

Myanmar achieves Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative candidacy



As an EITI candidate country, Myanmar will publish information about its extractive sector, including disclosing payments made by oil, gas and mining companies to the government of Myanmar, and the revenues received by the government from these companies, in its first EITI report to be produced within 1.5 years, i.e. by 2 January 2016.—CREDIT TO MOGE

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 July — Now that Myanmar has been accepted as an Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative-EITI candidate country, it needs to implement the EITI requirements and demon-

strate compliance with the requirements by 2 January 2017, Ms. Dyveke Rogan, regional director of EITI International Secretariat, told The New Light of Myanmar on Friday in an email. Myanmar has been recognized as the 45th candidate country to become a full member of Extractive

Industries Transparency Initiative after its application for EITI candidature was approved by the International EITI board at its meeting in Mexico City on Wednesday.

The EITI regional director added that four sign-up steps—the government is required to issue an unequivocal public statement of its intention to implement the EITI, appoint a

senior individual to lead the implementation of the EITI, commit to work with civil society and companies, and establish a multi-stakeholder group to oversee the implementation of the EITI

and the multi-stakeholder group is required to maintain a current workplan, fully cost and aligned with the reporting and validation deadlines established by the EITI Board—were used in accepting Myanmar as an EITI candidate.

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4th Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—The 4th Meeting of the Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative was held on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw, with participation of representatives of both the public and private sectors of Japan and Myanmar.

Daw Lei Lei Thein, deputy minister for National Planning and Economic Development, and Dr. Pwint Hsan, deputy minister for Commerce, Ichiro Maruyama, DCM, Embassy of Japan and members of JCCY (Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Yangon), together

(See page 2)



4th Meeting of Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Patheingyi placed under curfew

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—As the riot that started in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay Region on 2 July spread to Patheingyi Township near Mandalay, the Township General Administration Department has imposed a curfew in the township on Friday.

The curfew took effect at 9 pm on 4 July.

Local people have been ordered not to go outside from 9 pm to 5

am and gathering of five or more people on streets has been prohibited in the township. Carrying rods, swords, weapons and inflammable materials is also banned.

People must not set up blockades or gathering on streets and hinder the police.

Serious action shall be taken against those who do not abide by the order, the announcement said.—MNA

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Outstanding students, teachers honoured in Yezagyo



Union Minister U Soe Maung views preparations for building retaining walls for prevention against bank erosion.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June. July—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and wife Daw Nan Phyu Phyu Aye donated medicines and copy books to regiments and units of No 101 Light Infantry Division in Pakokku on 30

In Inwa, Thawkeba and Letpanbin villages of Yesagyo Township, they attended the launch of electrification for local people.

They also attended a ceremony to honour out-

standing students in the 2013-14 matriculation examination at the hall of

In Search of Clean Energy Workshop focuses on generating electricity

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—The In Search of Clean Energy Workshop was held at the Hotel Amara (Nay Pyi Taw) on 30 June.

Former director of US Environmental Protection Agency Mr. Bruce Beckheit discussed In search of clean energy, electrical energy and environment Myanmar, and air pollution, director of MEE Net Mr. Witoon Permpongsacharoen, the future of Myanmar electricity sector, Ms. Nicole Ghio (International and Trade Representative) of Sierra Club, beyond coal, building a better world together and managing di-

Yezagyo Basic Education High School of Magway Region on 29 June.

They donated K1 million to the education fund of the township. The Union minister presented prizes to the outstanding students and headmistress Daw Naw Hsa Wah of Hsadaung Basic Education High School branch.

At the women's vocational school in Yezagyo, the Union minister viewed the female trainees in the course and donated medicines to village administrators and the training school. The Union minister also inspected construction of retaining walls at Pakhanng village and construction of Chaikgyi Bridge on Pakhangyi-Pakhanng road.—MNA

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Myanmar's admission to the EITI comes at a critical time as the country is now opening up its vast natural resources for foreign investment. Chair of the EITI Ms. Clare Short, who was the UK Secretary of State for International Development from 1997 to 2003, expressed her view on Myanmar candidate status with EITI after the board meeting.

Having status as an EITI candidate country means a country is implementing the extractive industries transparency initiative, but is not yet meeting requirements.

According to the EITI, its standard requires extensive disclosure and measures to improve accountability in how oil, gas and minerals are governed.

So, Myanmar needs to implement the EITI standard with the submission of its first report within 18 months of achieving candidate status to the EITI, Norway-based international organization. The report is required to be published by 2 January 2016 for validation that will commence within two and a half years, i.e. by 2 January 2017, of becoming a candidate.

Despite having a deadline of 2.5 years to become EITI compliant, experience with EITI implementation in other countries shows that it often takes longer to become compliant, Dyveke

Rogan said.

"If Myanmar does not achieve compliance by 2 January 2017, it will continue to be an EITI candidate and will get a new deadline by the EITI board for reaching compliance," she added.

In meeting with the EITI chair last year, President U Thein Sein acknowledged the need for better governance of Myanmar's natural resource wealth, saying Myanmar wants to use the EITI to ensure that the resources are developed and managed in a transparent manner for the sustainable benefit of the people.

Becoming a member of EITI will be a tangible result of the country's political and economic reforms, he added.

Before its submission of the EITI candidature application on 7 May 2014, Myanmar had taken two important steps with work done in the creation of a multi-stakeholders group and formulation of a workplan for EITI implementation in Myanmar.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is a global coalition of governments, companies and civil society working together to improve openness and accountable management of revenues from natural resources, with the vision of bringing transparency and accountability in a clearer version into the hands of the citizens.

NLM

4th Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative Meeting held...

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with JETRO and JICA participated in the discussion to recognize outcomes of discussions made so far, and JCCY's views on investment and business environment in Myanmar were reported on. For instance, while not many (30% of Japanese companies) consider the investment and business environments have been improved compared to one year ago, 80% of companies see "high attractiveness and potential of Myanmar as an investment destination

compared with other ASEAN countries".

Based on these findings, participants had a frank exchange of views on such issues as visa/immigration, trade policy, foreign remittance and taxes. With a view to realize high expectations for investment in Myanmar, participants agreed to continue to discuss with each other issues of priority. Also, they agreed to hold a general meeting again in the second half of this year to wrap up the outcomes of the discussions.—NLM

Franchising opportunities of CP available now

YANGON, 4 July—Myanmar C.P. Livestock Co., Ltd., gives the franchising opportunities to the franchisors in 2014, said U Kyaw Zaw Win, Marketing Strategy General Manager at Myanmar C.P. Livestock Co., Ltd., on Thursday at a press conference in Yangon.

Those who want to get franchising opportunities may contact the company during the first Myanmar International Food & Beverage and Myanmar Ho Re Ca exhibition from 24 to 26 July at MCC in Yangon, he

added.

Those people may also contact 09 255917773 to get the opportunities.

An official from the company said numbers of franchising shops are increasing this year and customers can see these shops in Mayangon Township, Insein Township and so on.

According to a survey, the food industry occupies about 60 per cent of all businesses and production in Myanmar, said the Vice President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win during the press conference, adding that the modern technology to manufacture the value-added products plays a key role to the development of the food industry.—Khaing Thanda Lwin

CP fried chicken shop at the corner of Maha Bandoola Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



NATIONAL

Peacefully solving regional problems discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—President U Thein Sein received Professor Dr Surakiart Sathirathal, Chairman of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council and former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and his delegation at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday to discuss peacefully solving

the regional problems.

They also focused on progress of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council.—MNA

President U Thein Sein in group photo together with Professor Dr Surakiart Sathirathal, Chairman of Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council and party.—MNA



Kyauk Phyu SEZ to create job opportunities



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

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone is designed to create job opportunities contributing to sustainable economic growth and development of socio-economic life of citizens, Chairman of the Management Committee of Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein told the Lower House on Friday.

The first phase plan of the SEZ was drawn by a team composed of experts

from Japan Development Institute, advisors from the board of advisors for the special economic zone, and partner organizations and the team went on a number of field trips to the region to invite advice from local people and partner organizations, the chairman added. A monitoring team composed of local people was also formed to study the social, economic and environmental impacts, he continued.

In the second phase of the project, a consulting

firm was selected through an open tender in accordance with the international procedures from August 2013 to February 2014 in accordance with Chapter 6 Section 14 of Myanmar Special Economic Zones Law 2014, according to the chairman.

During the second phase a bid evaluation and awarding committee composed of union ministers and deputy minister from special economic zone central working group, monitoring civil society organizations was formed and CPG Consultants Ltd was selected in accordance with the international procedures.

The third phase of the project to select developers through open tender system is current under implementation. The consulting firm is now conducting feasibility study to draw a master plan and to select developers in accordance with international procedures. This phase include designating the project area, studying

preliminary environmental impacts, drawing environmental conservation measures, compensation for those who are affected by the project, creating job opportunities that generate higher income than their former livelihoods and higher living standard accordance with the involuntary resettlement source-book of the World Bank.

The project will be implemented phase by phase until 2045, he concluded.

The Lower House session discussed construction of a dam in Kachin State on Friday.

The Upper House session on Friday focused on the need of hostels and laboratories in Yezin Veterinary University and arrangements to increase teledensity in Myanmar.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Thai General

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was greeted with a ceremony by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Tanasak Patimapragorn at his office in Bangkok on Friday morning.

They exchanged views on experience the two armies had in political crises of their countries.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed his concern about Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and urged his counterpart to help protect the migrant workers. General Tanasak Patimapragorn said he himself was dealing

with the migrant workers in cooperation with the Myanmar ambassador to Thailand and explained arrangements to register migrant workers at one-stop services centers so that they could enjoy their rights.

After the meeting, the two military chiefs visited Chairman of Royal Privy Council General Prem Tinsulanonda.

On Thursday afternoon, the delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Royal Thai Air Force Museum and went to the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand where he was greeted by the ambassador, the military attaché and officials.

MNA

Gem merchants check jade lots at emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—The 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium continued for the 11th day at the Mani Yadanada Jade Hall in Nay Pyi

Taw on Friday.

The jade lots from No 7161 to 7270 were sold at the emporium and the gem merchants submitted the

proposal of prices to the emporium. Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung and party viewed sales of jade lots.—MNA

Australian FM tours of universities in Yangon

YANGON, 4 July—Australian Foreign Minister The Hon. Ms Julie Bishop visited Yangon University of Economics here on Friday and met students doing a course on business skills development, which is jointly conducted by Yangon University, UNESCO and Pepsi Cola, sources said.

The ten-week course, the first in Myanmar, cov-

ers management, leadership, communication skills and financial management.

The visiting Australian foreign minister and her delegation also visited Yankin Education College here, where they observed the implementation of the development of pedagogical skills.

The Australian delegation left here by air in the afternoon.—MNA

Thai companies invite Myanmar entrepreneurs to Business Matching Fair for Industrial & Machinery Products

YANGON, 4 July—The Business Matching Fair for Industrial & Machinery Products will be organized at Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon on 18 July and at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 21 July.

The Thai delegations from 20 companies will

meet Myanmar entrepreneurs in Yangon and Mandalay to discuss production of agricultural machinery & equipment, auto parts and tools, construction materials and service, electronic & security products, food-stuff, rubber and hydraulic products. Admission

is free for the fair. Those wishing to hold talks with the Thai companies may contact TTF (Yangon) Co Ltd, Tel: 01-392579~80, 01-392581, email: bizmatchatmyanmar@gmail.com, tff@mptmail.net.mm and www.bizmatch-myanmar.com.—NLM

Mangosteen high yield in Thaton Township



THATON, 4 July—Yield at the farms in Thaton slightly small, said a farm owner. Township but its size is owner.

“As the temperature was high in last summer, the size of fruits could not be growth.

The price of fruits is not so different from that of last year. We send most of the fruits to Thiri Mingala market in Yangon,” said Ko Tin Htut, a fruit merchant.

Mangosteen, the seasonal fruit is a perennial crop earning income yearly.

The mangosteen plants are grown in Taunggya, Winpa and Nawngbo villages of Thaton Township of Mon State.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



Winning teams awarded in Chinlone contests in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 4 July—The prize awarding of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Cup Monsoon Chinlone Championship and the Skill Demonstration Contest was held at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay on Thursday, attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aung Htay Kyaw and Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing.

The deputy speaker, President of Myanmar Chinlone Federation U Soe Naing and officials presented the first prize to Yangon Region in men’s skill demonstration contest, Ayeyawady Region



in the women’s event and advanced contest. The region minister

gave the championship trophy and K6 million to the first prize winning Mandalay Region team in the 10-type Chinlone contest.

Tin Maung(Mandalay)

Health care services performed for villagers

KYUNSU, 4 July—Health staff of Kyunsu Township Health Department and URC group jointly performed health care services for combating malaria for the people of Uyingyi Village of the township in Taninthayi Region on Wednesday.

Cambodian Dr Kheang Soyty and Thai citizen Ms

Darin Kongkasuriyachai together with Dr Nay Aung Lin of URC and Dr Saw Naung Naung of Kyunsu Township conducted the medical checkup to students and villagers at Uyingyi Village Basic Education Primary School and gave medicines to them free of charge.

Kyunsu IPRD

Dekkhinathiri Tsp gets new repaved road

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—The inauguration of repaved Ayeyawady Road took place in Shweingyin Ward of Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday morning.

Director (Engineer) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Moe explained construction of asphalt Ayeyawady Road.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Saw Hla and party strolled

along the road.

The repaved road is 2400 feet long and 12 feet wide. The smooth facility of the road will contribute to the local people for their education, health and social sectors.—MNA



Region chief minister meets teachers to special refresher course for basic education teachers

DAWEI, 4 July—Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko met teachers who will attend the special refresher course No 88 of Taninthayi Region at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

He stressed the need for the teachers to make utmost efforts for discharging duties for development of human resources in the nation. The chief minister presented K1.35 million to 135 teachers.

Region Education Officer U Tun Yi reported on matters related to the special refresher course.

Region IPRD



REGIONAL

China and South Korea leaders restate opposition to North's nuclear arms

SEOUL, 4 July — The leaders of South Korea and China on Thursday restated their firm opposition to the nuclear ambitions of North Korea, Beijing's erstwhile ally, and to work towards concluding talks on a free trade deal by the end of the year.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Seoul, his fifth meeting with the South Korean leader since they both took office last year, seeks to strengthen commercial and diplomatic ties.

It is also aimed at reassuring Seoul and President Park Geun-hye that it would continue to pressure Pyongyang against its drive to acquire nuclear arms.

The events in Seoul will be watched closely in the North, which has test-fired short-range missiles and rockets from its east coast three times in the past week and threatened on Thursday to continue doing so.

Western countries, led by the United States, have pressed China to exert more pressure on North Korea to halt the nuclear and missile tests which have prompted the United Nations to impose sanctions.



China's President Xi Jinping (back L) and his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye (back R) attend a signing ceremony after a summit meeting at the Blue House in Seoul on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Xi and Park, appearing briefly before reporters after their talks, said they were firmly opposed to nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula.

Xi made no mention of North Korea by name,

a standard practice in Chinese diplomacy. Neither leader took questions.

"The two sides reaffirmed the position that they firmly oppose the development of nuclear weapons on the Korean

peninsula," a joint statement said.

Both sides expressed support for the stalled six-party talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear programmes in return for economic and diplomatic

rewards. Hosted by China, they also involve the two Koreas, Japan, Russia and the United States.

These sporadic talks have made little progress. They collapsed in 2008 and North Korea declared them

dead. It has since reversed position and expressed willingness to return, although Seoul and Washington are reluctant to go back to the table.

The North describes the weapons it is developing its treasured sword. It periodically threatens to attack the South and its US ally, interspersed with periods of apparent concessions. China is believed to be growing increasingly impatient with North Korea's missile and nuclear programmes, and last year backed the latest round of UN sanctions against Pyongyang.

But it does not want to see the collapse of the isolated state, which could unleash turmoil on its borders.

Reuters

Thai junta frees 14 Cambodian workers detained for holding falsified work permits

PHNOM PENH, 4 July — The Thai military junta released 14 Cambodian migrant workers imprisoned last month for holding fake working visas, a Cambodian spokesman said on Friday.

"Thai authorities had freed them after they determined that the workers were also victims because their brokers made fake documents for them," Koy Kuong, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters. "Those workers, including 10 females, returned to Cambodia this (Friday) morning."

The workers were arrested last month in Thailand while they tried to return to Cambodia amid a sudden mass exodus of migrant workers from Thailand.

The release came just three days after Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni granted a royal pardon to a convicted Thai yellow-shirt activist Veera Somkwamkid during a visit from acting Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow. During a meeting with Sihasak at Phnom Penh's Peace Palace on Tuesday, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen requested the Thai junta to consider the release of the 14 workers.—Xinhua



A high speed train sets off during a trial run from New Delhi to Agra, India, on 3 July, 2014. The "semi-bullet" train sets an Indian national speed record of 160 km/h in its trial run.—XINHUA

Tension mars in Indonesia ahead of election

JAKARTA, 4 July — Temperature of politics in Indonesia heats up following the crackdown against a TV station controlled by president hopeful Prabowo Subianto camp as the election schedule draws near.

It prompted President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono issued order to authorities to take precaution measures in anticipating conflict that may occur before and after the conduction of election.

The crackdowns against TVOne, a news TV channel owned by Aburizal Bakrie, chairman of Golkar Party that supports Prabowo, on Wednesday night were conducted by supporters of Prabowo's rival in presidential election Joko Widodo.

The ex-general Prabowo Subianto, patron figure of Great Indonesia Movement (Gerindra) Party, is fully supported by coalition of seven parties

joined in Red and White coalition.

The attacks against the TV station were conducted in its branch office in Yogyakarta and its head office in Jakarta. Widodo's supporters joined in Democracy Struggle Volunteers (Repdem) vandalized the TV buildings, protesting the news broadcasted by the TV station which they claimed of impaired when it comes to reports about Widodo.—Xinhua

Japan eases N Korea sanctions as abduction probe unit set up

TOKYO, 4 July — Japan finalized on Friday its decision to lift some of its unilateral sanctions on North Korea as Pyongyang launched a special committee to investigate the fate of Japanese nationals it abducted in the past.

"The launch has been confirmed," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a daily press briefing, referring to what North Korean has named the Special Investigation Committee.

Tokyo is also considering opening a hotline with Pyongyang to work closely in the investigation process, the top government spokesman said.

In Pyongyang, the official Korean Central News Agency reported on Friday that the committee "will start an all-inclusive and comprehensive investigation into all Japanese residing in the DPRK from 4 July" under an agreement between the two governments in May.

The chairman of the committee is So Tae Ha, counselor in the National Defence Commission responsible for security, who doubles as vice minister of state security, KCNA said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet formally approved the decision on sanctions made a day earlier by him and other relevant ministers after concluding through Tuesday's Japan-North Korea talks in Beijing that Pyongyang is serious about solving the abduction issue.

In the Chinese capital, a senior North Korean official revealed the organizational structure and members of the investigation committee, which Japan sees as possessing authority to probe any organ in the country.

Tokyo's decision came after North Korea recently defied the international community by launching short-range ballistic missiles into the sea.

Kyodo News

Iran eases demands in Vienna nuclear talks



European Union Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton (L) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wait to begin talks in Vienna on 3 July, 2014.

REUTERS

VIENNA, 4 July — Iran has reduced demands for the size of its future nuclear enrichment programme in talks with world powers although Western governments are urging Tehran to compromise further, Western diplomats said on Thursday. The diplomats, who spoke to *Reuters* at the start of a two-week round of negotiations between Iran and the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, said it would still be hard to clinch a deal by the self-imposed 20 July deadline.

Teheran's shift relates to the main sticking point in the talks — the number of uranium enrichment centrifuges Iran can maintain in a deal in exchange for a

gradual end of sanctions.

Ending the decade long dispute with Iran is seen as central to defusing tension and averting a new Middle East war.

"Iran has reduced the number of centrifuges it wants but the number is still unacceptably high," a Western diplomat told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity and without further detail. A senior US administration official told reporters that Iran's future enrichment capacity under any deal would have to be "a fraction of what they currently have."

On Wednesday, a senior Iranian official told *Reuters*, Teheran has refused to back down from its demand to maintain 50,000

operational centrifuges, a figure Western officials say is too high for a strictly civilian nuclear energy programme.

Iran, a major oil producer, says it plans a future network of nuclear power plants to diversify its energy supply.

"Iran needs at least 50,000 centrifuges and not 49,999," the Iranian official said. "The other party is talking about a few thousands and this is unacceptable for Iran."

But the Western diplomats said that behind closed doors Iran had signaled it would settle for a lower figure, but declined to specify the number so as not to disrupt the negotiations.—*Reuters*

Overpass collapses in World Cup city

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 4 July — An unfinished overpass collapsed in the Brazilian World Cup host city of Belo Horizonte on Thursday, killing at least one person and casting a shadow over a tournament that has suffered repeated construction accidents and delays.

The bridge, located about two miles (3 km) from the Mineirao Stadium where World Cup games are being played, collapsed as vehicles were passing on a busy road underneath.

Part of a passenger bus was crushed and another car was still trapped in the wreckage hours later.

The collapsed bridge stretched over one of the major thoroughfares connecting the stadium area with the international air-

port. It was part of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that officials had promised would be ready for the World Cup. Groups of people gathered around the scene of the accident, some shouting furiously.

"This is the incompetence of our authorities and our businesses," said Leandro Brito, 23, a bank worker. "Because of the World Cup they sped everything up to finish faster. That's why this tragedy has happened. They are not making things properly. Everyone is very angry."

Heavy government spending on the World Cup, and long delays building infrastructure projects, spurred violent street protests across Brazil over the past year, although they have died down in recent

weeks and the tournament has gone more smoothly than many fans and government officials had expected.

Still, several projects were plagued by fatal construction accidents. Eight workers died building stadiums in the 12 cities that have hosted games.

Via Twitter on Thursday, President Dilma Rousseff offered her government's assistance to local authorities if needed.

"In this moment of pain, I offer my solidarity to the families of the victims," she said. There were conflicting reports over the casualties of the accident in Belo Horizonte, which has already hosted five World Cup games and has the semi-final match on Tuesday.—*Reuters*



Rescue workers try to reach vehicles trapped underneath a bridge that collapsed while under construction in Belo Horizonte on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

With one eye on Washington, China plots its own Asia 'pivot'

BEIJING, 4 July — The Silk Road, an obscure Kazakh-inspired security forum and a \$50 billion (£29.1 billion) Asian infrastructure bank are just some of the disparate elements in an evolving Chinese strategy to try to counter Washington's "pivot" to the region.

While Chinese leaders have not given the government's growing list of initiatives a label or said they had an overall purpose, Chinese experts and diplomats said Beijing appeared set on shaping Asia's security and financial architecture more to its liking.

"China is trying to work out its own counter-balance strategy," said Sun Zhe, director of the Centre for US-China Relations at Beijing's Tsinghua University and who has advised China's government on its

foreign policy.

Added one Beijing-based Western diplomat who follows China's international relations: "This is all clearly aimed at the United States."

President Barack Obama's pivot — as the White House initially dubbed it — represented a strategy to refocus on Asia's dynamic economies as the United States disentangled itself from costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

China sees the pivot as an attempt to contain its growing influence, especially given the United States is strengthening its ties with Asian security allies such as Japan and the Philippines, which have bitter territorial disputes with Beijing in the region's waters. Washington denies this.

One key part of

China's diplomatic outreach has been to breathe life into the little-known Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building

Measures in Asia, or CICA, which has languished since Kazakhstan proposed it in 1992 to promote peace and security.

CICA comprises two dozen mostly Asian nations, as well as Russia and some Middle Eastern countries. The United States,

Japan and the Philippines are not members.

China took over chairmanship of CICA at a summit in Shanghai in May for three years. There, President Xi Jinping spoke about a new "Asian security concept", saying China would explore the formulation of a code of conduct for regional security and an Asian security partnership programme.

While Xi gave few details and made no direct mention of disputes such as in the South China Sea, he warned Asian nations about strengthening military alliances to counter China, an oblique reference to the US pivot.

"Asian problems must be resolved by Asian people, and Asian security must be protected by Asian people," Xi said.

Reuters



Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington man the rails as the ship pulls out of Hong Kong after a five-day port visit, in this US Navy handout file photo from 14 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

WORLD

Israel boosts forces near Gaza as border heats up

JERUSALEM, 4 July — Israel beefed up its forces along its frontier with the Gaza Strip and launched air strikes against militant Hamas targets there on Thursday in response to Palestinian cross-border rocket attacks.

Israel also faced a second day of violent Palestinian protests in Jerusalem after the discovery of the body of a 16-year-old Palestinian boy on Wednesday in a forest near the city.

Israeli police are investigating the possibility that he was the victim of a revenge killing over the deaths of three Jewish teenagers, whose abduction on 12 June Israel has blamed on Islamist Hamas militants in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said if Gaza rocket fire stopped then Israel would also halt



An Israeli man inspects the damage of a house following a projectile attack by militants from Gaza in Sderot, Israel, on 3 July, 2014.—XINHUA

its actions. But he added in a speech that if “firing toward our residents in the south continues, then our bolstered forces there will act forcefully”.

Lieutenant-Colonel

Peter Lerner, a military spokesman, said troops were taking up “defence positions” in Israeli communities that have been struck by the rockets from Gaza. He did not comment

on the scale of the deployment.

It is the first time since the border began to heat up in mid-June — in tandem with an Israeli military sweep and search

for the three abducted Israeli youths in the West Bank — that Israel has announced troop movements near the Gaza Strip.

“We are moving and we have moved forces,” Lerner said in a conference call with foreign journalists. “Everything we are doing is to de-escalate the situation but on the other hand to be prepared if they don’t de-escalate.”

Israel has “no interest in deepening the conflict with Gaza — the absolute opposite is true”, he added.

Abu Ubaida, spokesman for Hamas’ armed wing, Izz el-Deen Al-Qassam Brigades, accused Israel of breaching a cease-fire brokered after a 2012 eight-day cross-border war, and said the group would respond according to developments on the ground. “Our people know well how to exact a heavy price from the enemy,”

Ubaida said at a news conference in Gaza.

Netanyahu convened his security cabinet on Thursday for a fourth time since Monday, an official said, as tension remained high in Jerusalem in anticipation of the funeral of the Palestinian youth, Mohammed Abu Khudair.

Abu Khudair’s body underwent an autopsy on Thursday and his burial was set for Friday, his family and a police spokesman said. The funeral is likely to stir strong emotions among Palestinians and could trigger further confrontation.

Police clashed with a few dozen stone-throwing Palestinians in Jerusalem’s Arab neighbourhood Shuafat and a police spokesman said six people were arrested, but the violence was on a much smaller scale than on Wednesday.

Reuters

Thieves in Mexico steal truck with dangerous radioactive load

MEXICO CITY, 4 July — Thieves in central Mexico on Thursday stole a pick-up truck carrying dangerous radioactive material, authorities said.

The radioactive load — iridium 192 — was normally used in industrial radiography, Mexico’s interior ministry said in a statement. The material was housed in a specialized container, and would only pose a health risk if the housing was tampered with, the statement said.

Late last year, thieves made off with a truck containing dangerous radioactive medical material that the United Nations said could provide an ingredient for a “dirty bomb.”

The radioactive load was later found dumped by the thieves close to where it was stolen.—Reuters

Hollande, Merkel urge Putin to broker Ukraine ceasefire

PARIS, 4 July — French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Russia’s Vladimir Putin on Thursday to encourage separatists in eastern Ukraine to reach an agreement with the Ukrainian authorities, the French president’s office said.

Hollande and Merkel stressed in a conversation with the Russian president the importance of implementing a deal reached in Berlin on Wednesday between the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine in order to achieve a bilateral ceasefire, according to the statement from Hollande’s office.

“They (Hollande and Merkel) called on the Russian president to support the organization of a meeting of the contact group before 5 July in order to define conditions for the ceasefire,” Hollande’s office said in the statement.

“To this effect, they asked President Putin to intervene to encourage the separatists to negotiate and find an agreement with the Ukrainian authorities.”

Hollande and Merkel are due to hold a phone conversation with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in the coming hours, Hollande’s office added.—Reuters

Can Iraqi forces recapture lost ground alone? US says ‘probably not’

WASHINGTON, 4 July — Iraqi security forces will probably not be able to recapture ground they have lost to Islamist militants without assistance, the top US military officer said on Thursday.

General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said US advisers now conducting an assessment of Iraqi forces were reporting

the military was “capable of defending Baghdad” but it “would be challenged to go on the offence, mostly logistically challenged.”

“If you’re asking me will the Iraqis at some point be able to go back on the offensive, to recapture the part of Iraq that they’ve lost, I think that’s a really broad campaign quality question,” Dempsey told reporters at the Pentagon.

“Probably not by themselves.”

Iraq is grappling with an onslaught of Sunni Muslim militants from the Islamic State or ISIL, an al-Qaeda offshoot, who have seized large areas of northern and western Iraq and are threatening to march on the capital Baghdad.

Militants were able to seize so much territory in part because forces un-

der Shi’ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki deserted their positions in the face of the militant advance last month.

The United States, which focussed much of its effort following its 2003 invasion of Iraq building up Iraq’s security forces, is now seeking to help the Iraqi military repel those militants.

Reuters



Heavy smoke rises at the sea view villas where a fire broke out at an island in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Malaysia’s state of Sabah, on 3 July, 2014. Some 50 cabins at the sea view villas were damaged in the fire. —XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 5 July, 2014

There are always two sides to every story

By Kyaw Thura

One of our congenital abilities is to create problems rather than find solutions. It is hard to find a person who has never contradicted himself at some time or other, let alone the fact that different people entertain different points of view.

Disagreement is a normal process in human relationships. Any form of contention can be solved

without recourse to violence, even when all attempts to negotiate ends in vain. Even if violence made a last resort appears to do good, the good is momentary, whereas in fact the evil resulting from it is permanent. An Indian political and spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi once warned that “an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind”. This adage highlights that retaliation cannot pave the way for a win-win situation but leads to a lose-lose situation.

At a time when the world is in need of encouraging social integrity as we are living in a multicultural society, human relationship is of sociocultural importance. Our relationships with other people are in fact projections of the relationships within ourselves. An American self-help author, motivational speaker and entrepreneur, Steve Pavlina once put it that our external relationships and our internal relationships are the same, and they only appear different because we look at them through different

lenses.

It is believed that human relationships, in their right sense, serve as pointers to unconditional love. The rule is simple: if we forgive, accept, and love all parts of ourselves, we will forgive, accept, and love all other human beings as they are. The more we improve our internal relationships between our thoughts, beliefs, and intentions, the more loving and harmonious our human relationships will become. Keeping this in mind, we should all entertain unconditional love in our consciousness, and if so, we will all witness it reflecting in our relationships.

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.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee, the highest level of all Sangha Organizations, comprising 47 chief members of the Sangha (Mahatheras) represent over five-hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles which were passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall hold its plenary meeting at least three times in a year.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that altogether six Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and support of Buddhist people and the previous Governments of the Union of Myanmar. In accordance with the objective and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists all over the world know that altogether six great Bud-

dhist Councils (Synods) leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha over 2558 years ago. The Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held in Myanmar in the year 2415 of the Buddhist Era (1871 CE) and attended by 2400 Mahatheras, and the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was also held in Myanmar in the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era (1954 CE) and attended by 2500 Mahatheras from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist nations were greatly pleased and honoured for successfully holding the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unitedly implement the noble tasks of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be possible to purify,

perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His Teachings.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate, promote and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contrary to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schisms and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Moastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

To rebuild the unity and mutual understanding between different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders is deeply need-

ed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Order so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All the Buddhist firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, “Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers”. The situation of the nation was well-developed and prosperous in those golden times when the members of the Sangha of All Orders unanimously practiced the Vinaya Law and fulfilled their religious duties.

From the First to the Seventh Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have successfully rebuilt the unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and Government since 1980. A single Sangha Organization could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the first time in one hundred years.

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders is fixed to be held at the Meeting Hall on Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, from 5 to 6 July 2014. The meeting will be attended by 47 members of

the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

The main objectives of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to strengthen more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have already been made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

Providing EU's assistance to Myanmar Police Force discussed



Lower House Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo meets European delegation led by Dr Hans Born.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July — A meeting between Lower House International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo and European delegation led by Dr Hans Born was

held at Hluttaw Affairs Building of Hluttaw Complex on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the providing EU's assistance to Myanmar Police Force.

Both sides also dis-

cussed the check and balance process of the Hluttaws, accountability of international police forces and undertaking process of the committees of the Hluttaws'.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Consecration for Kamakura Buddha Image to start on 16 July



SAGAING, 4 July—The consecration for Kamakura—Japanese Buddha image alike—will be held on the platform of ShwetaungUdaw Pagoda in Sagaing of Sagaing Region from 16 to 24 July.

Under the auspices of ShwetaungUdaw Sayadaw, the Buddha image was

built on the hill with the design of Japanese style Buddha image. Its construction started in January 2012 and the image is 31 feet high. Over K40 million has been spent on construction of the Buddha image. At present, the platform of the pagoda is being placed with ceramic tiles. “The Kamakura

Buddha Image in Japan is 44 feet, weighing 121 tons of bronze. All the Japanese people take pride of building the Kamakura Buddha image. Those who arrive in Japan set a schedule to pay homage to the image like a compulsory tourist destination. The Japan’s designed Kamakura Bud-

dha image was built on the famous viewpoint hillock for obeisance of Myanmar people. The design for the Buddha image was created by Sculptor U Soe Aung,” said Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannananda. At the consecration ceremony for the image, a plan is underway to hold the religious talks of Rector Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Nandamalabhivamsa of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and Tipitakadhara Sayadaw Bhaddanta Abhijatabhivamsa for the disciples. Moreover, the plans will be implemented with cash and kind donation, feeding refreshments to the people from four corners and recitation of Dhammacakka Sutta nine days.

While paying homage to the Kamakura Buddha Image, the visitors may observe an ancient iron cast. The famous Kamakura Image can be seen from the Yadanabon Bridge.

Nanda Min Lwin

Membership applications presented to Township WAO



MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 4 July—In honour of the Myanmar Women’s Day, a ceremony to present membership applications for Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Mawlamyinegyun of Ay-

eyawady Region on Thursday.

Officials of Township Women’s Affairs Organization gave lectures on facts about MAAF, and prevention against trafficking in persons.

Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Yi Yi Thaug accepted 200 membership applications from the students and gave back 200 brooches to them.

Mawgyun Myint Aung

Talaingkan Village of Kyaukpadaung Tsp gets BEMS branch

KYAUKPADAUNG, 4 July—A ceremony to upgrade Basic Education Primary School to BEMS Branch was held in Talaingkan Village of Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region on Thursday, attended by local authorities, teachers and students totalling about 2,000. The guests planted saplings in the compound of the school.

The Township Education Officer handed over a certificate of order to upgrade the school to Headmaster U Aung Htay. Students presented songs to the guests.

BEPS in Talaingkan Village was opened in 1954 and upgrade to Basic Education Post-Primary School in 1992. At present, 232 students are pursuing education at the school.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

cultivation of crops for ensuring local food sufficiency.

Pe Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)

13 transformers donated to 16 villages in 2013-14



YESAGYO, 4 July—U Aung Than and wife Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Khin Than Oo donated one transformer worth K6 million each to Hsingyo, Balaba and Hsanthit villages of Yesagyo Township in Magway Region recently. The wellwishers have

donated 13 transformers worth K72.3 million to 16 villages from 8 September 2013 to 3 July 2014.

Moreover, they will donate one 315 KVA transformer to the monastery of Yesagyo Sayadaw Tipitakakovida, Agga Maha Pandita Dhammabhandagarika Bhaddanta Vayamindabhivamsa in PyinOoLwin.

“Local people thanked the wellwishers for their donations to be able to generate electricity for local consumption,” said the electrification committee patron.

Pe Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)

Locals of Saw, Yaw and Laungshay region generate hydropower for domestic consumption

KALAY, 4 July—As Saw, Yaw and Laungshay areas of Magway Region are teeming with various rivers and creeks that flow from Chin Hill, the villages around the regions are enjoying electricity round the clock through hydropower generated from the rivers and creeks.

“Saw, Yaw and Maw creeks are streaming along our area. All towns and villages in Yaw region are established along the creeks. Local people try to

generate electricity through various ways and means. Locals are in harmony to do diversion of waterway from the creeks so as to generate electricity. They in unity contributed K2 million for installation of a turbine for generating hydropower,” said a local of Saw. In fact, Saw and Yaw region is a native of Taungtha ethnic who have own costume, language and literature. Most of them believe in Buddhism.

Linlet Kyel Sin

Food sufficiency explained in Yesagyo Tsp



YESAGYO, 4 July—The head of Yesagyo Township Agriculture and staff of Magway Region made

field trips to villages for holding talks about the increase of double income through agriculture and

cultivation of monsoon crops including paddy on the targeted area.

On Thursday, departmental officials from Department of Water Resources Utilization, Irrigation Department and Agriculture Department met with local farmers at the Dhammayon of Ht-inchaung Village and explained fertilizers, soils, use of quality strains, prevention of pesticides, cultivation of Paethwe hybrid paddy strain and good agricultural patterns.

They emphasized

Readers have opportunity to read various books through public digital library service device

KALAY, 4 July—As the public library of Kalay District Information and Public Relations Department of Sagaing Region has been installed with a public digital library service device, the visitors and bookworms may choose various subjects of books through phone, tablet, notebook, iPad, laptop and other communication devices as they

like. The Internet users can read over 6,000 books in 650-meter radius area from the machine. “I welcome the public digital library service device. The user can read the books on various subjects as they like. Anyone can download the books from the machine so as to read the book at anytime,” said a bookworm.

Linlet Kyel Sin

West African authorities adopt common strategy to fight Ebola



Health workers take blood samples for Ebola virus testing at a screening tent in the local government hospital in Kenema, Sierra Leone, on 30 June, 2014.—REUTERS

ACCRA, 4 July — West African countries and international health organizations adopted a fresh strategy on Thursday to fight the world's deadliest Ebola epidemic, which has killed hundreds of people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

At a two-day meeting in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, officials committed to better surveillance to detect cases of the virus, enhance cross-border collaboration, better engagement with local communities and closer cooperation with the UN World Health Organization and other

partners.

Ministers also recommended setting up a sub-regional control centre in Guinea to coordinate technical support. The decisions involve governments, the United Nations, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, aid agencies and the private sector.

At least 467 people have died of the virus since February, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

"The governments are required to mobilize relevant sectors, community, religious and political

leaders to improve awareness, psycho-social support and understanding of the Ebola situation," Francis Kasolo, WHO Africa director for disease prevention and control, told a news conference.

The meeting's final communique made no reference to increased financial support for the effort and there was little detail about how the measures would be implemented. Even so, ministers said the meeting had provided a valuable forum to share ideas.

Health ministers also said it was essential for regional bodies such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to lead the effort.

There is no plan to close borders in a bid to prevent the spread of the disease but instead efforts at the border to educate people about risks should be stepped up, said Liberian deputy health minister Bernice Dahn.

"We believe that closing borders is not an option because we believe

it would not work," Dahn said on the sidelines of the conference.

"We urge all parties present at this meeting to turn their promises into immediate concrete action on the ground," Marie-Christine Ferir, emergency desk manager for health charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), said in a statement.

Ebola causes fever, vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea and kills up to 90 percent of those it infects. Highly contagious, it is transmitted through contact with blood or other fluids.

The current outbreak is hard to control because it involves coordinating three separate governments, which makes devising common health protocols more difficult, a senior international health official said. At the same time, border areas are quite densely populated and have a high level of social mobility but poor government healthcare services, the official said.

Reuters

Iraqi Kurdish president asks parliament to prepare for independence vote

ARBIL, (Iraq), 4 July — The president of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region asked its parliament on Thursday to plan a referendum on Kurdish independence, signalling his impatience with Baghdad, which is fighting to repel Sunni insurgents and struggling to form a new government.

The move came despite US pressure for Kurds to stand with Baghdad as Iraq faces an onslaught by Sunni Muslim militants, led by an al-Qaeda offshoot, which has seized large parts of the north and west and is threatening to march on the capital.

Iraq's 5 million Kurds, who have governed themselves in relative peace since the 1990s, have expanded their territory by as much as 40 percent in recent weeks as the sectarian insurgency has threatened to split the country.

Kurdish President Massoud Barzani asked lawmakers to form a com-

mittee to organize a referendum on independence and pick a date for the vote.

"The time has come for us to determine our own fate and we must not wait for others to determine it for us," Barzani said in a closed session of the Kurdish parliament that was later broadcast on television.

"For that reason, I consider it necessary ... to create an independent electoral commission as a first step and, second, to make preparations for a referendum."

Barzani's call came days after Kurds and Sunnis walked out of the newly elected Iraqi parliament's first session in Baghdad, complaining that the majority Shi'ites had failed to nominate a prime minister.

Many Kurds have long wanted to declare independence and now sense a golden opportunity, with Baghdad weak and Sunni armed groups in control of northern cities such as Mosul and Tikrit.—Reuters



Iraqi security forces military vehicles are seen during an intensive security deployment after clashes with followers of Iraq's Shi'ite cleric Mahmoud al-Sarkhi, in Kerbala, southwest of Baghdad, on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Islamic State seizes oil field and towns in Syria's east

BEIRUT, 4 July — Militants from the Islamic State group seized control of Syria's largest oil field from rival Islamist fighters on Thursday, strengthening its advance across the eastern Deir al-Zor Province, an opposition monitoring group said.

The capture of the al-Omar oil field gives Islamic State control of crude reserves which could be useful to its advancing fighters, and underlines how the al-Qaeda offshoot has eclipsed its militant rivals by capturing territory and assets across Syria and Iraq in the past few weeks.

It has declared an Islamic 'caliphate' on lands it has seized in both countries, and urged Muslims worldwide to flock there and wage holy war.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Islamic State "took leadership" of the oil field from Nusra Front, the official wing of al-Qaeda in Syria.

A video posted on the Internet showed a group of armed men dressed in black outside what they said was the entrance to al-Omar oil field.

One fighter said they had not faced any resistance from Nusra Front and that they had captured the field on the fifth day of Ramadan, or Thursday.

"God is greatest and thanks to God. Islamic State! God is greatest!" the men chanted. It was not possible to independently verify the contents of the video.—Reuters

FIVE DEAD IN CAIRO ON ANNIVERSARY OF MURSI OUSTER

CAIRO, 4 July — Five people died in a bomb blast and clashes that broke out between security forces and protesters on Thursday marking the first anniversary of the army's ouster of elected Islamist President Mohamed Mursi.

Thousands of Egyptians opposed to the army's overthrow of Mursi joined protests in Cairo, witnesses said, but most of the gatherings attracted only dozens, were confined to narrow back streets and quickly dispersed amid tight security.

Armoured personnel carriers blocked off Cairo's Tahrir Square to prevent demonstrators from converging on the central spot, the symbolic heart of the 2011 uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak after 30 years in power.

Thursday marked a year since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, then army chief, ousted the Muslim Brotherhood's Mursi following days of mass protests against his year-long rule.

In the weeks and

months after the ouster, security forces launched a crackdown that saw thousands of Brotherhood members detained and hundreds killed. Egypt has since labelled the country's oldest Islamist movement a terrorist organization.

Since Mursi's ouster, militant Islamist groups have launched a campaign of bombings and shootings targeting security forces in the sprawling capital.

The Muslim Brotherhood denies any link to the violence. A call by Islamist opponents of Mursi's ouster for mass demonstrations appeared to fall flat on Thursday. It was not clear if more protests would take place after Iftar, the breaking of the fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"On 3 July, Egyptians will revolt, marking the beginning of the end of

the coup, marching from all towns and cities across Egypt to liberty squares in all provinces," an alliance of Mursi's supporters said in a statement late on Wednesday.

Protests have petered out in Egypt in recent months as the crackdown has escalated, particularly since the government passed a law banning protests without prior police permission.—Reuters



Supporters of Egypt's former president Mohamed Mursi run from tear gas during clashes with police in Cairo, on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists find how magic mushrooms alter the mind

LONDON, 4 July — Scientists studying the effects of the psychedelic chemical in magic mushrooms have found the human brain displays a similar pattern of activity during dreams as it does during a mind-expanding drug trip.

Psychedelic drugs such as LSD and magic mushrooms can profoundly alter the way we experience the world, but little is known about what physically happens in the brain.

In a study published in the journal *Human Brain Mapping*, researchers examined the brain effects of psilocybin, the psychedelic ingredient in magic mushrooms, using data from brain scans of volunteers who had been injected with the drug.

“A good way to under-

stand how the brain works is to perturb the system in a marked and novel way. Psychedelic drugs do precisely this and so are powerful tools for exploring what happens in the brain when consciousness is profoundly altered,” said Dr Enzo Tagliazucchi, who led the study at Germany’s Goethe University.

Magic mushrooms grow naturally around the world and have been widely used since ancient times for religious rites and also for recreation.

British researchers have been exploring the potential of psilocybin to alleviate severe forms of depression in people who don’t respond to other treatments, and obtained some positive results from early-stage experiments.

In the United States, scientists have seen positive results in trials using MDMA, a pure form of the party drug ecstasy, in treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

People who use psychedelic drugs often describe “expanded consciousness”, including vivid imagination and dream-like states.

To explore the biological basis of these experiences, Tagliazucchi’s team analyzed brain imaging data from 15 volunteers who were given psilocybin intravenously while they lay in a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scanner.

The volunteers were scanned under the influence of psilocybin and when they had been in-



Boxes containing magic mushrooms are displayed at a coffee and smart shop in Rotterdam on 28 Nov, 2008. — REUTERS

jected with a placebo, or dummy drug. The researchers looked at fluc-

tuations in what is called the blood-oxygen level dependent (BOLD) signal, which tracks activity levels in the brain.

Reuters

Sogefi, Audi develop new suspension spring technology



A worker cleans an Audi A3 in the final check area at the production line of the German car manufacturer’s plant in the Bavarian city of Ingolstadt, in this file picture taken on 11 March, 2013. — REUTERS

MILAN, 4 July — Italian auto parts maker Sogefi and Volkswagen’s (VOW-G_p.DE) Audi have jointly developed new suspension spring technology which will result in more precise driving and lighter parts, Sogefi said on Thursday.

Sogefi’s shares rose more than 3 percent on the news, and were up 2.6 percent at 4.09 euros by 1333 GMT, outperforming a 1 percent rise in Milan’s All-Share index.

The new suspension

springs, based on a technology patented by Sogefi, will be made from a glass fiber-reinforced polymer instead of steel and will weigh between 40-70 percent less than traditional steel springs, the company said.

They can be assembled on cars and light commercial vehicles without affecting the suspension system architecture, allowing for a weight reduction of 4-6 kg (8.8-13 lb) per vehicle, it added.—Reuters

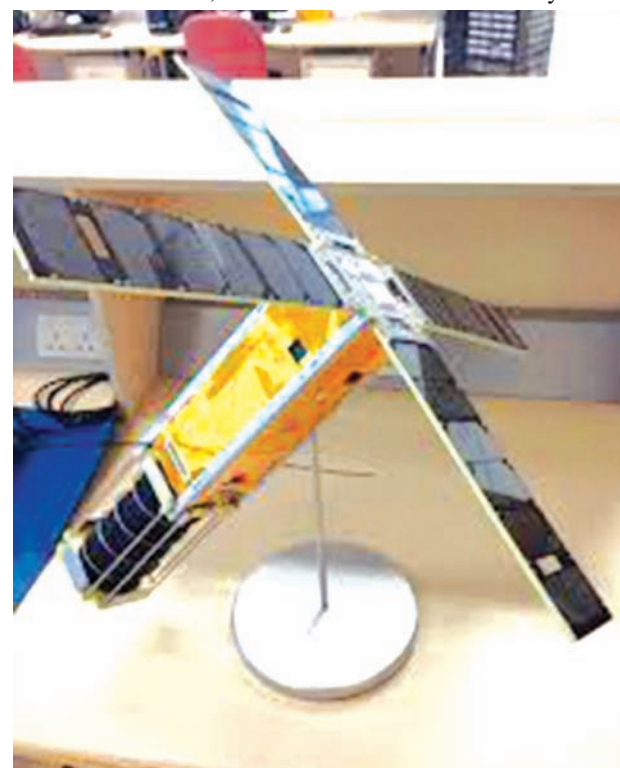
Singapore launches its first nano-satellite

SINGAPORE, 4 July — Singapore launched its first nano-satellite VELOX-I via a Indian space rocket on Monday, according to a report by Channel News Asia on Thursday.

The satellite, which

proven, can eventually be used for other satellites, big satellites for commercial application,” Low Kay Soon, director of the centre said.

He added, “we hope that this will actually bene-



A model of the Nanyang Technological University’s nano-satellite.—XINHUA

weighs just 4.28 kilograms, is equipped with a camera sensor that is radiation-resistant, and extendable lenses to take higher-resolution photographs from space. Its inventors are students and researchers from Nanyang Technological University’s Satellite Research Centre.

“We actually put in a lot of new components and new sensors. These, if

fit Singapore’s space industry in the long term.” One highlight is that VELOX-I carries another smaller satellite, named VELOX-PIII, which will separate from it in the next three months. With the two, the university has launched four satellites in total. It hopes to give students more experiences and nurture a pool of talent for the satellite industry.

Xinhua

World scientists demand Australian gov’t stop shark cull

SYDNEY, 4 July — Hundreds of the world’s top marine scientists and researchers are calling on a provincial Australian government to stop its shark catch and kill policy, local media reported on Friday.

Western Australia’s Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is assessing a proposed three-year extension of the programme, but more than 250 marine experts argue that there is no evidence it is making beachgoers safer.

One of the protestors is US marine biologist Dr Elliott Norse, who has worked for several presidents and advised president Barack Obama to preserve parts of the Pacific Ocean.

“I think killing sharks is not a good idea,” Norse told the Australian Broad-

casting Commission (ABC).

“I think killing apex predatory sharks like tiger sharks is a terrible idea.”

The state government introduced the policy of setting baited drum lines off Perth beaches following an increase in fatal shark attacks in the past 10 years.

But scientist Professor Jessica Meeuwig said Hawaii was an example of drum lines having no effect on safety.

“In Hawaii, they spent 16 years killing tiger sharks through a hook and line programme very similar to what we’re doing. And it had no impact on the number of incidents with sharks,” she said.

The WA government said it based its policy on Queensland’s use of drum

lines, where there has been only one fatal attack at a controlled beach since 1961.

Fisheries Minister Ken Baston said Queensland record’s shows that the method protects swimmers.

“I’ve said to various people that may knock it, what value do they put on human life?” he said.

Since 1962, the Queensland government has also been using nets to

protect swimmers — something that WA decided against.

Professor Meeuwig said that was a critical difference.

“If you look at the locations that are only protected by drum lines, so leaving nets aside, again there’s no evidence that we’ve had improved safety outcomes from killing 1,000 sharks a year,” she said. — Xinhua



Phones, shoes to face scrutiny as airport security tightened

WASHINGTON, 4 July — Airlines with direct flights to the United States have been told to tighten screening of mobile phones and shoes in response to intelligence reports of increased threats from al-Qaeda-affiliated militant groups, US officials said on Thursday.

The officials singled out smartphones including iPhones made by Apple Inc and Galaxy phones made by Samsung Electronics Co Ltd for extra security checks on US-bound direct flights from Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

US security officials said they fear bomb makers from the Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have figured out how to turn the phones into explosive devices that can avoid detection.

They also are concerned that hard-to-detect bombs could be built into shoes, said the officials, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

A US official said that other electronic devices carried by passengers also are likely to receive more intense scrutiny.

Airlines or airport operators that fail to strengthen security could face bans on flights entering the United States, the officials said.

The US Homeland



Police officers patrol at a security gate inside the main terminal of Frankfurt Airport on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Security Department announced on Wednesday plans to step up security checks, but they offered few details on how airlines and airports will implement them.

An official familiar with the matter said the United States believes that while it is possible there may be some additional delays at security checkpoints, at most major airports passengers will not be seriously inconvenienced.

The official said most passengers taking long-distance flights arrive well in advance of scheduled departures, leaving time for extra screening. But he said

the United States could not rule out disruptions in countries where airport infrastructure and security procedures are less sophisticated.

US-based airlines had little to say about the enhanced security. American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller said the Department of Homeland Security had been in contact with American on the issue, but declined to comment further.

Luke Punzenberger, a spokesman for United Airlines Inc[UALCO.UL], said: “We work closely with federal officials on security matters, but we are not able to discuss the

details of those efforts.”

US security agencies fear bomb makers from AQAP and the Islamist Nusra Front, al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Syria, are collaborating on plots to attack US- or Europe-bound planes with bombs concealed on foreign fighters carrying Western passports, the officials said.

AQAP has a track record of plotting such attacks. Its innovative bomb maker, Ibrahim al-Asiri, built an underwear bomb used in a failed 2009 effort to bring down a Detroit-bound airliner, and his devices were implicated in other plots.—Reuters

Syria aid access talks widen to full UN Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, 4 July — Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan circulated a draft resolution to the 15-member UN Security Council on Thursday that seeks to boost cross-border humanitarian access in Syria but it was not immediately clear if Russia and China would support the move.

After more than a month of negotiations with the permanent veto-wielding council members — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — the draft text will now be discussed with the remaining elected members next week, diplomats said.

Western members have tried to reach a compromise with Russia — a close ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad — and China by using language in the draft similar to that used in a unanimously adopted resolution on Syria’s chemical weapons.

Russia, supported by China, has already vetoed four resolutions threatening any action against Assad’s government amid a three-year civil war that has killed at least 150,000 people. The draft resolution threatens measures, such as sanctions, against any Syrian party who does not comply with the council’s demands for the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance

throughout the country.

This would mean that for any action to be taken, the Security Council would need to agree on a second resolution.

Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan drafted the text as a follow-up to their unanimously adopted February resolution on aid access in Syria, which has failed to make a difference.

The United Nations says some 10.8 million people in Syria need help, of which 4.7 million are in hard-to-reach areas, while another three million have fled the conflict. The draft does not reference Chapter 7 of the UN charter, which covers the council’s authority to enforce decisions with economic sanctions or military force, though the language is the same as what would normally be in a Chapter 7 resolution.

Russia says it would veto a Chapter 7 resolution that would allow cross-border aid deliveries without Syrian government consent. In a letter to the Security Council last month, Syria warned that such deliveries would amount to an attack, suggesting it would have the right to retaliate. The United Nations said in April it would need a Chapter 7 resolution to be able to deliver aid across borders without the Syrian government’s consent.—Reuters

Costa Concordia wreck set to be refloated in 10 days

ROME, 4 July — The wreck of the *Costa Concordia* cruise liner is set to be refloated within 10 days, to be towed away from the Italian island where it ran aground and capsized two and a half years ago, the group organizing the removal said on Thursday.

The hulk of the 290-metre ship was righted and secured in a complex operation off the Tuscan holiday island of Giglio last September and, with the arrival of calm summer weather, is now due to be towed to Genoa to be broken up for scrap.

The last of 30 stabilizing devices or “sponsons” was attached to the wreck on Thursday and technicians will now start to test all the systems for the final refloating, the Concordia Wreck Removal Project said in a statement.



Navy officials release a wreath in front of the *Costa Concordia* liner to mark the second anniversary of the tragedy outside Giglio harbour in this on 13 Jan, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS

“Following installation of the last sponson, we can start the countdown to refloating and final departure of the wreck,” Michael Thamm, chief executive of Costa Cruises, a unit of the liner’s owner Carnival Corp, said in the statement.

The organizers said the last phases of the project to remove the 114,500-tonne vessel, the largest maritime salvage in history, would be explained in detail in the next few days.

A consortium including oil services group Saipem and the Genoa-based companies Mariotti and San Giorgio will carry out the dismantling.

The ship’s captain, Francesco Schettino, is on trial accused of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning ship. Thirty-two people died in the catastrophe.—Reuters

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES— FIRMS
SELECTION)

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project**

Credit No: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Management consultant for Thaton Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant

Reference No.: MEPE-CS-5

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for environmental and social management consulting services.

The environmental and social management consulting services ("the Services") are in support of the Project's investments in new gas-fired power generation capacity and include the following scope:

1. Execution of an Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) due diligence audit at the Natural Gas Turbines Power Plant in Thaton, Myanmar;
2. Preparation of an EHS Management System (MS) for the Thaton Power Plant and support towards its international accreditation;
3. Advisory services to Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) and the Thaton Power Plant management regarding implementation of the Project's Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP, which has been prepared as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the site investments), the EHS-MS and EHS requirements by the contractor for installation of the new power generation units in Thaton.
4. Advisory services to MEPE regarding establishing environmental and social safeguards capabilities within its organization.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 24 months, starting in November 2014.

The MEPE now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services Interested Consultants should provide information

demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. The interested consulting firms should have at least 10 years of experience in the area of environmental and social advisory services to the power sector, relevant references for gas fired power stations are advantageous;
2. A strong record in environmental and social impact assessments; environmental due diligence audits; development and supporting accreditation of environmental, health and safety management systems;
3. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 8 years; and
4. Experience of working in the Client's country or similar country environment.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by July 15, 2014

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise

Attn: U Win Myint, Chief Engineer
Building-27

Ministry of Electric Power

Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel :095-67-410-556

Fax: 095-67-410-557

E-mail: -gtceoffice@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (393)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (393) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULNATEE VOY NO (08/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (08/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186



A model presents jewelry creations at a fashion show during the Singapore International Jewelry Expo held in Singapore's Marina Bay Sands Expo, on 3 July, 2014. The four-day Singapore International Jewelry Expo kicked off here on Thursday.
XINHUA

Mexico's
"Beast" cargo
train derails,
killing one,
injuring several

MEXICO CITY, 4 July — At least one person was killed and several were injured on Thursday when Mexico's notorious cargo train "La Bestia" (The Beast) derailed, an official source said.

Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) issued a Press release saying the accident occurred along a stretch of rail in the southern state of Oaxaca's Isthmus of Tehuantepec region.

The train is regularly used by Central American and Mexican migrants, who ride atop the cargo cars on their way north to the US border.

The derailment was the result of old and poorly maintained rail tracks, train operators said.

Also known as the "train of death," the cargo train has derailed on various occasions.

Xinhua

Australia introduces new legislation to
curb gun-related crime

CANBERRA, 4 July — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced on Friday that the government is going to introduce this month new legislation to target gun-related crimes.

The new legislation will implement minimum mandatory five year jail terms for illegal firearm trafficking.

"Ensuring our streets, homes and communities are safe will take tough and effective measures to assist the fight against crime," Abbott said in a statement.

"Taking a national approach to gun-related

crime is one measure that will help make communities safer." The Australian Crime Commission estimates there are 250,000 illicit "long arms" and at least 10,000 illicit hand guns in Australia.

The government will target gun traffickers and criminals who move firearms and firearm parts into and out of Australia.

"Right now we face serious challenges from international events and these new and emerging threats make it more important than ever that we work together to keep our borders

secure and to keep our communities safe, to keep people who would do us harm under the closest possible supervision," Abbott said at the inaugural meeting of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council in Melbourne on Friday morning.

The prime minister said national anti-gang strike teams are operational in most of the states and as a result of the establishment of these teams and Australian Federal Police and state police are working together to curb crimes.

Xinhua



Molly Schuyler competes during the 6th annual Independence Burger Eating Championship in Washington DC, the United States, on 3 July, 2014. Molly Schuyler won the champion and 1,500 dollars by eating 26 burgers in 10 minutes.
XINHUA

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Jazzman Marsalis trumpets youth, musical diversity



US jazz trumpeter
Wynton Marsalis

LONDON, 4 July — The solo played by US jazzman Wynton Marsalis to close his now-annual residency at London's Barbican this week was a rare personal moment in what was otherwise a master class in sharing the limelight.

In lieu of a full-fledged encore with his 14-strong Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra (JLCO), Marsalis entertained with a small combo, delighting an already bouncing crowd with swooping scales of trumpet. But for much of the time over the three nights, Marsalis allowed his band and guests to shine in performances that ran the

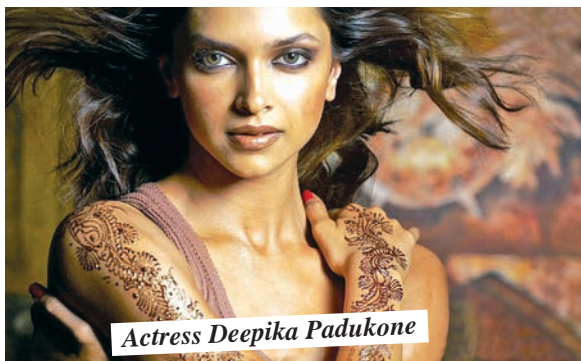
gamut from Pakistani sitar jazz to reflections on the '50s and '60s music of the legendary Blue Note jazz record label. Wednesday's Blue Note tribute of tracks by the likes of Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson and Woody Shaw, for example, involved arrangements by nine different members of the band, solos from all, and Marsalis himself sometimes only playing fourth trumpet.

There were also guest performances by young jazz musicians, brought on by Marsalis both to highlight and develop their skills — a tip to the 52-year-old Marsalis's other persona as a mentor and teacher.

"My father is a teacher and as I grew up he had classes in the community. When I started to go on the road with (jazz drummer and bandleader) Art Blakey when I was 18, I started to do classes," Marsalis told Reuters in an interview.

Reuters

Deepika Padukone voted World's Sexiest Woman in magazine poll



Actress Deepika Padukone

MUMBAI, 4 July — Actress Deepika Padukone has been voted the sexiest woman in the world in a poll conducted by the *FHM* magazine.

She will feature in the new edition of the magazine and the actress on Wednesday unveiled the edition featuring her and the other girls in the top 100 list of sexiest women. However, Deepika believes that her physical appearance has nothing to do with this poll and it is only her work that has led her to this.

"I think something like this is really the result of the work that I do. I don't think it has got anything to do with me physically. I also think that the brand endorsements are also the result of the films that you do," the statusque actress said here.

"I have been very fortunate that the roles I have done in the last 2-3 years have been very different from each other. So I guess this and the endorsements are a result of that and, of course, the success of that and the relatability of the characters," she added. Deepika was last seen in the Tamil film *Kochadaiyaan*. Her look in her upcoming film *Finding Fanny Fernandes* is also out. The film has been directed by Homi Adajania and also stars Arjun Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah and Dimple Kapadia. — PTI

On Reddit, Priyanka Chopra says "Ask me anything," lives to regret it



Priyanka Chopra

MUMBAI, 4 July — Priyanka Chopra's Reddit Q and A with 'fans' on 2 July didn't quite go as expected. Priyanka found time for the Reddit chat despite, as she put it, "crisscrossing the world shooting for a film in Europe, attending a family wedding in the US, taking care of business in India." She probably wishes she hadn't now.

"Ask me anything," she said, and was promptly attacked by an army of trolls. Of course, she didn't actually say she would

answer — and so Priyanka ignored most of the questions put to her, especially those that asked her why her late father deserved to have a road in Mumbai named after him. The questions ranged from

absurd — 'Kya aapke toothpaste mein namak hain (Does your toothpaste have salt in it)?' — to uncomfortable — "Recently a road was renamed in Andheri, Mumbai after your father. What was the reason that it was renamed? What contributions has your father made that a road was renamed after him and not after countless other people who strived and died for

India? What made you decide to nominate him and not other people for such a thing?"

"How important is Auto-Tune in your singing career?," Reddit users wanted to know. Also, "what is your opinion about Bollywood directors blatantly ripping off international movies and getting upset that their movies are accepted at international film festivals?" — a reference to Priyanka's film *Barfi!*

PTI

NEW YORK, 4 July — Actress Lindsay Lohan is suing the makers of the popular "Grand Theft Auto V" video game, saying it used her likeness without permission, according to a lawsuit filed on Wednesday.

Lohan accused New York-based Take-Two Interactive Software Inc and its label Rockstar Games of creating a look-alike character named Lacey Jonas to boost sales, according to the complaint in state Supreme Court in New York. For months ahead of the game's release, the complaint said, the companies promoted the Lacey Jonas character and a side plot in which players must rescue her from swarms of paparazzi.

Lohan was once one of Hollywood's most sought-after young actresses with starring roles in movies such as 1998's "The Parent Trap" and 2004's "Mean Girls," but of late has become better known for her legal woes that include theft and reckless driving. She has been to rehab six times.

The in-game Jonas shares similarities with the real-life Lohan, including her voice, image and outfits from her clothing line, the complaint said. The game also features the Hotel Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood, California, where the actress once lived. Claiming that the game violates her privacy rights under New York law, Lohan is seeking undetermined damages.

A spokesman for Take Two declined to comment. The 16-year-old Grand Theft Auto franchise has won numerous awards and become embedded in popular culture over the years. But the criminal drama and action-adventure series has also stirred controversy over the violent and adult nature of its content. — Reuters

Lindsay Lohan sues makers of 'Grand Theft Auto V' video game



GENERAL



Cyclers ride on Via dei Fori Imperiali, a pedestrian road in Rome, Italy, on 3 July, 2014. In a bid to protect its ancient glories from modern perils, Rome will ban motorized vehicles from the area around the iconic Spanish Steps, Rome's mayor Ignazio Marino announced on Tuesday. The bike enthusiast mayor wants Rome to become a more pedestrian-friendly city. —XINHUA

Fijian PM declares assets, liabilities in preparation for general election

SUVA, 4 July — Fijian Prime Minister and leader of the FijiFirst party Voreqe Bainimarama's declaration of assets and liabilities was published on Friday, which shows Bainimarama receives a total annual income of 278,750 Fiji dollars (153,312 US dollars).

The declaration came less than three months before the general election, scheduled to be held on 17 September, a Wednesday that will be a paid public holiday to encourage more

voters to cast ballots.

The Fijian prime minister gets 230,000 Fiji dollars (126,499 US dollars) in salary, 20,000 Fiji dollars (11,000 US dollars) entertainment allowance and other allowances totaling 28,750 Fiji dollars (15,812 US dollars), according to his declaration. Bainimarama's net assets stand at 51,704 Fiji dollars (28,153 US dollars).

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, secretary general of the

FijiFirst party, has also declared his assets and liabilities, which shows that Sayed-Khaiyum's annual income is 185,000 Fiji dollars (101,750 US dollars) and his net assets stand at 126,935 Fiji dollars (69,814 US dollars).

Aside from the FijiFirst party, which registered in late May, other registered political parties include the Social Democratic Liberal Party, the National Federation Party, and the Fiji Labour Party.

Bainimarama, who came to power after the 2006 coup led by him, resigned as the Fijian military's commander on 5 March. After the naval officer's resignation from the military, Fijian President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau announced that in recognition of Bainimarama's 39 years of distinguished service in the military and contribution to the country, his rank has been promoted from commodore to rear admiral.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(5-7-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:20 am**
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:40 am**
- * Hyper Sports
- 8:00 am**
- * News / International News
- 8:30 am**
- * TV Drama Series
- 9:30 am**
- * Documentary
- 10:00 am**
- * News
- 11:15 am**
- * Cultural Dances
- 12:00 pm**
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 1:45 pm**
- * Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News
- 2:40 pm**
- * Business News
- 3:00 pm**
- * News
- 4:30 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Zoology)
- 5:15 pm**
- * Golden Music of Old Stars
- 6:00 pm**
- * News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
- * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 7:20 pm**
- * Teleplay
- 8:35**
- * Documentary
- 9:00 pm**
- * News
- * Myanmar Series
- * Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-7-14 07:00 am~
6-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
- * Local News
- * Celebration "Shwe Myanmar"
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * Youth Film Maker (Sai Aung Tun)
- * World News
- * Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
- * Local News
- * Kachin Land: Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State
- * World News
- * Kid's Home
- * Local News
- * Distinct People, Different Lifestyles (Pan-Pack Village)
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe
- * Local News
- * Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * Bagan Choral Dance
- * Local News
- * Martial Arts: A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Guitar
- * Local News
- * A Journey to Southern Shan State (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Indian Footsteps

Bouchard and Kvitova ready to go nuts at Wimbledon

LONDON, 4 July — It was "a weird match with a weird ending" but all Eugenie Bouchard cared about was the split-second in which she saw Simona Halep's lunging service return spinning into the net.

It was the moment that confirmed her 7-6(5), 6-2 victory over the Romanian third seed at Wimbledon on Thursday.

More importantly, it was the moment that had been 15 years in the making as she became the first Canadian — man or woman — to reach a grand slam final. The fact that she had set a final date with 2011 champion Petra Kvitova in an arena she calls the "Temple of Tennis" should have sparked some joyous celebrations.

But there were no tears, no leaps of joy and no sinking to the knees. She briefly raised her arms, blew some kisses and then strode out with the air of a champion-in-waiting who knew her "job was not done yet".

"It's not a surprise for me. I expect good results like this. I totally feel like I belong. But I still have another match so it's not a full celebration yet," said the remarkably self-assured 20-year-old.

It was a sentiment shared by Kvitova after she came out on top of a semi-final between two Czechs - and two lefties — by subduing Lucie Safarova 7-6(6), 6-1.

"Still one more to come. I want to be focused

on that now," said the sixth seed whose career has somewhat plateaued since her breakthrough win here three years ago.

Following the heart-pumping and nerve-jangling excitement of the previous 48 hours, when Rafael Nadal and champion Andy Murray departed after being thumped by the 'generation-next' of brazen big hitters, Thursday's two semi-finals seemed rather anticlimactic.

Neither contest scaled the heights of a Wimbledon blockbuster but that mattered little to Kvitova or Bouchard.

What Kvitova cared about was that she was now two sets away from shedding her one-hit wonder tag. —Reuters



Eugenie Bouchard (CAN) in action during her match against Simona Halep (ROU) on day 10 of the 2014 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club. — REUTERS

Wolff adds female face to Friday F1 practice

SILVERSTONE, (England), 4 July — Susie Wolff will accelerate out of the Silverstone pitlane on Friday to become the first woman driver in 22 years to take part in a grand prix weekend.

It is a big step for the 31-year-old Scot, who replaces Williams' Finnish regular Valtteri Bottas for first practice at the British Grand Prix, and a day she has been working towards for years.

The 90-minute session will be the closest she has come to ending what is now a 38-year wait for a woman to actually race with the men but it could also be as far as she gets in that ambition.

There are no plans for a race drive but Wolff aims to show at least that the only barriers for women aspiring to enter the sport should be the same as for the men — the metal ones ringing the

circuit.

"I think tomorrow is a really big day for Susie," deputy team principal Claire Williams, daughter of founder Frank, told reporters.

"She goes out there with her peers in a competitive situation. Yes we are doing a lot of setup work over long runs with

heavy fuel loads and stuff but I still think you will be able to judge her more than you have been able to in the past," Wolff, wife of Mercedes motorsport head Toto who is also a Williams shareholder, made her test debut for the team at Silverstone last year.

She will be working through the same pro-

gramme Bottas — who finished third at the previous race in Austria — would have carried out.

That means preparing the car for the second and third practice sessions and Saturday qualifying and providing feedback for engineers. "She's got to deliver technically, which she's done," Williams said.

"If she hadn't have done that we wouldn't have allowed her to progress up into the test driver role last year and then the Friday sessions this year.

"We're not running her tomorrow to see how good she is," added Williams.

Fellow drivers welcomed her involvement.

Lewis Hamilton, the 2008 world champion who is a race favourite for Mercedes in his home grand prix, said Wolff was one of the few women he could recall competing against in junior series.—Reuters



Williams Formula One test driver Susie Wolff of Britain waves as she stands in the team garage ahead of the British Grand Prix at the Silverstone Race Circuit, central England, on 3 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Stadler hails Ryder venue after grabbing French Open lead



US golfer Kevin Stadler hits his tee shot on the 10th hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia on 11 April, 2014. —REUTERS

PARIS, 4 July — Kevin Stadler, son of 1982 US Masters champion Craig, showered praise on the 2018 Ryder Cup venue of Le Golf National after sprinting clear of the field in the first round of the French Open on Thursday.

The burly American reeled off seven birdies in a seven-under-par 64 to move one stroke clear of Germany's Marcel Siem. Stephen Gallacher was in third place on 66, one ahead of fellow Briton Jamie Donaldson and Chilean Felipe Aguilar. "To not make a bogey out there is something I didn't think was possible when I first played it," the 35-year-old Stadler told reporters. "It's instantly one of my favorite courses ever, I thought it was spectacular from hole one to the end." —Reuters

'I let the country down' — Australia keeper Ryan

MELBOURNE, 4 July — Australia goalkeeper Mat Ryan was on the verge of tears after letting through the goal that dumped the Socceroos out of the World Cup and is no less hard on himself after a few weeks to reflect.

On the last line of an inexperienced Socceroos' defence, the 22-year-old conceded nine goals from three matches and is still tormented by the Memphis Depay strike that gave Netherlands a 3-2 win.

Ryan was slow to pick up midfielder Depay's speculative shot from well outside the box and the lunging keeper managed only to get a hand to it.

That spelt the end of the Socceroos' tournament and the team duly crashed to a 3-0 thrashing at the hands of fellow evictees Spain in their final dead rubber match.

"It's never easy for a goalkeeper to make a mistake and unfortunately in the Netherlands game, the third goal, I was pretty disappointed with my effort," Ryan, who plays for Brugge in Belgium's top flight, said in comments published by News Ltd.

"It was probably the hardest five days of my life yet. It's never good making a mistake, let alone on the world stage in Brazil and at the World Cup, and I felt like I let my country down a little bit.

"Conceding three goals a game at that level isn't good enough. But in saying that there were a couple of saves I made, which was good for the confidence to show at that level I can make a save or two and hopefully in the future I can go away and learn from it."

Named the best keeper in the Belgian Pro League last season, Ryan replaced the long-serving Mark Schwarzer in a youthful Socceroos squad that will be expected to take the lessons from Brazil into the Asian Cup on home soil next year.

Though finishing without a point for the first time in their four World Cup campaigns, Ange Postecoglou-coached Australia won plaudits for their enterprising play, despite being the lowest ranked team at the finals.

"We've still got a lot of hard work in front of us," said Ryan. "We have to put together performances for the full 90 minutes, not just match it for 70. "But the reception we received from the public was overwhelming and we're so proud to hear such great words being spoken of the team." —Reuters

Belgium unveil Messi plan with a Hazard of their own

SALVADOR, (Brazil), 4 July — Belgium pointed to Eden Hazard as a potential match winner as they laid out a strategy to combat

Lionel Messi and Argentina when they meet in their World Cup quarter-final in Brasilia on Saturday.

"Hey, we've got Eden," teammate Kevin Mirallas said on

Thursday as reporters sought answers to the question of dealing with the threat of Argentina's multiple World Footballer of the Year award winner.

"You can't compare him with Messi or (Cristiano) Ronaldo, but he is still something special." Seeing off Argenti-

na's talismanic threat will be a communal effort, added defender Jan Vertonghen.

"We have to stand together as team. If Messi gets past one of us, then there must a second and third player ready to stop him."

But he added it was Argentina who had more to fret over as they prepared a game plan against the Belgians, who have four wins under their belt in Brazil already.

"We are a team that is difficult for an opponent to prepare against and to play against," Vertonghen insisted.

"We can play different systems and we have a lot of good players on the bench. It is exceptional to have so many different qualities in a squad. We are

certainly not scared about Saturday."

Midfielder Axel Witsel said the game in the Brazilian capital might even prove easier than their previous matches at tournament.

"It is understandable that in the group phase we played against cagey teams and found it difficult against them.

"Against the Americans (in the last 16) there was much more room and I expect Argentina to look

to dictate the play. Hopefully that gives us room to infiltrate and our players can profit from the gaps they offer.

We have a lot of players with with pace.

"The Argentines haven't played well to date," added Witsel.—Reuters



World Cup 2014 Brazil			
Quarter-finals			
 Match-60	 Argentina	22:30 MST (5.7.2014)	 Belgium
	 Netherlands	2:30 MST (6.7.2014)	 Costa Rica