Like longevity of life requires a healthy mind and body, all the mechanisms of a govern-

ment need straightforward and sincere practices to win public support.

“Honesty is the best policy” is an often-repeated saying. It is believed to have originated with Shakespeare. It’s a saying that people pay lip service to but do not often practice what they preach. Challenges in reform processes must be overcome with honesty in the right way at the right time, and with the right motive. This is easy to say but hard to accomplish. While favoritism, cronyism and nepotism undermine the common good, fairness should be kept as one of the most basic themes in political ethics.

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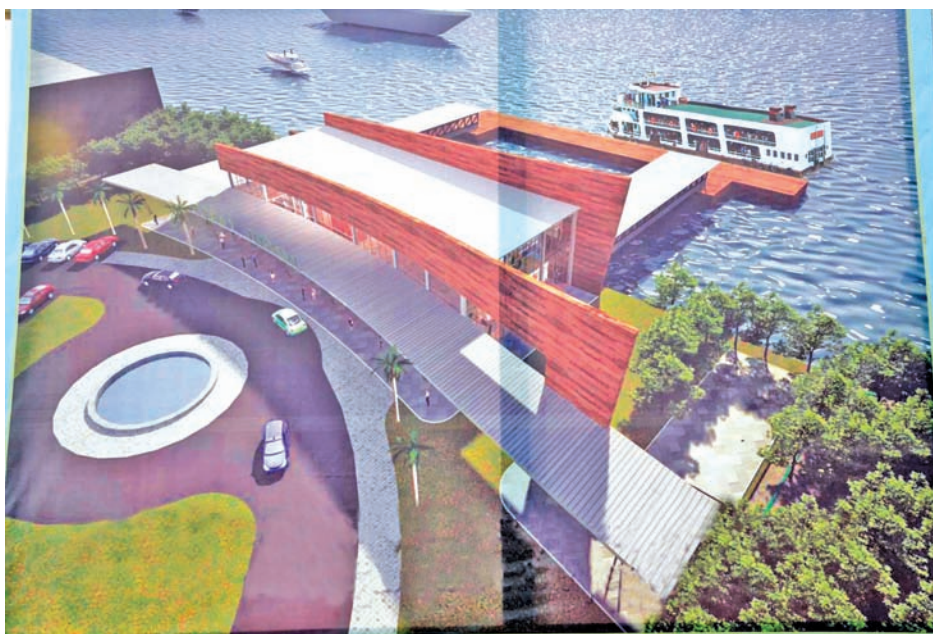
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New jetties, passenger terminal will emerge soon at Pansodan-Dala port

YANGON, 22 June—A ceremony to drive stakes for the construction of a modern jetty and passenger terminal for Pansodan-Dala port was held at the Kyauksemyay port of Myanmar Port Authority in Yangon on Saturday morning.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung in his address said that two jetties and one passenger terminal for Pansodan-Dala port will be built within one year so as to upgrade the Yangon Port to an international one.

The Union minister, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and officials drove stakes for



the buildings. They then viewed scale models of the

jetties and the terminal.

New Downtown Development Public Limited

won the tender to construct the buildings.

MNA

Ayeyar Myanmar Insurance Co., Ltd opens branch in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 22 June—A ceremony to open the Mandalay branch of Ayeyar Myanmar Insurance Company Ltd took place at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Sunday morning.

On the occasion, Secretary of Insurance Services Supervisory Committee U Aye Min Thein said that the supervisory committee has delivered licences to five private companies for insurance services as of 25 June 2013. He noted that these companies give seven insurance services to the customers.

Managing Director U Than Zaw of Ayeyar Myanmar Insurance Co., Ltd explained plans of the company to open more branch-

es in regions and states to give seven kinds of insurance services such as fire insurance, monetary security insurance and expressway special travel insurance to the customers on a wider scale.

Chairman of the company U Ohn Kyaw donated K10 million for undertaking rural development to Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu.

The new branch of the company is located on the second floor of Ayeyawady Bank-1 on 26th Street between 83rd and 84th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Entrepreneurs focus on emergence of sugarcane law



MANDALAY, 22 June—With the aim of promoting the Myanmar sugarcane and sugar market, a coordination meeting on enactment of a Myanmar sugarcane and sugar law took place at Great Wall Hotel in Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay on Friday.

The Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Entrepreneurs Association held the chapterwise discussions for emergence of the framework for the sugar

law, the points to be included in the law, promotion of Myanmar sugarcane and sugar market, requirements, the 2002 draft, matters related to the Sugar Act of Thailand and future tasks.

Concerted efforts are being made to standardize the floor price for sugar, cooperation between entrepreneurs and sugarcane growers and sustainable development of sugarcane market in the future.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

US Ambassador attends get-together for first time after 1985

MANDALAY, 22 June—The get-together of the 238th Anniversary Independence Day of the United States of America was held on the lawns of the Information Centre of the US Embassy at the corner of 26th and 71st Streets in

Mandalay on Saturday.

On the occasion, those present sang the National Anthems of Myanmar and the US.

US Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell said that the US will provide assistance for the promotion

of Myanmar-US bilateral relations and human resources development of communities and political activists.

A photo gallery was displayed at the hall showcasing the documentary photos on exchange of vis-

its of leaders from Myanmar and the US.

After 1985, the get-together attended by the US Ambassador was the first of its kind for promoting bilateral relations between the two nations.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Zaygyo Market cooperative Ltd holds AGM



MANDALAY, 22 June—Mandalay Zaygyo Market cooperative Ltd held an annual general meeting for 2013-14 fiscal year on Saturday.

At the hall on the floor of the market, Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan and the director of the Mandalay Region Cooper-

ative Department explained the development of cooperative societies followed by the annual general meeting. Officials presented outstanding students who

passed the matriculation examination for 2013-14 and donated cash to the funds of social organizations. *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Myanmar Women's Day marked with tree-planting ceremony

MUSE, 22 June—A ceremony to erect signboards highlighting Myanmar Women's Day was held in front of the town hall in Muse of northern Shan State on Saturday, with officials planting trees to mark the day. Another tree-planting ceremony to celebrate Myanmar Women's Day took place on Phayagon at 105th-Mile of Mongyu in Muse Township, with members of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation planting over 800 saplings at the ceremony.

Maing Nyan Soe



Innovative Justice Sustainable Training conducted in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 22 June—Organized by the Mandalay Region Advocate-General Office, the UNDP and

International Law Development Organization provided technical assistance to Innovative Justice Sus-

tainable Training at the hall of the Mandalay Region government on 66th street in Aungmyethazan

Township in Mandalay on Saturday, attended by 100 law officers of districts and townships.

Advocate-General U Ye Aung Myint of the region in his address said that prevalence of law and order contributes to stability, peace and development of the nation. The training course was conducted on Saturday and Sunday.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



The road section of East Shwegondine Road from Tamway traffic light to Bo Sein Hmam Road was inundated for over two hours on Saturday due to heavy rains, causing traffic congestions and long delays.

KYEMON-597



University students donate blood in Kyaukse



KYAUKSE, 22 June—Organized by the Myat Parami blood donors association,

the students from Kyaukse University and Ywama University participated in a blood donation ceremony at Kyaukse University in Mandalay Region on Friday.

The students donated 401 units of blood to the national blood bank of Mandalay General Hospital. It was the first time for the students from two universities to donate blood. One more blood donation ceremony will be held at Yadanabon University in Amarapura Township, according to the responsible persons of the Myat Parami Blood Donors Association.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Driver dismissed for talking on phone while driving

MANDALAY, 22 June—Driver U Htein Lin of Shwe Mandalay express bus that left Yangon for Mandalay on 14 June was dismissed from his post as he did not abide by the rules of the bus line by talking on his mobile phone while driving.

"The driver must not be distracted during driving. The life and security of the passengers is in his hands. The restrictions and

rules are a must to guarantee traffic safety," said an official of the bus line, adding that other bus lines should take action against other offenders. It is the first time Shwe Mandalay bus line has dismissed a driver, following the publication of the photo of the driver on his phone on Facebook by a passenger.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Al-Qaeda denies most of its Yemen fighters are foreigners



A soldier guarding the home of Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi gestures during a demonstration in Sanaa on 6 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

ABU DHABI, 22 June — Islamist websites published an al-Qaeda statement on Saturday denying claims by Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi that the vast majority of its fighters in the troubled country are foreigners.

In April, Yemeni troops began an offensive into an expanse of south Yemen, including Abyan and Shabwa provinces, in a campaign to root out al-Qaeda militants.

In a speech on 29 April, Hadi said around 70 percent of al-Qaeda members in Yemen were foreigners. The army has

since then said around 500 al-Qaeda militants had been killed in its offensive, many of them foreigners.

"We ascertain the wrongfulness of this allegation as the vast majority of fighters are from the sons of the Muslim country who share the fraternity of religion and are rooted in their tribes," the statement by al-Qaeda said. Although the comments were dated 30 April, one day after Hadi's speech, the statement was only published on Islamist websites on Saturday. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and its offshoot, Ansar al-Sharia,

have hampered the US-allied country's efforts to restore stability since a popular uprising in 2011 that forced a change in government.

Hundreds of people have died in bombings, suicide attacks and raids by the militant group against military and government facilities and foreign nationals.

On Saturday, a senior Yemeni army officer who taught at the police academy was killed when militants shot him in front of his house in Sanaa and fled on a motorbike, the Ministry of Defence said on its website.

Stability in Yemen, which shares a long border with the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, has become an international concern in recent years after AQAP tried to carry out attacks abroad, including an attempt to blow up a US-bound airliner.

Since 2012, AQAP's main base has been Abyan's mountainous al-Mahfad area, where militants fled after the army, with US help, drove them from towns and areas they had seized during the chaotic uprising against then-President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Reuters

Gunmen kill 'many' in attack on Nigerian village

MAIDUGURI, 22 June — Suspected Islamist militants stormed a village in northeast Nigeria on Saturday, killing several people and torching houses near where more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped two months ago, a witness said. Clad in military uniforms, the attackers raided the village of Koronginim in a convoy of sport utility and military vehicles, the witness told *Reuters* by telephone, asking not to be identified.

The attackers shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) before opening fire and killing "many", the witness said. "Two of their leaders were giving orders that they should shoot anyone on sight ... I crawled into the nearby bush and fled from there," the witness added. Koronginim is in Nigeria's remote Borno state, the birthplace of a five-year-old insurgency by Boko Haram militants, who are bent on carving out an Islamist caliphate in Nigeria's largely Muslim north.

The village is about 9 km (6 miles) from Chibok, where Boko Haram abducted the schoolgirls in April, triggering a global campaign for their release. The militants have killed thousands during their campaign, fought back against a military offensive and have stepped up their

attacks since the kidnapping.

Chibok residents said they could see smoke billowing up over Koronginim. "The attackers still pursued the fleeing villagers into the bush and shot them," the village's representative in the Chibok local government, Samuel Ogi, told *Reuters*.

"Some of (the villagers) are still in the bush," he said, adding the insurgents attacked in the early morning and did not leave until midday. A source at Chibok hospital told *Reuters* that at least four seriously wounded people had been brought in.

Boko Haram, whose name roughly translates as "Western education is sinful," is widely seen as the main security threat to Africa's largest economy and top oil producer. Boko Haram initially attacked mostly security forces, government officials and sometimes Islamic clerics who spoke out against it.

But when President Goodluck Jonathan ordered a military offensive a year ago to flush them out, civilians formed vigilante groups to help out — and themselves became targets.

Amnesty International estimates more than 1,500 people were killed in northeast Nigeria in the first three months of this year.

Reuters

Overseas Libyans start voting on new parliament

TRIPOLI, 22 June — Overseas Libyans started voting on the country's new parliament on Saturday, making a prelude for the coming parliamentary election scheduled for next Wednesday.

The overseas balloting will last until midnight between Sunday and Monday, during which about 11,000 registered overseas voters are expected to cast their votes at 22 electoral stations in 13 countries, including Egypt, Tunisia and the United States, an official with the UN High Commissioner in Libya said, adding that the voting process will be supervised by international organizations and observers.

According to Libya's political transition plan, the Libyans will elect a House of Representatives to substitute the current interim parliament General National Congress. The new parliament will be in charge of organizing the coming presidential election, thus bringing an end to the political transition in Libya.

The home parliamentary vote will be held next Wednesday.—Xinhua

Egypt upholds death sentence on Brotherhood leader, nearly 200 supporters

CAIRO, 22 June — An Egyptian court confirmed death sentences on Saturday against the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and 182 supporters, in a mass trial of Islamists who ruled Egypt for a year but face a fierce crackdown under the new president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Mohamed Badie and other defendants were charged in connection with violence that erupted in the southern town of Minya following the ousting of the Brotherhood's President Mohamed Mursi last July, led by then army chief Sisi.

One police officer was killed in the violence.

The court's decision came two months after it referred the case against Badie, general guide of the now outlawed Brotherhood, and 682 other defendants to a top religious authority, the first step to imposing death penalties.

Those preliminary sentences triggered outrage among Western governments and rights groups, with the United States and European Union both saying they were appalled by the rulings.

Since Mursi's overthrow, which was followed by protests by his supporters, hundreds of Islamist protesters have been killed and thousands jailed in a crackdown by security forces. Five hundred army and police officers have also been killed.

Sisi, who won a presidential election last month, said in the run-up to the vote that the Brotherhood — Egypt's oldest, most organized and successful political group — was finished and would not exist under his rule. Amnesty International described the verdicts as "the latest example of the Egyptian judiciary's bid to crush dissent". There was no immediate reaction on the ruling from the Brotherhood, whose members are either in jail or on the run.

Outside the Minya court compound, around 200 people, mostly relatives of defendants who were freed, gathered to celebrate the



Relatives and families of members of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi react outside a court in Minya, south of Cairo, after the sentences of Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie and his supporters were announced, on 21 June, 2014.—REUTERS

ruling. "Long live justice, long live Sisi," they chanted.

Out of a total 683 defendants, around 100 are in detention and the rest were tried in absentia. Four were jailed for life while 496 were acquitted, according to judiciary sources. All verdicts can be appealed before a higher court. "Those rulings are a continued farce," prominent Egyptian human rights activist and lawyer Gamal Eid said on Saturday.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Europe's top general science event ESOF2014 opens in Copenhagen



Visitors read a touch screen during the 2014 EuroScience Open Forum in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 21 June, 2014. The 2014 EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF2014), a premier science event opened here on Saturday, aiming to bridging science and society and to ensure young people to become more interested in science and innovation.

COPENHAGEN, 22 June — The 2014 EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF2014), a premier science event opened here on Saturday, aiming to build bridges between science and society and to ensure young people to become more interested

in science and innovation. The six-day event will offer a wealth of events within all branches of science under the common theme of “Science Building Bridges”, and feature discussions on such topics as “the healthy society”, “revolution of the

mind”, “global resource management” and “learning in the 21st century”. Some 4,500 participants from 75 countries are expected to attend the conference that takes place in Carlsberg City District from 21 to 26 June, in the capital of Den-

mark.

“Science leads to healthier food, better treatments, greater knowledge about climate change and a stronger foundation for developing our society,” said Sofie Carsten Nielsen, Denmark’s Minister for Higher Education and Science.

“If we are to have the best possible enjoyment and benefit from science, then business and the public need to understand the meaning of science so that they can take knowledge and ideas further and create the foundation for development, growth and prosperity in society,” the minister said.

During ESOF2014, six Nobel laureates will join global leaders in science policy and innovation such as European Commissioner for Research, Innovation, and Science Maire Geoghegan-Quinn and the President of European Research Council Jean-Pierre Bourguignon to discuss in what direction global research and innovation is developing.—Xinhua

Studies enhance organic waste collection practices in Italy

ROME, 22 June — Italy over the past 20 years has achieved good results in organic waste collection which experts said if further improved may be a growth opportunity for the country’s economy and reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 7.7 million tons every year. Figures presented at a conference on waste held in Rome earlier this week showed that many municipalities across Italy have organic waste recycling collection service, which involves some 34 million residents, more than half the Italian population.

The organic fraction of solid urban waste (FORSU) accounts for 40 percent of waste in separate collection, according to a research from SDA Bocconi School

of Management in Milan. As many as 4.8 million tons of organic waste were treated in 2012 in 252 composting plants and 27 anaerobic digestion plants in Italy, the research found.

The Mediterranean country also counts some 1,300 “super-recycling municipalities,” of which several are proud of recycling up to 70 percent of their waste, Stefano Ciafani, Vice President of Italy’s main environmental organization Legambiente, which awards so-called best practices every year, told Xinhua.

Experts have estimated that should organic waste collection be carried out in all the Italian municipalities, CO₂ emissions in the country would fall between

5.4 million and 7.7 million tons every year.

Since it was started 20 years ago, organic waste collection has constantly spread in Italy allowing the overall recycling of around 42 million tons of organic waste and the production of some 15 million tons of high-quality compost, according to figures presented at the conference.

“Bad situations related to waste management, which unfortunately are still many in Italy, often make the headlines, but the excellencies are also numerous. In fact, the use of waste materials is currently widespread in the industrial system of a country which lacks natural resources,” Ciafani noted.

Xinhua

Spanish ‘Pit of the Bones’ yields 17 remarkable early human skulls

WASHINGTON, 22 June—The name of the cave may sound bleak — Sima de los Huesos, Spanish for “Pit of the Bones” — but the site in northern Spain’s Atapuerca mountain range is providing a wondrous peek into a remote period in the history of early humans.

Scientists on Thursday described an astonishing collection of 17 fossil skulls unearthed in the cave dating from about 430,000 years ago of an extinct human species closely related to the Neanderthals who later prospered across Europe and Asia from roughly 250,000 to 40,000 years ago. The skulls, reassembled from jumbled fragments from a small chamber deep within the cave, are the oldest known fossils to



File picture of a Falcon 9 rocket carrying a small science satellite for Canada is seen as it is launched from a newly refurbished launch pad in Vandenberg Air Force Station. —REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, 22 June — Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, on Saturday delayed the planned launch of a Falcon 9 rocket carrying six communications satellites after cloudy skies socked in its Florida launch site.

The privately owned company had rescheduled launch for Saturday after encountering a technical problem minutes before a launch attempt on Friday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The rocket carries six small satellites for Orbcomm Inc ORBC.O, a provider of machine-to-machine data and messaging services worldwide. “Today’s Orbcomm launch attempt has been scrubbed

due to weather.” SpaceX wrote on its website.

A spokeswoman for Orbcomm said in an email that the next launch attempt would be 5:30 pm EDT/2130 GMT on Sunday. SpaceX had 53 minutes to launch the rocket, beginning at 5:46 pm EDT/2146 GMT, to put the Orbcomm satellites into their designated orbits some 500 miles (800 km) above Earth and inclined 47 degrees relative to the equator.

The launch on Friday was called off after engineers detected unexpected pressure readings in the rocket’s second stage engine. SpaceX provided no additional details of the problem.

Reuters



Professor Juan Luis Arsuaga examines an artefact in this undated handout picture taken at the Sima de los Huesos site in Sierra de Atapuerca, Spain.—REUTERS

show clear Neanderthal features in the skull, although the scientists stopped short of calling them actual Neanderthals. “Never before had such a tremendous collection of hominin (extinct human) skulls been discovered at a single site. For the

first time in history we can study a fossil population, not isolated fossils,” said paleontologist Juan Luis Arsuaga of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, who led the study published in the journal *Science*.

Reuters

FDA asks for wider warning on testosterone products

NEW YORK, 22 June — The US Food and Drug Administration said all testosterone products on the market should include in their labels a general warning about the risk of blood clots in veins. The regulator cited post-market reports of such clots for the warning.

The FDA said that while testosterone products already carry a warning about the risk of clots related to a condition that sometimes occurs with testosterone treatment, the latest reports of clots were unrelated to that condition, called polycythemia.

Polycythemia refers to

an abnormal increase in the number of red blood cells that sometimes occurs with testosterone treatment. Testosterone products are also at the center of an FDA investigation, which is looking at the risk of stroke, heart attack and death in men taking these drugs. —Reuters



A view shows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on 14 Aug, 2012.

REUTERS

China's Grand Canal added to World Heritage list

DOHA, 22 June — China's Grand Canal, the longest artificial waterway in the world, was inscribed on the World Heritage list here on Sunday.

The Grand Canal with a history of more than 2,400 years was recognized by UNESCO World Heritage Committee which convened its 38th session in the Qatari capital.

The 1,794-km canal runs from Beijing to Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang Province.

Xinhua



Firefighters try to extinguish fire in a hotel in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 22 June, 2014. The fire occurred on 22 June morning and firefighters have extinguished the fire. No casualties were reported.—XINHUA

Chinese police shoot dead 13 attackers in Xinjiang

SHANGHAI, 22 June — Police shot dead 13 attackers in China's restive Xinjiang region after they rammed a car into a police station and detonated explosives, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday, in the latest of a series of attacks to worry Beijing. Xinjiang is the traditional home of Muslim Uighurs who speak a Turkic language, and China has blamed previous attacks on Islamist separatists it says seek to establish an independent state there called East Turkestan.

Three police officers were "lightly wounded" in the attack on Saturday morning, but there were no casualties among the public, the news agency said citing the local government. "The gangsters drove a vehicle to ram the building of the public security bureau of Yecheng County in southern Xinjiang and set off explosives," it said.

In 2012, seven attackers were shot dead after

killing 13 people in a knife attack in Yecheng, also known by its Uighur name of Kargilik, a remote town on the road leading to China's mountainous border with Pakistan.

China has been on edge since a suicide bombing last month killed 39 people at a market in Xinjiang's regional capital Urumqi. In March, 29 people were stabbed to death at a train station in the southwestern city of Kunming.

The rise in violence has prompted a crackdown on violent crime. Authorities in Xinjiang have arrested or tried dozens of suspects in recent weeks for spreading extremist propaganda, possessing banned weapons and other crimes.

China also executed over a dozen people for terrorist attacks in the region earlier this month and three others for an attack on Beijing's central Tiananmen Square.

Reuters



Li Congjun(R), president of Xinhua News Agency, meets with Lidia Sobanska, president of Polish Press Agency (PAP) in Warsaw, Poland, on 20 June, 2014.—XINHUA

Palestinian killed in West Bank clash with Israeli troops

RAMALLAH, 22 June — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, Palestinian medics said, as Israel continued its crackdown on Islamist group Hamas, blamed for abducting three Israeli youths. Israeli soldiers carrying out raids in the city of Nablus fired at stone-throwing Palestinians, killing Ahmad Fama-wi, 26, residents and medics said. An Israeli military spokeswoman said she was checking the report.

Israel has said its West Bank operation is twofold — to find Gil-Ad Shaer and US-Israeli national Naftali

Fraenkel, both aged 16, and Eyal Yifrah, 19, who went missing near an Israeli settlement on 13 June, and to deal a substantial blow to Hamas.

Hamas, sworn to Israel's destruction, has neither denied nor confirmed involvement in the disappearance of the youths.

The military says it has searched some 1,350 sites in the West Bank and detained more than 330 Palestinians. The raids have triggered street clashes in which three Palestinians have been killed.

In Ramallah, the de-facto Palestinian cap-

ital, Palestinian security forces opened fire after residents tried to set fire to a police car, following street confrontations with Israeli soldiers, witnesses said.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas has condemned the kidnapping but has also said the Israeli military sweep amounts to collective punishment.

Before dawn, Israel also carried out air strikes on four sites in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip after militants launched three rockets from the territory into Israel on Saturday. No casualties were reported on either side.—Reuters

Xinhua

Serbian Business Council opened in Emirates

ABU DHABI, 22 June — A Serbian Business Council has been ceremonially opened in the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Abu Dhabi, as an official representative office of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce (PKS).

The Serbian Business Council UAE is an

organization that creates and improves business opportunities and investments between Serbia and the UAE, represents the interests of the Serbian economy and Serbian professionals in the Emirates and promotes Serbia as an attractive investment destination, the Council said in a release.—Tanjung



Father of UK man in ISIL recruitment video tells of distress

LONDON, 22 June — The father of a British man who appears in an online video urging Muslims to join the militant group the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) spoke on Saturday of his family's distress at his son's actions.

Ahmed Muthana told BBC TV his son Nasser, 20, from the Welsh capital Cardiff, was one of five

Islamist fighters who appeared in the video released this week encouraging others to join ISIL and fight for it in Syria and Iraq.

The video comes amid growing concern among British police, security services and political leaders about the number of Britons travelling to Syria and becoming radicalized by militant Islamists.

"I want to cry. Why are you doing this? Who led them to go there?" said Muthana of his medical student son, who appears in the online footage identified as Abu Muthanna al-Yemeni from Britain.

"Is he going to kill or is he going to do anything?"

The BBC said Muthana, who told them his 17-year-old son Aseel had

also gone to Syria, had been radicalized in Cardiff.

"I don't think that's Nasser talking, it's someone else is teaching him to talk like this because the attitude of Nasser is 100 percent completely different," he said.

"Somebody is driving those kids to do this problem."

Reuters

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Dated 23 June 2014

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Extension of the Invitation for Letter of Expression of Interest (LFOI)

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) is inviting interested foreign companies to submit Expression of Interest for Joint Venture project in Myanmar Onshore Drilling Operations, Joint Venture/Alliance in Seismic Acquisition Services and Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance services from 2.06.2014 to 7.06.2014 in Kyaymon, Myanmar Alin and the New Light of Myanmar newspapers, with the submission deadline by 30th June 2014.

Now, by the requests, MOGE hereby announces that the submission deadline for LEOI for all three projects is extended up to **31st July, 2014.**

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Cruise ship carrying nearly 200 people evacuated in Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, 22 June — A cruise ship carrying 154 passengers and 40 crew was evacuated after it sprang a leak on a river in the eastern Netherlands early on Sunday morning, emergency services said.

All the passengers, mostly pensioners from Germany and Austria, were safely helped off the 110-metre (360-foot) long Britannia and taken to

shelters. The cause of the leak was not immediately known. No one was injured, a spokesman said.

The multi-deck cruise ship was on the IJssel river, 110 kilometres (68 miles) east of the capital, Amsterdam, on its way to Cologne, Germany, when it ran into trouble.

Divers were on their way to determine the cause.—Reuters

Study points to increase in great white sharks off US Atlantic Coast

NEW YORK, 22 June — The number of great white sharks off the US Atlantic Coast appears to have increased since the early 1990s after conservation measures were introduced to halt their decline, a US government scientist said on Saturday.

Scientists for the National Marine Fisheries Service presented the findings in a study published this month in the *PLOS ONE* online journal.

Tobey Curtis, one of the government scientists who worked on the study, said in an interview his team could only capture trends in shark abundance and the study could not be used to estimate the total number of sharks in the Atlantic's northwest region, which extends from the US East Coast. "We don't know what portion of the total population we're documenting," he said.

But Curtis said the

findings suggested an "optimistic outlook" for the recovery of the species, which is an apex predator and one of the largest fish in the oceans. The study's authors described their study as based on the largest white shark dataset yet compiled from the region.

The findings were based on data stretching back about 200 years, including population surveys, fishermen's logs and newspaper clippings recording sightings of the elusive creatures. Extrapolating from the varied data, the scientists said that for much of the 1970s and 1980s the abundance of sharks in the northwest Atlantic was on average about 70 percent lower than in 1961, the year they chose to use as a benchmark.

They speculated the decline was caused by a growing commercial shark fishing industry, which harvested their fins and jaws

for use in food and folk medicine. The decline was reversed in the 1990s after conservation measures were introduced, including a 1997 federal law banning the hunting of great white sharks.

"Since protections were put in place, the population appears to have started recovering," Curtis said.

In 2009, the most recent year they studied, the abundance of sharks was 31 percent lower than it was in 1961, Curtis said.

In a separate paper also published in *PLOS ONE* this month, researchers found the great white shark population is likely growing in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California.

The group, led by George Burgess, director of the Florida Program for Shark Research, pegged the entire population of white sharks along the California coast at more than 2,000 and likely rising.—Reuters

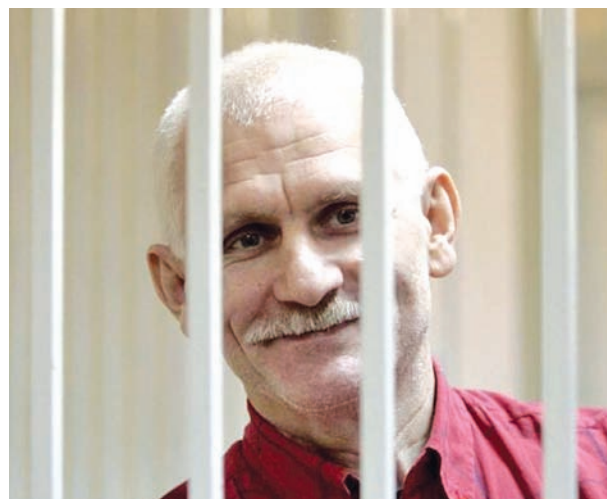
Belarus releases human rights activist ahead of time

MINSK, 22 June — Belarus on Saturday unexpectedly freed leading rights activist Ales Belyatsky, whose jailing for tax evasion in November 2011 prompted an outcry in the European Union and human rights circles.

Belyatsky, 51, who headed the rights group Vesna-96 and was serving a 4-1/2-year sentence, told journalists his release was unexpected.

"They amnestied me. ... They let me go only an hour ago," he said after arriving in Minsk on a train.

Belyatsky was arrested and charged after officials in EU members Poland and Lithuania unwittingly helped his prosecution by supplying information about bank accounts held in his name after a request by Belarus' financial au-



Human rights activist Ales Belyatsky smiles inside a guarded cage in a courtroom in Minsk on 24 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

thorities.

Belarus imposes tough restrictions on the financing of non-governmental organizations and their activities that virtually rule out any financial help from abroad.

Under his leadership, Vesna-96 campaigned for scores of opposition activists prosecuted by the government of President Alexander Lukashenko.

At the time, the EU denounced Belyatsky's

sentence as "clearly politically motivated" and said it symbolized an intensifying crackdown on Lukashenko's political opponents.

Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet republic for 20 years, and other officials are subject to travel restrictions by the EU and the United States because of his harsh policies at home that have neutralized the political opposition.

The United States welcomed Belyatsky's release and urged Belarus to free all political prisoners and restore their political rights.

"These actions would pave the way for normalisation of relations between the United States and Belarus," the State Department said in a statement.

Reuters

Syrian jets bomb eastern rebel towns near Iraq, at least 16 dead

AMMAN, 22 June — Syrian jets bombed on Saturday rebel-held eastern areas close to the border with Iraq under the control of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, killing and injuring dozens in stepped up raids against the militant group since its Iraqi offshoot made stunning gains in northern Iraq.

Five raids killed at least 16 people and injured dozens more when bombs hit residential areas in the town of Muhassan just over 100 km (60 miles) from Iraq, a day after tribal elders in the town along the Euphrates River, pledged allegiance to ISIL.

The Syrian branch of the hardline Islamists, whose stated aim is to create a strict Islamic state straddling national borders, took over the town of Muhassan along with the Albulil and Albuomar, in the latest advance in eastern Syria adjoining territory the

al-Qaeda splinter has seized in Iraq. Syrian fighter jets were seen taking off from the rebel besieged Deir al-Zor military airport to bomb several areas under the control of ISIL and witnesses and activists said areas near the border with Iraq close to the city of Abu Kamal were bombed.

"(Syrian President Bashar al-) Assad's forces want to punish towns such as Muhassan for their support of ISIL. This bombing campaign is lending a hand to help Iraqi Shi'ite leader Maliki (Iraqi Prime Minister) to destroy ISIL after its victories," said Abdullah al-Mashour, an ISIL sympathizer from the town of Muhassan, by Skype.

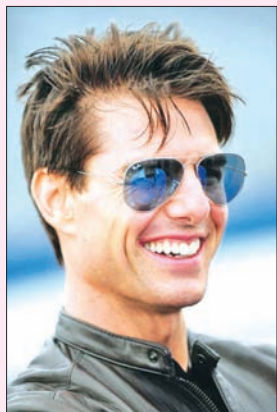
The hardline Islamist group which has been involved in fighting rival insurgents for months to consolidate its grip on the oil-rich Deir al-Zor Province on the border with Iraq is staging an offensive to cap-

ture the remaining parts of the province it still does not control. Opposition sources say their next targets are Shuheel, Mayadin and Abu Kamal, towns closer to the Syria border and now in the hands of rival Islamist groups, to allow ISIL to stretch territorially to Iraq, where family and tribal ties overlap.

ISIL already controls almost 70 percent of the Deir al-Zor region, according to some rebel sources. Although some towns have been seized after deadly battles with rival groups, other tribal towns have been won over by ISIL without a fight through a mixture of coercion and coopt leaders.

"Deir al-Zor is a prime prize for ISIL with its rich resource of oil and grains silos which it wants to further its goal," said Abu Thaher, a resident of Deir al-Zor contacted on Skype, referring to its mission of carving out an Islamic state.—Reuters

Tom Cruise given nod to shoot Mission: Impossible in British Parliament



LOS ANGELES, 22 June — Actor Tom Cruise will reportedly shoot scenes for the next installment of Mission: Impossible inside Britain's Houses of Parliament.

The actor has reportedly been granted permission to shoot the fifth install-

ment of the action franchise inside the home of British politics, the House of Commons, reports contactmusic.com.

A source tells Britain's *The Sun* newspaper, "M:I 5 will feature numerous well-known locations in London, but the Houses

of Parliament is clearly the biggest coup. The writers are excited about what stunts they could pull off inside the Commons." The news comes shortly after Meryl Streep and Carey Mulligan's new movie *Suffragette* became the first commercial feature film ever to be shot in Britain's Houses of Parliament earlier this year.—PTI

The actor has been granted permission to shoot the fifth installment of the action franchise inside the home of British politics.—PTI

Pearce and Pattinson form unlikely friendship in Michod's film 'Rover'

LOS ANGELES, 22 June — After winning over critics with the complex, dark family drama "Animal Kingdom" for his directorial debut, director David Michod wanted to pare things back to tell a simpler story about survival in his next film.

"The Rover," out in US theaters on Friday, follows a lone character, Eric, who has his car stolen and embarks on a journey to recover it, handling threats and obstacles along the way.

Australian director Michod created a stark, stripped down, decaying setting in the outback of his native country and said he



Director of the movie David Michod (L) poses with cast member Guy Pearce at the premiere of "The Rover" in Los Angeles, California on 12 June, 2014 file photo. —REUTERS

was inspired by his "despair" at the world today.

"I felt like I was literally making a movie that was set in a strange, dangerous and inhospitable

version of the present day," the director said.

And yet, Michod said he still wanted to feature some hope for Eric, played by Guy Pearce, who finds it in an unlikely friendship with Rey, played by Robert Pattinson. Rey, an American petty criminal left for dead, is rescued by Eric and forms a bond with the introverted

man, who takes him on a journey to recover his car and reunite Rey with his brother.

Pattinson delivers a performance in "The Rover" that takes him a world away from the brooding teenage vampire that rocketed him to fame in the "Twilight" film franchise.

The British actor transformed himself to play the dim-witted young Rey by adopting a jolted southern accent accompanied by twitches, tics and blank stares.

"It was quite interesting playing someone who has basically zero faith in himself," the actor said. "As soon as he starts opening his mouth, he'll either start almost questioning his own sentence as it's coming out of his mouth, and then trying to hide away from it."

Reuters

Melanie Griffith covers up Antonio Banderas' name on tattoo

LOS ANGELES, 22 June — Actress Melanie Griffith, who recently announced her separation from husband Antonio Banderas, has got his name on her famous heart tattoo covered.

The 56-year-old Working Girl star attended Italy's Taormina Film Festival, with Antonio Banderas' name hidden from the tattoo with the help of make-up, reported *Us* magazine.

The last time Melanie Griffith's tattoo had been seen intact was a day before she and Banderas made the official statement they were planning to end their relationship.

The trademark heart-shaped tattoo, which she first showed off in 1998, had a blurred, flesh-coloured patch where the name 'Antonio' was written. —PTI



Melanie Griffith & Antonio Banderas

Chinese sponsor demands changes to 'Transformers 4' film

LOS ANGELES, 22 June — A Chinese investment firm has demanded that Paramount Pictures remove scenes from the upcoming action film "Transformers: Age of Extinction" because it believes the movie studio did not meet the obligations of a sponsorship deal between the two companies.



Beijing Pangushi Investment Co Ltd, in a statement dated on June, said it terminated its contract with Paramount, a unit of Viacom Inc (VIAB.O), and that any images featuring the company's building should be deleted from the film or its marketing materials. The movie, the fourth installment in the blockbuster "Transformers" series, is set for worldwide release on 27 June.

A Paramount spokesman said on Friday that Pangu Plaza, owned by the Beijing investment firm, has a "prominent placement in Transformers 4 and it looks beautiful on screen." "We regret that Pangu is not currently satisfied with certain aspects of our collaboration and are working to resolve its concerns," the spokesman said.—Reuters

Katrina Kaif, Rekha and great expectations of a new relationship

NEW DELHI, 22 June — Actresses Katrina Kaif and Rekha will soon be sharing a complicated relationship on-screen, playing the desi versions of heart-breaker Estella and the formidable Miss Havisham in Abhishek Kapoor's *Fitoor*, an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. To prep for their roles, both actresses will reportedly attend a workshop together to get into the skins of their characters.

Director Abhishek Kapoor hopes this workshop will help Rekha and Katrina get to know each other well and build a bond between the two before shooting begins.

The workshop will include script reading sessions to help the actresses prepare for their roles in the movie.

Abhishek Kapoor said in an interview, "Fitoor is a story of grand passion, beauty and love. The entire team is charged about what it promises to be."

The movie will star Katrina Kaif, Aditya Roy Kapur and Rekha, and will release next year. —PTI



Rekha



Katrina Kaif

GENERAL

Doraemon next up in “Cool Japan” culture campaign in US

LOS ANGELES, 22 June — Japan’s beloved blue robotic cat from the 22nd century is finally making his US debut this summer, promoted as part of Japan’s “Cool Japan” campaign to export the country’s pop culture around the world.

The Japan External Trade Organization held a Doraemon launch party in Torrance, California, on Friday for media and about 80 primarily Japanese companies to encourage businesses to pursue licensing opportunities to promote the character in the United States.

The show will premier on 7 July on Disney XD, an American cable channel mainly targeting elementary school children. A total of 26 episodes will be broadcast, with episodes airing weekdays at 12:30

pm.

The animated series, based on manga comics written by the late Fujiko F. Fujio between the latter half of the 1960s and the mid-1990s, has been aired in 35 other countries and regions mainly in Asia and Europe.

“In the US, they have Mickey Mouse, which was the first character in the world, and probably the most famous,” said Yoshihiko Shinoda, senior executive officer of Fujiko F. Fujio Pro Co. “I think Doraemon is the Mickey Mouse of Asia. That’s why I feel so happy that we can finally get into the US.”

He also noted that many in Japan are surprised when they find out that Doraemon has never been broadcast in the United States before.



Yoshihiko Shinoda, an executive at Fujiko Pro Co., poses with a Doraemon character at a promotional event near Los Angeles on 20 June, 2014. A total of 26 episodes of children’s anime TV series Doraemon will be broadcast by Disney XD, a digital cable and satellite television channel, in the United States from 7 July. —KYODO NEWS



Tourists visit Royal Ocean Park in Fushun, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 21 June, 2014. — XINHUA

“Everybody says, ‘Haven’t they had it yet?’ instead of saying ‘Congratulations,’ to me,” he said.

Maiko Watanabe, logistics manager of Nippon Express USA, Inc.’s Los Angeles branch in Torrance, said her company is interested in learning more about licensing the Doraemon character, possibly for use on its trailers that make deliveries across the United States.

Watanabe said she thinks her company could benefit from the association with a cute, well-known character, but said it could also help familiarize American people with Do-

raemon, so everyone benefits.

Attendees of the JET-RO event were also treated to an episode of Doraemon from the English series.

Similar to the English-language version of the Doraemon manga released digitally on the Amazon Kindle last year, characters, food and other items in the cartoon have been tweaked to suit US audience preferences. Doraemon’s name will remain the same, but the character “Nobita” has been renamed “Noby,” “Shizuka” is “Sue,” “Suneo” is now “Sneech,” and “Gian” is “Big G.” —Kyodo News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-6-14 07:00am~
24-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * 19 Hours
- * World News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Noni)
- * Local News
- * Mandalay Noodle Salad
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Gold Leaf
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Review “Satan Dancer”
- * Local News
- * Tapestry-A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * The Man and The Elephant
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
- * World News
- * Graffiti: Character Art
- * Local News
- * A Person with Faith
- * World News
- * Exquisite Myanmar Silk

No crystal ball necessary for Korean Octopus

PORTO ALEGRE, (Brazil), 22 June — Lee Young-pyo, a former South Korean player turned broadcaster, has created a stir in his homeland for his uncanny success at predicting World Cup winners in Brazil.

Lee has become so accurate with this tips that Koreans have dubbed him “Young-pyo the Octopus,” after the clairvoyant cephalopod named Paul that became a global celebrity for picking winners at the 2010 World Cup.

But neither Lee nor his former team mate and now coach of the Korean squad Hong Myung-bo were going on a limb to make any prognostications about Sunday’s Group H clash with Algeria.

After boldly predict-

ing the downfall of Spain and several other games the furthest Lee would come to calling Sunday’s match was to say: “If Korea plays against Algeria as it did against Russia, Korea will win.”

Hong, who captained the Koreans on their glorious run to 2002 World Cup semi-finals on home soil, was even less forthcoming.

“I can’t say whether we are going to lose or win but what I can say is that of course we are going to play to win,” said Hong ahead of his squad’s final practice session on Saturday.

“In order to get through the group phase we need the points and right now we have just one.”

Despite a lack of clarity from the two Koreans,

no crystal ball is needed to understand the importance of Sunday’s showdown in this gritty port city.

With Belgium sitting atop the group standings and Russia and Korea joint second after an opening 1-1 draw, Algeria will be fighting for their World Cup lives at Beira Rio stadium.

The ‘Taeguk Warriors’ also view the contest as a must-win. A victory over the Algerians would put Korea’s fate into their own hands with Belgium looming as their final group fixture.

Although defending has been Korea’s Achilles Heel, Hong seemed more focused on his attacking options heading.

A team that plays with plenty of offensive flair and

ambition, Hong could keep Park Chu-young as his main striker against Algeria or bring in Kim Shin-wook or Lee Keun-ho, a sergeant in the Korean army who came on as a substitute to score

against Russia.

“We haven’t decided yet, we will finish today’s training and then afterwards we will decide,” said Hong.

“In order to win of course we have to score a



Vancouver Whitecaps Lee Young-pyo throws in the ball during the second half of their MLS soccer match against Montreal Impact in Vancouver, British Columbia on 10 March, 2012. — REUTERS

goal. That is the most important thing.

“There will be opportunities for us to score but can we take advantage of those opportunities.”

The Koreans will be wary of a speedy Algerian side who scored first and gave the Belgians a real game before losing 2-1.

Hong said he expects the same intensity out of the “Desert Foxes” but a vastly different approach. “Defence-wise I think they were a little bit afraid of Belgium so they focused a lot on their defence,” said Hong.

“I saw the match Algeria played with Belgium and the Belgium team was very defensive as was the Algerian team and I don’t think that is how they will play with us.—Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 June — English football is “too honest” for its own good at times and might do better in future if it plays with a more “streetwise, nasty” attitude that other teams employ, according to striker Wayne Rooney.

England have already been eliminated from the tournament, their earliest exit in 56 years, having lost 2-1 to both Italy and Uruguay in their previous two Group D matches and return home after playing Costa Rica on Tuesday in Belo Horizonte. “You look at teams who have won the tournament over previous years and you can see that nastiness in them,” said Rooney who could hardly hide his disappointment when he spoke to the media at the team’s training camp. “I think we have to get that

England needs to get a little bit more nasty says Rooney



England's Wayne Rooney celebrates scoring against Uruguay during their 2014 World Cup Group D soccer match at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 19 June, 2014. REUTERS

in us.”As a team maybe we were too honest, I feel.” Rooney added he agreed that England needed to get more ‘streetwise’ in major tournaments in terms of controlling the tempo of games.”I think so. You see a lot of the great teams, international and club teams, they have that,” he said. “The time to slow the game down a bit or control the game a bit more.”But this is football. You have to take your chances (and) if we’d taken at least one of them, we’d have gone on and won the games. That’s what

disappointing.”He also felt that Roy Hodgson’s side needed to learn the darker arts of committing tactical fouls, something he felt Uruguay had done well and got away with. “They committed I don’t know how many fouls, clever fouls, really, which slowed the game down.”I got kicked 10 times (against Uruguay) and I don’t think there was a yellow card given to an opponent. We try and be honest, but maybe that’s a fault.”It’s small margins, but those small things can amount to a big thing in terms of staying in the competition or going out.”Rooney said he would watch the rest of the World Cup on television when he got home, while he had a new favourite to win the tournament.—Reuters

Ryan Moore has one-shot lead at Travelers

CARY, (North Carolina), 22 June — American Ryan Moore made an unlikely eagle from a cart path on his way to a one-stroke lead after the third round at the Travelers Championship in Connecticut on Saturday. The three-time PGA Tour winner used the fortunate break to set the stage for a

bogey free four-under-par 66 in delightful conditions at the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. He posted a 13-under 197 total, while Australian Aaron Baddeley notched a 65 to move into second place on 12-under. It is anything but a two-man race, with Spaniard Sergio Garcia, South Korean KJ Choi

and Americans Scott Langley and Michael Putnam two shots behind in the PGA Tour event formerly known at the Greater Hartford Open. Moore, 31, is a former US Amateur champion who has compiled a solid professional career without quite living up to the expectations of greatness that some expected. He said his round was an example of scoring well without being at the top of his game, and his eagle at the par-five sixth was clearly the highlight. He blocked his drive to the right but his ball “chased down the cart path” and left him only 227 yards from the hole. “It (the ball) was still sitting on the path but I had a reasonable opening, had to cut it a little bit, but decided to hit it off the path,” he told CBS television.

“I knocked it right up there with a hybrid to the front edge and was able to topple that one in (with a putt from 35 feet). “I can’t say I hit it amazing today but sometimes you just get it around.”Baddeley is another former young phenom who won the 1999 Australian Open as an amateur before successfully defending as a professional the following year. He moved into the hunt for his fourth tour title, less than a year after being mired in such a slump that he barely kept his tour card. World number eight Garcia made his move with four birdies in the final eight holes to card a 65.

Reuters



Ryan Moore tees off on the tenth hole during the second round of the Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands on 20 June, 2014.—REUTERS

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing									
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	
Group A									
1) Brazil	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4	
2) Mexico	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	
3) Croatia	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3	
4) Cameroon	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0	
Group B									
1) Netherlands	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6	
2) Chile	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6	
3) Australia	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0	
4) Spain	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0	
Group C									
1) Colombia	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6	
2) Côte d'Ivoire	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3	
3) Japan	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	
4) Greece	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1	
Group D									
1) Costa Rica	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6	
2) Italy	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3	
3) Uruguay	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3	
4) England	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0	
Group E									
1) France	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6	
2) Switzerland	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3	
3) Ecuador	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3	
4) Honduras	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0	
Group F									
1) Argentina	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6	
2) Nigeria	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	
3) Iran	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	
4) Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0	
Group G									
1) Germany	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4	
2) USA	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	
3) Ghana	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	
4) Portugal	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0	
Group H									
1) Belgium	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	
2) Korea Republic	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
3) Russia	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
4) Algeria	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match-33	Australia	22:30 MST (23.6.2014)	Spain
Match-34	Netherlands	22:30 MST (23.6.2014)	Chile
Match-35	Cameroon	02:30 MST (24.6.2014)	Brazil
Match-36	Croatia	02:30 MST (24.6.2014)	Mexico

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 27	Argentina	1-0	Iran
Match 28	Germany	2-2	Ghana
Match 29	Nigeria	1-0	Bosnia and Herzegovina