

Gov't should take responsibility for the rehabilitation of former political prisoners and support families of torture victims: FPPS

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 25 June—The Former Political Prisoners Society-FPPS needs cooperation from the government to effectively support families of political prisoners who died at interrogation camps and in prisons, with the organization calling for the rehabilitation of the victims of torture as the world marks International Day in Support of Victims of Torture which falls on 26th June.

"Let bygones be bygones. But, today, we want the new government to take responsibility for rehabilitation of the victims of torture and for medical care for them," said U Thet Oo, member of the working committee of the FPPS on Wednesday.

The FPPS and Assistance Association for Political Prisoners have been working with international organizations to support the families of deceased former prisoners and help with the rehabilitation of the victims of torture in Myanmar.

In January, FPPS provided K 1 million each to the families of 54 former political prisoners who died at interrogation camps and



U Thet Oo, member of the working committee of Former Political Prisoners Society-FPPS, urges the government to cooperate with the society to rehabilitate victims of torture.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

in prisons.

"Still, there are many victims who have not yet received support because we have insufficient funding," U Thet Oo said.

According to FPPS, from 1988 to 2010, over 160 political prisoners died in Myanmar prisons and at interrogation camps due to malnutrition, lack of medical care and torture.

Due to the lack of adequate medical care for prisoners, the imprisoned people had to rely on supplies their family members brought during visits, with a lot of medicines confiscated by security guards.

Many suffered from dysentery during an epidemic at Insein Prison in Yangon in 1990, said U Thet Hmu, 44, a former political prisoner. Two political prisoners died as they did not receive any medical help. Many died in prisons due to contaminated water and food and lack of sufficient medical care, while some did not survive the long term effects of imprisonment after their release or were left paralyzed.

"We have not heard about such abysmal conditions anymore, but the ongoing problem is that prisoners cannot afford medical care after their release and

have to deal with the impact the imprisonment has had on their health on their own," U Thet Oo said.

On behalf of the FPPS, U Thet Oo, is urging the government to cooperate with them for the rehabilitation of former political prisoners and families of the victims of torture.

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politicalprisoners

Damco opens container freight facilities in Myanmar

YANGON, 25 June—Third-party logistics provider Damco has started operating the first international standard warehouse and Container Freight Station (CFS) facility in Myanmar, according to a press release by the company on 24 June.

The company claimed that customers can now benefit from the same service quality for cargo shipped out of Myanmar as any other country.

Kiattichai Pitpreecha, managing director of the Thailand, Malaysia & Myanmar cluster, said: "Damco is the first global logistics company in Myanmar. After acquiring an operating license in 2013 and opening a new office in Yangon, we have

strengthened our position in Myanmar by being the first international logistics company in the country to start offering own-operated CFS/warehousing services."

He added that the international standard CFS facility provides superior service to customers through direct control and management of the entire operation and service delivery process.

This "brand-new world-class" 4,000 sqm facility in Thaketa Industrial Zone is C-TPAT compliant and strategically located within 15 kilometres from Yangon ports and major industrial locations, he said.

According to the company, it is suitable for import and export activities for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCGs), consumer

electronics, apparel, components, machinery and project cargo. Pitpreecha said: "Emerging markets have always been one of Damco's focus areas and core strengths, with many of our key customers sourcing their products from or operating in these markets. They will benefit from the same service quality for cargo shipped out of Myanmar as any other country in which we operate."

Pitpreecha added that Damco has "proved again that we are one step ahead

Damco starts operating first international standard warehouse and Container Freight Station (CFS) facility in Myanmar.

PHOTO: DAMCO



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Myanmar to work together with China to uphold Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence: official

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Myanmar will work together with China to continually uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, said presidential spokesperson U Ye Htut in an interview with China's state news agency Xinhua on Tuesday.

U Ye Htut stressed that 60 years ago, leaders from Myanmar, China and India "courageously" made the historic decision to introduce the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence which have become basic norms and guiding principles in international relations.

He noted that since the introduction of the five principles 60 years ago, they made the monumental contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability of Asia as well as

the world.

"We are proud of jointly holding the 60th Anniversary of the Announcement of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence," he said.

On Myanmar President U Thein Sein's upcoming visit to China, the official said, "we believe that the goodwill visit can strengthen the comprehensive strategic cooperative ties between China and Myanmar."

According to an official announcement here on the same day, U Thein Sein will pay a four-day goodwill visit to China and will be subsequently attending the commemorative ceremony of the 60th anniversary of the announcement of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence by Myanmar, China and India to be held in Beijing on June 28.

Xinhua

Muse in northern Shan State stages beauty pageant with traditional costumes



MUSE, 25 June — The Myanmar Women's Affairs Committee in Muse of northern Shan State on Tuesday organized a traditional costume show to mark Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July. 20 young women wearing different ethnic costumes participated in the show.

The best award went to Nan Thandar Soe in a

Rakhine costume. Contestation prizes went to Ma Nan Loung Loung and Ma Ja Hsai Pan. The show was closed with the chorus of "Unity is Strength".

Muse IPRD

Boat loaded with sand capsizes in Ngamoeyeik Creek in eastern YGN, no one injured



YANGON, 25 June—A boat laden with sand sank in Ngamoeyeik Creek in the eastern part of Yangon on Tuesday. The boat, *Kyan Daing Aung*, was on its way from Yangon river to Ngamoeyeik Creek. No one was injured, officials said.

Myint Than (Oxygen)

GOLD PRICE (25-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K673,500
per tical: Selling K674,300

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K673,500
per tical: Selling K674,300

Prevention against human trafficking

MYINGYAN, 25 June—Mandalay and Myingyan Districts Anti-human Trafficking Committees gave lectures on the prevention of trafficking in persons on

Tuesday.

The said as every one regardless of age and gender can become a victim of human trafficking, people must be informed about the

methods of traffickers and educated on how to protect themselves.

U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Medics give free treatment to locals in central Myanmar

YENANGYOUNG, 25 June — A 95-member mobile team of medics led by Lt-Col Zaw Myo Marn on Sunday gave medical treatment to locals of 36 villages in Yenangyoung Town-

ship in central Myanmar.

They provided treatment to 1,832 patients free of charge and will continue their service until 26 June.

District IPRD



Care for elders at Home for the Aged in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 25 June — The Pyinmana Home for the Aged was visited on Tuesday by physicians and nurses from the Pyinmana 200-bed hospital who gave free medical treatment and provided nutritious foods.

The medics were helped by members of the

Myanmar Women Affairs Committee of Pyinmana who also provided food and medicines. The Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Women Affairs Committee Daw Myat Myat Moe and others were present on the occasion.

Myo Zeyar (Pyinmana)



Mini Book Corner gets new books in Taungtha

TAUNGTHA, 25 June—Staff of the Information and Public Relations Department in Taungtha Township in central Myanmar exchanged old books with new ones at mini book corners, saying they hope

the move will help raise an interest in reading. Book corners have been set up at many public places, including bus stops, teashops, market places, and hospitals.—Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

NATIONAL

Foreign banks to serve interest of local people, banks and companies: central bank vice governor

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Set Aung told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday that Myanmar

will place emphasis on the interest of Myanmar and the people, local banks and local companies in allowing foreign banks to enter the Southeast Asian country.

The vice governor said that there are both advantages and disadvantages when foreign banks are allowed to operate either as foreign bank branches, as new companies, as joint venture branches with local partners, or as locals banks after they have bought shares from local banks.

The Central Bank has compared the advantages and disadvantages, but the emphasis is placed on the interests of the country and the people, local banks and local companies, he said.

At the ASEAN Finance Ministers' meeting in April, Myanmar's Finance Minister U Win Shein said at the final press conference that the government was lacking the experience and know-

how to develop the banking sector, acknowledging that foreign expertise was needed, while at the same time voicing concern that local banks may not be competitive once foreign banks enter the sector. He said at the time "whether or not to open the banking sector to foreign banks is a topic constantly discussed in parliament, but no conclusion has been reached."

Regarding other issues, representatives in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Wednesday unanimously approved the proposal of the president to appoint Union Deputy Minister U Soe Win of the Ministry of Religious Affairs as the union minister of the same ministry.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Canada

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada, on the occasion of the National Day of Canada which falls on 1 July 2014.

Similarly, the President has sent a message of felicitations to the Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassadors

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Zwar Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Ireland.

Similarly, the President has appointed U Han Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Spain.—MNA

FM felicitates Canadian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 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 the Honourable John Baird, Minister of foreign Affairs of Canada, on the occasion of the National Day of Canada which falls on 1 July 2014.—MNA

ASEAN Task Force on AIDS meets in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—The 22nd Coordination meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS is being held from 24 to 26 June at the Hotel Shwe Pyi Tha in Mandalay.

At Tuesday's meeting, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said that Myanmar is cooperating with regional countries, UN agencies, partner organizations and social organizations in the fight against AIDS.

Chairman of the ATFOA Dr Bounpheng Philavong delivered a speech at the meeting.

Officials from the ASEAN Secretariat, UNAIDS, International Alliance, UNICEF, WHO and representative from ASEAN countries attended the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 p.m on Wednesday 25th 2014)

Forecast valid until Evening of the 26th June, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

NLM



Fifth day session of 10th Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Union Minister opens new school for children from copper mine project area

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Union Minister U Hla Tun at the Ministry of the President Office on Wednesday took part in a school opening ceremony in Salingyi Township in north-west Myanmar's Sagaing region.

The new two-storey school, which is located near the China-backed Myanmar Wanbao Mining Copper Mine Limited, can accommodate 450 children.

Union Minister U Hla Tun, Chairman of the Working Committee which is under the Investigation Commission for the controversial copper mine project, also visited No.6 Garment Factory in Salingyi which was established to create job opportunities in the project area. He said that the towns and villages in the Letpadaungtaung copper mine project area lacked



Union Minister U Hla Tun on his tour of Sagaing region where he said that locals living in the copper mine area must be given opportunities to improve their lives.—MNA

electricity, clean drinking water and agricultural water in the past, and that these problems have been solved at present to a certain extent both with state budget and corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds of business companies involved in

the project.

He then attended at training course by the Rural Youth Development Programme which was launched by Action Aid Myanmar, a non-profit organization. The course, attended by 30 trainees from 30 vil-

lages in Salingyi Township, conducts trainings on rural development activities, development programmes for children, women and disabled persons, and measures to prevent natural disasters and combat climate change.

MNA

Myanmar to extend anti-drug programme as Int'l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is marked: union minister

YANGON, 25 June—In a message to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, who is also the Chairman of the Central Committee for the Prevention of the Dangers of Drug and Psychotropic Substances, said that a new project to eliminate drugs will be implemented as the

old programme is about to run out.

A 15-year project for drug elimination was implemented in Myanmar from 1999 to 2014, he said in his message. However, the cultivation of poppy could not be reduced and the dangers of substitute precursor chemicals and new types of drugs and psychotropic substances have emerged in the country. Therefore, another

5-year project for drug elimination is being implemented until 2019.

In order to control the money generated from drug trafficking, the Anti Money Laundering Law was enacted. "Offences are investigated and action is taken against money laundering activities in accordance with the existing laws. As a result, a total of 49 money laundering activities were

investigated and 22 money laundering crimes were exposed, leading to the confiscation of nearly K 20 billion," the union minister wrote.

UNODC's theme for this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking offers a message of hope: Drug abuse is preventable and treatable. But it takes the effort of communities

to reintegrate addicts by supporting them, with an improvement in health care services needed to systematically treat them. Further needed are more education on the dangers of drug abuse and the improvement of people's livelihoods to give them hope and a perspective to abstain from illegal substance abuse.

Farmers start work as monsoon sets in



INDAW (Sagaing Region), 25 June—As the rainy season has started in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region in upper Myanmar, farmers are now engaging in land preparation work, with cultivation beginning in mid July. According to the Land Statis-

tic Office, 48,411 acres are useable. In the 2014 cultivation season, the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank will disburse K 3.6 billion in loans to 7,300 farmers of 43 village tracts in the township. According to the plan, a farmer can get K 100,000 for an acre

with 10 acres in maximum. As interest rate is low – 42 pyas (100 pyas=K1) for K 100 for a month –farmers who own more lands can buy equipment including power tillers and pumping machines. They can use the equipment for their own use as well as rent it out to

earn extra income, a farmer said.—*Maung Chit Linn*

Police in Padaung educates children on dangers of drugs



PADAUNG, (West Bago Region), 25 June—Padaung Police Force in West Bago Region organized talks on the dangers of narcotic drugs on Tuesday

in a bid to keep children away from drug abuse. The organizers talked about the drugs sold, health dangers, drug-related laws, and crimes including trafficking. Local youth and children, members of the anti-narcotic drug association, maternal and child welfare association, women affairs committee, and others were present on the occasion.

Aung Myint (042)



Nay Pyi Taw Council member honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Nay Pyi Taw council member U Phone Zaw Han on Tuesday honoured outstanding students who passed the 2013-2014 matriculation exam. Altogether 105 distinction winners from Uttarathiri Township were honoured at the ceremony.

Shwe Kokko



Bridge in Mohnyin Tsp in urgent need of repair

MOHNYIN, (Kachin State) 25 June—A bridge on a road in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State needs urgent repair as its condition in the rainy season is deteriorating, locals

said. As the bridge is located on the route leading to a historic pagoda in the region, many locals are worried about their safety and

have called on authorities to rebuild it. The road sees heavy traffic with pedestrians, school children, tourists, and heavy vehicles, according to locals.—*Ni Toe*



Funds provided for Green Village Project in arid zone

NATOGYI (Central Myanmar), 25 June—The Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development pro-

vided a K-30 million fund for 11 villages in Natogyi Township located in the arid zone of central Myanmar.

With the establishment

of the fund locals will be able to engage in implementing the Green Village Project.

Than Zaw Aung (Natogyi)

FOR THE EARTH: As Seikpyu Township is located in the dry zone in central Myanmar, it is vital to grow trees for environmental conservation, with the Forest Department of the township on Monday organizing a ceremony to plant trees in a school compound, including neem, eucalyptus, and other big shady trees as a gesture to mark World Environment Day.

Soe Linn Naing (IPRD)

REGIONAL

US says Thai military rule likely to last longer than expected

WASHINGTON, 25 June — Military rule in Thailand is likely to last longer than expected and has been more repressive than after the country's last coup in 2006, a senior US official said on Tuesday.

The official told a congressional hearing Washington was still looking at whether the big regional Cobra Gold military exercise held annually in Thailand could go ahead there next year given the military takeover in May.

"Initially, we held out hope that — as happened with the 2006 coup — the military would move relatively quickly to transfer power to a civilian government and move towards free and fair elections," said Scot Marciel, the US principal deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia.

"However, recent events have shown that the current military coup is both more repressive and likely to last longer than the last one," he added. Marciel said in testimony to the Asia-Pacific sub-



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha makes a gesture of greeting as he arrives ahead of a meeting to discuss the 2015 national budget at the Army Club in Bangkok on 13 June, 2014.—REUTERS

committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the coup had put the United States in a difficult position, given that Thailand is a key US ally

in Asia.

"The challenge facing the United States is to make clear our support for a rapid return to democracy and fundamental freedoms,

while also working to ensure we are able to maintain and strengthen this important friendship and our security alliance over the long term," he said.

Marciel said Washington hoped that strong international criticism of the military takeover would lead to an easing of repression and an early re-

turn to democracy. He said the United States would continue to urge for the martial law to be lifted and elections to be held sooner than a vague 15-month timeline laid out by the military government.

However, he added: "To be honest, it's very hard to predict how long they are going to stay in power."

Until there is a return to elected government, "we will not be able to do business as usual," Marciel said.

As required by US law, Washington has frozen \$4.7 million of security-related assistance since the coup and cancelled high-level engagements, some military exercises and training programmes for the military and police.

Marciel said Washington had yet to make a decision on the Cobra Gold exercises planned for early next year in Thailand, which he called "hugely important ... not only for Thailand and the United States, but for the region."

Reuters

Gunmen fire on plane at Pakistan's Peshawar airport, one killed

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 25 June — Gunmen fired on a Pakistan International Airlines plane as it was landing in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday night, killing a woman on board and injuring three crew members in the third incident at a Pakistani airport this month.

Flight PK 756 was carrying 178 passengers travelling from Saudi Arabia when it came under attack as it was preparing to land, policeman Asghar Khan said at the airport.

The plane was hit by six bullets, police said, killing the Pakistani woman and narrowly missing the captain. At least one bullet struck the plane's engine, police said.

The woman's daughter was sitting next to her when she was shot in the head, PIA official Mohammad Kifayatullah Khan said. "When I went inside the plane, I saw the woman lying on the seat and her nine-year-old daughter was crying, 'My mother is dead, my mother is dead'," said Khan.

"All the passengers were panicked. Some of



A policeman stands near Bacha Khan Airport in Peshawar early on 25 June, 2014.

REUTERS

them wanted to get out as soon as possible because they were afraid of fire inside the plane.

"The captain of the plane had narrowly escaped," he said. "It would have been a disaster had he been hit."

The incident will raise further questions about whether the government

is prepared for a Taliban backlash after officials announced a military operation to flush the militants from their mountain strongholds in North Waziristan on 15 June.

Pakistani jets have pounded suspected militant hideouts and the Taliban have vowed counter attacks.

Islamabad has promised to tighten security at airports and other potential targets, but critics say decades of neglect of Pakistan's ragged police force has left citizens vulnerable.

On 8 June, ten Taliban gunmen attacked the airport in the southern port city of Karachi, Pakistan's financial heart and home

to 18 million people. Thirty-four people were killed in the five-hour gunbattle. The Taliban fired on an academy for the security forces at the airport two days later.

On Monday, the government was forced to divert a plane carrying prominent cleric Tahirul Qadri after violence broke out on the ground in Islamabad, with hundreds of supporters armed with sticks battling police, who fired teargas.

The authorities, fearing an escalation of unrest, diverted the plane to the eastern city of Lahore, where Qadri and his supporters refused to leave the plane for hours.

Peshawar's Bacha Khan International Airport has also been a target in the past — in 2012, a Taliban suicide squad staged a car bomb, rocket and gun attack on the airport and nine people, including the five attackers, were killed.

One policeman told *Reuters* police will not enter the neighbourhood that borders the airport at night for fear of attack by extremists.—*Reuters*

N Korea identifies Gen Hyon Yong Chol as defence minister

BEIJING, 25 June — North Korea's defence minister is now Gen Hyon Yong Chol, a former chief of the General Staff of the country's military, replacing Jang Jong Nam for unknown reasons, an official media report showed on Wednesday.

A radio report by the Korean Central Broadcasting Station in the morning introduced Hyon as People's Armed Forces Minister, according to Tokyo-based Radiopress, which monitors North Korean media.

Hyon became chief of the General Staff of the 1.2 million-strong Korean People's Army for about a year from July 2012.

Jang was in the ministerial post from around May 2013. His predecessor Kim Kyok Sik was seen by North Korea watchers as a hardliner for his role in the shelling of a South Korean island in the Yellow Sea in November 2010 and the sinking of a South Korean naval vessel in March that year.—*Kyodo News*

Kerry urges Kurds to save Iraq from collapse

ARBIL, (Iraq), 25 June — US Secretary of State John Kerry urged leaders of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region on Tuesday to stand with Baghdad in the face of a Sunni insurgent onslaught that threatens to dismember the country.

Security forces fought Sunni armed factions for control of the country's biggest oil refinery on Tuesday and militants launched an attack on one of its largest air bases less than 100 km (60 miles) from the capital.

More than 1,000 people, mainly civilians, have been killed in less than three weeks, the United Nations said on Tuesday, calling the figure "very much a minimum".

The figure includes unarmed government troops machine-gunned in mass graves by insurgents, as well as several reported incidents of prisoners killed in their cells by retreating



Kurdistan Regional Government President Massoud Barzani (R) greets US Secretary of State John Kerry at the presidential palace in Arbil, the capital of northern Iraq's Kurdistan autonomous region, on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

government forces.

Kerry flew to the Kurdish region on a trip through the Middle East to rescue Iraq following a lightning advance by the Sunni fighters led by jihadists of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

US officials believe that persuading the Kurds to stick with the political process in Baghdad is vital to keep Iraq from splitting apart. "If they decide to withdraw from the Baghdad political process, it will accelerate a lot of the negative

trends," said a senior State Department official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Kurdish leaders have made clear that the settlement keeping Iraq together as a state is now in jeopardy.

Reuters

Militants positioned to hold captured Iraq territory, US official says



A fighter of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) waves a flag as they celebrate in the city of Mosul, on 23 June, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 June — Sunni militants are "well positioned" to hold a broad

swathe of territory captured in northern and western Iraq if the Baghdad gov-

ernment fails to produce a robust counter-offensive, a senior US intelligence official said on Tuesday.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which seized the main northern city Mosul on 10 June and has since marched virtually unopposed towards Baghdad, is at its strongest "in years," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive information.

The official said ISIL risks over-extending itself if it expands too quickly.

The official said ISIL is flush with money and weapons after looting military equipment in Syria and Iraq and raising money through kidnapping, robbery, smuggling and extortion schemes, including the imposition of a "road tax" in Mosul.

The official, however, disputed media reports suggesting ISIL's income had soared into the hundreds of millions of dollars, noting its takings in Mosul amounted to "millions" of dollars.

Reuters

UNSG's Message on the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

26 June 2014

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, to be observed on 26 June:

Every day, mental and physical torture and ill-treatment are intentionally inflicted on women, men, children in all regions of the world at the instigation of public officials — the very people whose job it is to enforce the rule of law, protect human rights and keep people safe.

The prohibition of torture is absolute. The Convention against Torture states unequivocally that the use of torture is illegal under any circumstances, including armed conflict, the fight against terrorism, political instability or other emergency conditions. All 155 States that have ratified this treaty have committed to fight impunity by thoroughly investigating and prosecuting violations and bringing perpetrators, no matter their level of office, to justice. They have also accepted the obligation to provide redress to the victims and their families.

Regrettably, the right of victims of torture to effective remedies, including rehabilitation, is yet to become a reality, in particular in the context of armed conflicts and large-scale humanitarian crisis.

The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is a practical tool of the United Nations to extend prompt assistance to victims of torture and their families. Today, along the borders with Syria, the Fund is supporting projects providing vital services to victims of torture fleeing violence and persecution. Essential psycho-social assistance is being delivered to help victims of all age groups recover and regain their dignity. I thank the States and private donors that are supporting the Fund's efforts, and urge even more to join in this work.

I urge States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention against Torture, which this year marks 30 years since its adoption. As we honour the victims on this International Day, let us pledge to strengthen our efforts to eradicate this heinous practice.

UNIC/Yangon

Atomic export group to discuss ties with nuclear-armed India

VIENNA, 25 June — An influential world body that controls nuclear exports will address the sensitive issue of closer ties with India — which is outside the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — at an annual meeting this week, a draft agenda obtained by Reuters showed.

The United States, Britain and others have argued that nuclear-armed India should join the secretive 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group — established in 1975 to ensure that civilian atomic trade is not diverted for military purposes.

But other NSG states have voiced doubt about accepting a country that built up a nuclear arsenal outside a 189-nation treaty set up four decades ago to

prevent states from acquiring such weapons of mass destruction.

Days ahead of the 26-27 June NSG meeting in Buenos Aires, India said it was ratifying an agreement, a so-called Additional Protocol, with the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand oversight over its civilian nuclear programme.

The United States said this marked another "important step in bringing India into the international non-proliferation mainstream". But some critics questioned the step's significance, as it would not affect India's nuclear weapons programme and sensitive atomic fuel activities.

They said the Indian agreement was a much

weaker version of a deal most other IAEA members have, giving the UN watchdog wide inspection powers to make sure there are no covert nuclear activities in a country.

"India's version of the Additional Protocol is a paper tiger," said Daryl Kimball of the US-based Arms Control Association, a research and advocacy group.

A diplomatic source said he did not expect any decision on the membership issue at the NSG plenary meeting in Argentina's capital, suggesting it would take more time.

The diplomatic tussle centres on whether the emerging power should be allowed into a key forum deciding rules for civilian nuclear trade, even though

it never joined the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), under which it would have to give up its nuclear weapons.

The agenda for the meeting on Thursday and Friday said members would be "invited to a general discussion on the NSG's relationship with India", without giving details on this point.

The NSG's outgoing chair before Argentina takes over, the Czech Republic, is to report on "consultations with India regarding dialogue and cooperation" with member states.

India — Asia's third-largest economy — would need the support of all NSG states to join the cartel that has a pivotal role in countering nuclear

threats and proliferation.

If India eventually were to become a member, it would boost its standing as an atomic power. It would be the only member of the suppliers group that has not signed up to the NPT.

Supporters say it is better if the country is inside than outside the NSG as it is already an advanced nuclear energy power and will in future become a significant exporter as well.

Those who are sceptical argue it could erode the credibility of the NPT, which is a cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament efforts.

Diplomats have said that China and some others have been doubtful. Beijing's reservations are

believed to be influenced by its ties to its ally Pakistan, India's rival, which has also tested atomic bombs and is also outside the NPT, analysts say.

To receive civilian nuclear exports, nations that are not one of the five officially recognised nuclear arms states — those that had known arsenals before the NPT was hatched — must usually place their nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards.

When the United States sealed a nuclear supply deal with India in 2008 that China and others found questionable because Delhi is outside the NPT, Washington won an NSG waiver from that rule after long and contentious negotiations in Vienna.

Reuters

WORLD

Israel's crackdown on Hamas slows in search for missing teens

RAMALLAH, (West Bank), 25 June — Israel eased a crackdown on Hamas in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday after the dragnet, accompanying a search for three Israeli teenagers, raised fears of a Palestinian uprising.

Israel has accused the Islamist group of orchestrating the abduction of the Jewish seminary students on 12 June, and the Israeli military's raids of Palestinian towns and cities have undermined Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas.

Militants in the Gaza Strip, a coastal enclave where Hamas is dominant and has vowed revenge at Israel's crackdown, fired rockets into Israel and Israel responded with air strikes at militant targets there, the Israeli army said in a statement.

A 3-year-old Gaza girl was killed and three of her family were wounded in an explosion which residents blamed on Israel. The Israeli military denied targeting their house and said a militant rocket that fell short was the cause.

A Gaza hospital official said two policemen were wounded in one of the air strikes. Two militant rockets were shot down by Israel's Iron Dome interceptor system, another fell in an open area and two fell short and landed in Gaza, the army said.



A convoy of Israeli military vehicles drives during an ongoing operation to locate three Israeli teens outside the West Bank City of Hebron on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Up to six Palestinians have died as a result of the military operations, locals say, and some 355 people have been arrested.

A senior United Nations official cautioned on Monday the army action risked provoking a revolt, while Palestinians in the West Bank have turned on Abbas for offering to help Israel find those behind the kidnapping.

With the Muslim holy month of Ramadan set to start on Saturday, an Israel

li government official said members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet had expressed concern that events could "escalate out of control".

Growing international criticism about the impact on ordinary Palestinians has also been taken into account, he said.

"Following this, a decision was made to significantly narrow the operation and focus it on pinpoint actions to return the abduct-

ees," said the official, who declined to be named.

The Israeli military said on Tuesday that only four Palestinians had been arrested during overnight operations, compared with 37 the day before.

"We are continuing intelligence and operational efforts to bring about the release of the abductees and to get our hands on the kidnappers. That hasn't changed at all," Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon told reporters.

But, acknowledging the number of arrests had dropped sharply over the past day, he said "a large part of the operation" against Hamas had been completed now that dozens of activists were in custody and many of its institutions were closed.

Hamas has declined to deny or acknowledge responsibility for snatching the youths, who vanished while hitchhiking near a Jewish settlement, although it has praised the

kidnapping.

Abbas himself denounced those behind the abduction and promised to work with Israel to locate the missing teenagers.

Many Palestinians reacted angrily to Abbas's stance, seeing it as a sign of weakness in the face of the Israeli occupation.

Locals clashed with his security forces in central Ramallah on Sunday, while social media were filled with images of glum policemen watching from a balcony in the city of Hebron as dozens of Israeli soldiers took charge of the streets below. The Palestinian Authority has self-rule in the major West Bank cities, but the Israeli crackdown has shown the limited scope of its powers, with soldiers carrying out searches and raids just one block from Abbas's own house in Ramallah.

"The Palestinian anger is growing and no one knows where it will end," said Hazem Abu Hilal, a political activist who has taken part in a number of Ramallah rallies to protest against ongoing security coordination with Israel.

The abduction came two months after the collapse of US-led peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians — the latest in a long line of failed efforts to secure a negotiated end to the generations-old conflict.—Reuters

Russia's Putin renounces right to send troops to Ukraine

MOSCOW, 25 June — President Vladimir Putin asked Russia's upper house on Tuesday to revoke the right it had granted him to order a military intervention in Ukraine in defence of Russian-speakers there.

Minutes before he spoke, Kiev said pro-Russian rebels in east Ukraine had shot down a military helicopter, most likely killing all nine on board. It was the most serious breach of a temporary ceasefire agreed in talks between government and rebels less than 24 hours earlier.

Putin's move received a cautious welcome in the West as a sign Moscow was ready to help engineer a settlement in Ukraine's largely Russian-speaking east, where a pro-Russian uprising against Kiev began in April. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called it a "first practical step" fol-



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting of the presidential council on science and education at the Kremlin in Moscow, on 23 June, 2014.—REUTERS

lowing Putin's statement of support last weekend for Poroshenko's peace plan for eastern Ukraine. But later he told security chiefs to "open fire without hesitation" if government forces came under attack, and "did not rule out bringing the ceasefire regime to an early end" if rebels continued to breach it, his press service said.

Putin himself said he now expected Ukraine to begin talks on guaranteeing the rights of its Russian-speaking minority, which Russia would continue to defend.

"It is not enough to announce a ceasefire," he told reporters on a visit to Vienna. "A substantive discussion of the essence of the problems is essential."

In the 1 March resolution, the Federation Council had granted Putin the right to "use the Russian Federation's Armed Forces on the territory of Ukraine until the social and political situation in that country normalises".

That resolution, together with Russia's March annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, helped push East-West relations to their lowest ebb since the Cold War and led the United States and Europe to impose sanctions on Moscow.

Reuters

Two Koreas to hold talks on forestry cooperation

SEOUL, 25 June — Representatives of a South Korean civic group will hold talks with North Korean officials in the North's border city of Kaesong to discuss the resumption of forestry cooperation, the South's Unification Ministry said on Wednesday.

The meeting, between

Green One Korea and North Korea's Council for National Reconciliation, will take place on Thursday.

Bilateral talks on forestry cooperation were suspended as part of South Korean sanctions against the North following the sinking of a South Korean naval boat in 2010 that was

blamed on a North Korean torpedo attack.

Meanwhile, three South Korean scholars visited Kaesong on Wednesday as part of a project with North Korea to publish a joint Korean language dictionary, the Unification Ministry said.

Kyodo News

Japan to deploy F-35 fighters at Misawa Air Base from FY 2017

AOMORI, (Japan), 25 June — Japan will begin deploying the next-generation F-35 fighter jets at its Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture from fiscal 2017, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said Wednesday.

"We will coordinate with the US side so local residents will not have to feel concerned," Onodera

told Aomori Gov Shingo Mimura, pledging efforts so that safety will be ensured, in a meeting in the city of Aomori.

Mimura requested Onodera take measures to prevent accidents or other incidents involving the aircraft that could endanger the public.

About 20 F-35 jets will be deployed at the

Air Self-Defence Force's Misawa base, the defense chief told reporters after the meeting.

The deployment plan for the stealth fighter aircraft was revealed following the launch of temporary operation in early June of US Global Hawk surveillance drones at the US Misawa base on the same site.—Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 June, 2014

Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture calls for "Fighting Impunity"

By Aung Khin

'Fighting Impunity' is the campaign theme of this year's the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture which falls on 26 June. The message reminds us that torture is being committed across the world, with those responsible not being held responsible for this crime.

With impunity there is recurrence of the violation, and failure to bring the perpetrators to justice and punish them; to provide victims with effective remedies; and to take all necessary steps to prevent torture.

As torture is outlawed under the international law, this crime is mainly committed secretly, including in armed conflict, the fight against terrorism, and any politically instable situation where those in power or control forcefully obtain information or a confession, take revenge on a person or persons or create terror and fear within a population.

Torture can be of physical, psychological or sexual nature. Anyone can be a victim of torture ranging from children to the old, and from the intellectuals to the uneducated. In many undeveloped countries, opposition politicians, union leaders, journalists, health professionals, human

rights defenders, people in detention or prison, members of ethnic minorities and student leaders are frequent victims.

Torture victims often feel guilty and ashamed, triggered by the humiliation they have endured. They feel that they have betrayed themselves or their friends and family. All such symptoms are normal human responses to abnormal and inhumane treatment. It will take time to rehabilitate their lives as their dignity has been destroyed.

Developed countries should serve as a role model to countries that have yet to develop a good record on human rights.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Long lasting old capital Inwa, Part IV Third Inwa under First Konebaung dynasty

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr.Khin Maung Nyunt

Konebaung dynasty (1752-1885 A.D) which King Alaungpaya (1752-1760 A.D) set up had four capitals—Shwebo (1752-1765 A.D) Inwa (1765-1783 and 1823-1837 A.D, Amarapura (1783-1823 A.D and 1837-1857 A.D) and Mandalay (1857-1885 A.D).

Depending upon the rise and fall of might and main of Konebaung Kings, historians divide this dynasty into the First Konebaung dynasty and the second Konebaung dynasty. From the rise of King Alaungpaya to the end of the reign of King Bodawpaya a period of 67 years (1752-1819) was the period of ascendancy during which the third Myanmar Empire was established. From King Bagyidaw (1819-1837 A.D) to the last Myanmar King Thibaw (1878-1885 A.D) was the period of decline or descendancy during this time span of 66 years the third Myanmar Empire broke up due to three annexations to British Indian Empire of the Myanmar country in three installments as the result of three Anglo-Myanmar wars. During these two periods of 133 years their capitals were shifted from Shwebo to Inwa, Inwa to Amarapura, Amarapura to Inwa, Inwa to Amarapura and Amarapura to Mandalay.

In this article we deal with third Inwa under the First Konebaung dynasty. Shwebo was Alaungpaya's capital. Though his eldest

son and successor King Naungdawgyi desired to move to Sagaing by finding a palace site in Sagaing, astrologers advised against it. So he remained in Shwebo. But when Hsinbyushin came to the throne, he moved to Inwa in 1765 and founded third Inwa which remained capital under his son and successor King Singu and under Bodawpaya only for year. Therefore third Inwa lasted 17 years (1765-1782).

King Alaungpaya made Shwebo his capital because it was his birth place as well as the auspicious land of his military victories. But his second son and second successor Hsinbyushin found Shwebo land locked as the River Ayeyawady was the only access to sea via Kyauk Myaung town on its bank. So he moved to old Inwa in April 1765, two years after he succeeded his elder brother King Naungdawgyi.

It was a wise step he took because Inwa placed him in direct communication along the Myintnge River with Kyaukse granary (Eleven irrigated districts of paddy and other crops cultivation) and also at the confluence of five rivers including the great Ayeyawady. He rebuilt Inwa. The gates of restored Inwa were name after conquered tributary states —such as Chaingmai, Martaban and Mogaung on the east side, Gandalayit, Sandapuri (Viengchang, or Linzin) and Keng Tung on the west

side, Taninthayi, Dawei and Yodaya (Siam) on the north side an Kaingma, Hanthawady, Myede and Onbaung (Hsipaw) on the south side, the city walls were strongly built up to the 16 feet high reinforced by thick earthwork. Inside the walled city residential quarters were laid out, each for separate ethnic groups, according to their trade and service, such as Indian traders, Chinese communities, Portuguese servicemen, Siamese artists, craftsmen, and performing artists, Manipuri and Assamese horsemen, Brahman priests and astrologers. Crown prince, royal relatives, and Mon and Shan ministers and high officials and military commanders resided around the Palace in their respective houses, built in accordance with their rank and position.

After repairing old irrigation works, water tanks and roads and building new ones, Hsinbyushin turned to religious and social works, with his royal patronage he promoted Buddhism, supporting learned monks and laymen who contributed to learning and knowledge of Pali, Myanmar literature, history and jurisprudence. When his Capital and Kingdom were in place, political and economy security assured, the King turned to border areas. With Inwa as the Mandala (centre) of his domains, he turned to all directions. To the west Manipuri was restless and troublesome at times. So he sent out his land forces to subdue it by force and diplomacy. Its ruler was patronized as his tributary by marrying his daughter and raising her

to one of his lesser queens. Manipuri artisans and craftsmen (Silver smiths, broze smiths) and weavers were brought to Inwa and given settlements. Manipuri horsemen were organized into Manipuri regiment of cavalry and gave them lavish grant of rank, land and gift. His land forces now had Kathe Myin (Manipuri horseman) and Arthan Myin (Assamese horsemen). Craftsmen and weavers were settled at and around Inwa. We can still find the descendants of Manipuri captives of Hsinbyushin's time at and around Inwa, Amarapura, Mandalay and Sagaing. In that way third Inwa was repopulated, and extended its urbanization.

To the east and south-east, unsettled borders with Linzin (Laos) and Ayudhya (Siam) required Hsinbyushin to use his might and main and diplomacy. He sent out his two armies on two lines. The first led by commander Thihapate marched from Kyaingtong to Chiangmai, and through Viengchang (Linzin or Laos) to Ayudhya. Linzin was patronized as his tributary state. The second led by Commander Maha Nawrahta marched south east from Dawei to Pechanaburi. Ayudhya closed its gates and resisted the siege. Hsinbyushin's armies stormed town after town, destroying their stockades in spite of heavy casualties they suffered. When monsoon arrived Ayudhya thought the stormers would retreat. But they stayed building camps and bamboo towers higher than Ayudhya city walls from

where they showered their canons and fire rockets onto Ayuthiya. War canoes were hurriedly made for transportation and communication. When the two armies met, they dug tunnels under the city walls and dynamited them. The walls collapsed and all stormers rushed in.

At last starved Ayudhya surrendered. The conquest of Ayudhya by Hsinbyushin fulfilled the unfurnished task of his royal father Alaungpaya. Since the time of Mon King Warenu (1287-1296 A.D) who married Princess Royal, the daughter of the King of Sukhotai, it was the customary practice of Sukhotai sending tribute and gift (daughter and white elephant) to Pegu Hanthawady, when a new King came to the throne. But Ayudhya remained silent after the death of King Bayint Naung. One of the reasons of Alaungpaya's march to Ayudhya was to revive that practice.

To commemorate his triumph, Hsinbyushin raised the height of Shwedagon Pagoda to 326 feet, plated it with gold in the body weights of him and his chief queen and putting a new hti on it. An alloy bell was dedicated to the Pagoda but it was accomplished only in the time of his son and successor King Singu. New quarters for Ayudian captives, artists, craftsmen, musicians and dancers were founded at Inwa, they enriched Myanmar culture. At and around capitals of Konebaung dynasty—Inwa, Amarapura, Shwebo, and Mandalay, we can still see the settlement of war captives as Kathe Su (Manipuri) Yodaya Su (Siamese), Tayoke Su (Chinese), Da-

wei Su (Tavoy) Kala Su (or Kala Tan or Kala Pyo or Indian) Shan Su (Shan Settlement) Ponna Su or Ponna Kone (Settlement of Brahman priests) and Bayingee Win (settlement of the Portuguese descendants including Armenians." In that way third Inwa further extended its urbanization and retained its status of emporium city wellknown in South-east Asia and beyond as First and Second Inwa did.

The next issue was Yunnan-Myanmar border area where the two countries enjoyed border trade peacefully for centuries. But there were times when local authorities on both sides failed to settle daily matters and minor disputes such as joint construction and repair or maintenance of roads and bridges, recruitment of labour and collection of custom duties.

Eventually war broke out with the invasions of Manchu armies into Myanmar territories—Hsenwi (Thibaw) Bhamo, Mogaung, and Kyaing Tong. Fierce fightings took places in the triangle—Mogaung, Kyaing Tong on the Mekong River and down the Myitnge valley right down to within three marches of Inwa.

Chinese bases were at Bhamo and Lasho. Their line of advance was down the Shweli River and Myitnge valley. The main theatre of fighting was in Bhamo district where Myanmar commander Bala Mindin gallantly defended Kyaing Tong and repulsed the Chinese stormers. Just about 12 miles to the east was Shwe Nyaung Bin where the Chinese had set up their stockade "as big as a city".

(to be continued)

NATIONAL

Thura U Shwe Mann meets Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar



Speaker of Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann meets Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar at Zabuthiri Hall of the Parliament.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — Speaker of Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann met Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Alcides G.R. Prates at Zabuthiri Hall of the Parliament in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the meeting were

Chairman of the International relation committee U Hla Myint Oo and committee member Daw Aye Aye Mu and responsible officials of the parliament. They discussed cooperation between two countries frankly.

MNA

MPT to issues new post stamps marking 60th Anniversary of Principle of Peaceful Coexistence

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications will issue two new commemorative post stamps to mark the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence formulated by Myanmar, China and India. The two new post stamps worth K 100 and K 500 respectively will be available at region, district and township MPT offices starting from 28 June.

As a special promotion, the two post stamps that will be sold on 28 June at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay general post offices will be stamped with the date.—MNA

Gov't should cooperate more with private sectors: Patron of MFF

YANGON, 25 June—U Soe Win, Patron of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation-MFF said the government should increase cooperation with private sectors and also take into consideration holding meetings frequently with the federation to discuss future prospects of the fishery development on Tuesday at the MFF regular meeting.

During the meeting in Insein Township in Yangon, the officials from MFF also discussed penetration into more international markets and promoting export and fishery production. An official of MFF said due to a high demand for white shrimp, entrepreneurs are working to increase the shrimp supply to

local markets.

Dr Toe Nanda Tin, executive committee member of MFF, also talked about current export figures and transportation.

During the meeting, the federation announced to hold its regular meeting of Livestock and Fisheries Talks twice a week and invite the media.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

Myanmar Fisheries Federation, ANA discuss reasonable price for air cargo

YANGON, 25 June—The Myanmar Fisheries Federation-MFF met with a Japanese delegation from All Nippon Airways-ANA on Tuesday at its office in Insein Township in Yangon to discuss the operation of a direct flight for exporting perishable cargo to Japan.

The officials from ANA explained details of their air cargo business, freighter and passenger networks and flight schedules.

Both sides are now discussing a "reasonable" price for cargo, said Kyaw Ko Ko, Sales Executive of ANA on Wednesday.

The officials from MFF said the entrepreneurs of Myanmar cannot export perishable cargo to international markets because of transportation problems and they are now exporting their air cargo only to some countries, including China and Singapore.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Croatia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Ivo Josipovic, President of the Republic of the Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June 2014.

Similarly, the President has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Zoran Milanovic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia.—MNA

FM sends felicitations to Croatia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 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 Her Excellency Dr. Vesna Pusic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June 2014.—MNA

Thura U Aung Ko receives Senior Programme Lawyer (IBAHRI)

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Chairman of Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee of Lower House Thura U Aung Ko received Ms. Shireley Pouget, Senior Programme Lawyer of the International Bar Association's Human Right Institute (IBAHRI) on Wednesday.

They discussed matters related to organizing a workshop for development of Myanmar Lawyers Association in September.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office Order No. 14/2014

13th Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME (25th June, 2014)

Appointment of Union Minister

In accord with Sub Section (d) of Section 235, Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, Union Deputy Minister U Soe Win has been appointed as the Union Minister for Religious Affairs.

Sd/ Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

U Htay Oo holds talks with expert from the Irish Centre for Human Rights



NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Chairman of the Lower House Citizen's Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received Professor Michael O'Flaherty of The Irish Centre for Human Rights at the Lower House on Wednesday.

They discussed human rights and the legislative process.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 p.m on Wednesday 25th June, 2014)

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of Strong Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th June, 2014: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).—DMH

Myanmar-India bus service set to start in the next two months

YANGON, 25 June—A bus service between Imphal of Manipour, India and Mandalay in is expected to start in around two months, according to the report of IANS news agency on Wednesday, quoting a senior official of the Indian government, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The distance between the two cities is about 579 km with the estimated driving time 14 hours.

The bus service is a new effort by New Delhi which is seeking to promote ties with Myanmar which could act as transit country between South

Asia and Southeast Asia.

"The bus service would provide a breakthrough in people-to-people connectivity between India and Myanmar," said the official.

Myanmar and India shares a border of 1,643 km with the latter's states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, with the former strategically located as the gateway for India to other Southeast Asian countries.

India is making plans to increase its airline services to Myanmar, with Air India now only flying three times a week between Yan-

gon and Kolkata.

India has invested in some important projects in Myanmar, including the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, building and upgrading 71 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemmyo road and construction of the Kalewa-Yargyi section of the Trilateral Highway which envisages a seamless link between India, Myanmar and Thailand by 2016.

The border trade between India and Myanmar touched \$36.2 million in 2012-13. Bilateral trade stands at \$1.9 billion.

NLM

South Africa miners return to work as five-month platinum strike ends



Workers walk past a Lonmin's Marikana platinum mine, on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

MARIKANA, (S Africa), 25 June — Thousands of South African mine workers returned to the Marikana operations of platinum producer Lonmin on Wednesday after wage deals were signed on Tuesday to end a five-month strike, the longest and most damaging in

the country's history.

The workers, some wrapped in blankets to ward off the chill of the winter morning, lined up outside the gates of Marikana's process division. They are to undergo medical and other checks before they descend the shafts to reboot produc-

tion.

Workers also returned to mines operated by Anglo American Platinum, which were affected as well by the strike by the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), a shop steward with the union told *Reuters*.

They were also expected to come back to mines run by Impala Platinum.

"We are back to work, it's good," said one miner as he walked up a gravel road to take his place in the growing line. It will take months to get back to full production as the process of bringing the mines back to life, which will include extensive safety checks, will take some time after the prolonged stoppage, which cost the companies over 24 billion rand (1.32 billion pounds) in lost revenue.

As it embarked on the strike in January under the populist battle cry of a "living wage", AMCU had initially demanded that basic wages of miners be more than doubled immediately to 12,500 rand a month. In the end, its members settled for increases that amounted to up to around 20 percent annually.—*Reuters*

At least four wounded in Cairo explosions

CAIRO, 25 June — Two explosions wounded at least four people at two Cairo metro stations during the morning rush hour on Wednesday, security sources said, highlighting some of the challenges faced by newly elected President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Explosions hit Ghamra metro station in central Cairo and Shubra El-Kheyma, a northern district of Greater Cairo, according to state television and security sources.

Three people were wounded at Shubra, according to security sources, and one person at Ghamra, according to the television report.

An interior ministry official told a privately owned television channel that one person was wounded carrying a home-made bomb to Shubra El-Kheyma station. He

added the Ghamra incident was caused by an explosion in a rubbish bin.

Egypt has been hit by a wave of violence, mainly attacks by Islamist militants based in the Sinai peninsula on security forces, since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July following mass protests against him. Former army chief Sisi, who deposed Mursi, was sworn in as president after winning elections last month.

His supporters see him as a strongman who can save Egypt from chaos after more than three years of political and economic turmoil, following a 2011 revolt that swept veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak from power.

Reuters

Palestinian prisoners suspend hunger strike, terms unclear

JERUSALEM, 25 June — Scores of Palestinians on hunger-strike suspended their protest against detention without charges by Israel on Wednesday, and an Israeli official said there had been no major change of policy.

Around 120 Palestinians on so-called "administrative detention" began fasting on 24 April, and were eventually joined by another 180 inmates. Around 75 required hospitalisation, fuelling debate in Israel over a proposed force-feeding law.

Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian official advocating for the prisoners, told *Reuters* the hunger-strike had been suspended overnight and reasons for the move would be given later.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that in response to the protest ending the Prisons Service would not punish the hunger-strikers. Such sanctions could have included fines or reassigning inmates to different prison wings.

The Israeli official said there was no change to the administrative detention policy, under which Palestinians suspected of security offences are jailed without trial to avoid any court proceedings that could expose sensitive intelligence information. The practice has drawn international criticism. Previous hunger strikes ended with some of the protesting inmates securing release from Israeli detention.



A protestor waves a Palestinian flag as Israeli border policemen watch over a section of the controversial Israeli barrier, during a protest in solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, in the West Bank village of Bilin near Ramallah on 13 June, 2014.—REUTERS

There are at least 5,400 Palestinians in Israeli jails. The number has been growing daily, with the round-up of suspects following the abduction

of three Israeli teenagers who vanished after leaving a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on 12 June.

Reuters

Sudanese police detain Christian-convert woman: lawyer

KHARTOUM, 25 June — A Sudanese Christian convert who was released from death row on Monday was detained as she and her family sought to fly out of the capital on Tuesday, her lawyer and the US State Department said.

Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, was detained with her American husband and their two children as they tried to board a flight at Khartoum airport earlier on Tuesday.

It was unclear where they were heading, but two diplomats said they suspected that the family was trying to go to the United States via Cairo or Juba, South Sudan. Ibrahim was freed on Monday by an appeals court, which cancelled the death sentence imposed on her for having converted to Christianity from Islam, after the government came under what it called unprecedented pressure.

Her lawyer, Mohaned Mostafa, told *Reuters* that he was with her at the police station, that she had been re-arrested, and that the police wanted to question her about providing forged information. He was unable to immediately provide more details.

In Washington, the US State Department offered a different version of events, saying the

Sudanese government had told the United States that Ibrahim had been detained for several hours and then released but that she had not been arrested. "The State Department has been informed by the Sudanese government that the family was temporarily detained at the airport for several hours by the government for questioning over issues related to their travel and I think travel documents. They have not been arrested," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters.

"The government has assured us of their safety," Harf added, saying that the US embassy was "highly involved" in working with the family and the government to resolve the matter. "We are engaging directly with Sudanese officials to secure their safe and swift departure from Sudan."

The United States has imposed economic sanctions on Sudan since 1997 over alleged human rights violations. It intensified sanctions in 2006 over Khartoum's actions in its conflict with rebels in the western region of Darfur.

After her release on Monday, Ibrahim was sent to a secret location for her protection after her family reported receiving threats, another one of her lawyers had said.

Reuters

Sudan summons US, South Sudanese ambassadors over Christian-convert woman

KHARTOUM, 25 June — The Sudanese Foreign Ministry summoned the American and South Sudanese ambassadors on Wednesday after a Christian-convert woman attempted to travel to the United States using documents issued by the embassy of South Sudan, Sudan's top security service said on its official Facebook page.

Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, who was released from death row on Monday, was detained as she and her family sought to fly out of Khartoum on Tuesday. Her lawyer Mohaned Mostafa told *Reuters* that she is expect-

ed to stay in police custody for 24 hours.

"The airport passport police arrested Abrar after she presented emergency travel documents issued by the South Sudanese embassy and carrying an American visa," Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services' media department said on Facebook, referring to Ibrahim by her Muslim name.

"The Sudanese authorities considered (the action) a criminal violation, and the Foreign Ministry summoned the American and South Sudanese ambassadors," it added.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Futuristic elevated transport system to be built in Israel

TEL AVIV, 24 June — California-based skyTran has teamed up with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to construct the world's first public pilot project for skyTran's elevated transit network.

A number of skyTran projects are being planned globally, including in India and the United States, pending the success of the pilot in Israel.

The pilot will be a 400-500 metre (yard) loop built at IAI's campus in central Israel and, if successful, will be followed by a commercial network

in Tel Aviv in the coming years, skyTran CEO Jerry Sanders told *Reuters*, without disclosing the cost.

SkyTran is a rapid transit system in which lightweight two-person vehicles are suspended from elevated magnetic levitation tracks. The skyTran vehicles in the pilot will cruise at speeds of up to 70 km an hour but that will jump to 240 km an hour at the commercial phase, Sanders said.

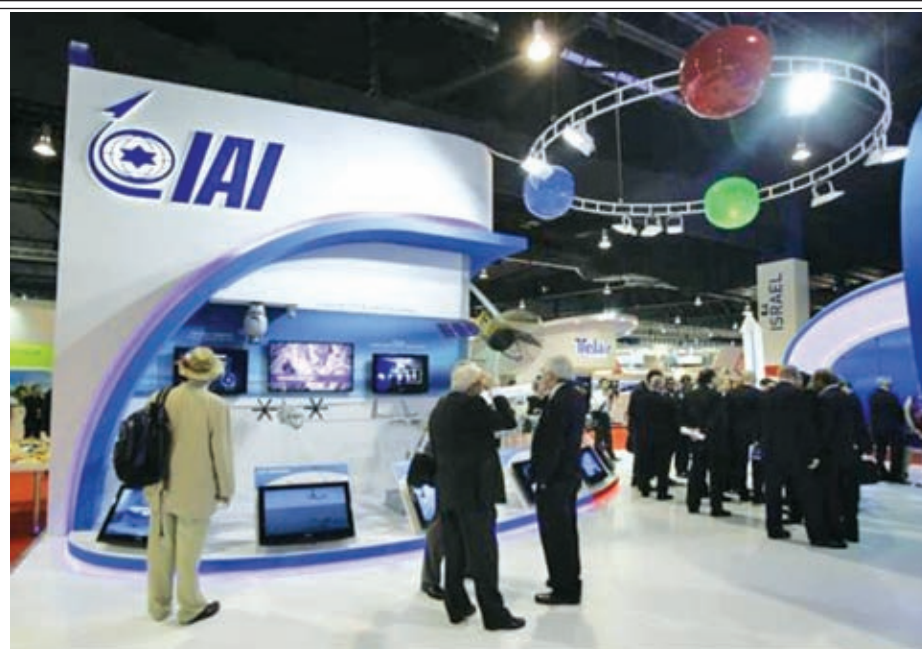
Tel Aviv is often gridlocked with commuter traffic as there is no subway and many commuters trav-

el by car.

"Tel Aviv is a world city. It's a destination for people around the world. A center of commerce. Israelis love technology and we don't foresee a problem of people not wanting to use the system. Israel is a perfect test site," Sanders said.

The first components will be pre-assembled at skyTran's headquarters at the NASA Research Park in California. The rest will be constructed locally and the system should be running by the end of 2015, Sanders added.

Reuters



Trade visitors gather at the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) exhibition booth at the Singapore Airshow in Singapore on 14 Feb, 2012. — REUTERS

Google to unveil new television set-top box on Wednesday Philips, Infineon, Samsung face EU antitrust fines



The Google signage is seen at the company's offices in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 25 June — Google Inc is expected to unveil at least one small set-top box that resembles products like the Roku, Amazon's Fire TV, and Apple

Inc's Apple TV, the *Wall Street Journal* reported citing sources who have seen the device. Google will show off the set-top box on Wednesday during its devel-

oper conference, the *Journal* said.

The set-top box will be powered by Google's new Android TV software designed to play movies,

games and other content on television. However, the device will carry another company's brand name, the newspaper said. Representatives from Google were not immediately available for comment outside regular US business hours. Tech companies from Microsoft Corp to Apple are vying for space on the TV — the traditional family entertainment center and where people used to spend most of their leisure time before the advent of the smartphone and tablet. Amazon unveiled a \$99 video streaming device "Fire TV" video and game streaming device in April, with hopes of boosting its main online retail business over the longer term. In December 2012, Google sold its set-top TV box maker Motorola Home to Arris Group Inc for \$2.35 billion. — *Reuters*

Philips, Infineon, Samsung face EU antitrust fines

BRUSSELS, 25 June — EU regulators are poised to fine Philips, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Infineon Technologies AG in the coming weeks for fixing prices of chips used in mobile SIM cards, two people familiar with the case said on Tuesday. The case started with dawn raids on the companies by the European Commission in October 2008. The European Union watchdog charged them last year with taking part in a cartel. The chips are also used in passports, bank cards, identity cards and television systems.

"The companies may be fined in late July or possibly September," said one of the sources, who declined to be named as the EU decision is not yet

public.

Officials with the commission, Philips and Infineon declined to comment. Samsung officials were not immediately available for comment. Philips said last year that the EU charges covered the period 2003 to 2004 and involved its semiconductor business which it has since sold.

The sources said Renesas Technology — a joint venture between Hitachi Ltd and Mitsubishi Electric that was bought by Renesas Electronics Corp in 2010 — would not be fined as it alerted the regulator to the cartel. Renesas Electronics said it had not publicly said it had told the regulator and was not aware that the other companies would be fined. — *Reuters*

Japan bets big on making fuel-cell cars a near-future reality

TOKYO, 25 June — Japan's government and top carmakers, including Toyota Motor Corp, are joining forces to bet big that they can speed up the arrival of the fuel cell era: a still costly and complex technology that uses hydrogen as fuel and could virtually end the problem of automotive pollution. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's growth strategy, announced on Tuesday, included a call for subsidies and tax breaks for buyers of fuel cell vehicles, relaxed curbs on hydrogen fuel stations and other steps under a road map to promote hydrogen energy.

That will bolster plans by Toyota, the world's biggest carmaker, and Honda Motor Co, Japan's No 3, to start selling fuel cell ve-



Toyota Motor Corp's Executive Vice President Mitsuhiro Kato speaks in front of the company's prototype fuel cell vehicle (FCV) sedan car, which has the same body design as the one will launch in 2015, during a news conference at the company's showroom in Tokyo on 25 June, 2014. — REUTERS

hicles in 2015. Toyota is expected to unveil the price and design for its new fuel cell car on Wednesday.

With two of Japan's three biggest automakers going all in on fuel cells, the country's long-term fu-

ture as an automotive powerhouse could now hinge largely on the success of what they hope will be a

key technology of the next few decades.

The auto sector carries special significance in Japan, providing nearly one in 11 jobs and about one-fifth of its manufacturing output. It is also one of the few big industries where Japan remains at the pinnacle of global competition after losing much of its edge in electronics and elsewhere.

Japan's ruling party is pushing for ample subsidies and tax breaks for consumers to bring the cost of a fuel cell car down to about \$20,000 by 2025. The government is also aiming to create 100 hydrogen fuel stations by end-March 2016 in urban areas where the vehicles will be launched initially. "To stay globally competitive, Japan cannot

afford to lag behind in this area," said Yuriko Koike, a former environment minister who heads a group of ruling party lawmakers advocating hydrogen energy.

A fuel cell vehicle, running on electricity from cells that combine hydrogen with oxygen, emits only water vapour and heat. Hydrogen fuel production from hydrocarbons emits some carbon dioxide, although Japan hopes to implement carbon-free production by 2040.

Hydrogen vehicles can run five times longer than battery-operated electric cars, and their tanks can be filled in just a few minutes compared with recharging times from 30 minutes up to several hours for electric cars. — *Reuters*

Turkey to present Kurdish reform bill within days

ISTANBUL, 25 June — The Turkish government aims to present to parliament in the coming days a reform bill to advance its peace process with Kurdish militants, Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay said.

Such a move could boost Kurdish support for Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan ahead of his expected bid to become the country's first directly elected president in August. Kurds account for around a fifth of Turkey's population.

Erdogan initiated peace talks with jailed militant leader Abdullah Ocalan in 2012 to end a three-decade insurgency by his Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which has killed 40,000 people. Increased militant activity and street protests in re-



Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, flanked by his deputy Besir Atalay (L) and Energy Minister Taner Yildiz (R), speaks during a news conference at Ataturk International airport in Istanbul on 4 April, 2014.

REUTERS

cent months have sowed fears over prospects for a final deal.

But Atalay told reporters in Bucharest on Tuesday the government had completed work on giving the process a legal framework and was seeking ministers' signatures

for the bill.

"I gave a presentation on it at the last cabinet meeting. A decision was made and within a couple of days we will present it to parliament as a draft law," he said in comments broadcast on Turkish television on Wednesday.

Hurriyet newspaper said the new seven-article bill would provide a 'legal guarantee' to state officials involved in the peace process, protecting them from potential future prosecution, and facilitate the rehabilitation of militants.

Erdogan has invested significant political capital in peace efforts, boosting cultural and language rights at the risk of alienating some of his grassroots support. Ankara, the United States and the European Union term the PKK a terrorist group and Ocalan remains widely reviled among Turks.

A ceasefire called by Ocalan in March 2013 has largely held, but the PKK halted a rebel withdrawal to bases in northern Iraq last summer, complaining about the slow pace of negotiations.—*Reuters*

Spain's Princess Cristina charged in corruption case as trial looms



Spain's Princess Cristina, daughter of King Juan Carlos

MADRID, 25 June — A Spanish court said on Wednesday it had formalised charges against Cristina de Borbon, sister of newly-crowned King Felipe VI, and her husband in a corruption investigation, paving the way for a trial that could further damage the royal family.

The Palma de Mallorca

court upheld charges of tax fraud and money laundering against Princess Cristina, in one of the last steps before opening trial proceedings. Her husband Inaki Urdangarin is accused of embezzling several millions of euros in public funds and a trial would centre on his business dealings.

Reuters

NATO to draw up measures to bring Georgia closer to alliance



NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen speaks at Chatham House in London on 19 June, 2014. —REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 25 June — NATO will draw up a "substantive package" of coop-

eration for Georgia that will bring it closer to the Western alliance and will assess by the end of 2015 whether to invite Montenegro to join, Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Wednesday. The package for Georgia appears to fall short of the formal step towards NATO membership that Georgia had hoped for. "We have agreement in principle that we will develop a substantive package for Georgia that will help it come closer to NATO," Rasmussen told reporters during a meeting of alliance foreign ministers.—*Reuters*

Group of 9 Japanese leaves for N Korea to visit kin's graves

TOKYO, 25 June — A group of nine Japanese citizens on Wednesday departed Tokyo for North Korea to visit graves of their relatives who died there around the end of World War II in 1945. North Korea has allowed such visits by Japanese citizens since August 2012, but this will be the first since Japan and North Korea reached agreement in late May for the North to reinvestigate the fate of Japanese it abducted or is believed to have abducted.

The group is scheduled to arrive in Pyongyang via Beijing on Thursday, and visit burial sites in the port city of Chongjin in the country's northeast and the city of Hamhung in the east

during their stay through on 5 July.

About 34,600 Japanese are believed to have died in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula or current North Korea in the chaotic times around the end of World War II, with the peninsula still under Japanese colonial rule, according to Japanese government data.

Among the nine, Kuniyasu Ishihara, 78, from Hiroshima, whose younger sister, grandfather and grandmother died in Hamhung on their way to Japan, told reporters before leaving Tokyo's Haneda airport that he wants to offer incense sticks for his deceased relatives.

Kyodo News

TRIPOLI, 25 June — Libyans vote for a new parliament on Wednesday, an election officials hope will ease the chaos that has gripped the OPEC oil producer since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi three years ago.

Marking another step in its transition after decades of one-man rule, Libya is set to hold the vote as the North African country is slipping deeper into turmoil after a renegade former army general launched a campaign against Islamist militants in the east.

The country badly needs a functioning government and parliament to impose authority over heavily armed former rebels, militias and tribes that helped oust Gaddafi, but who now defy state authority, carving out fiefdoms.

Libya is also struggling with a budget crisis as a wave of protests at oilfields and shipping ports by armed militias making demands has reduced oil production, the country's lifeline, to a trickle. Tripoli's partners in the West hope the vote will give a push to rebuilding a viable state as well as to bridging divisions between the country's western regions, once favoured by Gaddafi, and the neglected east, where many demand autonomy and a greater share of the nation's oil wealth.

Western powers also worry that conflicts between



Ballot boxes wait for voters inside a school, ahead of elections tomorrow in Tripoli, on 24 June, 2014. —REUTERS

militias and tribes will push Libya deeper into turmoil as its nascent army, still in training, is no match for fighters hardened during the eight-month uprising against Gaddafi.

In another division of a country with several power centers, the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, rooted in rural western coastal cities, is vying with tribal areas in both the west and east for control of the oil producer.

Many Libyans fear the vote will produce just another interim assembly. A special body to draft a new national constitution has still not finished its work, leaving questions over what kind of political system Libya will eventually adopt.

To discourage political infighting between parties, which paralyzed decision-making and led to a crisis over two rival prime

ministers in May, candidates must run as independents rather than as party representatives. Opening polling stations in Benghazi and other parts of the east may be a challenge with forces of renegade general Khalifa Haftar clashing with militant Islamists almost daily as he seeks to clear them from the city.

Participation is widely expected to be lower than in 2012. Around 1.5 million voters have registered, roughly half of the 2.8 million registered in July 2012 in Libya's first free election in more than 40 years.

Electoral authorities tightened registration rules by requiring voters to show a national identification number. Many Libyans do not have such documents since security concerns and political chaos have hampered basic state services. The

new parliament will again be made up of 200 seats, but will be called the House of Representatives, replacing the current General National Congress (GNC), which is linked by many Libyans to the country's stalemate.

Thirty-two seats in the new parliament are allocated for women.

Around 1,600 candidates will be on the ballot, or about a thousand less than in the previous parliamentary vote. Some candidates put up street posters or platforms on social media, but given the short time frame since the vote was announced, there has been no real campaigning.

The vote will also be marked by a boycott of the Amazigh, or Berber, a minority that demands a stronger say in the body drafting the new constitution.—*Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(14/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -055(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Rotary Slips (14) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -056(14-15)	Spares for Rotary Tong (BJ Type "B" & "C") (14) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB -057(14-15)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator Mark V (11) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -058(14-15)	Spares for P & H Crawler Crane (20) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -059(14-15)	Spares for Kenworth Oil Field Truck (15) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -060(14-15)	Spares for Sumitomo Crane (5) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -061(14-15)	Spares for Nissan PE-6 Diesel Engine (13) Item	US\$
(8)	IFB -062(14-15)	Spares for Mitsubishi 8D C8 Engine (19) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB -063(14-15)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator Mark VI (16) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB -064(14-15)	Tong Dies (2) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB -065(14-15)	Electrical Spares for D ₃ T ₂ SR I Rig (13) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB -066(14-15)	CNG Compressor Driven By Electric Motor with Complete Package (1) Lot	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 23-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 25th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206



Xiangyanghong 09, carrier of Jiaolong, China's first manned deep-sea submersible, leaves for a voyage in the northwest Pacific Ocean at a port in Jiangyin City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 25 June, 2014. During the 40-day voyage, Jiaolong will conduct research on cobalt-rich crusts in the ocean and is expected to return in August. —XINHUA

Four killed in train derailment in E India, sabotage not ruled out

NEW DELHI, 25 June — At least four people were killed after an express passenger train from the Indian capital to the northeast city of Dibrugarh derailed in the eastern state of Bihar early on Wednesday morning, said officials and local media reports.

Officials said sabotage is not ruled out in the incident, in which the Rajdhani Express derailed from 02:30 to 03:00 am local time near Chhapra some 75 km from the state capital of Bihar Ptana with 11 of its coaches turned turtle. Indian Railways confirmed the death of four people in the accident and said sabotage by left-wing rebels is likely in view of a shutdown call by the Naxalite guerrillas who are active in the area.

Relief and rescue operations are on in full swing at the accident site. Relief

train is taking the stranded passengers to the nearest station, according to TV footages. Railway minister Sadananda Gowda has announced compensation of 200,000 rupees (3,200 US dollars) for the family of the dead and 100,000 rupees for those seriously injured.

He also said railway authorities will conduct an independent inquiry into the accident, the second major mishap of railways within one month.

Over 30 people were killed when a passenger train crashed into a goods train on 26 May in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The Gorakhdham Express crashed into a goods train at Chureb railway station in Sant Kabir Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, when it was traveling from Gorakhpur to Hisar via New Delhi.—Xinhua

Helicopter crashes in central Norway

OSLO, 25 June — A helicopter with five persons on board crashed on Tuesday in central Norway, causing one injured but no deaths.

The helicopter crashed from low altitude at 12 o'clock local time (1000 GMT), shortly after it took off from Hjerkin, a town in the Dovre municipality of the central Norwegian county of Oppland.

All the five people, including three men, a woman and an 11-year-old boy, walked out of the helicopter on their own, the Norwegian news agency NTB reported, quoting witnesses.

A 60-year-old man was moderately injured in the mishap and his condition was reportedly stable.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SHAMIM VOY NO (ISC-0045E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY NO (ISC-0045E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Road fatalities in Cambodia rise to 1,170 in six months

PHNOM PENH, 25 June — The number of road fatalities in Cambodia has risen to 1,170 so far this year, up 11 percent compared to the same period last year, according to a latest report by the Interior Ministry's Public Order Department on Wednesday.

Some 2,600 cases of road accidents have been reported since the start of the year, up 15 percent from the same period last year, the report said.

Besides the deaths, the accidents had injured 4,330 people, it said, noting that about 2,700 motorcycles and 1,336 cars were damaged.

"Main causes of the accidents were high-speed driving (45 percent), alcohol driving (14 percent), and overtaking driving (10 percent)," the report said, adding that the rest of the accidents were caused by neglect driving and traffic law violation.

Xinhua

Ornamental square watermelon shipments begin in Kagawa

TAKAMATSU, (Japan), 25 June —This year's shipments of ornamental watermelons known for their rare square shapes started on Wednesday in the city of Zentsuji in western Japan's Kagawa Prefecture.

The watermelons, with sides about 18 centimeters in length, acquire their cube shapes from being grown in plastic containers. They are inedible as they are harvested unripe.

Priced at about 10,000 yen a piece at department stores and fruit stores, the watermelons are popular as ornaments. Recently, they caught on among consumers abroad, with orders for more than 100 square watermelons placed from Canada before this year's shipments.

A total of about 400 square watermelons produced by six farmers are scheduled to be distributed by mid-July. Production of the item began about 40 years ago.—Kyodo News



Ornamental watermelons known for their unusual square shape are inspected before being shipped on 25 June, 2014, in Zentsuji in western Japan's Kagawa Prefecture. The watermelons, which gain their cube shape from being grown in plastic containers, are priced at about 10,000 yen a piece at department stores and fruit stores.

KYODO NEWS

Richie Sambora could return to Bon Jovi

LONDON, 25 June — Former Bon Jovi star Richie Sambora has revealed that he might sign up for a world tour with the band. The 54-year-old guitarist, who left the band after he was given ultimatum before the group's tour, refused to rule out a return and said all the bad feelings have gone, reported Contactmusic.

"There's no bad blood with me anymore. I still see the possibility of a return. There are just a few steps I want to take," he said. The rocker said the stories in the media about his departure from Bon Jovi hurt him. "It hurts me that more and more untrue things have come out in the media. I just wanted calmer waters, and just do something for myself. But the Bon Jovi machine was on. I said I wanted a break.

"We had just finished with another tour. I saw a year of other priorities for me. I wanted to make my own music, and preferred doing a few shows with my own band. That was just not accepted," Sambora said.

He said that he took

the decision of leaving the band. "I could choose — join or leave. That's hard when you share joys and sorrows for 30 years... I've done a lot of wrong things in my life and I've regularly made bad decisions. "But I think this step was the right one at last... We're going to record an



Richie Sambora on a Bon Jovi reunion: There's no bad blood with me anymore. I still see the possibility of a return.—PTI

album; I'd like to do a tour after that. Not a tour of 14 months in more than 50 countries. Just a nice tour, playing music then being home for a while," he said.

PTI

Marijuana smell from Justin Bieber's place disturbs neighbours?

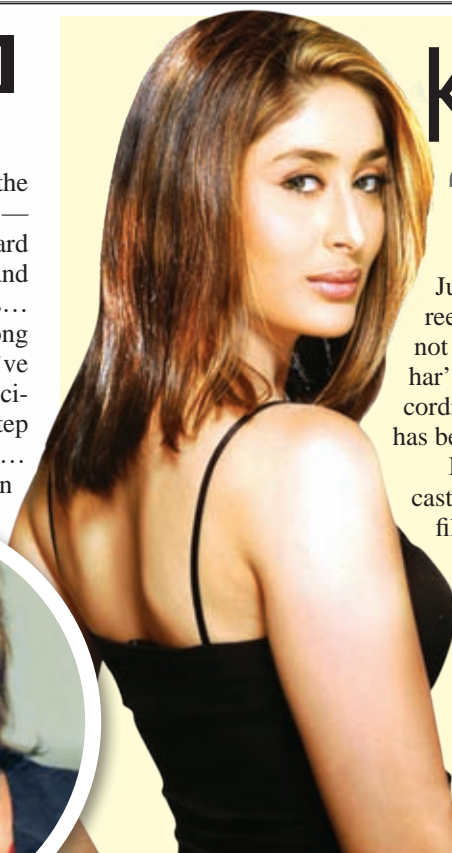
LOS ANGELES, 25 June — Singer Justin Bieber's neighbours are reportedly disturbed with excessive noise and marijuana smell coming from his place. The 20-year-old star's neighbours also complained of the pungent smell when he threw a party, reported Aceshowbiz.

"The smell of marijuana was permeating the floor, especially my hallway which is shared by (Justin's) unit," a neighbour was quoted as saying. The pop star has reportedly rented a unit in the building and another in the floor below for his entourage.

Bieber moved in to the place earlier this month. Since he moved in, police reportedly have been called twice due to the alleged problems with the neighbours.—PTI



Justin Bieber moved in to the place earlier this month.—PTI



Kareena Kapoor: 'Shuddhi' not happening

HYDERABAD, 25 June — Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan is not part of Karan Johar's 'Shuddhi' and according to her the project has been shelved.

Hrithik Roshan was cast in the lead for the film but he quit due to health reasons.

Kareena, who was finalised opposite Hrithik, also left the project.

Reportedly, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were also offered the movie but

they are now working on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Bajirao Mastani'.

There were rumours that Salman Khan and Kareena would be part of the film but the 33-year-old actress has rubbished such reports.

"Will Salman be part of 'Shuddhi'? It is all created by you all (media). 'Shuddhi' is shelved. Karan is working on 'The Warrior' remake I think with Siddharth Malhotra and Akshay Kumar... this is what Karan said. It (shooting) will start in August," Kareena told report-

ers here.

The actress is at Ramoji Film City to shoot for Rohit Shetty's next 'Singham Returns', which also stars Ajay Devgn.

Kareena said she shares a good bond with Johar, contrary to reports that all is not well between them.

"Karan and we meet often. He loves to party. He is a very good friend. He is a brother to me and we share a deep bond. He is somebody who can be there for you," Kareena said.

PTI

One Direction launching make-up line



One Direction are now capitalising on their international success by creating a line of make-up.—PTI

NEW YORK, 25 June — One Direction are expanding their global brand by launching a cosmetics collection.

The 'What Makes You Beautiful' hitmakers released a perfume for girls and a jewellery range last year and they are now capitalising on their international success by creating a line of make-up, reported the Huffington Post.

Bandmember Niall Horan unveiled the collection on Twitter by posting a picture of his nails covered in varnish and his hands scribbled with eyeliner,

eyeshadow and lipstick swatches.

"Just had a great meet-

ing about 1D (One Direction) make-up! It's that good I'm gona (sic) start

wearing it myself," Horan tweeted.

PTI

Bob Dylan lyrics for "Like a Rolling Stone" sell for \$2 million

NEW YORK, 25 June — Bob Dylan's original, handwritten manuscript for "Like a Rolling Stone" sold for just over \$2 million on Tuesday at Sotheby's rock and roll auction, which also included memorabilia from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley.

The price for the 1965 annotated lyrics for "Like a Rolling Stone," considered one of the most influential songs in postwar

music, makes it the most expensive rock music manuscript sold at auction.

It shattered the previous record set in 2010 when John Lennon's handwritten lyrics for "A Day in the Life," the final track from the 1967 album "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" sold for \$1.2 million, according to Sotheby's.

"It is always pleasing to set the world record. It carried a strong estimate (up to \$2 million) as well, and we felt the estimate was justified given the importance of the work," said Richard Austin, Sotheby's head of books and manuscripts.



A Sotheby's employee shows the handwritten lyrics for Bob Dylan's 'Like a Rolling Stone' song that is part part of a collection from; 'A Rock and Roll History: Presley to Punk' at Sotheby's auction house in New York, 20 June, 2014.

REUTERS

"I'm a Dylan fan myself," he added, "and I thought it was one of the coolest things that I have ever handled."

The auction house described "Like a Rolling

Stone," which was sold to an anonymous private buyer, as "one of rock's most rousing classics, its thick, layered sound and innovative organ riff instantly recognizable."—Reuters

GENERAL

Soccer — Crime and punishments

LONDON, 25 June — Uruguay striker Luis Suarez could be suspended from the World Cup for the second successive tournament after he appeared to bite Italy's Giorgio Chiellini on the shoulder during his team's 1-0 win on Tuesday.

Following are five infamous World Cup offences and their punishments.

Roberto Rojas, 1989 qualifier

Chilean goalkeeper achieved infamy during a qualifier against Brazil when he deliberately injured himself to prevent his side from being beaten. A firework had been thrown and Rojas cut himself with a blade hidden in his glove. He was carried off the pitch and the match was abandoned but video evidence revealed the real story. He was given a life ban, lifted in 2001, and Chile were barred from the 1994 World Cup.

Frank Rijkaard 1990

The Dutchman was sent off in a second-round match against West Germany at the World Cup in Italy after twice spitting in Rudi Voeller's hair. The first time was after he was booked for a tackle on the German and the second after a further confrontation in which he and Voeller were both shown red cards. The German media subsequently nicknamed Rijkaard 'The Llama'.

Mauro Tassotti 1994

Italy defender played



France's soccer team captain Zinedine Zidane (R) takes part in a television interview with journalist Michel Denisot (L) in Paris, on 12 July, 2006, in which he explained his head-butt on Italy defender Marco Materazzi during the on 9 July, 2006 final of the soccer World Cup.—REUTERS

in only one World Cup, in the United States in 1994, but he left an indelible mark on it. Tassotti elbowed Luis Enrique in the face during their quarter-final, breaking the Spaniard's nose. No penalty was given at the time and Italy won 2-1 but Tassotti was banned for eight matches after the incident was reviewed.

Rivaldo 2002

Brazilian forward Rivaldo was fined for a notorious piece of play-acting at the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. Struck on the thigh by a ball kicked at him by Turkey's Hakan Unsal, Rivaldo went down clutching his face. Unsal was then sent off for a second yellow card. A video review revealed the truth and the Brazilian

was fined the equivalent of about \$13,000.

Zinedine Zidane 2006

French World Cup winner Zidane was sent off for head-butting Italian defender Marco Materazzi during the 2006 final, which Italy went on to win in a penalty shoot-out. Zidane, who claimed he had been verbally provoked, was handed a three-match suspension for the red card.

And examples of retrospective punishments:

Tran Dinh Dong, 2014

Vietnam defender Tran Dinh Dong was handed a record 28-game suspension by the country's football federation after breaking an opponent's leg in a domestic league match. Dong of Song Lam

Nghe An was also fined 20 million dong (\$950) for the foul on Hung Vuong An Giang midfielder Nguyen Anh Hung, who was expected to be sidelined for a year.

Nicolas Anelka, 2013-14

The French forward was banned for five games and fined 80,000 pounds (\$134,000) by the Football Association for making an alleged anti-Semitic gesture after scoring for West Bromwich Albion in a Premier League game against West Ham in December of last year.

Luis Suarez, 2013

The Liverpool striker was given a 10-match ban after biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic during a Premier League game at Anfield. Suarez

was also banned for seven matches for sinking his teeth into an opponent when playing for Dutch club Ajax in 2010.

Pepe 2009

Real Madrid's Portuguese defender was suspended for 10 matches for losing control after conceding a penalty in a La Liga game against Getafe. Pepe kicked opponent Francisco Casqueiro who was on the ground and raked his studs over the midfielder's back for good measure. In the ensuing melee he struck another Getafe player, Juan Albin, in the face.

Paolo Di Canio 1998

The Italian forward pushed over the referee after being sent off playing for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal. He was banned for 11 games.

Eric Cantona, 1995

The French striker was banned for eight months following his infamous kung-fu attack on a fan sitting in the stands after being sent off playing for Manchester United in a Premier League match at Crystal Palace.

Paul Davis 1988

The Arsenal midfielder swung a punch at Southampton's Glenn Cockerill and broke his jaw. The referee missed the incident but it was caught on television and he was handed a then-unprecedented nine-match ban by the Football Association.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(26-6-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:35 am

* Documentary

7:00 am

* News

7:20 am

* People Talks

7:40 am

* Documentary

8:00 am

* News/ International News

8:30 am

* India Drama Series

9:00 am

* News/ International News

9:30 am

* India Drama Series

10:25 am

* TV Drama Series

11:00 am

* Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Teleplay

1:25 pm

* Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

3:00 pm

* News

3:30 pm

* FIFA World Cup (2014) (Honduras & Switzerland)

6:50 pm

* TV Drama Series

7:00 pm

* News

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

* News

* Documentary

* CLEVER

* Fashion Show

South Korean ferry survivors return to school, vow not to forget

ANSAN, (South Korea), 25 June — Holding hands as they walked through the school gates, some fighting back tears, 75 children who survived South Korea's worst maritime disaster in 20 years, returned to class on Wednesday vowing to remember their lost friends.

Wailing parents of the 250 children who did not survive, when a ferry taking them on a school trip capsized and sank, greeted the children outside the Danwon Highschool.

Some grieving parents held signs, one of which read: "We love you."

"Grownups are constantly telling us to forget and cheer up," an 18-year-

old boy who spoke for the survivors said, fighting back tears. "But we will remember and recollect our friends. Because not forgetting them is what we can do at best. Just as we will remember them, please don't forget them."

Two months after the Sewol ferry sank and killed more than 300 passengers, the surviving children were brought to school in five buses under a police escort.

Many were wearing bracelets engraved with the message, "Remember 0416," and all were accompanied by their parents.

On 16 April, the Sewol ferry sharply listed and capsized on a routine overnight journey from

Incheon, the port city one hour drive from the children's hometown, to the vacation island of Jeju, overloaded with cargo and sailing too fast on a turn.

Most of the 325 students who listened to the order to stay in the cabins were trapped as the vessel sank and paid for their obedience with the lives.

"Our friends and teachers had to leave us because of irresponsible and selfish adults," said one of the students before going to class.

The 15 surviving crew members are on trial, with four including the captain charged with homicide, amid a national outcry of anger after video footage

showed them fleeing the vessel as it began to list after telling passengers to stay put.

The government of President Park Geun-hye has also been bitterly criticized for the slow and ineffective handling of the disaster and the incompetence displayed in the rescue operation.

The prime minister has resigned and Park has announced the breakup of the Coast Guard citing incompetence.

A massive manhunt has failed to capture the man seen as the effective owner of the company that operated the ferry. Yoo Byung-un is wanted on charges of embezzlement



Relatives of the 16 April ferry disaster victims comfort students who survived the accident as they make their way back to school in Ansan on 25 June, 2014.

REUTERS

stemming from his control over a web of business interests owned by his sons, including Chonghaejin Marine, the ferry operator.

For the survivors and their parents, the two months since the sinking has been a painful time of soul searching, debating whether to transfer to other

schools.

But they ultimately decided to return to the familiar surrounds of Danwon Highschool and try and heal the emotional scars, receiving therapy at the school, said Park Suck-soon, the father of one of the survivors.

Reuters

Suarez bite mars Uruguay win, Greece break Ivorian hearts



Uruguay's Luis Suarez (R) reacts after clashing with Italy's Giorgio Chiellini on 24 June, 2014. REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 25 June — Uruguay forward Luis Suarez faces a lengthy ban after Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini accused him of biting during the South Americans' 1-0 Group D victory on Tuesday, overshadowing a day of emotional extremes at the World Cup.

Tears of joy ran down the face of Colombia reserve keeper Faryd Mondragon when he became

the oldest man to play at the finals at the age of 43, making a late appearance off the bench in a 4-1 win over Japan that secured top spot in Group C.

There was anguish for the Ivory Coast and unbridled joy for Greece in the other Group C clash, after Giorgos Samaras converted a penalty in the dying seconds of injury time to snatch a 2-1 win and pip the Africans to second place.

In the day's other match, a goalless draw with an experimental England side in Belo Horizonte was enough to secure Costa Rica first place in Group D and condemn the Europeans to their worst World Cup showing since 1958.

For all the footballing drama, it was Suarez's off-the-ball antics against Italy that were the major talking point around the world.

Soccer's world governing body FIFA said it was investigating the incident, which took the gloss off an otherwise glorious day for Uruguay after they edged 10-man Italy 1-0 in Natal to knock out the four-times former champions.

Liverpool forward Suarez, hailed a hero for his winning brace against England, has been banned twice before for biting, and looks likely to be hit with another lengthy suspension despite escaping punishment during the match.

"We are awaiting the official match reports and will gather all the necessary elements in order to evaluate the matter," a FIFA spokesperson said.

Italians see red

Suarez's escape rubbed salt into Italian wounds, after they had complained bitterly about the red card shown to midfielder Claudio Marchisio for a challenge on Egidio Arevalo Rios in the 59th minute.

That decision by referee Marco Rodriguez swung the game in Uruguay's favour, after Italy appeared to be heading for the draw they needed to reach the last 16.

With 10 minutes to go, Suarez clashed with Chiellini in Italy's penalty area, and the Italians were still complaining he had bitten the defender when Uruguay captain Diego Godin scored a fortuitous 81st-minute winner that flew in off his shoulder.

A furious Chiellini had pulled down his shirt to show a mark to the referee, and Reuters photographs from the game show what appeared to be bite marks on his shoulder.

"It was ridiculous not to send Suarez off," he told Rai TV. "It is clear-cut and

then there was the obvious dive afterwards, because he knew very well that he did something that he shouldn't have done."

Suarez contested that version of events.

"Those are situations that happen on the pitch. We were both just there inside the area. He shoved me with his shoulder, and my eye got left like that also," he said in reference to Chiellini's mark.

Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said he did not see the incident, but feared that Suarez, who missed Uruguay's 2010 World Cup semi-final after being sent off for a handball on the line that denied Ghana what would have been a match-winning goal, was being unfairly singled out.

"It seems there is this animosity toward him and he is being persecuted by past events," he told reporters. "There are people hiding behind the tree waiting for something to happen."

Italy coach Cesare Prandelli, who offered his resignation after the match, said it had turned on the sending off.

"It's ridiculous to be down to 10 men in a game like this," he said. "There weren't any bad fouls or anything that merited a

sending off. You can't affect a game like that. The referee ruined the game."

Samras saves Greece

The other big drama came in Fortaleza, where Ivory Coast were seconds away from making the knockout stage when Samaras was judged to have been tripped in the box by Giovanni Sio as the Greeks poured forward in search of a winner.

Samaras picked himself up after a debatable decision and kept his cool to stroke home the spot kick and make it 2-1, triggering wild celebrations during which the striker was buried under team mates who knew theirs was the narrowest of escapes.

"The end result is cruel, even if the Greeks deserved this victory," said crestfallen Ivory Coast coach Sabri Lamouchi. "We could have had the match stopped one minute earlier. We saw that everything is in the details. It's very tough, it's very hard."

The Greeks, who had failed to get past the group stage at their two previous appearances at the World Cup, will face Costa Rica in Recife on Sunday in the last 16.

Group D's surprise package Costa Rica beat Uruguay and Italy before playing out a lacklustre 0-0 draw with England to make sure of top spot.

Reuters



Greece's national soccer team players celebrate after their win over Ivory Coast during their 2014 World Cup Group C soccer match at the Castelao arena in Fortaleza on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing									
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	
Group A									
1) Brazil	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7	
2) Mexico	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7	
3) Croatia	3	1	0	2	6	6	0	3	
4) Cameroon	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0	
Group B									
1) Netherlands	3	3	0	0	10	3	7	9	
2) Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6	
3) Spain	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3	
4) Australia	3	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0	
Group C									
1) Colombia	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9	
2) Greece	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4	
3) Côte d'Ivoire	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3	
4) Japan	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1	
Group D									
1) Costa Rica	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7	
2) Uruguay	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6	
3) Italy	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3	
4) England	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1	
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	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4	
3) Ghana	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	
4) Portugal	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1	
Group H									
1) Belgium	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6	
2) Algeria	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3	
3) Russia	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	
4) Korea Republic	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1	

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match-45		22:30 MST (26.6.2014)		Ghana
Match-46		22:30 MST (26.6.2014)		Germany
Match-47		02:30 MST (27.6.2014)		Belgium
Match-48		02:30 MST (27.6.2014)		Russia

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 37	Italy	0-1	Uruguay
Match 38	Costa Rica	0-0	England
Match 39	Japan	1-4	Colombia
Match 40	Greece	2-1	Côte d'Ivoire