

President U Thein Sein says preservation of Inlay region needs joint effort



President U Thein Sein meets management committee members from Taunggyi, Loilem and Langkho districts at regional development meeting in Taunggyi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June—Conserving the vibrant Inlay region as a landmark of Shan State requires a collective effort,

President U Thein Sein told local management and development committees at a meeting in Taunggyi on Wednesday.

The government has paid special attention to maintaining Inlay Lake and its lush green environs, the president said.

The 27th Session of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Co-ordination Council at the UNESCO Headquarters

in Paris on 9 June has inscribed Inlay Lake as the first biosphere reserve of Myanmar, the president said, noting that such recognition will help promote the region.

Improved transportation infrastructure can pave the way for regional development, which in turn will contribute to national growth, he said.

He also stressed the need for electricity for industrialization, and higher learning institutions for the development of human resources.

The Inlay region is well positioned to generate a lot of employment opportunities through the tourism industry.

Turning to electoral matters, the president called for collective participation in making the upcoming elections free, fair and successful.

Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Khin Maung Soe, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun and Dr Ko Ko Oo gave briefings on sector-wise reforms in areas including agriculture, livestock, electricity, environmental conservation, vocational

(See page 3)

Myanmar Peace Centre team to meet ethnic armed groups in Chiang Mai



Senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre, U Hla Maung Shwe (left), together with ethnic armed group peace negotiators Nai Hong Sa and Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, speaks at a press conference on the national ceasefire accord at the MPC in Yangon in March.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 10 June — A working group of the Myanmar Peace Centre will meet representatives from ethnic armed organizations in Chiang Mai on Thursday

following the latter's unexpected rejection of the draft National Ceasefire Agreement, MPC team leader U Hla Maung Shwe said.

Leaders of 17 ethnic armed groups concluded a summit Tuesday in Law Khee Lar, Kayin State, at

which they dealt a blow to the government's peace plan by deciding not to sign the NCA until further amendments are made and all armed groups are included in the signing process.

(See page 2)

Inlay Lake inscribed as Myanmar's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

UNESCO, 10 June—Inlay Lake has been inscribed as the first Biosphere Reserve of Myanmar at the 27th Session of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) meetings at the UNESCO

Headquarters in Paris on 9th June 2015. Inlay Lake has now joined the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) under the UNESCO MAB Programme, established in 1971 to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, and promote

innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable. The WNBR, counting over 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries all over the

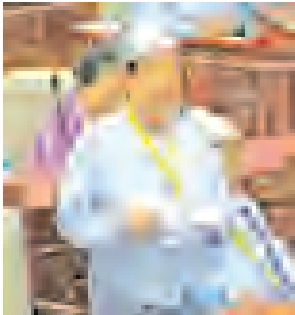
(See page 2)



Residences of local people at Inlay Lake.—Photo: ©UNESCO

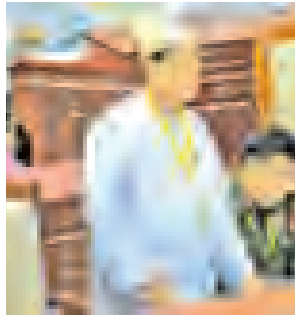
Pyithu Hluttaw

Surveys to be conducted for construction of a new bridge in Chin state

Deputy Minister
U Than Swe.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Ministry of Construction will conduct surveys on designs and cost for construction of a new bridge in Palatwa Township in Chin state that will link with Rakhine state crossing Kaladan River.

The cost will be submitted to the Union government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in 2016-2017 fiscal year for approval after being estimated the cost, said Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint to Pyithu Hluttaw on Wednesday. U Soe Tint said the bridge should have the length of 1,200 feet and 50

Deputy Minister
U Soe Tint.—MNA

feet height from the maximum water level of the river. Under the management of Sagaing region government, experts from the Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture will conserve the historic Kyatdaunkan Lake which is one of the tourist attractions in Myanmar.

This archaeological site was last maintained by the state budget K 6.8 million in 2002-2003 fiscal year, but there is no budget allocation for this in 2014-2015 fiscal year and 2015-2016 fiscal year.—MNA

Constitution amendment bill submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Constitution amendment bill was submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by MP U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Township constituency on Wednesday.

The report of the Joint-bill Committee on amendment bills of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Law was submitted by MP U Tin Oo from Yangon region constituency 11 to the

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the bicameral parliament approved the bills and send them back to the Supreme Court of Union.

Pyithu Hluttaw MP Daw Tin Nwe Oo dis-

cussed Myanmar's investment in the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the investment plan.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

MPs debate proposal on construction of diversion dam from Thanlwin River

U Sai Thant Zin, MP
of Shan state
constituency 4.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Amyotha Hluttaw session on Wednesday debated proposal on construction of a diversion dam from the

Representative of
Defence Services
Lt-Cmdr Aung Phy
Kyaw.—MNA

water course of Thanlwin River.

U Myo Myint, MP of Mandalay region con-

stituency 6, proposed the construction of a diversion dam to address drought and flood in middle and eastern part of Myanmar. Representative of Defence Services Lt-Cmdr Aung Phy Kyaw said the project should not be implemented immediately as the project will need international aid for surveys, investment and conservation works, as well as the consent of local people and cooperation of neighbouring countries.

U Htay Aung, MP of Mandalay region constituency 12, supported the proposal saying that the di-

version dam project will be implemented as it can benefit agricultural sector and hydropower generation in Kayin and Mon states.

U Sai Thant Zin, MP of Shan state constituency 4, objected the project, with the remark that Thanlwin River is flowing through conflict zones and misunderstanding on this project will turn out hindrance on peace making process.

Daw Nang Ni Ni Aye, MP of Kayin state constituency 6, backed the project, noting that it will help develop the region in the long term.—MNA

Inlay Lake inscribed ...

(from page 1)

world, is one of the main international tools to develop and implement sustainable development approaches in a wide variety of contexts. It includes a wide range of locations such as Cambodia's lake Tonle Sap, the Mare aux Hippopotames in Burkina Faso, the wetlands of Pantanal in Brazil and the Canary Island of Fuerteventura (Spain).

UNESCO has been providing technical sup-

port to the Government of Myanmar, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoECAF) Myanmar and UNDP, with generous support from the Government of Norway, to designate Inlay lake region as the first biosphere reserve of Myanmar. Senior officials from MoECAF represented Myanmar at the 27th Session of the MAB ICC meetings in Paris, where a total of 26 proposals, submitted by 19

countries, for the inscription of new Reserves are being discussed. The nomination of Inlay Lake region has received wide support and endorsement from the Union Government, Shan State Government, local communities at Inlay Lake, non-governmental organizations, University representatives, Youth groups, and the private sector who have all contributed to the nomination efforts.

The Inlay Lake biosphere reserve is situated in Taunggyi District, Southern Shan State in Myan-

mar and covers a total area of 489,721 hectares. The wetland ecosystem of this freshwater lake is home to 267 species of birds, out of which 82 are wetland birds, 43 species of freshwater fishes, otters and turtles. Diverse flora and fauna species are recorded and the lake is reported to be the nesting place for the globally endangered Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*). In addition to its ecological importance, Inlay Lake is also unique for the way the local inhabitants have adapted their lifestyle to their environment. Farm-

ers from one of the dominant ethnic groups in the region, the Inthas, practice floating island agriculture, locally called 'Yechan'. Inlay Lake and its watershed provides several ecosystem services on which local people depend, including clean air, clean water, a cooler climate, fish stocks and other resources.

As Biosphere Reserves are experimental sites which aim to reconcile biodiversity and sustainable resource utilization, by promoting local solutions to global challenges, the designation

of Inlay Lake region as the first Biosphere Reserve of Myanmar will further encourage and enhance environmental conservation initiatives to safeguard biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods development in the region.

For more information, please contact Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office, UNESCO Myanmar (su.alam@unesco.org) or Mr. Sriharsha Masabathula, Programme Analyst, UNESCO Myanmar (s.masabathula@unesco.org).

Myanmar Peace Centre team ...

(from page 1)

"We will meet them this evening and informal discussions are due for tomorrow," U Hla Maung Shwe told The Global New Light of Myanmar by phone Wednesday before leaving for Thailand.

The discussions will be the first meeting between MPC advisers, who have provided advice and technical support to the government's peace negotiating team, and a new 15-member high-level nationwide

ceasefire coordinating team formed at the Law Khee Lar summit.

"I don't know who will be present at the meeting from the ethnic side," U Hla Maung said, adding that his team will report to the government's Union Peace-making Work Committee on progress made at the meeting.

"It is up to the UPWC to decide whether peace negotiations continue and what happens next," he said.

Ethnic representatives

at the meeting are expected to send back the amended peace draft to the government for further negotiations.

According to a statement on the 2-9 June summit released Tuesday, leaders of participating armed groups decided not to sign the draft nationwide ceasefire accord without the inclusion of all groups. They agreed on a set of proposed amendments to the draft National Ceasefire Accord.

The ethnic armed groups formed a new 15-member high-level nationwide ceasefire coordi-

nating team to finalize the ceasefire deal with the government side.

According to sources, the newly-formed negotiating team is comprised of 10 new members from the participating armed groups and five former NCCT peace negotiators, including Nai Hong Sar, Maj-Gen Guan Maw and Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong. It is led by Naw Zipporah Sein, deputy chair of the Karen National Union, with Dr La Ja, general secretary of the Kachin Independence Organization, and Pu Zing Cung, of the Chin National

Front, serving as deputies.

In late March, the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, representing 16 ethnic armed groups, and the government's Union Peace-making Work Committee signed and approved the draft accord in Yangon.

Since the signing of the NCA, the government has indicated its readiness to officially sign the accord as soon as possible, while the NCCT has stated that it first needed to be put before the Law Khee Lar summit.

Mr. Vijay Nambiar, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's special advi-

sor on Myanmar who was present at the Law Khee Lar Summit, also called on ethnic leaders to implement a ceasefire and start political dialogue as soon as possible in his address on the opening of the summit.

Regarding the summit's failure to achieve final approval on the draft NCA, as well as the formation of a new negotiating team by ethnic armed groups, U Hla Maung Shwe expressed his view that the ethnic armed groups had not taken the smartest approach to achieving peace.

GNLM

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein says preservation of Inlay region...

(from page 1)
training, health and education.

In the morning, President U Thein Sein visited famous pagodas in Taunggyi and donated money.

While in Taunggyi, the president met Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and his ministers.

In the evening, the president met CP Company Chairman Dhanin Chearavanot at the Presidential Palace, with their discussion focusing on development of human resources, poverty reduction and investment in livestock.

MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with CP Company Chairman Dhanin Chearavanot.—MNA

Amity among parties vital, UEC chairman tells politics students

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June— Amity among political parties is of vital importance to national development, the chairman of the Union Election Commission on Wednesday told students of the Myanmar School of Politics, which is jointly conducted by Demo Finland and the Netherlands Institute for Democracy (NIMD).

U Tin Aye said the school aims to offer practical skills to enhance cross-party cooperation and dialogue in the interests of the country.

The school offered its first course in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 15 December 2014, followed

by the second in Mawlamyine, Mon State, on 27 April 2015.

Myanmar has little experience in holding elections, with the chairman saying the country has so far experienced elections five times in the 67 years since independence.

Ms Heli Jarvinen, a representative from Green Party of Finland, called for increased participation of women in parliament.

Mr Michiel Servaes, a representative from the Labour Party of the Netherlands, described politics as democratic dialogue, urging trainees to continue to sharpen their democratic capacity.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Chairperson pays visit to China

YANGON, 11 June— Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left here for the People's Republic of China Wednesday morning.

During the trip till 14 June, she will meet with leaders of the Communist Party of China including the President of the People's Republic of China.

Ko Latt
MNA

Fourth lot of Myanmar fishermen arrives in Yangon from Indonesia

YANGON, 10 June— Myanmar fishermen have been brought back home from Indonesia, as a result of a joint cooperation between the two governments, with generous sponsorship from a local private bank.

Kanbawza (KBZ) Bank sponsored the return of 132 fishermen from Ambon to Yangon, bringing them home on Wednesday.

This is the fourth time the bank has sponsored the homecoming of Myanmar fishermen who had been rescued from the years of bondage in Benjina, an Indonesia's remote

fishing island.

The victims arrived in Yangon in lots, with the first totaling 125 on 14 May, followed by 128 on 17 May and 129 on 28 May.

Together with Sitagu Group, the bank had made generous contributions to the return of over 3,500 Myanmar citizens from Malaysia and Port Blair of India.

KBZ has so far helped over 3,600 Myanmar citizens with their return from Indonesia, Malaysia and India free of charge, providing them with financial assistance.

GNLM

Union Information Minister meets artists from Myanmar Music Association



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut meets with officials of Myanmar Music Association.

MNA

YANGON, 10 June— a meeting with Chairman of Myanmar Music Association U Tin Oo

Lay and party at the hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the

Ministry of Information on Wednesday. The meeting focused on copyrights of song composers, efforts of Myanmar Music Association to enable its members to enjoy copyrights on their artistic works, and copyrights for artists for stage shows and KTVs.

MNA



Myanmar fishermen back from Indonesia seen at Yangon International Airport. THIHA TUN-KBZ

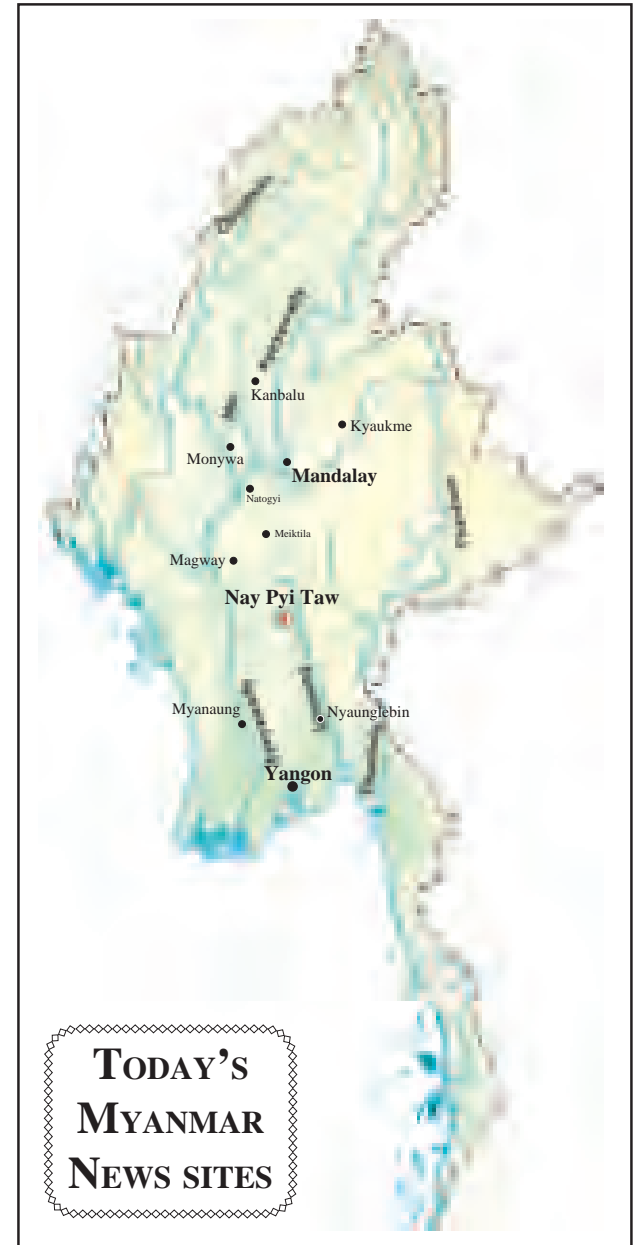
Saplings bring green to Bawdi Tahtaung religious region

MONYWA, 10 June — Sagaing Region Dry Zone Greening Department plans to grow 4,500 saplings in vacant areas and more than 10,000 on model plots this year in Bawdi Tahtaung religious area in Khattakan-taung Village, Monywa, Sagaing Region.

“The religious area is in the dry zone,” an official of Region Dry Zone Greening Department said. “It is one of the tourist destinations in the region. Thus, the region government gave an instruction to grow saplings for greening the region. In 2015, we will grow 250 saplings on the model plots.” The depart-



ment grew 3,505 saplings on the model plots from 2007 to 2014.—Po Chan (Monywa)



Two old shells found in dredging North Meiktila Lake

MEIKTILA, 10 June — Workers dredging North Meiktila Lake found two unexploded shells dropped by airplanes during World War II on 9 June.

The shells, each 4.5 feet long and 2.5 feet in

diameter, were uncovered during the excavation of an embankment of the lake near Wunzin Bund.

Police supervised removal of the shells from the worksite.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)



Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Myint Aung Than presents prize to an outstanding trainee in 32nd Buddhist culture examination in Pyinmana Township.—KOGYI KYAW (PYINMANA)

People with disabilities receive help with artificial limbs, braces

NYAUNGLEBIN, 10 June — Under the arrangements of Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Hpa-an Artificial Limb and Brace Rehabilitation Unit provided free treatment and repairs

at Nyaunglebin Township People’s Hospital on 9 June.

A 12-member team led by U Soe Htaik from the unit repaired artificial limbs and distributed crutches to people with disabilities from the township.

Deputy Commanding Officer U Soe Win of Township Red Cross Battalion, Township Medical Officer Dr Khin Zaw and health staff assisted the technicians.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



Technicians check people with disabilities for fixing artificial limbs and braces.

Philanthropic school provides free teaching to matric students

MAGWAY, 10 June — Since 2009, Buddhist monks U Javana, U Kunda and U Paññissara have overseen the teaching of students from poor families at Laytet monastery in Magway.

This year, 102 students out of 125 from the school passed the matriculation exam, representing

an 81.6 percent pass rate. The national pass rate this year was 37.6 percent.

After sitting a test in April, matriculation students of the philanthropic school attend free classes taught by university students and faculty members.

“At present, 80 students are under training

for the 2015-16 academic year,” said patron of the school abbot U Javana. “About 65 repeating students were added to the school this year. Medical officers give healthcare to the students. We supervise teaching and learning of the students in addition to accommodation and foods.”—Zwe Htet Shin

LOCAL NEWS

Teachers from monastic education schools attend course



NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Teachers from monastic education schools attended a refresher course in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 8 June.

Officials gave lectures on academic and office works to 30 teachers from

monastic education schools in Pyinmana, Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri and Ottarathiri townships under supervision of the chairman of monastic education schools, Abbot Bhaddanta Jotika, and members of the Sangha.

In the 2015-16 academic year, the government provided assistance to monastic education schools ranging from K400,000 to K1.6 million, depending on the number of students.

Kogyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

Social organizations donate uniforms, stationery to students

YANGON, 10 June — Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women's Affairs Organization donated uniforms and stationery to students at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township on 9 June.

Patron of Region MCWSC Daw Khin Thet

Htay said the committee and organization cooperated in enrolment of school-age children this year.

The patron, the chairperson and officials presented uniforms and stationery to the students. District Education Officer Daw Myint Kyi spoke words of thanks.

The two organizations have donated uniforms and stationery worth more than K35.3 million for 4,000 students from four districts, including uniforms and stationery worth K7.2 million for 800 students from Yangon West District for 2015-16 academic year.

Shwe Taing Lwin

Chief Justice of Kayin State High Court U Saw San Lin plants trees for greening Myawady District court on 10 June after delivering an address at capacity building course for court staff.

THUZAR (MYAWADY TOWN)



Students view round wall magazine, photo show

KYAUKME, 10 June — Monglon Sub-Township Information and Public Relations Department in Shan State staged the wall magazine, photo show and educational talks on drug elimination at the hall of Basic Education High School in Monglon on 8 June.

Teacher Daw Nang Sai Lao, police station

head IP Aung Ko Latt, Township Medical Officer Dr Kyaw Swa Win and Head of Township IPRD U Than Zaw Oo gave talks on elimination of narcotic drugs.

A total of 100 students attended the talks and visited the wall magazine and photo show.

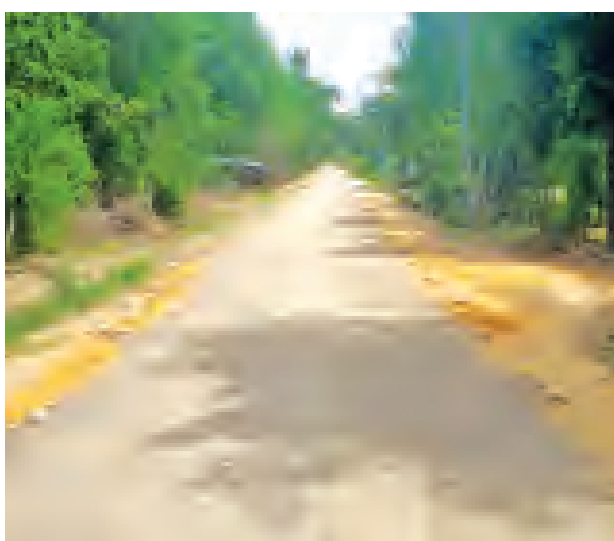
Myint Aung (Ka Ma)

Rural road upgraded to gravel one in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 10 June — Myanaung Township Department of Rural Development has placed gravel on a 6-furlong-long road section of the 8-mile-long Thabyegon-Daungkya Road.

Authorities in the township have given priority to upgrading roads and bridges for better transport among village-tracts.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



MNHRC disseminates human rights knowledge to departmental officials



MANDALAY, 10 June — Myanmar National Human Rights Commission opened a workshop for government officers in Mandalay on 9 June.

Region Minister for

Border Region and Security Col Aung Kyaw Moe gave the opening address at the workshop held at Hotel 76.

The workshop is being jointly run by the Swe-

den-based Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, which has been assisting the commission since 2012.

The vice chairman also

explained formation of the commission and its tasks.

Altogether 40 trainees from various departments in the region attended the two-day course.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Chief Minister discusses plan to assign gem plots

MANDALAY, 10 June — Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint recently met local authorities and residents at Mani Yadana Hall in Mogok, situated in central Myanmar's gem-producing region. He spoke about rural development tasks of the region government, including arrangements to assign gems plots to local people to improve their livelihoods. The

chief minister visited Kyatpyin market and inspected goods, sanitation works and drains. He visited No

8 Post-Primary School in Kyaukhleebee Village in Thabeikkyin Township and met with departmen-

tal officials at Township General Administration Department.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*





Thailand's electoral body tentatively sets 10 January for charter referendum

BANGKOK, 10 June — If Thailand's National Reform Council (NRC) endorses the draft constitution early in September, the Election Commission (EC) could hold a charter referendum on 10 January, 2016, the EC said on Wednesday.

Upon the NRC's approval of the draft charter, the EC will have to publish

19 million copies of the draft and distribute them to the public by 30 November, according to Supachai Somcharoen, chairman of the EC. The referendum is estimated to cost around 3 billion baht (89.1 million US dollars), Supachai said, stressing that the government must allocate the resources necessary for the

EC to complete the process.

The cabinet will draft the ballot, and it has not been decided what it will be like, the chairman said.

The Constitution Drafting Committee has already concluded the gathering of amendment proposals from the NRC and the cabinet. Thailand is likely to have a new general elec-

tion in September 2016 if the draft constitution survives the referendum. But the polls could be further postponed if another referendum, which was recently proposed by several NRC members, is held and allows Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to extend his time in office.

Xinhua

Indonesian president breaks tradition in picking new military chief



Indonesian presidential candidate Joko "Jokowi" Widodo gestures during a rally in Proklamasi Monument Park in Jakarta in this 9 July, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS

JAKARTA, 10 June — Indonesian President Joko Widodo has picked the army chief of staff to lead the military, a presidential palace spokesman said on Wednesday, breaking with a reform-era tradition of rotating the position between the branches of the armed forces.

The head of the air force was expected to take command of the military after the current chief, General Moeldoko, also from the army, retires on 1 August. Widodo's decision to promote General Gatot Nurmantyo is likely to cement the army's traditionally dominant role and inflame long-standing rivalry within the armed forces, analysts say. "It was supposed to be the air force's turn so they will be unhappy campers because of this decision," said defence analyst Yohanes Suleiman.

"It's a way for the army to make sure they stay relevant as Jokowi beefs up the navy and air force to pursue his maritime goals," he said, referring to the president by his

nickname.

The military has a long history of involvement in politics in Indonesia and was only squeezed out of the political arena after the fall in 1998 of authoritarian ruler General Suharto.

Presidential spokesman Teten Masduki defended the choice of military chief, which was submitted to parliament for approval on Tuesday, saying it was not necessary to stick to tradition. "As commander in chief, the president has the authority to appoint the military head with parliamentary approval," Masduki said in a statement.

"He chose Nurmantyo because of the belief that he can strengthen the military to deal with geopolitical and regional geo-strategic changes."

The decision to allow the army to remain at the helm comes on the heels of contentious moves to allow military personnel to get involved in civilian affairs such as counter-terrorism and anti-narcotics operations. —Reuters



Cambodian Defence Minister Tea Banh (3rd, L) and Marc Derveeuw (1st, L), representative of United Nations Population Fund to Cambodia, inspect a guard of honor in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 10 June, 2015. Some 457 Cambodian peacekeepers arrived here on Wednesday after completing their one-year United Nations peacekeeping operations in Mali and South Sudan.

XINHUA

Malaysia's productivity to achieve growth aim in five year

BEIJING, 10 June — Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister, said the country is confident to achieve the target of having a 3.7% annual productivity growth rate during the 11th Malaysia Plan.

In 2014, the productivity of Malaysia rose by 3.5 percent, up from 0.9 percent in 2013, and the productivity level reached

61,708 ringgit per employee (45,762 US dollar), up from 60,437 ringgit per employee (44,820 US dollar).

Productivity improvement can promote Malaysia to become a high-income economy in 2020, the minister added.

The 11th Malaysia Plan aims, among other things, to increase productivity, the key to create and maintain high income.

Xinhua

Drug use rises in Vietnam's biggest city

HO CHI MINH CITY, 10 June — The number of drug users in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City has doubled over the past five years to more than 19,200, local on-line newspaper Thanh Nien (Young People) News reported on Wednesday.

"The number of other undocumented drug users can be 50 or 70 percent of that figure, including 5,724 people who have fled from treatment centres," the report quoted Senior Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Si Quang from the municipal Police Department as

saying. "There has been a rise in the use of methamphetamine, which led to serious and extremely serious crimes," Quang said. According to him, drug use has become very common in the service sector including bars, clubs and hotels.

Quang said the relapse rates among drug users are high. "Home and community-based treatment programs have low effects and a high relapse chance," he said.

According to a survey conducted by the city's Police Department, nearly

78 percent of 19,200 documented drug users have been found using drugs again after rehabilitation.

Nearly 90 percent of drug users are men and more than 75 percent are either unemployed or working in unstable jobs. Over 67 percent of drug users have been fined for administrative violations or serving criminal convictions.

Currently, about 500 drug users are being held either for criminal investigation or serving a conviction, according to the survey. Community-based

rehabilitation has faced many difficulties due to limited personnel and facilities.

Since 2008, methadone treatment programs have received more than 22,000 among a total of 204,000 drug users nationwide. The programmes are likely to fall short of the target of reaching 80,000 people by the end of this year. Last month, Ho Chi Minh City launched a center for drug users with the use of Suboxone, the first facility in the country to offer this treatment option.—Xinhua

WORLD

Diet OKs amendment removing ministry bureaucrats' control over SDF

TOKYO, 10 June — Parliament passed a bill on Wednesday that removes the control Defence Ministry bureaucrats have had over the uniformed personnel of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces, amid criticism that the change will weaken the nation's civilian control over the defence apparatus.

The bill, which revises the law on the establishment of the Defence Ministry, drew support from members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, its junior coalition partner Komeito party and the opposition Japan Innovation Party in a vote at the plenary session of the House of Councillors.

The more powerful House of Representatives had already passed the bill.

The legal change puts uniformed SDF personnel on equal footing with civilian defence bureaucrats in assisting the defence minister, and gives the SDF personnel the authority to devise operational plans and seek the minister's approval for them. Previously, the law required senior ministry officials to assist the defence minister when the minister issues orders to or approves plans submitted by the chief of staff at the ministry's Joint Staff, who is the top SDF officer, and the chiefs

of staff of the Ground, Maritime and Air self-defence forces. The Constitution provides for civilian control by stipulating that the prime minister and other Cabinet ministers must be civilians, making the prime minister the commander in chief of the SDF. The superiority of Defence Ministry officials over uniformed officers was considered one mechanism to achieve that.

Critics say removing bureaucrats' control over the officers would make it difficult to stop any overreach by them.

Under the revised law, a ministry bureau that has exercised control over the SDF's basic activities will be abolished, and its functions will be integrated into the Joint Staff, which comprises SDF personnel.

Giving the Joint Staff the authority to devise operational plans and seek the minister's approval for them is feared to weaken bureaucrats' ability to keep such operational plans in check. The revised law provides for a new agency that will manage procurement of defence equipment with the goal of controlling its development, purchase and disposal in a centralized manner to reduce procurement costs.

Kyodo News



Push for quality education, decent jobs needed to end child labour

LONDON, 10 June — Almost 170 million youth are trapped in child labour, deprived of education and facing a life without decent jobs, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Wednesday.

From India's brick kilns to the cotton fields of Uzbekistan and Bolivia's sugar plantations, child labourers are more likely to have to settle later in life for unpaid work for the family or low-paying jobs, the ILO said in its annual "World Report on Child Labour".

"Children who drop out of school and join the labour force early are more disadvantaged later in life because of a lack of education and basic skills," Patrick Quinn, a senior ILO advisor told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Despite an overall decline in child labourers by one-third since 2000, some

5 million children remain in slavery-like conditions, making up a quarter of the world's modern-day slaves, the ILO said.

The Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of child labourers with almost 78 million, or 9.3 percent, while sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate with 59 million or more than 21 percent.

Many of them are working under conditions that deprive them of a nurturing and protective environment, and expose them to stress and trauma, the ILO said.

More than half of all child labourers - 85 million - put their health at risk by working in hazardous jobs, such as mining and construction, said the report, released ahead World Day Against Child Labour on Friday.

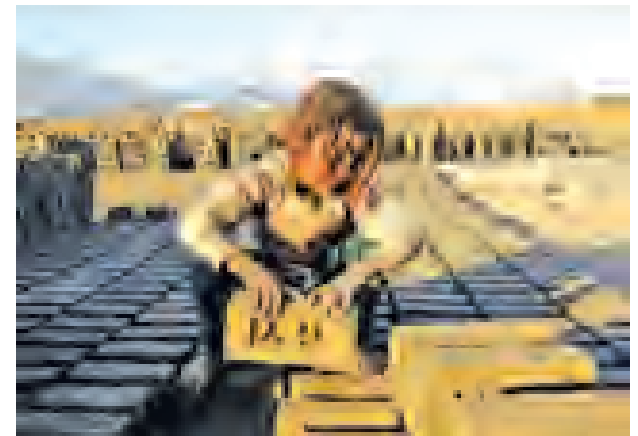
Rising youth unemployment, which stands at

75 million globally, can also drive child labour as poor job prospects may stop parents from investing into their children's education, the report said.

The ILO urged world leaders when they decide on new development goals in September to come up with a coherent policy to tackle child labour and the lack of decent jobs for youth.

Decent work means employment that is productive and delivers a fair income, job security, social benefits and equal opportunities.

A global push for access to primary education as part of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals has helped to push the overall child labour numbers down, Quinn said.—Reuters



An Afghan girl works at a brick-making factory in Nangarhar Province on 6 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

South Korea's Park postpones US trip as MERS cases rise

SEOUL, 10 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye postponed a US visit on Wednesday to supervise the handling of an outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), as two more people died and 13 new cases were reported, lifting the total number of patients to 108.

Park had been due to leave for the United States, her country's closest ally, on Sunday and meet President Barack Obama on Tuesday. Her office said the coming week would be a "watershed" for the country's response to the disease.

The outbreak has fuelled public anxiety and hit spending, with thousands in quarantine and the number of schools closing rising to 2,474, including 22 universities. Many people on the streets are wearing face masks, while attendance at movie theatres and baseball games

has dwindled.

First identified in humans in 2012, MERS is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered China's deadly 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). There is no cure or vaccine.

Some countries around the region have issued advisories against travel to South Korea or stepped up screening of inbound passengers, dealing a setback to a tourism sector that had been a bright spot for the flagging South Korean economy.

The main Incheon airport said the number of passenger arrivals increased year on year between 20 May and 5 June, but showed 25 percent and 31 percent drops on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

Taipei's two biggest airlines are temporarily cutting flights to South Korea by nearly half. Hong



Workers in full protective gear disinfect the interior of a subway train at a Seoul Metro's railway vehicle base in Goyang, South Korea, on 9 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd (0293.HK) said it had seen a drop in bookings to South Korea.

The World Health Organization (WHO), which began work on Tuesday with South Korea to analyse the virus and review the response, has not recommended any curbs on travel or trade.

MERS has also taken its toll on high street shopping, with department store

sales falling 25 percent in the first week of June compared with an average of the first two weeks of May, government data showed. Sales at discount stores fell 7.2 percent, but online purchases rose 3.2 percent.

Cinema ticket sales dropped 54.9 percent in the first week of June from the year-earlier period. Visitors to amusement parks plummeted 60.4 percent and to baseball games, 38.7

percent.

"Please do not be excessively worried or hold misunderstanding, and try to go on with your daily lives," Deputy Prime Minister Choi Kyung-hwan told a televised news briefing, urging consumers to continue spending money.

The latest two deaths, both cancer patients, bring the number of fatalities to nine. All of those who died had been suffering serious ailments before they tested positive for MERS virus, the Health Ministry said.

South Korea's infections have all been traced to a man who developed MERS after returning from a trip to the Middle East in early May and who came into contact with other patients at a hospital before being diagnosed.

All subsequent infections, including the 13 announced on Wednesday, have been linked to health facilities, the ministry said.

The number of people

who may have been in contact with MERS patients and were now in quarantine rose to 3,439, while quarantine has been lifted for 641 people, the ministry said.

Choi, also the finance minister, announced a 400 billion won (\$357 million) financial package for business and regions affected by MERS, without giving specifics.

South Korea's central bank is expected to cut interest rates on Thursday to dampen the economic impact of the outbreak, according to a Reuters poll of analysts released on Tuesday.

South Korea's new cases bring the total number of MERS cases globally to 1,257 based on WHO data, with at least 448 related deaths. The country has the second highest number of cases after Saudi Arabia, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 11 June, 2015

Blood donations vital for saving lives

By Aung Khin

According to the World Health Organization, some 800 women die every day from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Severe bleeding is among the leading causes of maternal death, accounting for nearly a third of cases.

World Blood Donor Day falls on 14 June

every year, and will be observed this year under the theme “Thank you for saving my life,” in an expression of gratitude to donors.

According to WHO figures, annual blood donations across the world were only enough for 65 percent of blood transfusions in low-income countries for children under five years of age.

The UN body wants all countries to obtain 100 percent of blood supplies from voluntary unpaid donors by 2020. Many countries still rely heavily on family members and paid donors for blood supplies.

Blood transfusions help save millions of lives every year across the world, but many countries still face an inadequate supply of safe blood.

Blood and blood products are essential for all countries, as part of a comprehensive approach to prevent maternal deaths. Blood cannot be

manufactured artificially, and safe blood supplies are a scarce commodity, especially in developing countries.

Therefore, such scarce and precious blood should not be wasted on wars and conflicts. Preventive healthcare measure should be taken to ensure safe blood. Blood should not be lost in fights, as it is crucial for saving lives.

Write for us

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

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.

Clean mind, clean body, clean environment

By Myo Myint

The last week of May and the first week of June are always a busy time for parents of school-age children as they have to enroll their children for the new academic year which starts in the first week of June. Myanmar parents give much thought to the education of their children as they feel that a good education ensures a secure future for their offspring. Parents now have more to think as they can now choose from among government schools, monastic charity schools, private schools that teach according to the curriculum prescribed by the government, and schools that follow an international curriculum. But in this age of great complexity, apart from choosing the right school, parents also need to give attention to additional matters to make sure that their children successfully complete school. While parents strive their utmost to develop them intellectually and academically, it is also important for them to realize that they need to create the right conditions for their children to also develop morally, physically, and emotionally.

As societies become more advanced, human beings are able to invent new ways to fulfil their needs as well as their fantasies using technology. Chief among them is the Internet that has made it extremely convenient for people to communicate with each other, to exchange information, to express themselves and to try out their creativity. What at one time, what can

only be fantasized, can now be visualized, verbalized and actualized with the assistance of ICT. It is undeniable that technology is helping humans to lead more convenient, useful and happy lives. But unfortunately, not everything that can be achieved using technology can be said to be beneficial to everyone. Just as it is easier for new diseases to spread in this age of globalization, so also it has become easier for bad habits to become contagious, especially among young people, due to technology. Easy access to pornographic and violent materials on the Internet via mobile phones and computers poses great danger to the moral and psychological development of our young people as do computer games which can become as addictive as illicit drugs. So also, not every friend that one makes on Facebook can be said to be real or trustworthy. Moreover, the Internet can also be utilized to torment people using cyber bullying and hate speech. Consequently, in this Information Age, young people can lose their innocence and pick up bad habits very fast from materials available on the Internet. What should be a matter of grave concern to parents all over the world including those in our country is the widespread availability of porn on the Internet. Xanthe Clay (2012) in her internet article Is your child secretly watching porn on the Internet? said that many experts are convinced that porn has serious affects on children’s and teenagers’ psychological health. My-

anmar education authorities are beginning to realize the seriousness of this problem at schools and Yangon Basic Education authorities have announced the ban on bringing mobile phones to school. However, the problem cannot be fully solved merely by banning mobile phones at schools. Parents must realize that a healthy mind contributes to the growth of a healthy body and a healthy body contributes to the development of an all-round developed person and they must give utmost importance to the problem posed by proliferation of pornography among young people that is poisoning their minds and they must get together with teachers, education authorities, internet service providers, experts, and members of social organizations swiftly and discuss how widespread and how serious this matter is, and how it should be tackled. As in Western countries, parents must assert greater control on all wireless devices, give careful thought on whether Internet connection should be made available to computers in their children’s rooms, whether to use blocks to prevent inappropriate materials gaining access to children’s computers, and whether to demand that laws be strictly observed regarding provision of inappropriate materials via mobile phones.

In addition to the importance of keeping the minds of children unpolluted, it is also important to train children from a young age to appreciate personal hygiene and the need to bathe, wash hands, cut

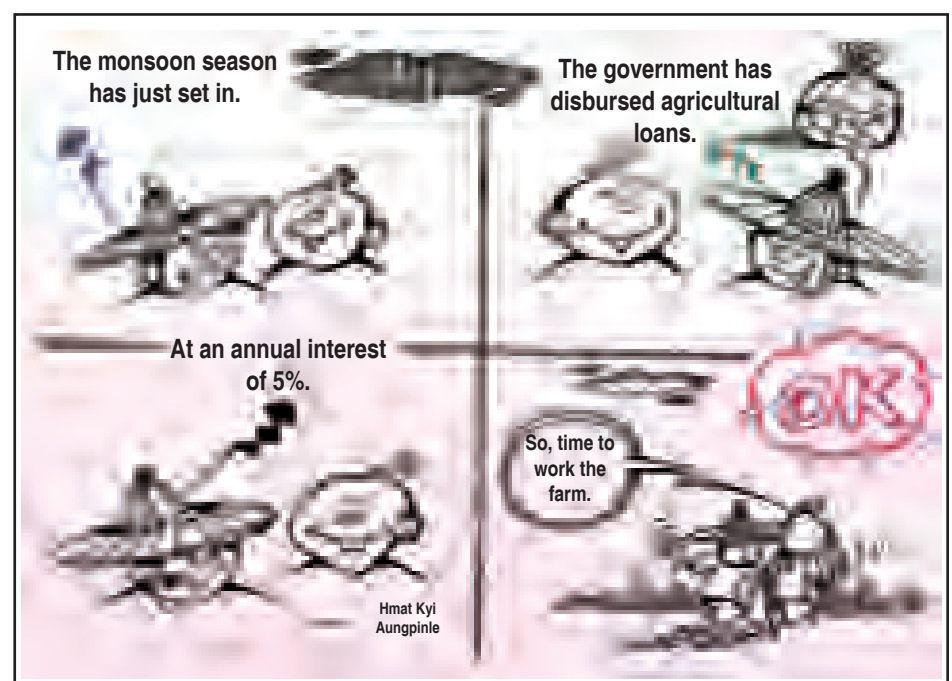
nails, brush teeth, and shampoo their hair regularly and systematically in order to grow up healthy and strong. As children become older and intellectually more mature, it is important that they spend their pocket money wisely on what they buy and eat. Children need to be taught both at home and at school the value of a balanced and nutritious diet and to be able to differentiate between food that contributes to good health and that which have an adverse effect on health. They need to be trained from refraining from poisoning their body with junk and unhygienically prepared food. Parents and school and health authorities must also check regularly to ensure that food being sold by shops at and near schools is not only affordable but also clean, nutritious and hygienically cooked and served. As children become teenagers, one very serious matter that parents and teachers need to be alert about is whether

their children are smoking cigarettes, using drugs, or drinking alcohol. Parents, school and local authorities need to ensure that the school and its environs are cigarette, drug and alcohol free. In addition, many teenagers are obsessed with their looks. Some like to look very much like the singers, film stars, and models they admire, and even dolls they like, and some like to look very different from other people. It is therefore necessary to warn young people of the long-term consequences posed to their health by some of the chemicals contained in the hair dyes, and beauty products, and the possible hazards of cosmetic surgery and tattoos that they resort to in order to achieve the unique look they so much desire.

The third factor that contributes to the development of a mentally and physically healthy person is a clean environment that will ensure that it is free from disease-bearing ro-

dents, insects and germs. Cleanliness of any place depends solely on the collective effort of all the people who make use of it. Keeping the houses or apartments and their surroundings clean, orderly and pleasant is the duty of parents as well as every member of the family. The cleanliness of public roads, parks, playgrounds, drains and pavements, etc., is the responsibility of the municipal authorities, the shopkeepers, the pavement hawkers, and the people going about their business daily in the city or town. The cleanliness of buildings and their grounds belonging to government departments, private enterprises and organizations is the domain of those appointed to administer them and those who make use of their services. For example, in a school, all the students, teachers, administrative staff, the food stall owners, parents and members of the family who drop off and pick up students, and school bus drivers and attendants need to refrain

(See page 9)



NATIONAL

Union A&I Minister meets FAO Director-General, IFAD Vice President



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing holds talks with FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing is attending

the 39th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome, Italy, from 6 to 13 June.

On 9 June, the union minister held meetings with director-general of FAO José Graziano da Silva and the vice president of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), focusing on development seed sector in Myanmar, control of pests and germs of plants, food sufficiency cooperation in agricultural development.—MNA

Union Construction Minister views roads, bridges, buildings in China

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin attended the 6th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum in Macao, the People's Republic of China on 4 and

5 June. The union minister visited a 61-km-long Hong Kong-Shuhai-Macao Bridge on 6 June and viewed round buildings, roads and bridges in Hong Kong on 7 June.

On 8 June, he visited

Capital Airport Expressway and Traffic Control Centre in Beijing.

The union minister was accompanied Director-General U Han Soe of Bridge Department and officials.—MNA

Myanmar youth golfers to take part in Mercedes-Benz Junior Golf Championships Asian Master Final 2015

YANGON, 10 June — A Myanmar youth golfer team led by general secretary U Aung Hla Han of Myanmar Golf Federation left here for Thailand on 7 June morning to take part

in the Mercedes-Benz Junior Golf Championships Asian Master Final 2015 to be held at Burapha Golf & Resort from 10 to 12 June.

The golf team comprises Tun Thurein, Thi-

ha Myo Hset, Sai Aung Sai Pha, Ye Htet Hlaing, Hlaing Min Htet, Zin Aung Min, Than Lwin Moe Thet, Wint Phu Nadi Aung and Pwint Phu Nadi Khaing.

GNLM



Myanmar youth golfers seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Thailand.—GNLM

Clean mind, clean body, clean . . .

(from page 8)
from littering the place and spitting betel juice. Unfortunately, many people living in both urban and rural areas do not seem to be aware of how dirty their surroundings are, the consequences of living in unsanitary condi-

tions, or their responsibility for this state of affairs, or the need to be ashamed of their filthy surroundings. In order that they will not have the same kind of mentality as some members of the older generation, we need to promote in members of the

younger generation the love for cleanliness and their environment from a very young age, and to understand the importance of keeping their surroundings clean and tidy and that it is a reflection of their standard as well as that of their society. Therefore, children should be trained both at home and at school

Border Affairs Ministry, WFP jointly implement food supply project

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win held a meeting with Mr. Domenico Scalpelli, Country Director and Representative

of World Food Program (WFP) at the ministry, here, on Wednesday.

They exchanged views on food supply project and future plans being implemented by Minis-

try of Border Affairs and WFP in Kachin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States and Taninthayi, Magway and Yangon regions.

MNA

UNESCO designates Inlay Lake as biosphere reserve

PARIS, 10 June — UNESCO has designated Inlay Lake as Myanmar's first biosphere reserve, the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry said Wednesday.

The UN cultural agency made the decision at the 27th session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and Biosphere Programme, currently taking place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The ministry has worked with UNESCO on the listing under the Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) since 2013, and has proposed adding Myanmar's second-largest lake to the World Heritage list.

The designation of Inlay Lake region located on 489,721 hectares of land as the first biosphere reserve of Myanmar will further encourage and enhance environmental conservation initiatives to safeguard biodiversity and ensure sus-

tainable livelihood development in the region.

Following its designation, Inlay Lake will be conserved through educational programmes, while its agricultural zones will gradually be developed for organic farming.

Inlay Lake is located at an elevation of 2,900 feet (880 metres) in Nyaungshwe Township of Taunggyi District in Shan state, and covers a total area of 489,721 hectares.—MNA

Japan grants US\$478,088 for schools and medical facilities

YANGON, 10 June — The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has granted US\$114,548 for upgrading of medical facilities in Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region, US\$121,854 for construction of Myitta Ward Basic Education Post Primary School in Kyaukkyi Township, US\$121,937 for construction of Madaukkalay Basic Education Primary School in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region and US\$119,749 for construction of Pwekone Ward Basic Education Post Primary School in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region.

The handover and opening ceremonies of the projects took place in the respective project sites in Kyaukkyi Township and

Shwegyin Township, Bago Region on 4 and 5 June 2015. Mr. Kota WATANABE, Third Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, region ministers, governmental officials, Committee Chairman, committee members of the construction projects, and local residents attended the ceremony.

The school buildings in Myitta Ward of Kyaukkyi Township, and Madaukkalay Ward and Pwekone Ward of Shwegyin Township were outdated. Moreover, the students had to study in very congested classrooms. Under such circumstances, the Japanese Government, under its GGP scheme, provided funding for construction of a two-storey R.C.C building with 8 classrooms, lavatories and full furniture in Myitta Ward, Kyauk-

kyi Township as well as construction of a one-storey R.C.C building with 5 classrooms, lavatories and full furniture in Madaukkalay Ward, and a two-storey R.C.C building with 8 classrooms, lavatories and full furniture in Pwekone Ward, Shwegyin Township. The projects will benefit 1,113 students for the three schools.

There were insufficient number of medical equipment and the existing medical equipment were outdated in Kyaukkyi township hospital, Natthankwin station hospital and Mone station hospital. Under such circumstances, the Japanese Government, under its GGP scheme, provided funding for 19 types of medical equipment in each hospital.

GNLM

aware of the benefits and need to enhance cleanliness in their surroundings and their communities and if necessary, authorities should enforce compliance with rules and regulations regarding promotion of cleanliness in the whole country.

Focus on the development of a clean mind, a

clean body and a clean environment by the whole society, especially by education institutions, will lead to the development of a new generation of healthy, bright, educated and responsible youths who will be able to effectively lead the country to a new era of peace, progress and perfect harmony.

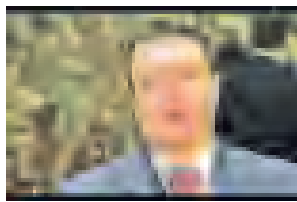
Dacic: We expect response from Great Britain

BELGRADE, 10 June — Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said on Tuesday that Serbia expects a response from Great Britain regarding the announced resolution on Srebrenica genocide in the next few days.

Speaking with reporters at the Palace of Serbia, Dacic said that he asked British Ambassador Denis Keefe for Great Britain to inform Serbia about its intentions, having in mind that the text of the draft resolution is not yet known.

He added that the consultations in the UN about the resolution, which would be adopted ahead of the 20th anniversary of the crime in Srebrenica, have not yet begun.

Asked if the resolution is a way to put pressure on Serbia, Dacic replied that



Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic

this is to be seen from the text of the document.

He stressed that Serbia is open to any dialogue, but that it is against using anniversaries of crimes for political purposes. "Paying tribute to the victims of any crime, including the crime in Srebrenica, is not an issue," said Dacic.

"We expect the world to treat the crimes committed against Serbs in the same way," the Serbian foreign minister underlined.

Tanjug

UK's Cameron comes under fresh pressure from own party over EU referendum



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Number 10 Downing Street to attend Prime Minister's Question Time in Parliament, in London, Britain on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 10 June — Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday came under fresh pressure to allow his own lawmakers and ministers to vote according to their consciences in a planned in-out referendum on European Union membership.

Graham Brady, a senior Conservative lawmaker and chairman of the party's powerful "1922 committee", urged Cameron, who has pledged to renegotiate Britain's EU ties before holding a referendum by end-2017, to respect the "deeply held views of others" in order to keep his fractious party united.

"I would urge the Government to treat EU membership as a matter of conscience for front and backbenchers alike," Brady wrote in *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

"It must be in the interests of the Conservative Party to treat the referendum campaign as a discrete issue, one that needn't divide us on the vast majority of the Government's programme for government on which we are entirely united."

Brady's intervention comes after Cameron tripped up over Europe at a summit of the Group of Seven Industrial nations (G7) on Monday, appearing to issue an ultimatum to his own ministers over the EU only to swiftly withdraw it, saying he had been misunderstood. —Reuters

Parts of White House, Capitol complex evacuated hours apart after bomb threats

WASHINGTON, 10 June — The White House briefing room and parts of two US Senate office buildings were briefly evacuated within hours of each other on Tuesday after separate bomb threats, but it was not clear if the incidents were linked.

In a rare interruption of the White House daily press briefing, reporters were hustled out of the room for about 30 minutes after a bomb threat was phoned in to local police.

The Secret Service and bomb-sniffing dogs searched the premises and eventually gave the all-clear to resume the briefing by White House spokesman Josh Earnest.

President Barack Obama was in the Oval Office, just steps from the briefing room, and was not evacuated, Earnest said. First lady Michelle Obama and their two daughters were nearby in the White House residence and also were not moved.

"Evacuation was limited to the WH Briefing

Room due to the specific nature of the threat," Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary said in a statement on Tuesday night.

The immediate blocks around the White House, including Lafayette Square across Pennsylvania Avenue, were roped off and closed to tourists briefly, a

Reuters witness said.

Hours earlier on Tuesday, authorities investigated reports of suspicious packages and a telephoned bomb threat at two US Senate buildings and found nothing hazardous.

US Capitol police cleared a room in the Dirksen building and the

courtyard of the Russell building, which house US senators and their staffs near the US Capitol, and found nothing problematic.

"Because of the ongoing investigation the USSS cannot discuss any potential connection to the earlier threat at the US Capitol," Leary said.—Reuters



Evacuated journalists walk past the West Wing as they are allowed to return to the press briefing room after an apparent bomb threat at the White House in Washington on 9 June, 2015.—REUTERS

US, G7 ready to impose more sanctions on Russia over Ukraine — Treasury

WASHINGTON, 10 June — US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew told Ukrainian leaders on Tuesday that the United States and its G7 allies stood ready to impose more sanctions on Moscow if needed, a Treasury official said.

"The United States and our G7 allies stand ready to impose significant additional sanctions on Russia if needed to respond to its aggressive acts in eastern Ukraine," the official quot-

ed Lew as saying. Lew met Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk and Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko on Tuesday in Washington and welcomed efforts by Kiev to reach a debt restructuring agreement.

"He (Lew) noted that the IMF programme required shared sacrifices from all stakeholders to secure the economic recovery that is in the interest of all parties," the official said.

Reuters



US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew speaks to Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk (R) during their meeting in Kiev in this 8 Jan, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

Turkey opposition chief accuses government of inaction on violence in Kurdish areas



Selahattin Demirtas, co-chairman of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), speaks as his supporters wave Kurdish (L) and Turkish national (R) flags in the background.—REUTERS

ANKARA, 10 June — Selahattin Demirtas, head of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), accused the government on Wednesday of deliberate inaction amid growing violence in the largely Kurdish southeast.

Three people died in clashes in the southeast's biggest city of Diyarbakir on Tuesday after an Islamist aid group leader was shot and killed. The violence comes just days after

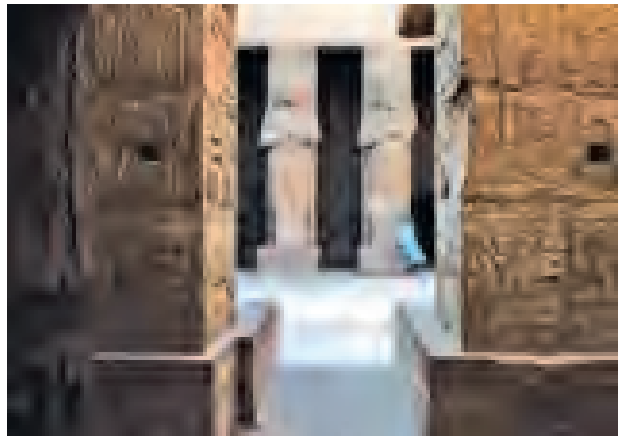
a historic election ushered the HDP into parliament and deprived the ruling AK Party of a majority to form a government.

"The prime minister and president are nowhere to be seen. You would think they are waiting to allow the country to slip into civil war so that they can say, 'Look at how valuable the AKP is,'" Demirtas told reporters in comments broadcast live.

Reuters

WORLD

Suicide bomber attacks tourist site in south Egypt's Luxor



A temple guardian sits in Karnak Temple in Luxor, southern Egypt, on 9 Nov, 2009.—REUTERS

CAIRO, 10 June — A suicide bomber blew himself up in the parking lot of the Karnak temple in the southern Egyptian city of Luxor on Wednesday, security

sources and witnesses said, in an escalation of recent attacks on tourist sites.

No group immediately claimed responsibility but Islamist militants bent on toppling the Cairo government have killed hundreds of police and soldiers in the past, usually at checkpoints and barracks or police stations.

A health ministry spokesman said four Egyptians were wounded. Security sources said casualties included bazaar shop owners and police.

They said three armed men tried to storm a barri-

cade that leads to the Karnak temple site. Two men left the car and engaged in gunfire with police, who killed them. The third man in the car managed to overcome the barricade and blew himself up.

Tourism is one of the top sources of income and foreign currency earnings for the Arab world's most populous country.

Gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead two members of Egypt's tourism and antiquities police force on a road near the Giza pyramids last week.

Reuters

Pakistan hangs man who was 15 when convicted

LAHORE, (Pakistan), 10 June — Pakistan on Wednesday executed a man who was 15 when he was sentenced to death for murder and whose lawyers say was tortured into confessing, in a case that has prompted concern among rights groups and the United Nations.

Aftab Bahadur was sentenced to death for killing three people in 1992 and human rights group Reprieve said two witnesses who implicated Bahadur had since recanted, saying they were tortured.

At the time, the death penalty could be passed on a 15 year old, but the minimum age was raised to 18 in 2000. Testimony obtained by torture is also inadmissible.

"Aftab Bahadur was hanged at District Jail Lahore on Wednesday at 4.30 am," a jail official in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore said, declining to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media on the issue. "Before the hanging, he was crying and saying he was innocent."

The date of birth on Bahadur's birth certificate and national identity card, 30 June, 1977, is not disputed by authorities.

"Pakistan proceeded with Mr Bahadur's execution despite his having been sentenced to death when he was a child — in violation of both international and Pakistani law," Reprieve said. Prime Min-

ister Nawaz Sharif lifted the moratorium on the death penalty last year, a day after Pakistani Taliban gunmen attacked a school and killed 134 pupils and 19 adults.

The killings put pressure on the government to do more to tackle the Islamist insurgency.

In an essay written from jail and published a day before his hanging, Bahadur, a Christian, repeated his assertion that he was innocent.

"But I do not know whether that will make any difference," he wrote. "I have not given up hope, though the night is very dark ... It would perhaps have been better not to have to think of what the police did to try to get me to confess falsely to this crime." On Tuesday, another man, Shafqat Hussain, whose lawyers say was a child when charged with murder and only confessed after being tortured, was handed a reprieve just hours before he was to be executed, the fourth time his death penalty has been stayed.

But the Supreme Court rejected Hussain's appeal on Wednesday morning.

His lawyers say he was 14 in 2002 when he was burnt with cigarettes and had his fingernails removed until he confessed to killing a child. Authorities say he was 23 when he was sentenced.

Reuters

Armed men ambush police base in southern Mali

BAMAKO, 10 June — Dozens of armed men on motorbikes suspected of being Islamic militants attacked a police base in southern Mali early on Wednesday, security sources said.

"Very early this morning, a police base in Misseni was attacked by armed men," Colonel Souleymane Maiga, director for communication for the Malian army said. He did not give a death toll or comment on

the identity of the attackers, but said reinforcements had been deployed to the area.

One of the military sources said that about 30 attackers arrived at the base in the Sikasso Region near the Ivorian border waving

a black flag and shouting "Allahu Akbar" ("God is Greatest" in Arabic). A police officer and a gendarme were killed in the attack and the base was burned down, he added.

Reuters

Burundi delays presidential vote to 15 July after unrest

BUJUMBURA, 10 June — Burundi's president has issued a decree delaying the presidential election to 15 July from 26 June, his spokesman said

on Wednesday, after six weeks of protests sparked by Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term in office.

"He has published the decree," spokesman Ger-

vais Abayeho said, adding that the parliamentary vote — already delayed once — would now go ahead on 29 June about a month later than initially planned. The revised

dates were proposed by the electoral commission CENI. Opponents have criticized the election body, saying it has not been neutral in the election debate.—Reuters

Syrian rebels capture army base in south-rebels, monitor

BEIRUT/ AMMAN, 10 June — Rebel fighters captured a major base from the Syrian army in the south of the country on Tuesday, rebels and a monitoring group said, a setback for President Bashar al-Assad reflecting the mounting pressure on him after recent losses elsewhere.

Syrian officials could not immediately be reached

for comment. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based monitoring group, said a nearby town and a village had fallen to the rebels in addition to the base, Liwa 52. "In under six hours today, the Free Syrian Army's Southern Front successfully completed an operation to liberate Brigade 52," said Issam al-Rayyes,

spokesman for the "Southern Front" alliance of rebel groups. Liwa 52, or the 52nd Brigade, is one of the biggest Syrian army bases in the area.

"This is the last regime-held area to fall in eastern Daraa, and acted as a reinforcement base to support regime airbases in Sweida," Rayyes said in a statement, adding that at

least 67 government troops including seven officers, were killed.

The southern region near the border with Jordan and Israel is one of the areas where insurgents have inflicted significant defeats on Assad in the last three months, notably by capturing the Nasib border crossing with Jordan on 1 April.

Reuters

US weighs more Iraq training sites but no strategy overhaul

WASHINGTON/ JERUSALEM, 10 June — US President Barack Obama is considering expanding the number of training sites for Iraqi forces to bolster the battle against Islamic State, US military officials said on Tuesday, which could mean deploying hundreds more US forces in Iraq.

The proposed build-up follows only sporadic successes in the months-long US-backed Iraqi drive to push back Islamic State, a drive that suffered a severe setback with the fall of the Anbar provincial capital Ramadi last month.

Since the loss of the

city, which drew harsh US criticism of the Iraqi military performance, Washington has begun to speed up supplies of weapons to the government forces and examine ways to improve the training programme.

General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made clear during a visit to Jerusalem that there were no plans to fundamentally alter Obama's military strategy that has so far kept US ground troops off the front lines.

"We've made some recommendations on potential enhancements to the training and equip mis-



Iraqi army soldiers ride on military vehicles in Tikrit on 31 March, 2015.—REUTERS

sion," Dempsey said, citing options including new training sites.

Speaking to reporters travelling with him, Dempsey did not say how many extra US troops may be involved. Another senior US military official said only that the number would be modest and a third said it could mean hundreds of additional troops.

Dempsey said the US military was working on how such a programme would work, including what strain it might put on Pentagon resources and troops already devoted to other missions.—Reuters

Data on 12,000 people feared leaked from Tokyo chamber of commerce

TOKYO, 10 June — The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry said on Wednesday personal data on more than 12,000 people, mostly those of its member firms, may have leaked following a virus attack.

The revelation comes after the recent massive data leak from the Japan Pension Service overseeing Japan's universal pension programme.

The chamber said the data comprise the names, and home and e-mail addresses of people who took part in seminars hosted by the organization, which represents small and mid-size businesses in Tokyo's 23 wards.

Financial information such as bank account numbers was not affected, it said. Police have launched an investigation.

The infection was confirmed on 22 May after an institution monitoring the organization's computer system detected suspicious activity. An official of the organization was found to have opened an attachment of an e-mail sent to one of its departments, triggering the infection.

The chamber had a total of 77,760 members as of the end of March. The members include companies and individuals running businesses.

Hideo Takano, an executive director of the chamber, held a Press conference in Tokyo and apologized for the incident.

Kyodo News

Nagasaki bombing could have been held off: Manhattan Project engineer

NEW YORK, 10 June — An engineer involved in the Manhattan Project says he was against the use of nuclear weapons against civilian targets and that the United States "could have waited" before going ahead with the A-bombing of Nagasaki, its second nuclear attack on a Japanese city.

James Schoke, 91, spoke to *Kyodo News* recently at his home in Florida, ahead of the Saturday opening of an exhibition to commemorate the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Washington DC.

The Manhattan Project drew approximately 125,000 scientists, engineers, servicemen and other participants when it

was in full swing. While some scientists are known to have voiced misgivings about the use of the bomb in a war, Schoke's remark suggests the apprehension was shared by engineers and technicians who worked first-hand on various facets of the weapons' development.

Schoke was a student at the Illinois Institute of Technology and was later sent to the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory, one of the central institutions engaged in developing the A-bomb under the project. Assigned to the instrument group there, he was tasked with helping scientists primarily through making improvements on radiation detectors.

On the first A-bomb attack on 6 August, 1945, Schoke said, "I was opposed to dropping on Hiroshima. I didn't like it."

Because of the first ever detonation of an atomic bomb at Alamogordo as part of the Manhattan Project a few weeks before Hiroshima, "we knew it was a horrendous weapon and that there would be many people killed," Schoke said.

The bombing of Nagasaki on 9 August "upset" him. "Because there was such turmoil in the (Japanese) government (after Hiroshima), they should have given a little time for them to get themselves together. We didn't have to do it three days later, we could

have waited 10 days."

Along with other people in the Manhattan Project, Schoke signed a petition drafted by physicist Leo Szilard, who led the atomic bomb project, to then US President Harry Truman calling for testing the weapon for demonstration purposes only. But due apparently to some technical errors, Schoke is not listed as one of the co-signees.

Like many Americans, Schoke shared the view that the A-bombs helped save the lives of a large number of US soldiers. He also accepted that dropping a bomb on a wholly military target is an option in a war.

Kyodo News



James Schoke, an engineer involved in the Manhattan Project, pictured during a recent interview with Kyodo News at his home in the US state of Florida. Schoke, 91, said he was against the use of nuclear weapons against civilian targets and that the United States "could have waited" before going ahead with the A-bombing of Nagasaki, its second nuclear attack on a Japanese city.

KYODO NEWS

Venezuela cites Colombia ambassador over former Spanish PM plane use



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks during his weekly broadcast "en contacto con Maduro" (In contact with Maduro) at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas, in this 2 June, 2015 handout picture provided by Miraflores Palace.—REUTERS

CARACAS, 10 June — Venezuela said on Tuesday it had cited Colombia's ambassador for an explanation of why the neighbouring country flew out a former Spanish prime minister who had travelled

to Caracas to support the opposition.

President Nicolas Maduro's government is furious over the visit of Felipe Gonzalez, Spain's longest-serving prime minister, to meet with the opposition

bloc in support of jailed politicians Leopoldo Lopez and Daniel Ceballos.

"Unfortunately I was taken aback with the news that a plane of the Colombian Air Force assigned to the presidency of the Colombian Republic came to take him out of the country," Maduro said on state television.

"Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez has cited the Colombian ambassador here in Caracas to demand explanations. I hope these explanations are sufficient and very clear over this situation, because I have been denouncing a Madrid-Bogota-Miami axis (against the government)," he added, speaking next to a photo of late leader Hugo Chavez.

Venezuela's socialist government has in the past

clashed with Spain, US ally Colombia, and its chief ideological foe the United States. It is also locked in an escalating dispute with Guyana over a border spat.

Colombia said on Tuesday President Juan Manuel Santos had authorized the use of an Air Force plane to fly Gonzalez from Caracas to Bogota. The two men met to discuss Colombia's peace process and the upcoming EU-Latin American summit in Brussels, the statement added.

A source in Colombia's Air Force told *Reuters* that Venezuela had authorized the plane's entry to pick up Gonzalez.

Gonzalez's visit came as an economic crisis weighs on Maduro's popularity ahead of key parliamentary elections that polls suggest his party will lose.

Senior officials have accused Gonzalez of chumminess with late Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, a role in FIFA corruption scandals, and a throwback to colonialism.

"I've been observing what was a failed visit by this person that the Spanish people hate," said Maduro. "His departure was almost an escape."

Venezuela's MUD opposition bloc said Gonzalez had not been authorized to visit Lopez and Ceballos, who are both on partial hunger strikes.

While some opposition activists cheered his visit, others fret such high-profile trips distract the political opposition and take the spotlight away from the hardships of Venezuelans, including acute shortages and steep inflation.—*Reuters*

Mainland spokesman calls for better treatment of mainland students in Taiwan

BEIJING, 10 June — A Chinese mainland spokesman on Wednesday called for Taiwan authorities to lift restrictions on mainland students in Taiwan and ensure their due rights and interests.

Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the remarks while commenting on Taiwan authorities' deliberation on whether to recognize diplomas from more Chinese universities, lift restrictions in the number of mainland students applicants and the majors they can apply for.

Currently, mainland students are also forbidden from having bonus points on exams, receiving scholarships, doing part-time work during their study or work on the island after graduation.

The spokesman expressed his hope that mainland students can find suitable

jobs after they return to the mainland.

"We also hope that they can bring back what they have learned in Taiwan, keep in touch with the local students and make their contribution to cross-Strait relations," he added.

Taiwan universities opened their doors to mainland students in 2011. Over the years, more and more students were enrolled by Taiwan universities due to eased measures by Taiwan authorities. In 2014 alone, more than 2,600 students from the mainland were admitted.

At the Press conference, Ma also welcomed entrepreneurs from Taiwan to participate in the mainland's proposed "Belt and Road" initiative and urged Taiwan authorities to give fair market treatment for mainland investors.

Xinhua



Shop workers make Zongzi, a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves, to mark the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan on 10 June, 2015.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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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.

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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.

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
TAX COLLECTION SUPERVISION DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FURNISHING COMMERCIAL TAX
ANNUAL
RETURNS FOR 2014-2015 FINANCIAL YEAR**

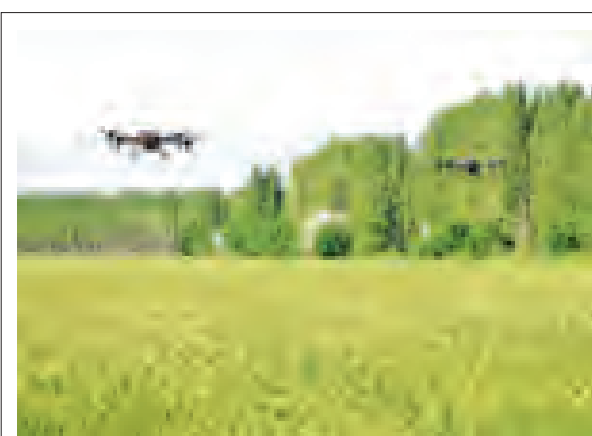
- This is to notify that any persons chargeable under the Commercial Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, including the economic enterprises of the Union Government, State-owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, carrying out the following economic activities are required to furnish their annual returns of production or services, properly filled in, signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns to the respective Township Revenue Offices or the Companies Circle Tax Office (Medium Taxpayer Office) or Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.
 - Domestic Production
 - Import
 - Trading
 - Service
- The total proceeds of sale or the total receipts from service, which are not chargeable to commercial tax, of goods and services in the Cooperative and Private Sectors, other than exempted goods and services under the Union Taxes Law, 2014, are as follows:
 - The total sale proceeds of Kyat 15,000,000 for the domestic production of goods in a financial year.
 - The total receipt from service of Kyat 15,000,000 for the rendering of services in a financial year.
 - The total sale proceeds of Kyat 15,000,000 for the trading business in a financial year.
- Deadline for furnishing of returns - 30th June 2015 (Tuesday.)
- Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns - A penalty of 10 % on the tax due shall be charged if there is a failure to furnish the return without a sufficient cause within the stipulated time.
- How to get return forms - The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office (Medium Taxpayer Office) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website <http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm>.
- Enquiries - Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office (Medium Taxpayer Office) or Large Taxpayer Office or Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets Mandalay.

Director
Tax Collection Supervision Directorate

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
TAX COLLECTION SUPERVISION DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FILING RETURN OF INCOME**

- All taxpayers chargeable under the Income Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, including companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, cooperative societies, association of collective farming, individuals (excluding salary-earners), associations formed by individuals, organizations or associations registered and formed under any existing law, are required to file their returns of income, properly filled in and signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns, to the respective Township Revenue Offices or the Companies Circle Tax Office (Medium Taxpayer Offices) or Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.
- Those taxpayers who earned income from "Salary" within the income year are not required to file a return of income. However, their employers are required to file the Annual Salary Statement to the respective Township Revenue Office.
- Requirement For Attachment : Taxpayers are also required to submit, together with the return, a financial report prepared in connection with taxpayers' books of account kept in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations for the relevant income year.
- Deadline for Filing of Returns- 30th June 2015, (Tuesday.)
- Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns of income - A penalty not exceeding 10 % of the tax due may be charged if there is a failure to file a return of income.
- Where to get return forms- The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office (Medium Taxpayer Offices) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website <http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm>.
- Enquiries - Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office (Medium Taxpayer Offices) or Large Taxpayer Office or the Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Mandalay.

Director
Tax Collection Supervision Directorate



Drones fly over a wheat field to spray insecticide at a farm of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) in Bayan Gol Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 9 June, 2015.—XINHUA

Weak monsoon in Nepal not mean no risk of disaster: experts

KATHMANDU, 10 June — Nepal will witness a weak monsoon that will be delayed by a week this year, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology confirmed on Wednesday.

Though the monsoon generally begins on 10 June and ends on 23 September, this year it will be delayed by a week.

"We will have less rainfall this year compared to previous years. But it doesn't mean that there will be no floods or landslides. Risks of disasters are same," Dr Rishi Ram Sharma, director general at Department of Hydrology and Meteorology told *Xinhua*.

Every year, this one of the world's most disaster-prone countries faces severe losses of human lives and damages of settlements due to multiple natural hazards.

To minimize possible

destruction, the department has already installed the automatic water sensors indicating the water level, status of normal flow and warning in 27 major rivers.

Monsoon is expected to be a major trouble-maker for the reconstruction process as the government has almost completed the search, rescue and relief programmes.

"Monsoon will definitely bring challenges for the rebuilding process so within a week, major things should be settled down," Sharma warned.

At a time when the aftershocks are still observed in the country, the Kathmandu valley experienced temperature between 33-35C these days, which is higher than the past years. However, the weather forecasting department said the weather pattern is normal and has no connection with the earthquake.—*Xinhua*

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of advancement of Southwest Monsoon into the Northern Myanmar areas.

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'Goth Girl' author Riddell named Britain's new Children's Laureate



Shortlisted author Chris Riddell poses for a photograph with his book "Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse" before the announcement of the winner of the Costa Book Awards, in London on 28 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

LONDON, 10 June — "Goth Girl" author and illustrator Chris Riddell was named Britain's new Children's Laureate on Tuesday and said he would like to use to the post to encourage children to

Rapper 'The Game' turns self in over fight with off-duty officer



LOS ANGELES, 10 June — US rapper "The Game" turned himself in to Los Angeles police on Monday after hitting an off-duty officer during a pickup basketball game earlier this year, a police official said.

Jayceon Terrell Taylor, a native of Compton, California, surrendered around noon over the 29 March incident where he punched the officer during a scrimmage at Hollywood High School, said Los Angeles police spokesman Mike Lopez. He was booked on suspicion of making criminal threats, a felony, and released about an hour later after posting \$50,000 bail, Lopez said.

Lopez said a video purporting to show the incident had been uploaded to the Internet but he did not verify its authenticity.

On Monday, Taylor posted a photo to Instagram showing him squatting in front of the Hollywood station of the Los Angeles Police Department with the caption "Waiting on my uber lol".

Reuters

draw as well as read.

Riddell, whose books feature finely detailed, humorous illustrations bursting with life, said he wanted to unleash children's imagination.

"I want to put the joy of creativity, of drawing every day, of having a go and being surprised at what one can achieve with just a pencil and an idea at the heart of my term as Laureate," he said in a statement.

His "Goth Girl the Ghost of a Mouse" is a parody of a gothic novel and won the 2013 Costa Book Awards in the children's category.

Riddell said he wanted to use his two years as Children's Laureate, run by the charity Book Trust, to explore ways of bringing words and pictures together.

"I'm interested in illustration in all its forms... as a way of drawing people into books and stores," he said.

Like previous laureates such as Michael Rosen and "Gruffalo" author Julia Donaldson, Riddell said he would champion the role of reading in schools.

"I want to help and encourage every school to do more for readers: if they have nowhere to read, create a space with a few books; if they have a bookshelf, have two; if they have a reading room, aim for a library."

Riddell is the ninth laureate and takes over from Malorie Blackman.—Reuters

Bigger teeth, scarier thrills revive a dormant 'Jurassic World'



Alina Sitnikova works on a "Jurassic Park" sand sculpture during the preparations for the "My Favorite Film" thematic exhibition of sand sculptures in Russia's Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, on 6 June, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 10 June — The dinosaurs are bigger, the rides are scarier and there's a dashing new leading pair as the main attraction: "Jurassic World" is open for business again and hoping to entice a new generation used to getting more bang for its movie buck.

The film, out in US theatres on Friday, revives the classic sci-fi action franchise that began with Steven Spielberg making dinosaurs come to life in 1993's "Jurassic Park."

But two decades on, as Bryce Dallas Howard's Claire slyly says in the film, no one is excited about seeing a dinosaur anymore. Yawn.

That's why the theme park in which "Jurassic World" is set needs to amp up the danger for visitors drawn by the adrenaline-fuelled experience of getting

up close and personal with dinosaurs.

Mirroring the film's attempt to reboot an old franchise with more thrills, the park has hatched a new hybrid creature attraction, the bigger, badder Indominus Rex, created in a lab from a test tube mix of dinosaurs.

But the monster has a mind of her own, and as fans of the original franchise have learned, never turn your back on a dinosaur.

"Good science fiction always holds a mirror up to current events, to our humanity," director Colin Trevorrow told Reuters.

"The Indominus Rex is a product of a desire for profit at all costs, and that very corporate need is something that can do a lot of harm and really compromise our ethics and humanity in ways that we've seen consistently

played out over time."

Made for \$150 million by Comcast Corp-owned Universal Pictures, "Jurassic World" is projected to earn \$121 million in its opening weekend, making it one of the year's biggest debuts, according to BoxOffice.com.

To play raptor trainer Owen, actor Chris Pratt said he embraced the "swagger" of the hero of one of Spielberg's most recognizable films: rogue archeologist Indiana Jones.

"You don't have to necessarily remake 'Indiana Jones' to play that character," he said. "He's an adventurer, he's got a contentious relationship with the woman who's his polar opposite. This whole movie is very much an homage to Steven Spielberg's work."

Trevorrow, directing his first big-budget film, said he was eager to twist character archetypes, with Pratt's Owen initially playing a classic hero to Howard's uptight and immaculately groomed Claire.

It is Claire, however, who Trevorrow said drives the film.

"I consider her the lead but it isn't necessarily reflected that way in the marketing," he said. The film's campaign has focused on Pratt, a newly minted leading man with last year's hit film, "Guardians of the Galaxy."

"When you would imagine the traditional hero to be the one riding in on his white horse and saving the woman who's cowering with the children, we did it differently."—Reuters

Kung Fu master Jackie Chan encourages future hope among quake-stripped Nepalese

KATHMANDU, 10 June — Hollywood Kung Fu superstar Jackie Chan finds himself being more loved for visiting people personally rather than his donation of 5,000 boxes of relief aid essential for the quake victims.

During his trip to the quake-hit Himalayan nation on Tuesday, the martial arts master realized the affection of his fans toward him as he distributed the relief supplies to the displaced families in the aftermath of the massive 7.9-magnitude earthquake on 25 April.

"I felt coming to Nepal is more important than donating money. I want to tell the people of Nepal that you are not alone. We all own this world, this earth," Chan told Xinhua.

The international superstar had landed in Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport to extend the support to the victims through his Jackie Chan Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Chinese Red Cross Foundation.

He received a warm welcome and a lot of love was shown by the

people of Kathmandu who were excitedly shouting "Jackie Chan, Jackie Chan" upon his arrival in the capital. They not only greeted the actor with flowers and a Khaada garland but also with a traditional Nepali cap known as Dhaka Topi.

Though the news of his visit was kept quiet, it could not stop the photographers and fans following him during his tour.

Such cheerful and at times frenzied fan-following, sent a clear message to the superstar that the Nepalese are full of positivity and high spirits, who can smile while enduring devastation and pain.

He sees the love of the Nepalese fans as a symbol of hope for the post-quake reconstruction.

The superstar, who was in Nepal for only a few hours, told Xinhua, "Disasters do not have a one-day recovery. It takes a few years so patience is necessary. The Nepalese people should not feel alone in this post-quake phase."

The foundation provided 5,000 disaster relief family packages to the Nepal Red Cross So-

ciety for distribution in the worst-hit districts like Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Dhading and Nuwakot.

Earlier, martial art expert Chan had already donated 100,000 Singapore dollars for the quake-victims of Nepal in May.

This 61-year-old superstar gave the relief family boxes to the local people by hand. Proving his kind-hearted personality, he also hugged and shook hands with a few of the victims sitting in wheel chairs.

At a time when this quake-stricken nation is moving toward a reconstruction phase from rescue and relief operations, the support of such Hollywood celebrities have strengthened the willpower of the victims for building a "better tomorrow."

Krishna Gautam, a differently-abled person who received the relief family package from Chan in Jawalakhel ground told Xinhua, "We feel so lucky to have the support of such a kind-hearted person. It has motivated us to be more hopeful for the future."



Jackie Chan

The death toll in the massive quake has already surpassed 8,700 people and hundreds of thousands of houses have been destroyed, leaving many more displaced and living in makeshift shelters.

Amid such a situation, the visit of such a renowned celebrity has provided a sort of motivation to the displaced people to forge ahead and come to terms with the reality of nature.

"We are moving toward rebuilding and reconstruction. In such a situation, the support of Jackie Chan is highly inspirational," Ishwor Regmi, project coordinator at the Nepal Red Cross Society, said.—Xinhua

GENERAL

Lola the cat survives migrant crossing to Italy

ROME, 10 June — A cat which accompanied her owner across the desert from Sudan to Libya and then on a migrant boat to Italy has been taken into quarantine on the island of Lampedusa after authorities promised to reunite the pair, *La Repubblica* daily reported on Tuesday.

The paper said the black and white cat, named Lola was rescued with her owner by a British patrol boat after evading border controls and migrant traffickers during the months-long journey hidden in a travelling bag.

TV footage on *La Repubblica*'s website showed aid workers calming the distraught owner, identified only as Sama, after she had disembarked and Lola was held back for health reasons.

The mayor of Lampedusa Giusy Nicolini and the island's doctor Pietro Bartolo intervened to save the cat, which would otherwise probably have been thrown into the sea to drown, *La Repubblica* said.

"It's the first time something like this has happened, the first time a cat has arrived in Lampedusa from the Libyan coast and by law

she couldn't be disembarked for health reasons," the newspaper quoted Nicolini as saying.

"We don't know if Lola has any diseases which could be contagious but in the end we saved her and found a solution."

The story provided a rare bright moment in the unrelentingly grim Mediterranean migrant crisis, in which thousands, including many young children, have lost their lives trying to cross from North Africa into Europe.

La Repubblica said Lola was handed over to a

local animal welfare activist who will keep her isolated until a vet can inspect and vaccinate her, while Sama, from Sudan, has been transferred to a migrant reception centre on the Sicilian mainland.

The paper quoted officials as saying Lola had been Sama's only comfort during the arduous journey and they promised to bring them together again once the quarantine period was over.

"It's a commitment we have made to Sama and we will respect it," Nicolini said.—*Reuters*

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Santa Barbara rejects Exxon request to truck oil after pipeline spill



An oil slick is seen along the coast of Refugio State Beach in Goleta, California, United States, on 19 May, 2015. — REUTERS

SANTA BARBARA, 10 June — Santa Barbara County rejected Exxon

Mobil Corp's emergency permit application to temporarily haul crude using tank-

er trucks following a recent pipeline rupture, officials in the Southern California

county said on Tuesday.

Planning and Development assistant director Dianne Black denied Exxon's request, saying the case did not warrant an emergency approval.

Exxon can apply for approval again through the customary permit process, a statement from the County office said. Exxon confirmed it had been notified and said it was assessing its options.

The 19 May spill from a pipeline owned by Plains All American Pipeline near Santa Barbara dumped up to 2,400 barrels of crude into the Pacific Ocean along a pristine stretch of coastline.

Plains All American Pipeline had earlier said no timeline has been set for the pipeline's restart.—*Reuters*

Wie challenged by Westchester's hills at women's major

RYE, (New York), 10 June — Michelle Wie said the Women's PGA Championship at Westchester Country Club this week has a special buzz to it and hopes her troublesome hip will not slow her down at the second major of the season.

US Women's Open champion Wie is among 23 major winners in the field for the tournament starting on Thursday, which has been rebranded in a partnership between the LPGA and the PGA of America after 60 years billed as the LPGA Championship.

"It's not a new tournament but definitely has a new vibe to it, so it's a lot of fun," Wie told reporters on Tuesday. Wie hopes the fun lasts for her, though that may depend on whether

the bursitis in her hip calms down enough to allow her to unleash her long, flowing swing on the hilly 6,670-yard layout. The 25-year-old Wie withdrew from the tour's Kingsmill event last month because of her hip after an opening 78, and missed the cut two weeks ago at New Jersey's ShopRite LPGA Classic.

Wie was enthused about the prospects of playing on a classic course that has hosted more than 40 PGA Tour events as a regular stop on the men's tour over the years, but wary of the hills.

"I think it's huge to go to big venues. Obviously they've played PGA Tour events, Senior PGA Tour events at this golf course. The venue is great, has a lot of history," she said.



Michelle Wie misses her birdie putt on the 1st hole during round two action of the JTBC Founders Cup at Wildfire Golf Club at JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa. — REUTERS

Wie, who slid from number six in the rankings to 13th as she battled various injuries since her Open triumph, said she took last week off for rest and treatment. "Took a nice week at home," said Wie, a teenaged prodigy who broke through

for her first major title last year at the US Women's Open at Pinehurst.

"I did everything I could to get ready for this week. I went to physical therapy every single day, got an injection ... and I just rested as much as I can.—*Reuters*

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(11-6-2015, Thursday)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 3:35 pm | • Weekly Entertainment |
| 7:00 am | • News / Weather Report | 4:35 pm | • Distance of Education TV Lectures — Second Year (Physics) |
| 8:30 am | • Head Line News | 5:35 pm | • Documentary (Weather Report) |
| 9:35 am | • Beautiful ASEAN | 6:00 pm | • News / Weather Report |
| 9:40 am | • Science and Technology Programme | 6:15 pm | • Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 10:35 am | • Hight Light (28th SEA Games) (Part-1) | 6:35 pm | • People's Talks |
| 11:35 am | • Hight Light (28th SEA Games) (Part-2) | 7:35 pm | • Current Affairs |
| 12:00 noon | • News / International News / Weather Report | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:35 pm | • Hluttaw Image | 9:00 pm | • News |
| 1:10 pm | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance | • Hluttaw Image | • Clever |
| 2:20 pm | • Teleplay | • Talk on Old Film (Part -1) | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(11-6-2015, Thursday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 6:00 am | • Mono Classical Songs | 9:15 am | • ASEAN-Japan Cultural Show (2013) |
| 6:20 am | • Teleplay | 9:25 am | • Teleplay |
| 6:45 am | • Fashion Show | 9:30 am | • 28th SEA Games (2015) (Sepaktakraw)(Live) Myanmar vs Thailand |
| 7:05 am | • TV Drama Series | 9:55 am | • Musical Programme |
| 7:50 am | • TV Drama Series | 10:10 am | • Myanmar Video |
| 8:25 am | • Teleplay | | |
| 8:50 am | • Musical Programme | | |

Thailand win Group B; Myanmar take Group A



SINGAPORE, 10 June — Thailand put up a clinical performance to beat Vietnam 3-1 to emerge as Group B winners of the SEA Games as Myanmar had to fight with everything they had before they were able to win Group A with a 3-3 draw

against Cambodia. The Thais, the defending champions of the biennial championship, rested several key players like Chanathip Songkrasin and captain Srach Yooyen but was still formidable as scored once in the first half before adding two more in

the second half at the Bishan Stadium. The win allowed Thailand to take top spot in Group B as Vietnam emerged runners-up. In the meantime at the Jalan Besar Stadium, Myanmar had to fight from two goals down before they

were able to hold Cambodia to an exhilarating 3-3 draw. The one point was enough for Myanmar to win Group A while the runners-up will only be decided tomorrow when hosts Singapore take on Indonesia.—*aseanfootball.org/ photo : MFF*

Myanmar billiards team win gold medal



SINGAPORE, 10 June— Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan watched matches of Myanmar athletes in archery, basketball, billiards and snooker, pool nine ball events in Singapore on Wednesday. He presented gold medal to Aung Htay and Min Sithu Tun of Myanmar who won first prize

in the billiards doubles event, silver medal to Singaporean team and bronze medal to Thai and Vietnamese teams. Myanmar stood second in the pool nine ball event. Myanmar billiards team sailed into the final in the billiards (three-athlete) event.

SPED

Medal Standings for Tuesday 10 June, 2015					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Singapore	60	51	64	175
2	Vietnam	48	23	44	115
3	Thailand	46	54	41	141
4	Malaysia	27	31	38	96
5	Indonesia	22	28	42	92
6	Philippines	21	23	36	80
7	Myanmar	11	19	19	49
8	Cambodia	1	4	3	8
9	Laos	0	3	12	15
10	Brunei	0	0	5	5
11	Timor-Leste	0	0	1	1

Late own goal steers Serbia through

DUNEDIN, 10 June — Dramatic goals late in normal and extra-time saw Serbia scrape through to the FIFA U-20 World Cup quarter-finals with a 2-1 win over Hungary.

Bence Mervo's second-half strike following a Hungarian breakaway saw the Magyars go

ahead, and a splendid performance from goalkeeper Gyorgy Szekely looked to have put them through. But Ivan Saponjic struck right at the death to level the game, which was no more than Serbia deserved, and in the dying embers of extra-time the unfortunate Attila Talaber put through his own net to send Hunga-

ry home. Right from the off Serbia looked to be the fresher of the pair, having had an extra day's rest, though chances were in short supply during the initial passages of play. The first opening came after a good interchange between Stanisa Mandic and Nemanja Maksimovic saw the lat-

ter's stooping header flash wide, and it was a taste of things to come. Szekely had needed to be on his toes throughout, and he required every bit of his 6ft frame as he superbly clawed away Sasa Zdeljar's toe-poked effort, which looked bound for the top corner. He then was forced to twice deny Mandic as he proved the only reason the sides couldn't be separated at the break. Just over ten minutes after the restart the breakthrough was made, and it came against the run of play. Initially, superb work down the left flank by Nemanja Antonov saw him make space to cut the ball back to Filip Jankovic, but he badly mis-hit his shot from 12 yards. A lightning-quick breakaway punished them, ending with Zsolt Kalmar cutting the ball back for the lethal Mervo to put Hungary ahead.



Hungary concede an own goal to give Serbia victory in extra time during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Round of 16 match between Serbia and Hungary at Otago Stadium on 10 June, 2015 in Dunedin, New Zealand.—FIFA

The flow of the game didn't change though, with the Magyars trying to hold

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 10 June, 2015			
Match 37	Ghana	0-3	Mali
Match 38	Serbia	2-1	Hungary
Match 39	USA	1-0	Colombia
Match 40	Ukraine	1-1	Senegal
Senegal win on penalties (1-3)			

Match Schedules for 11 June 2015 (all times local)			
Match 41	Germany	-	Nigeria 13:30
Match 42	Austria	-	Uzbekistan 10:30
Match 43	Portugal	-	New Zealand 13:30
Match 44	Brazil	-	Uruguay 13:30

firm under some unrelenting pressure from their European counterparts. Zsoter spurned a chance to double their lead and Mandic continued his personal battle with Szekely as he forced the keeper into another save, this time low to his right. The balls into the box continued to rain down and finally, with seconds remaining, Serbia found a breakthrough. A corner swung into the left dropped perfectly on to the head of Saponjic, who had found a pocket of space, and the ball nestled into the top corner. But that joy was tempered somewhat when teammate Milan Galic saw red

for his second booking of the night before the game went into extra time. With Serbia a man down the game was a much more even affair and, as legs tired, there was just one, vital moment of goalmouth action. Saponjic proved to be key again, as his drilled cross from the right wickedly flicked off the boot of Talaber, leaving Szekely stranded and looping into the far corner. Serbia now head to Auckland's North Harbour Stadium, where they will take on the winners of Colombia-USA in the last eight.

FIFA