

Men's canoeists clinch Myanmar's first gold of 28th SEA Games



Vice President U Nyan Tun seen together with gold medalists Myanmar canoeists Sai Min Wai and Win Htike.—MNA

SINGAPORE, 6 June— Canoeists Sai Min Wai and Win Htike on Saturday captured Myanmar's first gold medal of the 28th

SEA Games in the men's C2 doubles 1000-meter race here.

The winning pair finished in a time of 3:43.814,

ahead of Indonesian duo Yunus Muhammad and Tarra Anwar in 3:44.950 and the Philippines' Ojay Fuentes and Hermie

Macaranas in 3:58.377.

Vice President U Nyan Tun presented the Myanmar canoeists with their medals after watching the race with Union Minister for Sports U Tint San and deputy ministers.

In the C1 1000m men's event, Myanmar's Thant Zin Oo snared Silver in a time of 4:06.707, behind Indonesian gold medalist Marjuki in 4:02.349. The Philippines' Hermie Macaranas took

bronze.

In the K1 1000m kayak event, Aung Myo Thu from Myanmar took bronze, finishing behind Lucas Teo, of Singapore, and Wichan Jaitieng, of Thailand.—GNLM

Ayeyawady Region boasts highest pass rate in matriculation exams



Students searching their names as Matriculation exam results coming out.

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June— Matriculation exam results for 2015 were announced in all states and regions on Saturday, the Ministry of Education said.

High schools in the Nay Pyi Taw council area were packed with matriculation students waiting for the exam results from 4:30 a.m.

The council area saw a 30.59 percent pass rate, with 5,005 students passing, including 1,007 who received distinctions. A total of 16,359 students took the exam in March in the area. Last year, it had a 27.13 percent pass rate with no distinctions.

The national pass rate was 37.60 percent, with

MNA 224,847 passing from among 597,946 examinees.

Ayeyawady Region boasted the highest pass rate at 51.78 percent, followed by Mon State and Magway Region at 43.40 percent and 40.86 percent respectively.

Five-time champion Mon State has to hand over its championship to Ayeyawady this year, which held second place last year.

Four vision-impaired students from a school for the blind in Kyimyindaing Township matriculated with distinction, according to the headmistress.

Daw Su Su Mar said six students from her school took the exam, with one of the four winning distinctions in three subjects.

The 100-year-old school houses about 150 students, providing accommodation and food to them free of charge.

Than Oo (Laymyathna) and Aung Thura

Toddy farms in danger of disappearance

MAHLAING, Sagaing Region, 6 June— Toddy palm, botanically known as *borassus flabellifer*, is a plant of many uses. Its trunks can be made into furniture. Its fruits serve as snacks. It is also medicinal. All parts of a toddy plant are good for health, but toddy juice should not be consumed with pork and bananas.

There are two kinds of toddy palm, male and female. When seeds are planted face down, they grow male toddy plants. And when planted face up, the seeds grow female young plants. It is female toddy trees that bear fruits. Male plants only yield toddy shoots.

Toddy trees, both male

and female, give juice over 15 years after being grown. The juice is sweet and can be brewed and served as a raw alcoholic beverage. In addition, the collected juice can be simmered to make jaggery balls. Toddy roots are edible too. They are usually baked or boiled.

Now, toddy plants are on the verge of extinction. With prices for toddy produce and products falling,

people have come to lose interest in toddy farming. In addition, the growing prices of teak and hard wood have forced people to turn to toddy stems for building materials and fences. Some researchers have warned about the possible disappearance of toddy farms in ten years' time, stressing bad weather patterns will follow as a result.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)



Myanmar vs. Philippines match to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Football fans will be able to watch a live broadcast of Myanmar's match against the Philippines at the 28th Southeast Asian Games on Sunday, with MRTV News Channel and MRTV Entertainment Channel confirming they will air the group stage game.

The game will be broadcast at 6:30 p.m. Myanmar standard time on 7 June by MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanma Radio. Regular 8 p.m. news programmes will be rescheduled to 9 p.m.—MNA

New school building under construction in Lewe Tsp



NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — A ceremony on 4 June marked the beginning of construction of a new building at Basic Education High School in Okshithlaing Village, Lewe Township.

The Ministry of Education allotted K15.12 million for construction of a 140-foot-long and 30-foot-wide two-storey building in this year's budget.

The ceremony was attended by presiding Nayaka abbot of the village monastery Bhaddanta Sujana, headmaster U Kya Nyo and teachers together with local residents.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Power-tillers sold through installment to farmers in Pyinmana Township

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June— The Ministry of Cooperatives and South Korea's Daedong Group sold agricultural machinery to farm-

ers in west Gyobin village in Pyinmana Township on 5 June.

Deputy Director of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Cooperative Department U Myo Chit spoke about sales of 98 power-tillers to local farmers through installment.

Dr Kang Ki Toe of the

company explained sales of Daedong power-tillers to the farmers.

After the ceremony, South Korean guests presented clothes and soft drinks to local farmers and students.

Maung Kyaik Latt



Planting ceremony marks World Environment Day

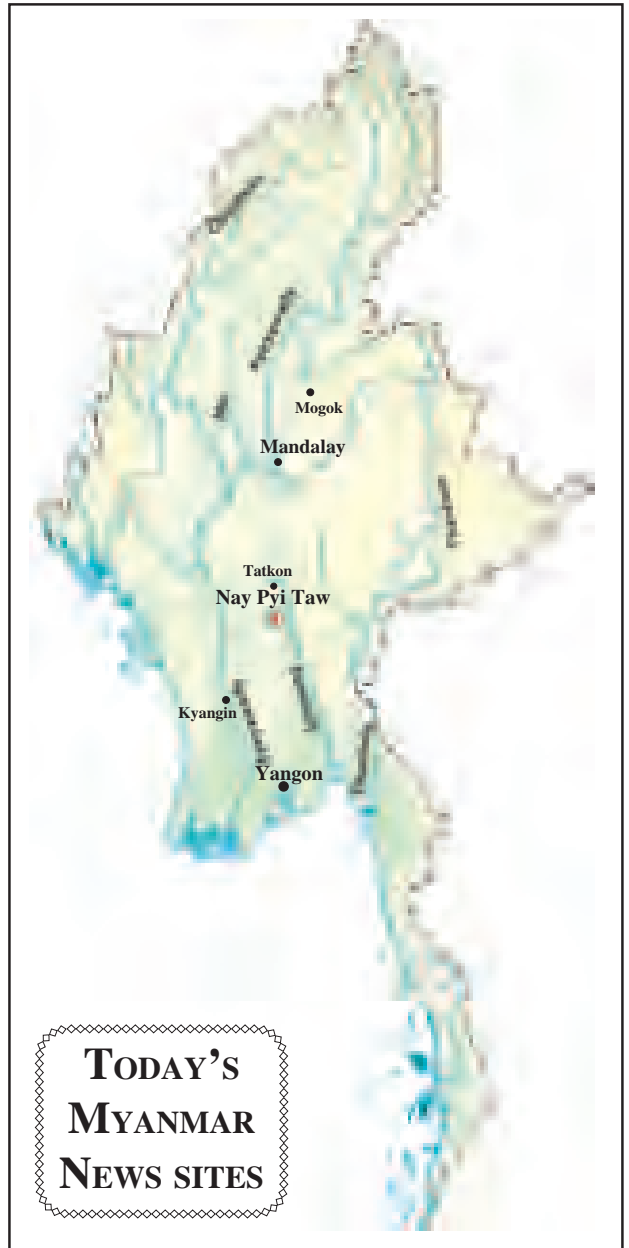
KYANGIN, 6 June — In commemoration of World Environment Day 2015, the Kyangin Township Forest Department organized a tree planting ceremony along Pathein-Monywa

Road in Kya-in Village, Betye.

Township Administrator U Phyo Min Htaik, Commander of Township Police Force Major Aung Ko and Township Forest

Department staff officer U Hsan Win led the people and social organization members in planting some 1,500 saplings along the road.

Ayeya Oo Thar



Myanmar Railways invites bids for Kyimyindine Station development

Passengers wait for a train approaching Kyimyindine station on the 47-kilometre Yangon circular rail line that connects 39 stations.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO KYIMYINDINE RAILWAY STATION



By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 June — Myanmar Railways on Friday invited local and foreign firms to bid on a project to develop Yangon's Kyimyindine Station into a transportation, retail and commercial hub.

The new Kyimyindine railway station complex will be an essential part of

the development of greater Yangon city, Myanmar Railways said in a newspaper advertisement announcing the tender.

According to the ad, the project will include multi-storied commercial and office buildings, hotels and serviced apartments across 2.63 hectares (6.48 acres). The project will be implemented in line with

an international tender process, it said. The deadline is 5 August for local, international or joint venture developers or investors to submit expression of interest documents to undertake the designing, construction and operation of the complex.

Myanmar Railways in April invited bids for development of a Pazundaung station complex. — GNLM

NATIONAL

Community prepares to celebrate Venerable Parama's centenary



Venerable Bhaddanta Parama

MANDALAY, 6 June— Preparations are under way to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Venerable Parama, who will mark his centenary this December after 79 years of monkhood.

The Venerable Parama is abbot of Tar Tun Aye monastery, situated in Satkhingyi village of Mandalay Region's Mahlaing Township, where he was born in 1915.

Having renounced the material world to concentrate on meditation, the senior monk said spiritual purity is more important than popularity.

Born Mg Ba Thein, he was the eighth son of nine children born to U Kuam and Daw Shwe Myint.

He remained in the monkhood after being sent to the village monastery as a young boy, in the Myanmar tradition, choosing to further his monastic education.

The local community, comprised largely of farmers, is now preparing for a grand centenary celebration at the monastery in December.

The Venerable Parama has led many religious activities in his lifetime, including the construction of pagodas and monasteries, and remains totally self-sufficient, receiving alms and reading with healthy eyes.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Traditional pottery techniques survive in Sagaing Region village

MAHLAING, (Sagaing Region), 6 June — A pottery industry based on centuries-old techniques handed down from generation to generation is thriving in Nwenein, a village of some 2,000 households near Shwebo district in Sagaing Region.

Ko Zaw Lin Naing, a native of Nwenein, said his village has handed down the knowledge since the times of King Alaungphaya, who founded Yanguon in 1755.

Situated by the Ayeyawady River, the village is frequented by tourists

Combined effort for peace will save locals from armed conflict: Pyithu Hluttaw speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — A combined effort to restore peace will save innocent people from armed conflict and ill consequences, the speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw on Saturday told a meeting in the town of Mone, Bago Region.

The town is notorious for its chronic armed conflict which has still left local people disconsolate, Thura U Shwe Mann added. He explained the local government's effort to improve accessibility to

the town. He urged local people to be frank with their requirements for regional development activities.

The speaker also visited the hospital in the town, where he conversed with patients.

He also went on in-

spection tours of basic schools and provided cash assistance for their maintenance and renovation.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets local people in Mone, Bago Region.

MNA



Myanmar to uphold int'l responsibility on boat people: gov't

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — Myanmar will fulfil its responsibility as a member of the international community and continue searching for boat people on humanitarian groups, despite the issue posing challenges to the country, said U Htin Linn, acting director general of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

U Htin Linn said in a recent interview with

SkyNet TV, "Boat people are not refugees. They tried to migrate for the better life by their own consent, or enticement of human trafficking groups."

During a regional conference in Bangkok on 29 May to address the issue of boat people in Southeast Asia, Myanmar rejected the UNHCR's accusation that discrimination and oppression in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine were causes of the boat people crisis.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 17 countries and officials from international organizations such as the UN refugee agency and the International Organization for Migration.

Myanmar delegates made suggestions at the



U Htin Linn, acting director general of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

conference about law enforcement to combat human trafficking rings and the role of the media in sharing information and

spreading the message about serious punishment for human trafficking.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop at a separate international conference said Indonesian officials told her most of the 7,000 people stranded in Southeast Asia boat crisis are illegal labourers, not refugees.

The acting director general also said Myanmar will give shelter to these boat people for only a limited period of time.

Rakhine State officials and the Bangladeshi Consulate in Sittwe visited the shelters of boat people in Taungpyoletwei, in Maungtaw district to oversee the nationality scrutinizing process and to provide them with aid.—MNA

World Bank framework will improve electricity, services: gov't

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — Myanmar will have better access to electricity and other basic services in the next three year under a full partnership framework between the country and the World Bank, the first since 1984, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The board of directors of the Washington-based monetary institution have endorsed the 2015-2017 Country Partnership Framework and will provide up to \$1.6 billion in

credits, loans and grants, as well as technical assistance and knowledge from the International Development Association, the bank's fund for the poorest countries.

According to the bank, the CPF focuses on reducing rural poverty, providing basic services, and stimulating the private sector in an inclusive manner, so that the poor and vulnerable in particular can share in the benefits of reform.

The CPF draws on its

engagement with the government, the private sector and a broad range of civil society, which has helped build mutual understanding and identify priority issues for Myanmar.

The aid programme was based on findings from the bank group's recent Systematic Country Diagnostic, extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, and lessons learned since the institution began re-engagement in Myanmar in 2012.—GNLM



REGIONAL

Bangladesh and India to swap 18th-century border enclaves

DHAKA, 6 June — Bangladesh and India will seal an agreement simplifying their 4,000-km border at the weekend, over four decades after the neighbours first tried to untangle complex territorial rights set down in 1713.

The agreement will be one of several to be finalised during a two-day state visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi beginning on Saturday, Dhaka's Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali told journalists on Friday.

In 1974, the then leaders of the two countries — Indira Gandhi of India and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh — agreed to swap almost 200 enclaves of land located in one country but officially belonging

to the other.

“But with the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (in 1975), along with the almost all the members of his family, the process of the agreement stopped for a long time,” Ali said.

The agreement, which has since been updated, will be “a historic milestone in the relationship between the two neighbouring south Asian countries,” he added.

Established by a treaty between two former princely states, the 106 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 92 Bangladeshi enclaves in India are islands of foreign territory inside each country, most of them close to the official border.

Their inhabitants — about 37,330 in Indian en-

claves and 14,200 in Bangladeshi enclaves — are deprived of public services because their governments have no access to them.

Under the agreement, each country will take over most of the enclaves on its territory and inhabitants will have the right to stay where they are or move to the other side of the border.

Ali said the two countries would also sign a number of deals to boost trade and security along the border and fight human trafficking.

Officials would also discuss a possible increase in Indian aid for Dhaka and in Bangladeshi electricity imports from India.

In a separate meeting on Friday, the Bangladeshi central bank governor Atiur



Female personnel of India's Border Security Force (BSF) patrol along the fencing of the India-Bangladesh international border ahead of India's Independence Day celebrations, at Dhanpur village in Tripura on 11 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

Rahman urged Indian businesses to use his country as a low-cost manufacturing base for goods for local and global markets.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said

the two countries could expand bilateral trade considerably if they opened new land customs stations and increased banking and financial cooperation.

“Bangladesh aims to

become a middle-income country by 2021 and India should emerge as a strong partner in realizing this goal,” CII President Sumit Mazumder said in a statement.—Reuters

Abe picks Shima in central Japan as 2016 G-7 summit venue

TOKYO, 6 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday the city of Shima in central Japan's Mie Prefecture will be the venue for the annual Group of Seven summit of major industrialized countries in 2016. Before his departure for this year's G-7 summit in Germany, Abe said he picked the city famous for its saw-tooth coastline so that “world leaders will feel cultural tradition and beautiful nature.” The premier also expressed hope that the leaders will visit Ise Shrine, dedicated to the ancestral deities of the Japanese imperial family. The Shinto shrine, which dates back around 2,000 years, is located in Mie Prefecture.

Abe is believed to have chosen Mie, located some 300 kilometres southwest from Tokyo, for security reasons. The main facility for next year's G-7 summit, expected to be held sometime between May and June, will likely be held at a hotel on Kashiko Island.

The island in Ago Bay, known globally for its pearl farming, is one of Japan's most famous marine resorts. It is part of Ise-Shima

National Park that also includes Ise Shrine.

Shima Kanko Hotel The Classic is seen as the leading candidate for the main facility. It has hosted various international conferences since its opening in 1951. It was the first resort hotel to open in the postwar era in Japan, and is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2016 after renovation

work. The choice of Mie would help Abe's push for revitalizing regional economies, as the prime minister aims to end nearly two decades of deflation.

The prime minister picked Shima from eight candidate sites that had expressed readiness to host the event. The other seven candidates were Karuizawa, Sendai, Niigata, Hama-

matsu, Nagoya, Kobe and Hiroshima. Abe said the government would consider choosing venues for G-7 ministerial meetings from the candidate sites.

The National Police Agency advised Abe's office that the city of Shima and the town of Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture were “desirable” in terms of security.—Kyodo News

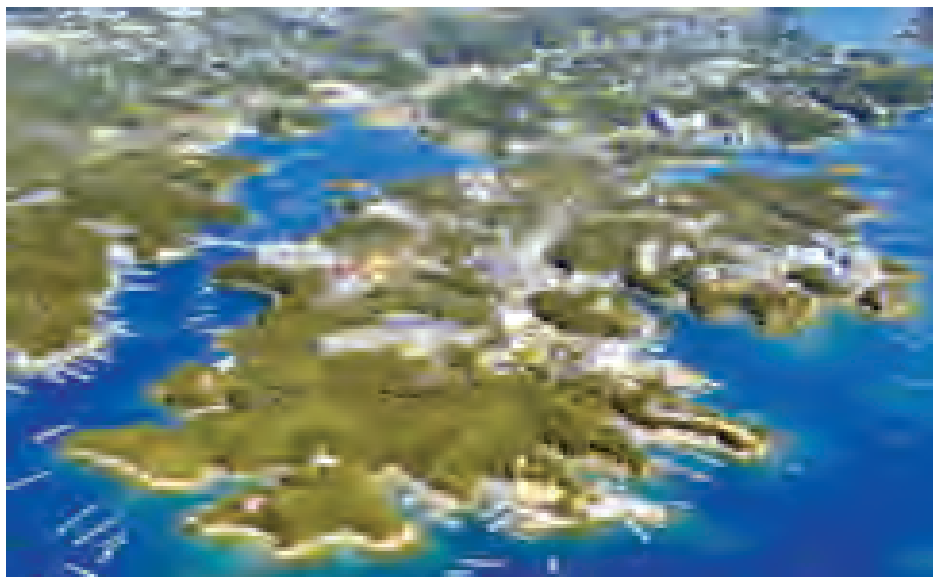


Photo taken in March 2013 shows Kashiko Island in the city of Shima in central Japan's Mie Prefecture. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on 5 June, 2015, Shima, famous for its saw-tooth coastline, will be the venue for the annual Group of Seven summit of major industrialized countries in 2016. The main facility for the G-7 summit, expected to be held sometime between May and June 2016, will likely be a hotel on Kashiko Island. —KYODO NEWS

Japan, China hold meeting of finance ministers 1st time in three years

BEIJING, 6 June — Japan and China on Saturday held a meeting of their finance ministers for the first time in more than three years to discuss how Asia's two biggest economies should best respond to fast-growing demand for infrastructure financing in the region.

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and his Chinese counterpart Lou Jiwei were also expected to share their views in Beijing on other topics, including the current health of the global economy, and the tax and fiscal systems of the two countries. Japan and China resumed the so-called finance dialogue, last held in April 2012, amid a broader thaw in bilateral relations, which had been in a deep freeze due to disputes over territory and wartime issues.

Relations between the two countries have shown “momentum toward improvement,” Lou told Aso at the outset of the meeting that was open to the media, adding that through such dialogues, China and Japan must “inject new driving force” to continuously improve their ties. Aso said the dialogue will help them “promote our strategically mutually beneficial relationship.” Although the disputes remain unsettled, high-level contacts have been increasing since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's first meeting last November with Chinese President Xi Jin-

ping. On Friday, Aso said he held talks with Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli and agreed with him that the two countries will “continue dialogue at various levels and strengthen our relations of trust.” Through the dialogue on Saturday, Aso, who is also Japan's deputy prime minister, and Lou are hoping to pave the way for their senior officials to collaborate more actively on areas of mutual interest in the future. Japan has kept a cautious stance toward China's initiative to set up the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by the end of this year, citing a lack of transparency in its operations.

But Aso and Lou are likely to acknowledge the need of Japan and China working more closely and meeting strong demand for infrastructure financing in Asia. Chinese efforts to establish the AIIB have been “broadly welcomed by the international community,” Lou said at the opening of the talks. Abe announced last month a plan to offer about \$110 billion to fund “high-quality” infrastructure projects in Asia through collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and other channels. The amount represents a 30 percent rise from Japan's infrastructure funding over the last five years and his pledge is seen as a counter to China's growing economic influence in the region.—Kyodo News

S Korea's Park raps N Korea for nuclear ambitions

SEOUL, 6 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Saturday criticized North Korea for its nuclear ambitions as a threat to the international community.

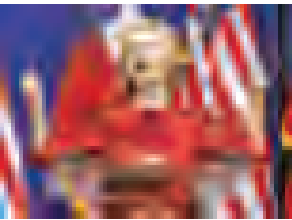
“North Korea is repeating its intimidation” against the stability on the Korean Peninsula and against the international community, Park

said in an address during a ceremony marking Korean Memorial Day at the National Cemetery in Seoul. She was referring to Pyongyang's claim last month that it had successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine, saying the missile was a newly developed one. Park also took up the

issue of “comfort women” who were forced to work in Japanese military brothels before and during World War II, saying the issue and territorial disputes in East Asia are hampering progress in South Korea's relations with its neighbours including Japan.

Kyodo News

US Benghazi panel to hear from Clinton friend in private on 16 June



Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON, 6 June — A US congressional panel investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, on Friday said it would meet behind closed doors on 16 June to hear from Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime friend of Hillary Clinton who was an unofficial adviser while she was secretary of state.

Congressional investigators had issued a subpoena seeking testimony from Blumenthal, who had sent private intelligence reports to Clinton before and after the deadly attacks.

Reuters

G7 to express concern over East, South China Sea: newspaper

TOKYO, 6 June — Group of Seven leaders will express their concern over any unilateral action to change the status quo in the East and South China Seas amid tensions between China and a number of Asian countries, Japan's *Yomiuri* newspaper said on Saturday.

At the end of the summit in Germany, which starts on Sunday, members will release a declaration calling for maintaining an international order of seas based on international law, the report said, without citing sources. No

country will be singled out. G7 leaders a year ago expressed their concern about tensions between China and a number of other Asian countries over resources in the East and South China Seas, and warned against any use of force.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taipei and Vietnam also have overlapping claims.

All but Brunei have for-

told an emergency meeting of the 15-nation council. "They are killed and wounded, as both sides continue to place military positions in and around civilian infrastructure. Their property and livelihoods have been destroyed."

Britain placed the blame for the new violence squarely on Moscow.

"This was a separatist assault on Ukrainian military units," said British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, adding that it was "clearly premeditated."

"The separatist forces are Russia's creation, they are Russia's tool," he said. "Russia has the capacity and the influence to control the separatist forces. It must exercise that influence to ensure compliance with the Minsk agreements."

He was referring to a ceasefire agreement clinched in February in the Belarusian capital.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin presented

West, Russia trade accusations at UN over new Ukraine violence

Members of the Ukrainian armed forces patrol an area in the town of Maryinka, eastern Ukraine, on 5 June, 2015. REUTERS



the opposite view.

He blamed the latest fighting on Kiev, saying it was violating the Minsk agreement and putting civilians at risk.

"If we allow Kiev to continue... the situation could fall out of control," he said.

US Ambassador Samantha Power cited Twitter announcements by separatist fighters boasting of a successful attack on

Marinka, Ukraine.

She said Russia continues to deny the "open secret" that it arms the rebels and sends Russian soldiers to die anonymously in neighbouring Ukraine.

French Ambassador Francois Delattre echoed Power's remarks: "Everyone knows the role that they've (Russia) been playing in this crisis since the start."

The ambassadors of

Lithuania and Ukraine said Kiev had a right to defend itself against the rebels.

Kiev and its NATO allies accuse Russia of sending weapons and troops to fight on behalf of separatists who control part of two provinces in its east. Moscow, which seized and annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula last year, denies its troops are participating.

Reuters

Dutch foreign minister to discuss MH17 prosecution in Russia



Dutch investigators and an Emergencies Ministry member work at the site where the downed Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crashed, near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo) in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine on 16 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

AMSTERDAM, 6 June — Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders will discuss efforts to prosecute suspects in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 while in Moscow on Friday, his office said in a statement.

Koenders will also discuss a Russian blacklist of European politicians during a meeting with his counterpart Sergei Lav-

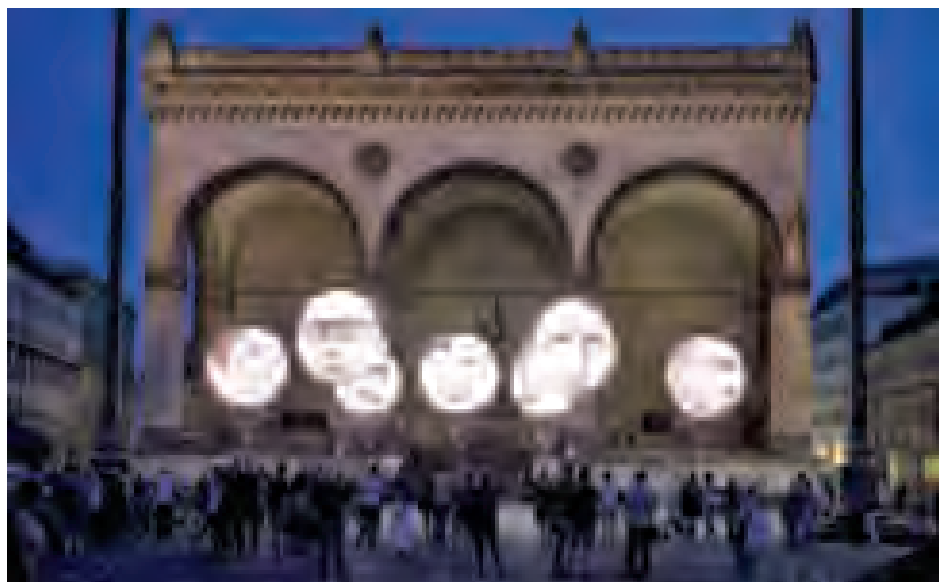
rov, it said. Roughly two-thirds of the 298 victims of the airline disaster on 17 July were Dutch. Suspects have yet to be identified by Dutch prosecutors.

The plane is widely believed to have been shot down with a surface-to-air missile launched by pro-Russian forces in Ukrainian territory, but Moscow denies involvement.

A Dutch Safety Board report on the precise cause of the crash is due in October.

The Netherlands is leading an international investigation into the disaster and has vowed to prosecute those responsible. But the case is unprecedented and it will be legally and politically challenging to put foreign suspects on trial.

Reuters



Balloons, made by the "ONE" campaigning organization, depicting leaders of the G7 countries are pictured in Munich, Germany, on 5 June, 2015.—REUTERS

WORLD

UN report cites alleged Israel crimes against children, no consensus on listing

UNITED NATIONS, 6 June — UN agencies in Israel and the Palestinian territories reported an alarming number of child victims in last year's war in the Gaza Strip but were split on whether Israel should be put on a list of violators of children's rights, a UN document shows.

Their 22-page confidential country report, obtained by *Reuters* on Friday, was prepared by United Nations agencies on the ground for submission to the UN special envoy for children and armed conflict as she readied a draft of the annual list.

The special envoy, Leila Zerrougui of Algeria, included Israel's army and the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the draft she sent to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has final say on the list, UN sources have said.

More than 2,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians, were killed in the conflict, while 67 Israeli soldiers and six civilians in Israel were killed. The country report said some 540 children were reportedly

killed, 371 of them 12 years old or younger.

The UN agencies' country report, which was sent to Zerrougui to help her prepare her decision on whether to include Israel and Palestinian armed groups in her draft list to be passed on to Ban, has used strong language on alleged violations of children's rights in the Gaza war.

It specified what it said were unlawful deaths and injuries of Palestinian children caused by Israeli forces, detention of Palestinian children and attacks on schools. It said more information was needed on the question of recruitment of children by Palestinian armed groups.

However, in a section that would appear to undermine the case for listing Israel, the country report said the heads of the UN agencies on the ground had failed to reach a consensus on whether to list Israel.

It said it was "not clear how the listing criteria should be applied and whether they had been



A Palestinian boy sits on a sofa outside his family house that witnesses said was destroyed during the 50-day war last summer, in the east of Gaza City on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

satisfied." Diplomats say the final version of the list, which names grave violators of children's rights in armed conflicts, could reach UN member states as early as the beginning of next week.

Whether to include the Jewish state is a politically charged issue

for Israel and the United States. Some US lawmakers have spoken out on the issue and Republican presidential hopeful Senator Ted Cruz wrote to Ban about it this week.

UN diplomatic sources told *Reuters* that Israel has lobbied hard

against its inclusion and that Ban was leaning against including Israel. Diplomats said US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power had urged Ban not to list Israel.

Ban has also received information from human rights groups, including New York-based Human Rights Watch, which issued a statement this week urging the UN not to give in pressure to keep Israel off the list. Israel's UN mission did not have an immediate response to the country report.

A UN inquiry published in April said Israeli soldiers had fired on seven UN schools during the Gaza war, killing 44 Palestinians who were sheltered at some of the sites, while Palestinian fighters hid weapons and launched attacks from several empty UN schools.

While Zerrougui's report was being prepared, diplomatic sources told *Reuters* UN agency chiefs had felt pressured by Israel not to support including the Israeli army. Israel has said it should not be listed but denied pressuring anyone.

Reuters

Pakistan court frees eight men charged with attack on schoolgirl Malala

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 6 June — A Pakistani court has freed eight out of 10 men charged with organising the shooting of schoolgirl activist Malala Yousafzai, police said on Friday, a move that will raise further questions about the nation's heavily criticised justice system.

Pakistani Taliban militants claimed responsibility for attacking Malala in 2012 as she travelled home from school in Swat, northwest of the capital Islamabad. She was shot in the head and airlifted to Britain for treatment, where she now lives. Two other schoolgirls were also wounded.

Malala became a global symbol of defiance after she campaigned for girls' education despite Taliban repression and she won the 2014 Nobel Peace prize.

Senior police official Salim Khan said the eight men were freed because there was not enough evidence to connect them to the 2012 attack.

Police had said in April that all 10 had been convicted and jailed for 25 years each in a trial held behind closed doors. It was not clear why officials had given incorrect information.

"The only reason for their release was lack of proof against them," Khan said.

Prosecutor Naem

Khan said the men had confessed to the court that they had helped plan the attack.

None of the accused were suspected of being the gunmen, who security officials believe fled to Afghanistan.

"During the trial, all the 10 persons had admitted and confessed their role in Malala's attack



Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai flashes the 'V' sign from the balcony of the Grand Hotel in Oslo on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

before the judge of the anti-terrorism court. But only two of them, Izhar Khan and Israrullah Khan, were convicted while the remaining eight were freed," Khan said.

He said the trial had been conducted inside the main prison in Swat Jail after militant threats.

Khan said he filed an appeal against the acquit-

tal on 18 May but the men had already been freed on 30 April.

The case will raise further questions over police competence, accountability and secret trials in Pakistan.

Police are poorly trained and equipped. Most officers have never been trained in how to gather evidence and rarely fol-

low basic procedures such as securing crime scenes. Cases mostly hinge on highly unreliable oral testimony, leading judges to frequently dismiss charges involving major militant attacks.

Trials are often held behind closed doors because judges, lawyers and witnesses fear retribution from militants.—*Reuters*

US defence chief working on plan to close Guantanamo prison

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT, 6 June — US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Friday he was working with the White House to prepare a proposal for Congress on closing the Guantanamo prison for terrorism suspects, a long-time goal of President Barack Obama.

The Senate is currently debating an annual defence policy bill that would permit closure of the prison, but only if the president first submits a plan that is approved by the Republican-led Congress. The US military prison at Guantanamo Bay Naval base on Cuba was set up after the 11 September,

2001, attacks for al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees. Obama vowed to close it within a year when he came to office in 2009.

Republican lawmakers concerned about housing detainees in the United States have thwarted those moves.

Republican Senator John McCain, head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has long urged Obama to submit a plan for closing Guantanamo and is backing the language in the policy bill, the National Defence Authorization Act.

McCain says the closure proposal would have to include a plan for hearing

the cases of the remaining prisoners at the camp. It also would need a proposal for future detention of the remaining prisoners. "I'm working with the White House to prepare a plan which we'll then submit, per longstanding request, to the Congress and discuss with the Congress," Carter told reporters on his plane to Washington after a trip to Singapore, India and Germany.

"My own view is this is a very constructive step," he added. "It's important to see if we can find a way forward for this that is widely shared enough that we can actually get it done."—*Reuters*

Iran rejects limited international access to military sites: agency

ANKARA, 6 June — Iran will not allow even restricted outside access to its military sites under any nuclear accord with six powers, the deputy chief of its armed forces said on Friday, reaffirming Teheran's tough stance on the issue as the deadline for a deal looms.

Access for UN nuclear inspectors to Iranian military sites and the pace and timing of sanctions relief for Teheran are among several major disputes that Iran and the powers need to resolve before the self-imposed 30 June deadline for a final deal. "Any kind of inspection of Iran's military sites, including managed and re-

stricted access, is unacceptable," Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri was quoted by *Tasnim* news agency as saying. Some senior Iranian negotiators had raised the possibility of some limited access, with Teheran in control of the process.

"Controlled and managed access (to the military sites) does not mean inspection," Iran's senior nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said after arriving in Vienna on Thursday for another round of talks with officials from the six powers. "We are trying to set some rules for managed access to non-nuclear sites," Iran's official *IRNA* news agency quoted

him as saying. But Jazayeri's comments reinforced the hard line long taken on the issue by both Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last say on all state matters, and by top military commanders.

"We will not allow any visits to military sites, whether they be limited, controlled, unfree or in any other form," Jazayeri said. "Let's avoid playing with words."

Western powers have long suspected Iran of planning to build a nuclear bomb. Teheran denies any such intention and says its nuclear programme has purely civilian aims.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 7 June, 2015

Dignity more important than victory or defeatBy *Aung Khin*

In a sporting contest, players from both sides strive best to defeat their opponents. Fierce rivalries are often formed during competition, especially between closely matched teams.

When players enter the sporting arena as representatives of their country, their conduct on the field is seen as a reflection of their national character.

In the heat of battle, contestants may momentarily forget the notion of fair play. Nonetheless, any transgressions are likely to be seen either by their opponents or spectators. In such cases, it is vital that the referees are able to maintain order.

Graciousness in defeat, or victory, is a sign of respect for one's opponent and oneself, and is in no way an indication of weakness. There are many factors that determine who wins or loses, including natural talent, quality of coaching, or amount of time spent practicing. Regardless of these factors, all players can nonetheless conduct themselves with dignity on the field.

Competition occurs in many sectors, including business and politics. While most competitors focus on winning, they also need to uphold rules and principles. In business and politics, as in sports, spectators will pass judgement, even when

the authorities, or referees, fail to adjudicate and enforce the proper code of conduct.

Dignity is as important as victory in a game. As in sports, unethical behaviour should be kept out of business and politics. While having the highest score or the most wealth might be enough to secure what is considered a victory, without dignity one cannot be a true victor.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MODEL MARKETING*Kyi Mun*

Customer is business.

- Theodore Levitt

The primary purpose of a business is to create Customers.

- Peter F. Drucker

Marketing is Targeting Customer, who is business as well as profit; so, Marketing means getting and keeping Customers. The official definition of marketing is:

Marketing is anticipating, identifying and satisfying the needs, wants and expectations of the customer profitably. In short, marketing is Meeting Customer Needs Profitably.

Model Marketing includes: The Strategic Marketing Mix of (10) P's as follows:

- Philosophy (of Business) is : Delivering Best Value
- Purpose (of Business) is : Win-Win Relationships
- Policy (of Business) is : Put the Customer First
- Product must deliver : Core Benefits for the Customer
- Price means : Cost for the Customer
- Place means : Convenience for the Customer
- Promotion means : Communication for the Customer
- People means : Caring for the Customer
- Process means : Comfortability for the Customer
- Physical-evidence means : Confidence for the Customer

Model Marketing also includes: the Tactical Marketing Mix of:

1. Product Architecture
2. Product Variety
3. Packaging
4. Branding
5. Pricing
6. Distribution (Channels)
7. Distribution (Logistics)
8. Merchandizing (Displaying)
9. Selling
10. Customer Service
11. Advertising
12. Promotions
13. Public Relations
14. Customer Relationships Management

From the Marketing Point of View;

- Customer is Business
- Customer is King
- Customer is Queen
- Customer is Foundation
- Customer is Root
- Customer is Lifeblood
- Customer is Holy Cow (you don't milk a holy cow; you worship it)
- Customer is Judge & Jury (of Business Success or Failure)
- Customer is Always Right

- Put the Customer First

Based on the principle that: if there is no Customer, there would be no business, the following policies have been adopted and practiced by many successful businesses:

- The Business should be: Customer-driven
- The Business should be: Customer-oriented
- The Business should be: Customer-Focused
- The Business should be: Customer-Centred
- The Business should be: Customer-Attentive
- The Business should be: Customer-Responsive
- The Business should be: Customer-Caring

The Model Marketing's main **Customer Strategy** should be:

- "To Meet or Exceed Customer Expectations."

So, the main thrust of the Model Marketing must be: To continually increase the Value Delivered To The Customer. Thus, it is the main function of the Model Marketing to continually increase the Perceived Customer Value, because:

The seller sells benefits and the buyer buys Value.

The Seller Sells the Following Benefits: (Unique Selling Points — USP)

- Core Features, Advantages, Benefits
- Cost which is fair or competitive
- Convenience to get the product/ service
- Communication about the product/ service
- Caring on the part of the Customer Service Staff
- Comfortability concerning the accuracy & speed of the service
- Confidence of the Customer in the Product/Service

The Buyer Buys the Following Value:

- Product Value
- Service Value
- People Value
- Image Value
- Differentiation Value

The Main Tactical Approach of the Model Marketing should be:

- To Think the Most ABOUT the Customer**
- To Feel the Closest WITH the Customer**
- To Act the Best FOR the Customer**

In order to get optimum results, the Successful Business Mantra of QUIVERS should be boldly adopted and passionately practiced:

- **Quality**
- **Uniqueness**
- **Innovation**
- **Value**
- **Excellence**
- **Relationship**
- **Service**

The following Competitive Strategy of the Model Marketing should be adopted and practiced:

- **Cost Leadership (Lowest Cost Producer)**

- **Differentiation (Unique Products/ Services)**
- **Focus (On Innovation & Productivity)**

Because price and quality are the main determinant factors in competition.

Model Marketing includes:

Selling

Selling is helping people to buy the right product, at the right price, at the right place, and at the right time.

Customer Service

The Moment of Truth, at which the Customer gets the service experience, should be created with the following 7-S:

- To Be Sweet
- To Be Smiling
- To Be Smart
- To Be Spirited
- To Be Sincere
- To Be Savvy
- To Be Sizzling

CONCLUSION

Model Marketing is all about Strategy, Strategy is all about Moves, Moves are all about Customer, Customer is all about Value, Value is all about Value for Money

Value for Money is all about: $\frac{\text{Quality}}{\text{Price}} + \text{Speed \& Accuracy, Convenience, Caring and Customization.}$

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ARTICLE

Yathey Taung Hill at Thawuhti

Thawuhti [သောဝတ္တီ] is the name of a small town near Leiway town, not far from Nay Pyi Taw. It is on the Yangon-Mandalay railway line. The name is Myanmar version of Savathi – an ancient capital city in India, where Gotama Buddha resided in his lifetime and preached Dhamma [His teaching]. Because Buddha Sasana arrived and flourished in that small town since the remote past, the small town acquired the name “Thawuhti”.

Local history of the first human settlement at Thawuhti traces back to the early Konbaung period of Myanmar history. It was in the reign of King Alaungpaya [1752-1760 A.D.] that a couple - Saya Ohn, Letya Pe Kaing [a junior officer of Royal Right side Flotilla] and his wife Daw Min Tha of Shwe Dah village in Pyaw Bwe township in Yamethin District, migrated to the south because of drought and economic depression at the village. With them came 40 families of their kiths and kins. Together with their cattle and belongings they took the long land route till they reached a place then known as “Wa Nwe Kone”, about 12 miles to the southeast of Leiway town. Here was a verdant land covered with teak forests and aquatic weeds around the lakes and streams. They crossed a brook and about 600 feet to the south of it, they found a hospitable site for settlement. Temporary huts were set up to found a village there. But Daw Min Tha suddenly passed away. About 3 furlongs to the south of the brook, a village was founded and cultivation was begun, the main crop being betel leaves. So the village came to be called “Kun Chan Su” [The village of betel leaves cultivation].

Next, came to this village, other families from Shwe Dah village. Ko San Nyunt and his sister Ma Soe, Ko Kyar Bu and his wife Ma Moe and their son and daughter, and Daw Nyein were among them. In no time the original settlers and new comers intermarried and the village prospered in population and agriculture. Paddy and fruits like cucumber and watermelon were grown extensively. The new generation of the village became quite well-to-do, each owning some acres of cultivating land.

In the time of King Bodawpaya [1782-1819 A.D.], the headman of the village was Ko San Nyunt, a handsome manly mid age, who visited his fields and farms daily and his wife Ma Htun brought him lunch at noon time. Now begins a series of love affairs between young female guardian spirits



**Bo Wun-na (Hermit Monk)
Aged 96, Yathey Taung
Thawuhti.**

of treasure troves dedicated to the future Buddha Meteya and two human males of the village, Ko San Nyunt and Ko Kya Bu. The two female guardian spirits of treasure troves, Khin Pyo and Khin Nyo lured the two human males to their troves of fabulous treasures – heaps of gold and silver, diamonds, rubies, sapphire and several other precious gems. Ko San Nyunt and Ko Kya Bu had extraordinary experiences, encountered with other worldly creatures and they were enticed by entreaties of beautiful guardian female spirits to live with them, persistent refusal of the two men and their final escape to return to their wives and children in the village. Though Ko San Nyunt and Ma Htun and Ko Kya Bu managed to free themselves from the spell of the female guardian spirits, Ma Soe, wife of Ko Kya Bu, with a weak will, fell victim to the female guardian spirit Khin Pyo, who turned her into a spirit to take over her duty while she departed into human world. Ma Soe the spirit appeared to her husband Ko Kya Bu to explain what had happened. Today, there is a hill named Ma Soe Taung where Ma Soe the spirit was guarding the treasure troves.

From these guardian spirits, Ko San Nyunt and Ko Kya Bu learnt that the entire area was once under the sway of Aries, debased Buddhist monks who were expelled from Bagan by royal orders. For some times, these Aries ruled and ignorant villagers were subjected to their malpractices, until true Buddha Sasana arrived there. Villagers, being afraid of the Aries, hoarded their treasures for building pagodas and monasteries when the next Buddha Meteya revealed. In that way treasures were piled up in hoardings. Daughters of wealthy families became guarding spirits watching over the treasure troves for hundreds of years. When they got bored, they tried to return to human world by alluring humans to take their guarding

assignment, at least for a certain period, so that they could enjoy earthy life.

There was a true story of an encounter with the two female guardian spirits Ma Khin Pyo and Ma Soe. It was in 1913, while one day, the two villagers Ko Tin Gyi and Ko Than Maung of Thawuhti village were busy with their work on their farms to the north of Ma Soe Taung hill, during noontime when Ko Than Maung brought lunch from the village, he found his friend Ko Tin Gyi in deep trance. He woke up his friend by shaking his body but he was talking to the ladies. When he recovered from his trance, he told Ko Than Maung to dig the ground in his front. They discovered 3 gold bars in the shape of tamarind



**Four blooms on a single
lotus stalk.**

fruit and 80 silver coins. Ko Tin Gyi told Ko Than Maung that these treasures were given him by the two lady spirits of Ma Soe Taung hill, he met in his trance. He used half of treasures he received in building religious monuments and charity works and the other half he shared with his friend Ko Than Maung.

Today, the area has become one of the centres of Buddha Sasana at Leiway. It is well-known as Thawuhti Yathey Taung Phaya. Its establishment began in 1924. In that year a hermit from Zingyaik village near Kela-tha Hill in Thaton District arrived at Thawuhti, after he had completed his round of meditations at different places. It was in the cold month of Pyatho [January] of that year that he came to reside in a zayat [rest house] of the village cemetery. For 49 days he was meditating in that rest house. Villagers offered him food and water. After the period of 49 days of meditation, the hermit began to speak to the donors. Village elders requested him to preach them Dhamma. In 1925, a certain man named U Kyauk Pya of the village who was also a meditator requested the hermit to move to a shady place under a Htaut Sha tree near a natural lake at the foot of a hill where he and the hermit

would meditate.

The hermit revealed that his name was Wun-na. A year later, in 1926, U Pho Ngwe, U Hpo Ei, U San Htu, U Maung Ngwe, U Shwe Thein, and U Htun Yin built a hermitage on the hill now called Phaya Taung or Yathey Taung for the hermit U Wun-na. At first, the hermit was frequently molested by the guardian spirits of the treasure troves, especially Ma Khin Pyo, Ma Khin Oh and Ma Soe. But they failed to undermine the sila (moral) and samadi (concentration of mind) of the hermit. At last they came to respect the hermit. One after midnight, an acolyte in white clothes, riding a white horse made three, four rounds of the hermitage and when he reached the south-east corner, he dismounted and asked the hermit if the latter would reside there for good, if so, the latter should do more religious practices. Then the acolyte disappeared into the dark. In a few moments, a lady appeared to tell the hermit that they, the guardian spirits of the treasure troves of the hills around, were pleased to have the hermit teaching the Dhamma there, and that they would give support if the hermit would build religious monuments on the hills in the area and that the acolyte with the white horse was their master.

After these strange happenings, the hermit decided to meditate at a far-away recluse. It was in April of 1928 that the hermit moved to a sandbank in the middle of a stream, to the north of Thawuhti. Out in the open, braving the burning sun in daytime and cold at night, the hermit diligently practiced all principles of Samatha (Concentration of mind) and Vipassana (Insight meditation). A village woman named Daw Pan Myaing offered him daily meal and water. The hermit refused her offer of a hut to shelter him. After 45 days of his religious practice, he returned to the hill to sit in meditation under the trees for 21 days. When the under-tree meditation was completed, the hermit moved back to his hermitage.

Hermit U Wun-na was formerly a Taik-thu-gyi headman named U Ta Loke, hailed from Kywe Eik Pwe (ကျွဲအိပ်ပွဲ) village in Toungoo District. His wife was Daw Ngwe Thein. All their offsprings passed away. Maung Ko, the only grandson survived. Maung Ko worked as a high clerk at a sugar mill in Zeyawaddy town. The wife Daw Ngwe Thein passed away before the hermit died at old ripe age.

There are five hills in the precincts of Yathey Taung

**Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt**

Phaya. The central hill is surrounded by four hills at four cardinal directions. These hills are low and they look more like archaeological mounds. On their summits are pagodas, originally built by the hermit U Wun-na. They are now repaired and renovated by the public. Very pleasant and sublime, these religious monuments and associated rest house and meditation hermitages are blissful recluses for religious practices. Shady flowering and fruiting tress, wild flowers and creepers provide coolness and natural fragrance. Small flights of stone steps, covered cause ways connecting the hills with corridors on the ground and a natural lake right in the centre, into which all rain water from the



**Five to seven blooms on a
single lotus stalk.**

hills flows, where scarlet-colour lotus blooms are a perfect setting for those who seek real ultimate truth – Dhamma.

The significant features of this place are the Bodhi tree, pagodas and Buddha statues of the hermit's dream which were planted and built by the hermit's devotees, during his lifetime. The Bodhi tree, now a full-grown shady tree was the one which sprung up in the front of the hermitage, three days after the hermit saw it in his dream.

Religious monuments and Buddha statues are (1) Pyilonechanhta Zedi (2) Aung Thedi Pagoda and other three zedis on the summits of other three hills, Yan Aung Myin Buddha statue in a temple in the middle of the lake, an underground meditation cave, and a meal hall for monks. There are two alloy bells – one at the eastern corner of the east covered cause-way and the other in the precinct of Aung Theidi Zedi, each weighing 96 visses of five metals, little meditation houses, hermitages and nunneries stand isolatedly under green foliage.

Some extraordinary phenomena were experienced by the hermit U Wun-na and some villagers. In the month of Tazaungmon [November] the hills produce sounds of religious music. In Nattaw month [December] about 500

paddy birds alight on the hills and stay there for 15 days. In Pyatho month [January] 500 crows and 50 owls rest on the Ma Soe Taung hill and in the month of Taboung [March], three barking deer come to rest under the hermitage in daytime. Lotus in the central lake has four to five blooms coming out from each stalk. They are of scarlet red colour. Perhaps symbolizing four already revealed Buddhas – Kaukusan Buddha, Kona Buddha, Kasapa Buddha and Gotama Buddha and symbolizing five Buddha world including future Buddha Meteya.

After the demise of the hermit U Wun-na, Pariyatti Sasan also flourished at Yathey Taung hill. Monk teachers and monk pupils were provided satu-pyitsaya (four basic needs namely food, clothing (robes), shelter (monastery) and medicine by Buddhist devotees. Judging by the architectural designs of the buildings, dedicatory writings on the walls and at the tzaungs, Yathey Taung precinct was a thriving centre of Pariyatti Sasana in its heyday.

U Thein Htun, the great grandson of the hermit and his family are now taking the custody of the precincts. He was a retired government serviceman. He explains that due to lack of monk teachers, monk pupils have to move to other Pariyatti monasteries and Yathey Taung Pariyatti school was closed down. But Buddha Sasana continues to prosper there. On weekends and Sabbath days, Buddhist pilgrims and visitors home and abroad crowd the precinct, doing deeds of religious merit. Religious monuments under repair and renovation are carried out with public fund and individual donation of cash and kind.

Every year in the month of Tabodwe [February] from the 10th waxing moon to the full moon days, there is held a continuous recitation of Maha Pathan Paritta by the monks, and on full moon day at 1 p.m., the offering of rice and dry ration to the invited monks by the donors takes place. There is an organization of volunteers for the promotion of Buddha Sasana, headquartered at the Dhamma Yeitha of Yathey Taung Buddha missionary station, under the guidance of Auvadacariya monks Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Bud-danta Pandita.

Yathey Taung hill is within easy reach of Leiway by any land vehicle. For a certain period or for a day trip, it is indeed an idyllic place for recovering your mental peace or relaxation of your physical tension.

Kurds mourn, protest after bombing at Turkish election rally

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 6 June — Turkish Kurds gathered on Saturday to mourn and protest at the scene of bomb blasts that killed two people and wounded more than 200 at an election rally, with many voicing anger at President Tayyip Erdogan a day before parliamentary polls.

The two explosions, which Erdogan termed a “provocation” designed to undermine Sunday’s election, tore through a rally of the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) in Diyarbakir, largest city in Turkey’s mainly Kurdish southeast.

Ball bearings, nails and other metal parts from the device were gathered as evidence but no suspects have been identified, security sources told *Reuters*.

Hospital sources said more than 200 had sought treatment. A Kurdish political group said more than 300 were hurt.

Chanting “Murderer Erdogan”, hundreds marched behind a banner

declaring “peace despite everything” to the scene, where they laid red carnations, a witness said.

Erdogan, the most popular politician in Turkey but accused by opponents of authoritarian tendencies, seeks a large majority for the ruling AK Party to furnish him with broader new powers. However, if the HDP clears a 10 percent hurdle to enter parliament that could thwart his ambitions.

Hundreds joined a convoy of cars heading to a funeral for a 16-year-old boy. Onlookers made the victory sign and chanted “martyrs don’t die” and “AKP you will pay for this”.

“If it weren’t for Chairman Selahattin there would have been a lot of bloody and violent events yesterday,” said retired 61-year-old Mehmet, referring to Friday’s call for calm from HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas.

Demirtas has sought to extend support for the HDP beyond its Kurdish core

with appeals to centre-left and secular opponents of Erdogan who has assumed an increasingly religious tone in recent months.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said “a dirty hand, a provocative hand” had targeted democracy itself.

Witness Guy Martin, a British photographer, told *Reuters* the blasts occurred some five minutes apart - the first in a rubbish bin and the second in front of a power generator. He saw one person who had lost a leg and others with shrapnel wounds.

“It was a heart-shaking, ribcage-shaking noise,” he said. “The most terrifying thing is that crush of people.”

Police fired water cannon and tear gas to disperse crowds after the blasts, witnesses said.

Nationalists clashed with HDP supporters at a Demirtas rally in the northern town of Erzurum. Demirtas has said his party has been the target of more



People react after an explosion during an election rally of pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) in Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 5 June, 2015.

REUTERS

than 70 violent attacks during the campaign, including a double bombing in southern Turkish cities last month which wounded six.

He says the HDP will continue to promote peace talks between Kurdish rebels and the government whatever the election out-

come.

Erdogan has accused the HDP of being a front for the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which took up arms in 1984 in an insurgency that has killed 40,000 people.

Jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan and Ankara

launched peace talks more than two years ago.

Twelve HDP supporters were detained in Istanbul in an operation targeting a PKK youth wing, an HDP spokesman said. Another nine were held in southeast Turkey’s Bitlis Province.

Reuters

UN council condemns attacks on Syria civilians, barrel bombs



A man holds a baby that survived what activists said was a site hit by a barrel bomb dropped by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad at the old city of Aleppo on 3 June, 2015.

REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 6 June — The United Nations Security Council on Friday condemned continued indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Syria, including aerial bombardment and barrel bombings that Western powers say only the government is capable of carrying out.

Last week the UN humanitarian chief painted a harrowing portrait of savagery in Syria’s civil war, now in its fifth year, and urged the Security Council to take collective action to put an end to the carnage.

The war has killed more than 220,000 people. Of the country’s roughly 23 million people, some

12.2 million are in need of humanitarian aid, including 5 million children.

“The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the continued high level of violence in Syria and condemned all violence directed against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities,” the council said in a statement. “They expressed outrage at all attacks against civilians, as well as indiscriminate attacks, including those involving shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs, which have reportedly been extensively used in recent days in Aleppo,”

it said.

Western officials blame aerial and barrel bomb attacks on the government.

Several Western council members noted that the unanimously adopted statement had the backing of Russia, which has strongly supported the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

Russia, backed by China, has vetoed four Security Council resolutions on Syria, three of them threatening the government with sanctions and another calling for referring the war to the International Criminal Court in The Hague for possible war crimes indict-

ments. The United States wants the council to approve a UN investigation to determine who is to blame for chemicals weapons attacks in Syria. Success of this initiative will ultimately depend on Russia, which blames rebels for chemical attacks. Rebels and Western powers blame Assad’s forces.

The council also “condemned increased terrorist attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction carried out by ISIL (Islamic State), al Nusra Front and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with al-Qaeda.”

The Security Council also voiced support for UN Syria peace mediator Staffan de Mistura, who has started a new attempt to broker negotiations between rebel groups and the government. Western and Arab officials say they have little hope that a breakthrough is imminent.

Last month, Syria’s main political opposition group complained about de Mistura’s decision to include Iran, which, like Russia, has been a strong supporter of Assad.

Reuters

Saudi Arabia says shoots down Scud missile fired by Yemeni forces

DUBAI / SANAA, 6 June — Saudi Arabia shot down a Scud missile fired into the kingdom by Yemen’s dominant Houthi group and its army allies on Saturday, according to the Saudi state news agency, in a major escalation of two months of war.

In the first use of a Scud in the conflict, the missile was fired early Saturday morning at the city of Khamees al-Mushait in the kingdom’s southwest and was intercepted by two Patriot missiles, a statement by the Saudi-led Arab military coalition said.

The area is home to the largest air force base in southern Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter, but there are no oil facilities in the vicinity.

An alliance of Gulf Arab nations has been bombing Yemen’s dominant Houthi militia and allied army units loyal to powerful ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh since 26 March in an attempt to restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

The coalition has said a main goal of its war effort is to neutralise the threat that rockets in Yemen pose

to Saudi Arabia and its neighbours.

The Sunni Muslim coalition states also fear the Houthis, hailing from a Shi’ite sect in Yemen’s far north, will act as a proxy for the influence of their arch-rival, Shi’ite Iran, in the Arabian Peninsula.

Iran and the Houthis deny any military or economic links, and the Houthis say their seizure of the capital Sanaa in September and their advance southward is part of a revolution against a corrupt government.

Arab air strikes have pounded arms and missile stores in the capital Sanaa and other military bases in Yemen almost every day, but the firing of the Scud — an 11-metre (35-foot) long ballistic missile with ranges of 300 km (200 miles) and more — shows the country’s supply has not yet been eliminated.

Saleh, Yemen’s autocrat president from 1978 to 2012, was forced to step down amid Arab Spring street protests but retains most of the army’s loyalty and has joined forces with the Houthis in combat with Hadi’s armed backers in Yemen’s south.—Reuters

Data hacked from US government dates back to 1985

WASHINGTON, 6 June — Data stolen from US government computers by suspected Chinese hackers included security clearance information and background checks dating back three decades, US officials said on Friday, underlining the scope of one of the largest known cyber attacks on federal networks.

The breach of computer systems of the Office of Personnel Management was disclosed on Thursday by the Obama administration, which said records of up to 4 million current and former federal employees may have been compromised.

A total of 2.1 million current US government workers were affected, according to a source familiar with the FBI-led investigation into the incident.

Accusations by US government sources of a Chinese role in the cyber attack, including possible state sponsorship, could further strain ties between Washington and Beijing. Tensions are already heightened over Chinese assertiveness in pursuit of territorial claims in the South China Sea. The hacking also raises questions about how the United States would respond if it con-



A hand is silhouetted in front of a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013. — REUTERS

firmed that the Chinese government was behind it.

Several US officials, who requested anonymity, said the hackers were believed to have been based in China but that it was not yet known if the Chinese government or criminal elements were involved.

Another US official said the breach was being investigated as a matter of national security, meaning it may have originated from a foreign government.

The cyber attack was among the most extensive thefts of information on the federal work force, and one US defence official said it was clearly aimed at gaining

valuable information for intelligence purposes.

“This is deep. The data goes back to 1985,” a US official said. “This means that they potentially have information about retirees, and they could know what they did after leaving government.”

Access to data from OPM’s computers, such as birth dates, Social Security numbers and bank information, could help hackers test potential passwords to other sites, including those with information about weapons systems, the official said.

“That could give them a huge advantage,” the official said.

Reuters

Netflix to offer Internet TV service in Italy, Spain

FRANKFURT, 6 June — Internet TV service Netflix plans to expand into Italy later this year, the company said on Saturday, as part of a bid to expand its popular streaming television service to some 200 countries worldwide within two years.

The Silicon Valley-based company said that, starting in October, Internet users in Italy would be able to subscribe to Netflix to watch a selection of TV series and movies on TVs,

computers, smartphones, tablets and other devices.

On Thursday, Netflix said it planned to enter Spain, also in October. Netflix is available in more than 50 countries worldwide, including 13 in Europe.

Its focus on international expansion comes as growth slows in the United States, where it has reshaped TV viewing habits since it was first launched in 2007.

Reuters



The Netflix logo is shown in this illustration photograph in Encinitas, California on 14 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

New Jersey governor sues to stop ocean sonic boom research

TRENTON, (New Jersey) 6 June — Governor Chris Christie’s administration went to federal court on Friday in the hopes of stopping an underwater study off New Jersey’s coast during summer tourism season, saying sonic boom research would endanger marine mammals and other species.

In a complaint filed in US District Court in Trenton, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection seeks to

halt the study being performed by Rutgers University and funded by the National Science Foundation.

The project aims to map the ocean floor near the coast in an effort to help the world’s coastal regions better protect themselves from such natural disasters as Superstorm Sandy.

“The project will shoot powerful sonic blasts every five seconds for thirty days into prime fishing areas and waters used by marine mammals and threatened

and endangered species,” the lawsuit said. The Christie administration argued the project, which is taking place during peak fishing season, violates federal laws protecting marine mammals. The “high-energy 3-D seismic study in the Atlantic Ocean” involves a 12 by 50 kilometre (7 by 31 mile) rectangular area off the coast of New Jersey, according to the court complaint. “The impacts will be felt far outside of the study area and are likely to include reduced

catch rates for New Jersey’s commercial and recreational fishing industries, and harassment of marine mammals,” the state said in court papers.

It’s the second year in a row that Rutgers has received federal funding to conduct the study, but last year the project was canceled due to mechanical problems with the research vessel.

The shoreline action comes at the same time the Republican governor faces harsh criticism

from Democrats for a proposed \$225 million settlement with Exxon for environmental damage in the state.

Democrats said a judge should instead impose \$2.5 billion in damages and that the governor’s proposed settlement would short-change citizens for the damages caused by Exxon pollution at two petroleum treatment centers in northern New Jersey and at other facilities and gas stations across the state.—Reuters

Google to release monthly data on self-driving car accidents

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 June — Google Inc said it would give monthly updates of accidents involving its driverless cars.

The report for May showed Google cars had been involved in 12 accidents since the company first began testing its self-driving cars in 2009, mostly involving rear-ending. Google said one of its vehicles was rear-ended at a stoplight in California on Thursday, bringing the total count to 13 accidents.

“That could mean that the vehicles tend to stop more quickly than human drivers expect,” public interest group Consumer

Watchdog said. A Google spokeswoman said the consumer watchdog conclusion was erroneous because most of the rear-end accidents occurred when the vehicle was stopped.

Consumer Watchdog called for more details on the accidents, including statements from witnesses and other drivers.

None of these accidents were caused by a fault with the car, Google said. Google’s self-driving-car programme director, Chris Urmson, said in May that the cars have been involved in 11 accidents. The accidents mostly involved Goog-

le’s self-driving Lexus RX450h sport utility vehicles. Google is about to take its pod-like prototype vehicles off the test track and on to Mountain View, California, roads this summer.

The company described the two-seater car as “the world’s first fully self-driving vehicle.”

Built in Detroit by auto supplier Roush Industries, the prototypes will be equipped with removable steering wheels, brake pedals and accelerator pedals so test engineers can “take over driving if needed,” Urmson said in May.—Reuters

Scientists design “most accurate” quantum thermometer

WASHINGTON, 6 June — Scientists claimed on Friday they have designed the “smallest, most accurate” quantum thermometer allowed by the laws of physics.

The theoretical thermometer, made up of just a handful of atoms, could detect the smallest fluctuations in microscopic regions, such as the variations within a biological cell, they reported in the US journal *Physical Review Letter*.

The device is so small that it exhibits distinctive “quantum” features, according to the

research, which was conducted jointly by physicists at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain and University of Nottingham in UK.

“Devising sensitive and practical nano-scale thermometers would represent a huge leap forward as such technology would enable a plethora of applications in bioscience, chemistry, physics and in the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases,” according to a statement from the authors of the research.

To design the thermometer, the physicists combined thermodynamic

tools with quantum metrology, which deals with ultra-precise measures in quantum systems.

In the research, they observed that the device could maintain a constant sensitivity over a wide range of temperatures by sacrificing some of their precision.

In addition, they looked at the maximum accuracy achievable in realistic situations in which the time available for the temperature measurement may be short due to unavoidable experimental limitations.

Xinhua

South Korea reports nine new MERS cases, one recovers and leaves hospital



Passengers wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) sit inside a train in Seoul, South Korea on 5 June, 2015.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 6 June — South Korea's health ministry reported on Saturday nine more cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) raising the total to 50 but said one patient had recovered and became the

first to be discharged from hospital.

The outbreak first reported on 20 May has claimed four lives and stirred public fear as the government was blamed for an ineffective initial

response that allowed one man who had returned from Saudi Arabia to infect more than half the rest.

All nine new cases were traced to the initial patient, the health ministry said, calling them health

care associated infections. They included one health care worker at a hospital that treated an infected patient, it said.

There has been no sustained human-to-human transmission, but the worst case scenario is the virus changes and spreads rapidly, as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) did in 2002-2003 killing about 800 people around the world.

MERS was first identified in humans in 2012 and is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered SARS. But MERS has a much higher death rate at 38 percent, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

South Korea's new cases bring the total number globally to about 1,194, based on WHO data, with at least 443 related deaths.—Reuters

China ship disaster death toll jumps, company says sorry



Rescue workers stand on the river bank as the capsized cruise ship Eastern Star is pulled out of the Yangtze against sunset, in Jianli, Hubei Province, China, on 5 June, 2015.—REUTERS

JIANLI, (China), 6 June — The death toll from a Chinese cruise ship which capsized during a storm in the Yangtze River jumped to 331 on Saturday, leaving around 100 still missing, as the boat operator apologized and said it would cooperate with investigations.

Only 14 survivors, one of them the captain, have been found after the ship carrying 456 overturned in a freak tornado on Monday night.

Rescuers are searching the cabin of the ship, which was righted and raised on Friday, looking for more bodies.

The top floor of the four-level ship is the current focus of the search, but because of the level of damage it may take some time to complete, state television said.

Jiang Zhao, general manager of the company which operated the Eastern Star, bowed in apology for the disaster during an interview with state media reported late on Friday,

saying they would "fully" cooperate with the investigation.

Beijing has pledged there would be "no cover-up" in the probe.

Police have detained the captain and chief engineer for questioning as part of the investigation. An initial probe found the ship was not overloaded and had enough life vests on board.

The disaster has now caused a higher toll than the sinking of a ferry in South Korea in April 2014 that killed 304 people, most of them children on a school trip. It is also China's worst shipping catastrophe in seven decades.

More than 1,000 family members have come to Jianli in the central province of Hubei, where the ship went down, with many expressing frustration at the lack of information from the government.

The government says that it is doing everything possible to help the relatives, including providing free accommodation and medical services, and on Saturday state television ran an interview with a tearful family member saying how happy she was with all their help.

But relatives speaking to Reuters have expressed concern about security apparently being aimed at them, including the number of police cars parked outside of hotels where they are staying.

"Everyone who has come here is being controlled. Basically there is no freedom. They follow us everywhere," one man who lost several relatives on the boat told Reuters, asking not to be identified.—Reuters

Gambia expels European Union's top diplomat; no reason stated

BANJU, 6 June — The government of Gambia has expelled the European Union's top diplomat in the West African state, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday, but gave no further details.

Agnès Guillaud, the European Union's chargée d'affaires in Banjul, who is acting in place of an ambassador, was asked to leave Gambia within 72 hours, according to the statement, which was read on Gambia national TV.

The statement said the decision was effective Friday. No reason was given for the expulsion.

EU officials were not immediately available to comment.

Gambian President Yahya Jammeh, 50, has ruled the tiny west African nation with a firm hand since he came to power in a coup some 20 years ago. He has stifled dissent and has faced increased criticism from abroad over issues ranging from human rights to claims he can cure AIDS. He has also cracked down on the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The European Union blocked some 13 million

euros in aid to Gambia in 2014 because of its poor human rights record, in particular anti-homosexual laws, and was debating whether to release some 150 million euros (£109.1 million) in aid this year.

A separate statement from the office of Gambia's president on Friday condemned a statement last month by US National Security Adviser Susan Rice, in which she called Jammeh's comments and threats against the LGBT community "unconscionable" and a violation of human rights.

The statement from

Jammeh's office said the accusations by the US government were a systematic campaign aimed at denting the image of Gambia and demonising its leadership because of its stance against homosexuality.

"The Government reminds all that homosexuality is totally against the religious, cultural and traditional values of the Gambia and would thus not be tolerated," the statement said.

Gambia, a splinter of land wedged inside Senegal, is one of Africa's smallest nations with 1.9 million people.—Reuters

Boston bomber's friends sentenced for hampering investigation

BOSTON, 6 June — Two college friends of the Boston Marathon bomber were sentenced to prison on Friday for removing a backpack containing empty fireworks shells from Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's dorm room amid a massive manhunt three days after the deadly 2013 attack.

Kazakh exchange student Azamat Tazhayakov was sentenced to 3-1/2 years for obstructing justice by taking, with his roommate, Tsarnaev's pack and dropping it in a dumpster by the off-campus apartment they shared.

Robel Phillipos, of

Cambridge, Massachusetts, was sentenced to three years in prison for lying to investigators about the incident, which occurred in the hours after the FBI released images of Tsarnaev and his older brother, Tamerlan, identifying them as suspects.

A third friend, Dias Kadyrbayev, also of Kazakhstan, was sentenced on Tuesday to six years after pleading guilty to obstructing the investigation into the attack that killed three people and injured 264.

The United States never claimed that the three men had any advanced knowl-

edge of the bombing plan, one of the highest-profile attacks on US soil since 11 September, 2001.

Tazhayakov and Kadyrbayev made statements of apology to the court for their crimes. Phillipos opted not to speak, citing a planned appeal of his conviction.

"It just makes me sick what Dzhokhar did," Tazhayakov told the court, holding back tears. "I didn't go there to the dorm room because I made connection that Dzhokhar was some jihadist. I never thought about it. At that moment I saw that one of my friends was

alleged bomber and I didn't know if it was true."

Prosecutors had sought a four-year sentence for Tazhayakov, which they

said reflected his willingness to testify against Tsarnaev. They were seeking a five-year, three-month sentence for Phillipos.—Reuters



Amir Ismagulov, the father of Azamat Tazhayakov, visits the makeshift memorial for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings in Boston, Massachusetts on 7 May, 2013.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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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.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 7th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

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Mali govt, rebels agree security deal as step to peace accord

ALGIERS, 6 June — Mali's government and Tuareg-led rebels agreed on a ceasefire in a strategic town and on more political guarantees on Friday, steps towards a UN-brokered peace accord to end decades of uprisings in the northern region the separatists call Azawad.

Western powers are pushing for a conclusive accord in Mali, fearing that continued instability will allow Islamist militants to return to the north, from where a French military intervention drove them out in 2013.

Mali's government accepted a broad UN-brokered agreement in March, but the rebel coalition Coordination of Azawad Movements delayed a final signing, saying it fell short of their demands, as fighting continued in the vast desert region.

Implementing any peace arrangement and ceasefire is certain to be complicated, with fighters on the ground divided into various competing factions and splinter groups, and Islamist militants also trying to return.

"There are two texts that we will sign today, one security and one political, that will allow the Coordination to go ahead and sign the final agreement, hopefully on 20 June in Bamako," Hamdi told *Reuters* at the signing ceremony in Algiers.

Hamdi said one arrangement called for a ceasefire in the northern town of Menaka and the withdrawal of pro-Bamako armed groups from the area, to be replaced temporarily by UN security before Malian troops would be stationed there.

The text of the agree-

ment calls for the retreat of all rebel forces to 20 kilometres outside Menaka, a strategic town 200 km (125 miles) east of Gao, the largest city in northern Mali.

Pro-government armed groups seized Menaka from Tuareg separatists in April during fierce fighting that has complicated international efforts to get a final peace agreement.

In a sign of splits, pro-Bamako group Plat-forme, which has signed up for the UN peace deal, rejected Friday's Menaka security accord, saying its proposals had been ignored.

A second political text addresses some "concerns" by the rebel alliance about the peace deal, including guarantees on issues such as return of refugees, security arrangements and development plans for their region.

After signing the two documents, Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop said they created "all the conditions for peace".

Tuaregs have risen up four times since Mali's independence from France in 1960 to demand some form of self-rule.

The Algiers document in March proposed more devolved powers for the north, a regional security force and a special development plan. But it left the issue of Azawad's political identity for a national debate between Malian parties.

Mali's government rejected any notion of full autonomy for Azawad in a federal system, but said it would devolve more authority under Mali's existing decentralised structure. Rebels had pushed for a federalist system.

Reuters

Japanese families leave for disputed Russian isles for annual visit

TOKYO, 6 June — Former Japanese residents of disputed islands off Hokkaido left for the Russian-held isles on Saturday for an annual visit, as the two countries struggle to address the long-standing row.

The first group of this year's visitors, made up of some 60 former residents and their families, left the northern Japanese city of Nemuro by boat. They will see the remains of their old homes and other places on one of the islands, Etorofu, before returning to Nemuro on Monday, organizers said.

The trip, which comes as both countries are promoting exchanges between the former

and current residents of the islands by allowing visa-free visits, had originally been scheduled for mid-May before being canceled due to a delay in Russia's internal arrangements, the Japanese government said earlier.

This time, the departure was delayed from Friday due to bad weather.

Japan and Russia have been negotiating an end to their territorial dispute involving four islands — Kunashiri, Etorofu Shikotan and the Habomai islets — that Russia took control of at the end of World War II and which has prevented the countries from signing a formal peace treaty.

Kyodo News

Two climbers killed, 17 missing after quake hits Malaysia's highest mountain

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 June — Two people were killed and 17 climbers, including one Chinese national, were still unaccounted for on Mount Kinabalu after a 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit Malaysia's eastern Sabah state, a Malaysian official said on Saturday.

Ranau District Police Chief Superintendent Farhan Lee Abdullah told the media that eight Singaporeans, six Malaysians, and three people each from China, the Philippines and Japan were still missing after the earthquake on Friday.

The bodies of a 12-year-old Singaporean student and a 30-year-old local moun-

tain guide have already been brought down and taken to hospital, he added.

The Chinese Consulate in Kota Kinabalu told *Xinhua* that a Chinese was among the those missing after the quake, and local authorities were continuing an effort to locate those climbers.

Ferhan said that the search and rescue operation was still underway.

"We will continue the search until everyone has been accounted for," he said.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said the earthquake, which occurred at 7:15 am local time

(2315 GMT Thursday), was centered 16 km northwest of Ranau near Mount Kinabalu, with a depth of 54 km. It was felt across the Sabah state.

The tremor triggered small landslides and stonefalls on the 4,095-metre Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Malaysia. According to the photos posted online by the trapped climbers, part of the iconic Donkey's Ear twin peaks of the mountain were badly damaged.

Hikers always start climbing the mountain after midnight from the camp and reach the top by dawn to watch the sunrise.

Xinhua



The world's rarest stamp, the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta, is on display at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 5 June, 2015.—XINHUA

Angelina Jolie wants to play Boba Fett's wife in 'Star Wars' movie



Actress-director Angelina Jolie

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Hollywood actress-director Angelina Jolie has revealed that she would love to play Boba Fett's

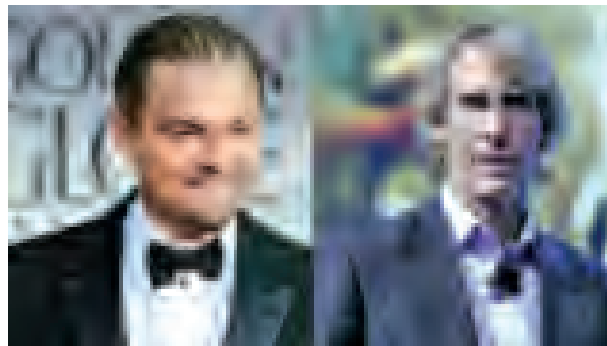
ing her "Unbroken" actor Domhnall Gleeson for the *Interview Magazine*.

"I'm personally a Boba Fett fan," Jolie said, to which Gleeson responded, "Well, you make a phone call and I'm pretty sure, Angie, that they'll have you in, in a second." Jolie then replied, "Can Boba Fett have a missus? Well, put in a good word for me, then."

Gleeson is set to appear in J J Abrams' "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", which is due for release in December 2015.

PTI

Leonardo DiCaprio and Michael Bay to produce Rwandan Cycling movie



Leonardo DiCaprio and Michael Bay

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio and director Michael Bay are teaming up for a movie based on the Rwandan national cycling team.

The "Wolf of Wall Street" actor will not star in the film, and the "Transformers" director is not directing the project, said *The Hollywood Reporter*. The duo will produce the

movie via their respective banners Appian Way and Bay Films.

"Virunga" director Orlando von Einsiedel has roped in to helm the movie which is still in development stage. The movie will revolve around American cyclist Jacques "Jock" Boyer, who after retiring went to Rwanda and formed the country's cycling team, Team Rwanda.

DiCaprio, 40 and the 50-year-old Bay got connected on the project through Bay's former assistant-turned-vp, Elyse Klaitis.—PTI

Keeping China's film legends alive

BEIJING, 6 June — In a dark workshop in Beijing, film reels are stacked on the floor in cases that have seen better days. Their contents are waiting to be transferred to a digital format.

The China Film Archive (CFA) is working to save these old films, the treasures of a Chinese movie industry that is celebrating its 110th birthday this year. Considered the first film made in China, 1905 short "Dingjun Mountain" gave birth to a sector that is flourishing today as never before.

The reels came from Shaanxi Province's Xi'an Film Vault, a giant climate-controlled warehouse designed for careful storage of the delicate archives.

"The temperature

must be kept between minus and plus 5 degrees centigrade," says CFA engineer Wang Zheng. "The indoor relative humidity must be 30 to 40 percent."

Even more complex processes are involved in the restoration project, which has been reclaiming and preserving valuable material for film historians since its launch in late 2006.

After cleaning and repairing the film with chemical reagents, Wang scans it using a telecine machine and transfers the footage to the CFA's central system.

"We use several computer programs, including Photoshop, to digitally restore the footage," Wang explains. This step is the most time-consuming as the engineers must check and patch the films frame

by frame, staring at a screen for hours.

"We're all under age 40, but our heads are spinning after a day's work," Wang says.

A skillful film restorer can finish 200 frames at most in a day. A 90-minute feature — with around 130,000 frames — can take six months to restore.

"Old film dims and gets dirty over the years," says Wang. "We must not only repair them technically, but also keep their historical integrity."

His comment hints at the true importance of this project — building an accessible library of films that can give viewers an understanding of movie history.

Through the painstaking monotony of their task, Wang and his colleagues

have accumulated a wealth of knowledge about Chinese films and grown to appreciate these cinematic works.

"We restored an animation in 2012, 'Rat and Frog', which was produced in 1931," he recalls. "The techniques and production standards were on par with the Walt Disney Company — so it's hard to say who might have influenced whom."

Wang complains that younger restorers, though technically accomplished, lack understanding of old Chinese films, and the social and historical context.

"All the movies, once restored, must be evaluated by experts and directors," he says, noting that historical know-how is especially important to the work of CFA counterpart the Cen-

tral Studio of News Reels Production, which works to restore vintage Chinese documentaries.

The CFA's digital library holds more than 30,000 Chinese feature films and 600,000 copies of works produced since 1922.

Li Tao, deputy head of the CFA's public affairs division, explains that the restorers prioritize badly damaged films with high historical value: "We are not willing to see these precious archives disappear."

The CFA has digitally restored some 7,000 films, including the earliest existing feature-length Chinese movie, "Labour's Love".

Despite the success, the CFA faces challenges. It receives annual government funding of 35 million yuan (about 5.6 million US dollars), but still needs more donor assistance.

"It's common practice

internationally for film restoration work to get financial support from production companies or nongovernmental bodies as it's considered a public service," according to Li. "In China, we need to attract more private capital into film preservation."

The CFA is also short of skilled technicians. "The intensive and tiring nature of the work keeps many young engineers away," he says.

"A good film restorer should have understanding of the film's chemical and physical nature, be skilled at using computer software, and know Chinese film history — not many people have all that."

His summary of the job may be the biggest recruitment draw. "Legends survive on film. What we do is keep legends alive."—Xinhua

Bruce Willis stars in Chinese second world war film

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Hollywood star Bruce Willis has been signed on for the upcoming Chinese epic "The Bombing", which is about Japan's aerial bombardment of the southwestern city of Chongqing in World War II.

Willis, 60, will be seen in the role of a flying instructor, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

He is joined by Asian stars including South Korea's Song Seung-heon, Hong Kong actors Nicholas Tse and William Chen, and Chinese actor Liu Ye in the 3D movie.

Directed by Xiao Feng, the film started shooting last month and the "Die Hard" star has already shot key scenes in Xiangshan in China's Zhejiang province, according to Xiao's Sina Weibo microblog.

The film is due for release early next year.

On his website, Feng said the budget for the movie was USD 56.47 million. The timing of the film's release will coincide



Hollywood star Bruce Willis

with events to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Willis previously starred in "Looper", which was co-produced by Chinese-American production company DMG.—PTI

Bicycle fashion show kicks off in Budapest



A participant attends a bicycle fashion show in Budapest, Hungary, on 5 June, 2015. —XINHUA

GENERAL

Japan hotels offer tight space for a tight budget



A woman sits inside a one man capsule bed unit called a 'pod' inside a hotel at Grids at the Akihabara shopping district in Tokyo, Japan, on 19 May, 2015. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 6 June — With Japan's tourist numbers and hotel prices on the rise thanks to a weaker yen, developers are getting creative with a new niche line in stylish but cheap accommodation in bunks, cabins and pods of all shapes and sizes.

Even a tiny double room in a hotel with limited service can set you back 30,000 yen (\$240) a night in central Tokyo these days. But if you look a little more, you can bed down in comfort for a mere fraction of that.

Just 10 minutes' walk from Tokyo's famous Akihabara shopping district, an eight-storey white building called Grids stands among office and apartment blocks. The hotel, a conversion of a 34-year-old office building that opened in April, offers

rooms from 3,300 yen to about 5,000 yen a person.

A bunk bed in a shared room is the cheapest option, and comes with slippers, a bath towel and a locker and key. A 12 square-metre standard double with a shared shower and toilet costs just 3,600 yen a person. If you've come with family or friends, the top floor has a 28 square meter premium room with tatami mats on a raised floor where guests can lay out futons for four, costing about 5,000 yen per person.

"Converting an office building into a hotel is an ideal way to respond to the immediate needs for hotel rooms," said Yukari Sasaki, senior managing officer for Sankei Building Co, a property developer for Grids.

"Building a hotel from scratch costs too much money now because of high construction costs," she added.

It typically takes about three years to build a new hotel, while Sankei spent less than a year to open Grids once it started planning last summer.

Sankei has already secured another property for Grids in the Nihonbashi district not far from Tokyo station and is planning to build more in Kyoto and Osaka. A record 13.4 million foreigners visited Japan last year, partly thanks to the weaker yen. Japan aims to boost that to 20 million by 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics, and 30 million by 2030. First Cabin also runs hotels converted from office buildings in six cities nation-

wide. It charges about 5,500 yen for a "business class cabin" with a single bed and no additional space. That is slightly larger than a unit in one of Japan's famous capsule hotels, but comes with enough headroom for guests to stand up. For an 1,000 yen, you can get a "first class cabin" with space to open up a suitcase and change.

First Cabin in Tsukiji, near Tokyo's famous fish market, is a converted office building with a cafe on the ground floor that becomes a wine bar at night. Guests bathe in communal bathrooms large enough for about 10 people.

There are also "nine hours" hotels, based on the notion that people sleep for seven hours and need one hour at either end, at Narita International Airport and in Kyoto. These feature "sleep pods" which look similar to capsule hotels but are more stylish and claim to have better mattresses.

"Our service is limited to beds and showers," said Takahiro Matsui, chief executive officer of Nine Hours Inc, which runs the hotel. "But we provide the best quality for what we offer."

Nine Hours in Kyoto is a nine-story structure with 125 pods, while the one in Narita occupies one large floor of an office building.

The company plans to open more Nine Hours hotels in the future, Matsui said.

Reuters

(7-6-2015 07:00 am~ 8-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Baby crocodiles, offspring of Castro gift, reach Cuban swamp



A Cuban crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*) is seen in a hatchery at Zapata Swamp National Park, on 4 June, 2015. —REUTERS

ZAPATA SWAMP NATIONAL PARK, (Cuba), 6 June — Ten baby crocodiles transferred from Sweden have reached a Cuban hatchery to strengthen the species and extend the blood lines of a pair of Cuban crocodiles former President Fidel Castro gave to a Soviet cosmonaut in the 1970s.

The hatchlings, a gift from a Swedish zoo in April, were delivered to the Zapata Swamp National Park's hatchery on Thursday after a 40-day quarantine in Havana. Scientists hope to boost a species thinned by loss of habitat and interbreeding with the American crocodile.

"They can be a new

source of genotype to help preserve the species," said Etian Perez, a biologist at the Zapata Swamp hatchery, where 4,000 to 5,000 Cuban crocodiles are nurtured.

Each year the hatchery releases as many animals as scientists believe are ready for the wild, where they can grow to 2.5 to 2.8 metres long, about 8 to 9 feet.

Another 6,000 to 8,000 are in the wild, Perez said, numbers that Cuban officials are trying to keep from dwindling.

The newly arrived 21-month-old siblings, each about a meter (3 feet) long, could be held for a year or more before release, Perez said.—Reuters

FIFA may be embroiled in scandal but its Women's World Cup set to be hit with fans

VANCOUVER, 6 June — With a bribery scandal enveloping FIFA it might seem like a bad time for football's governing body to hold the Women's World Cup in Canada - even more so given indictments last week included top officials from the North American and Caribbean region on corruption charges.

But that isn't proving to be the case. Tickets for the month-long competition that starts on Saturday are selling quickly, TV audiences around the world are expected to be large, and the sponsors say they expect good exposure for their products.

Some current and former players even say the scandal, which led to Sepp Blatter's resignation as FIFA president on Tuesday, has triggered more interest in the women's competition rather than casting a shadow. "We all love train wrecks," said

former Canadian national team player Carrie Serwetnyk. "I think this World Cup is going to benefit from the scandal. It's going to drive more people into seats and it's going to create a bigger television audience, because people are curious about what's happening with FIFA."

One attraction is that the Women's World Cup is FIFA's mom-and-pop operation, meaning it is far less drenched in money than the men's game and therefore less likely to be tainted by illicit payments.

The opening match between Canada and China in Edmonton, is on track to record the largest attendance - 52,000 people - for any Canadian national team match in any sport, according to the Canadian Football Association. That is quite something in a country usually more obsessed with ice hockey.

The 24-team tournament has games spread across six cities and five time zones from Canada's Atlantic to Pacific coasts.

The final on 5 July sold out within 72 hours, all the US team matches are selling out and more than 1.5 million fans are expected in total. That compares with 845,711 spectators at the last Women's World Cup in 2011 in Germany, which had fewer games.

"Ticket sales are going very, very fast across our country," said CSA General Secretary Peter Montopoli. "Due to demand in Montreal, we're opening up the upper bowl in Montreal's Olympic Stadium for Canada's third group stage match." That will nearly double the capacity for the game. Some sponsors who shuddered at the scandal erupted last week and worsened this week are now quietly giddy at the at-

tention.

"Bad press, good press, it's all press and draws attention to the event," said the representative of a major sponsor who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Even practices and warm-ups games have drawn extra attention as the twists and turns in the scandal have unfolded in the past 10 days. "There's a lot of talk about Football right now. Perhaps, maybe, we'll get people to watch this amazing tournament," US player Heather O'Reilly told reporters in Winnipeg.

Some players said they wanted to see reforms in FIFA and more attention on developing women's football. "We're excited for FIFA to restructure and go forward with more transparent people at the head of it," said Meghan Klingenberg, also a player in the US team.—Reuters

Myanmar aim to secure early semifinal berth against Philippines

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 June — Myanmar's U23 footballers will be gunning for a third consecutive win Sunday at the 28th SEA Games in Singapore, with victory against the Philippines guaranteeing a semifinal berth with a group match in hand.

Myanmar sit atop Group A with the maximum six points from their opening two matches, having defeated the hosts 2-1 on Thursday after

opening the tournament with a 4-2 win over Indonesia two days earlier.

Teams in the football tournament are divided into two groups, with the top two teams from each advancing to the semis.

Draws in both remaining group matches will also be enough to secure a place in the semis for Myanmar, who failed to advance past the group stage as hosts of the 27th SEA Games in 2013.

Myanmar are brimming with confidence be-

fore the match at Jalan Besar Stadium against a Philippines side that has yet to secure a point, having lost 3-1 to Cambodia and 1-0 to Singapore in its two group games.

Myanmar Head Coach Kyi Lwin said after the win against Singapore on Thursday, "We will try our best in every game, and we will try to win the next two games."

Myanmar will face Cambodia on Wednesday in their final match of the group stage—GNLM



(From left to right) Hein Ko Ko, Phyo Kyaw Zin, Aung Show Thar and Kaung Sat Naing give thumbs up after a 2-1 win over hosts at Jalan Besar Stadium in Singapore on Thursday.—PHOTO: CREDIT TO MFF

Portugal stay perfect, Colombia sneak through

DUNEDIN, 6 June — Colombia have sneaked through to the last 16 at New Zealand 2015 on goal difference after a 3-1 defeat to Portugal that maintains the Europeans' flaw-

less record thus far. Helio Sousa's side were deserved and comprehensive winners in a match that underlined their credentials as genuine title contenders.

The first half was a dis-

appointingly low-key affair but there were a couple of moments of genuine quality, most notably when Nuno Santos gave the Europeans a third-minute lead. It was the latest superb free-kick in

a tournament crammed full of them, with the Portugal No 11 adapting to a position just outside the box with a ferocious left-foot drive around the wall and high into the Colombian net.

Los Cafateros' first decent effort, 27 minutes later, also came from a dead ball. Joao Rodriguez was the man responsible on this occasion, curling a 30-yard effort up and over the wall only to see the ball drop just a few inches wide of the left-hand post.

Portugal remained in control of the match, though, and it was no surprise when they went two ahead nine minutes into the second half. The goal came from the penalty spot, and the award was inevitable after goalkeeper Alvaro Montero rushed from his goal to crash wildly into Andre Silva. The Portugal No 9 dusted himself down to assume responsibility and coolly sent the keeper the wrong way, side-footing low into the right-hand corner.

Silva has been one of the stars of Portugal's campaign thus far and on 67

minutes he doubled his tally with third goal of the tournament. Again, Montero did not cover himself in glory, racing from his line only to completely miss Nuno Santos's teasing cross from the left. Silva, though, deserved great credit for directing a looping header back towards goal so accurate that even Davinson Sanchez, covering on the line, could not prevent it dropping in.

The only disappointment for Portugal on an otherwise perfect afternoon was the blemish applied to their erstwhile perfect defensive record. That came in the shape of an ultimately crucial consolation goal for Colombia, with Jarlan Barrera threading a pass through for Santos Borre to pick his spot in the bottom corner with a precise left-foot finish.

FIFA



A general view during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group C match between Colombia and Portugal at Otago Stadium on 6 June, 2015 in Dunedin, New Zealand.—FIFA

Draw takes Mali, Uruguay through

HAMILTON, 6 June — Mali and Uruguay have qualified for the Round of 16 after a 1-1 draw that left them facing the drawing of lots to decide which of the two finishes second in Group D. That draw

took place in Auckland shortly after the sides were left with identical points and goal tallies, Serbia having secured top spot with a 2-0 win over Mexico.

The 'loser' of this drawing of lots will ad-

vance in any case as one of the best third-placed teams, and the fact that a draw was enough for both was evident in the sides' safety-first approach. It was certainly not a match that will live long in the memory, with chances in extremely short supply and neither team willing to commit numbers to attack.

Uruguay's 17th-minute opener came completely out of the blue and was a tribute to the intelligence of Franco Acosta. Mali had made a hash of clearing the ball out of defence and when Ramiro Guerra looped a header back into the area, Acosta — unmarked, onside but with his

back to goal — applied the most delicate of glancing touches to deflect it past the keeper.

Mali responded and might have drawn level on a couple of occasions, first when Aoubacar Doumbia was off target with a powerful cross-cum-shot and then when Falaye Sacko's curling effort was held by the impressive Gaston Gुरुceaga. However, as half-time neared, Gुरुceaga was involved in the incident that led to parity being restored when he was penalised for handling a back-pass.

Uruguay protested the award but Mali made sure to take full advantage, with Adama Traore taking pos-



Adama Traore of Mali celebrates with team mates after scoring his teams first goal of the game during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group D match between Mali and Uruguay held at Waikato Stadium on 6 June, 2015 in Hamilton, New Zealand.—FIFA

session of the indirect free-kick and curling a powerful left-foot shot into the bottom corner from 16 yards.

That set up the result that both teams needed and, in truth, the second half — a complete non-event

in terms of goalscoring chances — showed that. Uruguay and Mali can now both look forward to the last 16, with an update on the final group rankings to be provided soon on FIFA.com.—FIFA

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 6 June, 2015

Group C	Senegal	2-1	Qatar
	Colombia	1-3	Portugal
Group D	Serbia	2-0	Mexico
	Mali	1-1	Uruguay

Match Schedules for 7 June 2015 (all times local)

Group E	Hungary	-	Nigeria	11:30
	Brazil	-	Korea DPR	11:30
Group F	Honduras	-	Germany	08:30
	Fiji	-	Uzbekistan	08:30