

President tours archaeological site at Beikthano heritage zone

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June— President U Thein Sein went on an inspection tour Saturday of the cultural heritage zone in the township of Taungdwingyi, Magway Region.

Recognized as a World Heritage Site, Beikthano, a city also known as Vishnu, is located near Kokkokhwa village-tract in the township.

At the Beikthano cultural heritage zone, President U Thein Sein heard briefings on the discoveries of building structures, jewelry and urns, as well as criteria of archaeological findings for inclusion in the World Heritage Index.

The president said it was important to foster a new generation of archaeologists, urging officials to create more tourism jobs for local people and protect cultural heritage from both man-made and natural disasters.

After viewing excavated items on display at the Beikthano Archaeological Museum, he signed in the visitors' book of the museum and went on a guided tour of the archaeological excavations in the zone.

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President U Thein Sein greets an elderly woman at World Heritage Site in Beikthano, near Kokkokhwa village-tract in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway region.—MNA

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Gov't consults importers, exporters over surge in dollar exchange rate

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 13 June— Government officials met with import and export business operators Saturday in Yangon to discuss measures to restore exchange rate stability in the wake of the U.S.dollar's surge against the kyat.

The meeting followed a similar discussion Friday in Nay Pyi Taw between Union ministers and financial institutions.

The Central Bank of Myanmar, private banks, government ministries and business federations are discussing possible solutions to the kyat's volatility against the dollar, Deputy Minister for

Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan told the media.

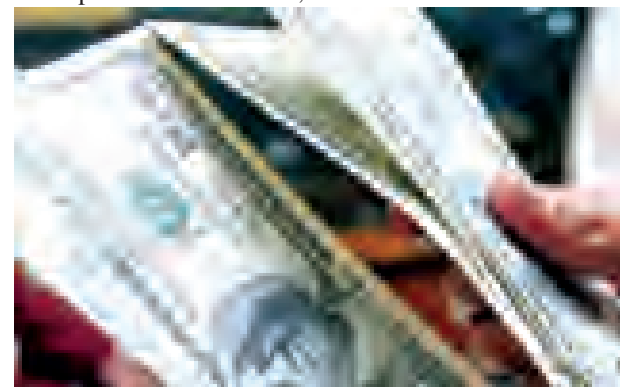
The meeting at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was divided into two sessions—one for exporters and another for importers.

The morning session focused on ways to “mitigate exchange rate volatility, which has triggered difficulties in the country's trading,” Myanmar Rice Federation Vice-Chairman Dr Soe Tun said.

The participants looked at relaxing regulations in order to allow exporters to increase foreign currency earnings, he added.

While currency manipulation has been blamed for the soaring dollar, the MRF vice-chairman said low public trust in the kyat is behind increased demand for the dollar and gold.

U Myo Nyunt, Secretary of the Myanmar Fishery Products Processors & Exporters Association,



said the fishery industry wants to see exchange rate stability restored.

“Shortage of raw materials is the primary problem to increase the country's export volume in the fishery sector,” said the secretary, adding that earnings from marine exports fell to around \$400 million in fiscal 2014-



2015 from more than \$500 million the previous year.

Another factor blamed for the dollar's rise is the country's trade deficit, which stood at more than \$4 billion in fiscal 2014-2015, with total trade volume around \$29 billion.

“I am here to listen to difficulties of exporters in order to make relaxation of export restrictions that can boost the country's

exports,”said U Nyunt Aung, Director-General of the Directorate of Trade.

Findings of the meeting will be submitted to a committee formed from departments concerned, the director-general added.

A further meeting on the issue will be held Monday in Nay Pyi Taw.

GNLM

Workshop raises awareness of human rights issues

MANDALAY, 13 June — The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Myanmar NGO Network and Equality Myanmar jointly conducted a human rights workshop at the School for the Deaf in Chanmyathazi Township on 12 June.

Speakers including Vice Chairman of the commission U Sit Myaing gave lectures at the workshop, which was organized with the financial assistance of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of Sweden.

They spoke about topic including the role



of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and responsibilities

of the government. The workshop was attended by representatives

from a range of social organizations and NGOs.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Agriculture dept aims to increase paddy cultivation



NAY PYI TAW, 13 June — The Ottara District Department of Agriculture held a talk Friday on increasing the cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy.

Department of Agriculture Deputy Director U Tin Oo Kyaing spoke about accelerating cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy in monsoon season through good farming practices.

Assistant Director U Kyaw Kyaw Oo spoke about the seasonal cultivation

of Palethwe paddy in Ottara District.

Officials of the department explained common diseases of paddy in monsoon, as well as procedures for spouting paddy seeds and checking seed quality.

The talk was attended by staff of Agriculture Department in Ottarathiri and Pobbathiri townships.

Shwe Ye Yint

War veterans take course to improve job skills

MANDALAY, 13 June — War veterans concluded a training course to improve their job skills and employment prospects in Pathingyi Township, Mandalay, on 12 June.

Altogether 47 veterans attended the course at the war veterans' training school from 18 May to 12 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Immigration dept issues citizenship cards, household registrations

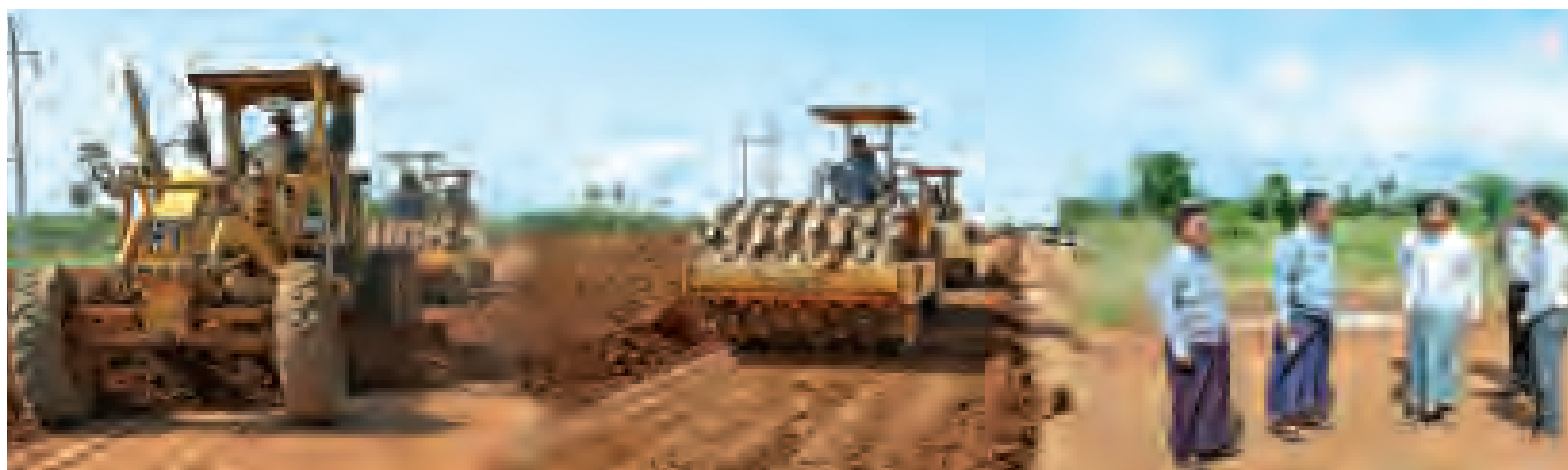
DAWEI, 13 June — Head of Myitta Town Immigration and National Registration Department U Myint Swe and staff delivered citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration certificates to local people at the church in Hsinbyutaing Village, Myitta, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, recently.

Deputy Director U Yin Htwe of the district INRD and officials of Norwegian Refugee Council (Head Office) supervised

issuance of the cards and people.—*Po Shwe Thun* certificates to the local (*Dawei*)



Minister inspects construction of Meiktila detour



MANDALAY, 13 June — Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint together with region ministers inspected progress of the Meiktila detour on 11 June.

Officials from Thawdawin Construction Company Ltd and Yuzana Construction Company Ltd reported on construction of two road sections.

The chief minister viewed construction and dredging works, and urged officials to complete the project on time.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



NATIONAL

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The president paid homage to Sayadaw Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Citanana at the pagoda in the zone, conversing with people from surrounding villages and asking them about agriculture and regional development activities.

Beikthano is located 18 kilometers southwest of Taungdwingyi and covers an area of 2,420 acres. Together with Sri Ksetra and Hanlin, the ancient city was inscribed on the World Heritage List at the 38th session of the World Heritage Commit-



tee on 22 June 2014.

Cultural heritage zone in Beikthano, an ancient city known as Vishnu, in Magway region.—MNA

MNA

Speaker honours outstanding matriculation students in Zeyathiri Township



NAY PYI TAW, 13 June— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on Saturday congratulated outstanding matriculation students and the most successful schools in Zeyathiri Township in the previous academic year.

Thura U Shwe Mann made an opening remark at the fifth award-giving ceremony in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Nay Pyi Taw council member Dr Paing Soe also praised the outstanding students and teachers.

A number of students in Zeyathiri Township received distinctions in the

exam results announced in the first week of this month.

U Hla Myint Oo, chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw's International Relations Committee, gave awards to the three most successful schools in the township.

The township administrative officer and education officer gave awards to the most successful primary and middle schools. Ma Ei Phyto Wai, an outstanding performer in the matriculation exam, and Daw Khin Htwe, headmistress of No 1 Basic Education High School (Nay Pyi Taw) expressed their thanks to the officials concerned.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann seen at prize-giving ceremony for outstanding matriculation students in Zeyathiri Township.

MNA

MWEA EXECUTIVE ATTENDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECO SYSTEM SUMMIT: Executive Daw May Nyo of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association left Yangon for Vietnam to attend Entrepreneurship Eco System Summit in Ho Chi Minh city from 11 to 13 June.—GNLM



Two men convicted over knife attack on car

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June— Two men have been found guilty of drunkenly throwing a knife at a car on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, police said Saturday. Maung Maung, 52, and Myo Win Pyone, 31, both from Hlegu Township, were arrested and charged after throwing the three-bladed knife at the car near highway milestone 23/5.

The Yangon-Mandalay highway police squad said security measures would be taken to prevent crimes against vehicles.

Police Information

Foundation provides surgery for children with cleft lip, palate

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 13 June— More than 100 children will receive cleft lip and palate repair surgery this October at Yangon's Victoria Hospital, the chairman of Shwe Parami Health Care Foundation, which is funding the procedures, said Friday.

Doctors from the U.S.-based charity Alliance For Smiles will perform the surgeries in late October, businessman and foundation chairman U Shein

Win said.

The foundation treats patients from around the country, he said, adding there are cleft lip and cleft palate patients in all states and regions.

"We are very happy with our free treatment of children with cleft lip and palate," U Shein Win said. "It allows them to lead a better life in society."

"In addition to treatments to cleft lip and cleft palate children, the founda-

tion is also planning to offer medicines to mothers to avoid delivering additional children with cleft lip and palate."

Since its establishment in 2011, the foundation has helped at least 700 people undergo cleft lip and palate repair surgery.

Cleft lip and cleft palate are congenital defects affecting one in 700 people. More than 170,000 children around the world are born with cleft lip, cleft palate or both each year. The condition causes dif-

ficulty in eating, breathing and speaking.

The foundation plans to carry out its regular charitable health care programme at homes for orphans in Mawlamyine and Yangon starting this month, with specialists providing a wide range of treatment, U Shein Win said.

He said the foundation aims to provide assistance to people in rural areas where there are no medical specialists and access to healthcare is limited.

GNLM



Nepal says \$6.66 billion needed to rebuild after massive quakes

KATHMANDU, 13 June — The Nepali government said on Saturday it will need \$6.66 billion to rebuild infrastructure damaged by the devastating earthquakes in April and May.

Presenting a Post Disaster Needs Assessment report to local representatives of donor countries and agencies in Kathmandu, the National Planning Commission said the quakes caused damage and losses worth \$7 billion. They also wiped off 1.6 percentage points from the expected gross domestic product growth rate of 4.6 percent for the fiscal year that ends in mid-July, bringing down the anticipated GDP growth to a mere 3.0 percent.

The disasters, the worst in Nepal in over 80 years, are also expected to push

about 700,000 people below the poverty line, the commission's Vice Chairman Govind Raj Pokharel said.

"The country needs \$6.66 billion to rebuild. This is the estimate of the extent of the disasters' effect and impact across all sectors and social groups," Pokharel said. The report incorporates data from 23 different sectors affected by the temblors, including agriculture, communications, heritage, education, electricity, forestry, health, housing, industries, irrigation, tourism, transport, and water and sanitation.

The PDNA report, prepared in collaboration with Japan, the Asian Development Bank, the UN Development Programme, the European Union and the World Bank, will be the basis for discussions at the

International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction that will be held in Kathmandu on 25 June.

Finance Secretary Suman Sharma said the conference is being organized in partnership with the government of Japan, the ADB and the World Bank.

"Invitations have been extended to 36 countries and 24 agencies," Sharma said, adding, "We expect handsome and good support from the donors."

Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat said the conference is being organized in a hurry so that Nepal can take advantage of the international attention that has not yet subsided.

"If we wait for too long, donors' memory of the recent disaster may evaporate," Mahat said.

Sharma elaborated, "International attention may wean away with further passage of time. Nepal may lose its position of advantage for international resource mobilization."

Nepal will set up a powerful body chaired by the prime minister to undertake reconstruction efforts.

"Homework is under way to form a high-level powerful mechanism," Chief Secretary Lila Mani Poudel said. "It will have a balanced representation of experts and political parties. We are working to form it before the donors' conference." Powerful quakes on 25 April and 12 May left a combined 8,787 dead and more than 22,000 injured and leveled over half-a-million structures.

Kyodo News

Indonesia waives visa requirements for 30 countries, including Japan

JAKARTA, 13 June — The Indonesian government said on Friday it has officially waived visa requirements for tourists from 30 more countries including Japan, allowing them to stay in the country visa-free for up to 30 days.

In a statement, the Cabinet Secretariat said President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo signed a presidential regulation on the visa exemptions on Tuesday and the visa-free policy came into effect on Wednesday.

According to the regulation, the policy was made based on "reciprocal and beneficial basis."

The newly added countries are Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Britain, Canada,

China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirate and the United States.

They joined 15 other countries, including Indonesia's nine fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, that had been earlier exempted from visa requirements.

Indonesia aims to increase the number of foreign tourists through the visa-free policy to 11 million this year from 9.44 million last year.—*Kyodo News*

China, S Korea eye all-round practical cooperation

SEOUL, 13 June — Visiting Chinese top legislator Zhang Dejiang met here Thursday with South Korean President Park Geun-hye, with both sides pledging to further expand their all-round practical cooperation.

China-South Korea relations are currently at an all-time high as the leaders of the two countries have made a successful exchange of visits and reached important consensus, Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), said during the meeting.

The two countries have

enhanced political trust, increased trade and economic cooperation and deepened people-to-people exchanges, he said, adding that the two-way trade reached nearly 300 billion US dollars in 2014 and the number of personnel exchanges between the two countries exceeded 10 million. The China-South Korea free trade agreement (FTA) officially signed on 1 June will also bring broader prospects for bilateral cooperation, Zhang said.

He said China is ready to make joint efforts with South Korea to step up friendly exchanges at all

levels, coordinate macroeconomic policies and development strategies, and push forward all-round practical cooperation.

Beijing is also willing to work with Seoul to realize common development, maintain regional peace, reinvigorate Asia and strive for a more prosperous world, and lift the China-South Korea strategic cooperative partnership to a new height, Zhang said.

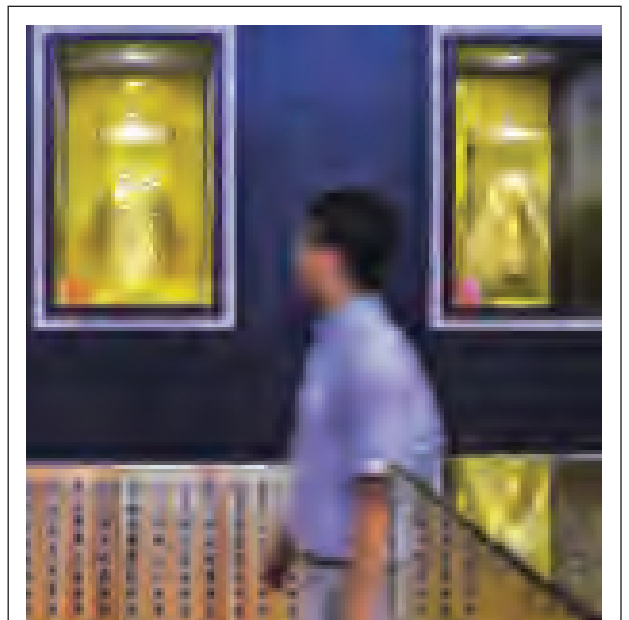
For her part, Park said that the signing of the FTA, which laid the ground for future development, is a catalyst for deepening bilateral

trade and economic cooperation.

The South Korean side will continue to expand cooperation with China in all areas, boost the strategic cooperative partnership to higher levels and promote the peace and stability in Northeast Asia, she said.

The two sides also exchanged views on issues of common concern.

Zhang is currently on an official friendly visit to South Korea from Thursday to Saturday at the invitation of the country's Speaker of the National Assembly Chung Ui-hwa.—*Xinhua*



Fine samples of ginseng are displayed at a ginseng processing plant in Ji'an, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 11 June, 2015. China has a long history of cultivating ginseng, which is considered to be nutritious and to have medicinal value in traditional Chinese medicine. Considered as the world's largest ginseng production area, Jilin produces about 85 percent of China's total ginseng output and 70 percent of the world's output. More than 98 percent of ginseng in Jilin is currently cultivated, not grown in the wild.—XINHUA

Five dead, 100 hospitalized in gas leak in northern India

NEW DELHI, 13 June — At least five persons died and over 100 others were hospitalized after inhaling ammonia gas that leaked from a tanker in the northern Indian state of Punjab on Saturday, a senior police

official said.

"The leak started after the tanker got stuck under a flyover on the Doraha Bypass Road in the state's Ludhiana district early in the morning. Gas started leaking soon after from a valve," he

said on condition of anonymity.

While five people died on the spot after inhaling the poisonous gas, those sickened were rushed to various hospitals where the condition of some were said to be

serious, the official said.

Local TV channels reported that residents of nearby areas had to be evacuated following the gas leak.

A probe has been ordered into the incident.

Xinhua

WHO says time needed to contain MERS in S Korea, death toll at 14

SEOUL, 13 June — Time will be needed before the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus outbreak in South Korea can be ended, though government efforts have proven effective to some extent, a team of government and World Health Organization officials said on Saturday.

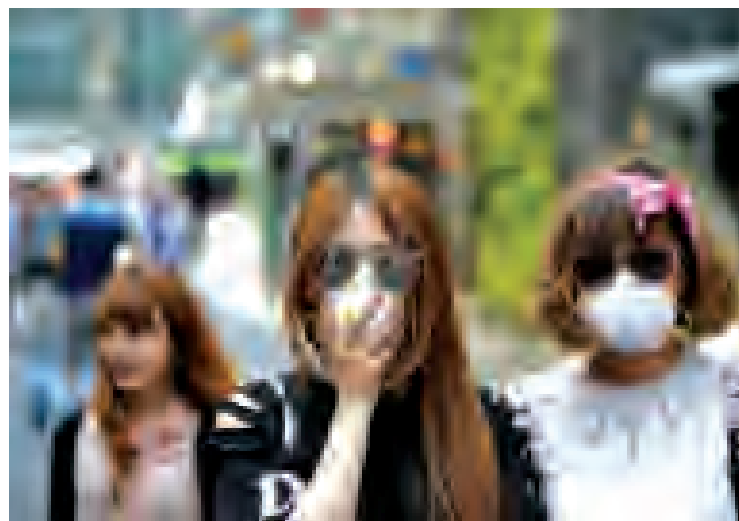
South Korea's health authorities on Saturday reported the 14th death in the country from the MERS virus and 12 new cases, bringing the total of confirmed cases to 138.

The joint mission pointed to the South Korean government's unsuccessful first response, saying its failure to disclose information transparently and swiftly was one of the causes of the situation.

It said South Korea is seeing a large-scale MERS epidemic and that infections may increase.

The team conducted five days of work including examining hospitals such as the Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul where at least 60 people contracted the virus through in-hospital infections.

According to South Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare, a 67-year-old woman died in the early hours of Saturday. She is believed to have been infected after coming into close contact with a MERS patient at a hospital in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, late last month, *Yonhap News Agency* reported. Among the 12 new cases is the first confirmed case of



Tourists wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) walk at Myeongdong shopping district in central Seoul, South Korea, on 12 June, 2015.
REUTERS

fourth-generation infection, involving a 70-year-old ambulance driver, according to the ministry. *Yonhap* said the man last week transported two patients from third-generation infections.

The number of people

in isolation was still over 3,600. The government has made efforts to contain the respiratory illness since a 68-year-old man who traveled to the Middle East became the first South Korean case. His infection was con-

firmed on 20 May.

The disease spread in hospitals via secondary infections from the initial case. Third-generation infections were then reported before the first fourth-generation infection was con-

firmed on Saturday.

The joint team has recommended reopening schools shut down due to infection fears. But the number of schools temporarily shut down had increased to some 2,900 as of Friday. South Korea has the second-largest number of MERS patients, after Saudi Arabia, which has reported over 1,000 confirmed cases since the virus emerged there for the first time in 2012.

Infections have been confirmed in 25 countries since 2012. The WHO had been notified of 1,219 confirmed cases of infection with MERS as of Tuesday, including at least 449 deaths. Most deaths have occurred in Saudi Arabia.

Kyodo News

Anthrax previously sent to Japan by US military, destroyed

WASHINGTON, 13 June — A potentially live anthrax sample was accidentally sent to a US Army post southwest of Tokyo 10 years ago, a Pentagon spokesperson said Friday, adding that it was disposed of a few years later.

The sample was sent during a research programme that took place at Camp Zama in Kanagawa Prefecture from 2005 through 2010 and researchers used it for "training and proficiency testing" on how to counter biological threats.

The sample was shipped in 2005 and destroyed in 2009, Pentagon Spokesperson Steve Warren said. "There is currently no anthrax in Japan at this time." "When we sent it, we thought it was inactive," Warren said. How-

ever, the master sample at a US Army facility from which the Camp Zama sample came has since tested active.

Warren said that it would be "impossible" to test if the sample that was sent to Camp Zama was active, since it has been destroyed. The news comes in the midst of revelations that the US military inadvertently sent anthrax samples to 69 domestic labs and five countries over the past ten years for research purposes. The five countries are Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan and South Korea.

The Pentagon and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention are investigating the accidental shipments and working out measures to prevent similar events from occurring.

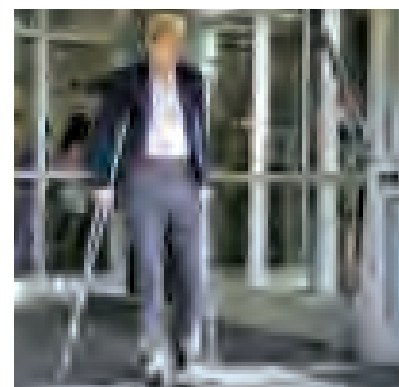
Kyodo News

US' Kerry leaves hospital, to join Iran talks in late June

BOSTON, 13 June — US Secretary of State John Kerry said he was fully engaged in the Iran nuclear negotiations and would join them at the end of June as he left the hospital after treatment for a broken leg.

Kerry, 71, broke his right femur on 31 May while cycling a portion of the Tour de France route in the Haute Savoie region of France, raising questions about how deeply he may be able to be involved in the talks before a self-imposed 30 June deadline. Appearing in public for the first time since his injury, Kerry sought to dispel doubts about his involvement.

"I will be absolutely, fully and totally engaged in those talks. I am now. I haven't missed a tick," Kerry told reporters as he left Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, resting on crutches and with dark



United States Secretary of State John Kerry walks out of Massachusetts General Hospital to speak to reporters in Boston, Massachusetts on 12 June, 2015.
REUTERS

circles under his eyes. "I'll be travelling over there at the appropriate moment in the next days in order to press forward at this critical moment in the negotiations. So there's a lot of work on the table," he added. Kerry said he plans to join the talks after the 22-24 June strategic and economic dialogue with China in Washington.

"Afterwards, I will be leaving to go for the last slog on the Iran talks," Ker-

ry said. Lower level talks have taken place in Vienna and it is not clear where the final round will occur.

One of the central questions after Kerry's fall was whether it would affect negotiations between Iran and six major powers seeking to strike an agreement to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for relief from economic sanctions. "It's a tough slog. It's not easy," Kerry said. The United States and some

of its allies suspect Iran is using its civilian nuclear programme as a cover to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Iran denies this, saying its programme is for peaceful purposes such as making medical isotopes.

Kerry said he would spend the weekend at his Boston home and return to Washington next week.

He was flown to Boston aboard a military transport plane and underwent successful surgery on 2 June to repair the fracture. At the time, his surgeon, Dennis Burke, said Kerry's recovery was not expected to interfere with his official duties.

On Friday, Burke said Kerry's recovery from the surgery had no complications, and that he was moving around independently on crutches with a full recovery expected "in several months' time."—*Reuters*

Latvia arrests two Russians for entering military base



Latvia's army soldiers take their positions during the multinational NATO exercise Saber Strike in Adazi, Latvia, on 11 June, 2015.—REUTERS

RIGA, 13 June — Latvia on Friday arrested two Russian activists after they were caught entering a military base as the country was taking part in US-led military exercises.

The men, sporting a black and orange St George flag of the Russian military and holding anti-NATO leaflets, climbed over a wall of the Adazi base on Wednesday, the Latvian military said. They were caught minutes later but formally arrested on Friday.

Their detention, and a hacking incident in Lithuania on Wednesday, will add to tensions between former-Soviet Baltic states and Russia which have been high since Moscow's annexation of Crimea last year and its support of pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine.

The states have large Russian minorities and are on alert for an information war conducted on their territory.

Russia has been flexing its muscles around

Europe with heightened activity by its warplanes and reports of submarines in Nordic waters.

The Russian Embassy had no comment on the arrests.

Latvian Defence Minister Raimonds Vejonis said the incident could be part of an information war but that the "(security) services work appropriately to eliminate such provocations", according to local news agency LETA.

Reuters

US-Cuba deal expected in early July to restore ties, reopen embassies

WASHINGTON, 13 June — The Obama administration is expected to announce an agreement with Cuba in early July to reopen embassies and restore diplomatic relations severed more than five decades ago, US sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

The two sides hope to conclude the deal by the first week of next month, clearing the way for Secretary of State John Kerry to visit Havana soon afterwards for a flag-raising ceremony to upgrade the US Interests Section to a full-scale embassy, the sources said.

Since a breakthrough between the two former Cold War rivals announced in December, negotiators have settled all but a few differences and were confident they would soon be resolved, several sources told *Reuters*.

They said the exact timetable for the formal embassy opening was unclear

because of Kerry's recovery from a broken leg suffered in a 31 May biking accident in France, as well as the looming 30 June deadline for a final nuclear deal with Iran, which would dominate Kerry's schedule over the next weeks.

Restoration of relations would be the latest phase in a normalization process, which is expected to move slowly because of lingering problems over issues such as Cuba's human rights record. A US embargo will remain in place, and only Congress can lift it.

The sources said the administration hoped to formally notify Congress within the next two weeks of its intention to reopen the Havana embassy. The State Department is required by law to give Congress at least 15 days' notice of such an action.

Cuba's Communist government is likely to act



Cuban-themed murals adorn the buildings along SW 8th Street, known locally as "Calle Ocho" in the Little Havana neighbourhood of Miami, Florida on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

in sync with the United States on reopening of the embassies, issuing its own announcement on restoring ties, one source said. But it was unclear how fast the two sides would act in naming ambassadors.

As part of its preparations to turn its interests section in Washington into a full-fledged embassy, Cuba erected a large flagpole on the front lawn of the building on Wednesday.

The flag itself will await

the formal announcement of relations.

Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro pledged full restoration of ties on 17 December. The two leaders met in Panama in mid-April.

Reuters

North Korea requests UN probe into US shipments of anthrax

NEW YORK, 13 June — A North Korean envoy to the United Nations has asked the global body to look into recent revelations about US accidental shipments of anthrax to a number of countries, calling them "biological warfare schemes."

In a letter dated on 5 June and addressed to the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council, Ambassador Ja Song Nam said that a military facility in the state of Utah "secretly shipped deadly live anthrax germs" to US bases in South Korea and other countries.

This indicates that the United States owns "deadly weapons of mass destruction" and is "attempting to use them in actual warfare against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" on the Korean Peninsula, the letter said, using the official name of North Korea.

North Korea condemns the United States for its "genocidal acts against humanity" and "strongly requests that the Security Council take up the issue of the shipment of anthrax germs in order to thoroughly investigate the biological warfare schemes of the United States," the ambassador said.

The US Department of Defence said on Friday anthrax samples have been sent to five countries including South Korea and Japan and 69 domestic laboratories. The department said it is working with the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, which is investigating the handling procedures of anthrax.—*Kyodo News*

Reuters

EU holds first talks on Greek default as Athens holds out hope

ATHENS/BRUSSELS, 13 June — EU officials have held their first formal talks on the possibility of a Greek default, officials said on Friday, but the darkening outlook failed to fluster Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who holed up with his negotiators after proclaiming optimism at an open air concert.

In Athens, a government official denied that the possibility of Greece failing to honour its debt commitments had been discussed by the European Union, and said meetings with creditors would resume in Brussels

on Saturday.

No one knows, least of all in Athens or Brussels, whether the anti-austerity government can reach a deal with its lenders before an end-June deadline and thereby avoid putting the country in grave danger of crashing out of the euro zone.

But senior euro zone officials are taking no chances, and discussed a series of scenarios in Bratislava late on Thursday, several officials told *Reuters*. These included a possible default on a 1.6 billion euro (1 billion pounds) payment that Greece must make to

the International Monetary Fund, the global lender of last resort, at the end of this month, they said.

While Europe let loose a barrage of warnings, the leftist Greek government exuded calm and optimism. A cheerful Tsipras was mobbed by supporters late on Thursday at an open air concert to celebrate the re-opening of a TV station, still wearing the blue suit he had worn at crisis talks that morning in Brussels.

His boisterous mood belied his tough talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French Presi-

dent Francois Hollande on Wednesday, and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Thursday. Juncker jokingly called the meeting room a "torture room".

The failure to break the stalemate prompted the IMF to send home its team of negotiators on Thursday.

Nevertheless, the Greek government official said Athens was ready to submit counter-proposals to bridge differences with its creditors at the EU and IMF, and hoped for a deal when the Eurogroup of euro zone finance ministers meets

on 18 June.

The Bratislava talks, called to prepare for the Eurogroup meeting, concluded that there were three scenarios, and that the best of them, reaching a deal next week, was the least likely.

The second scenario was a further extension of Greece's current bailout programme, which expires this month at the same time as Greece must repay the 1.6 billion euros to the IMF. The third — discussed formally for the first time at such a senior level in the EU — was to accept that Greece could default. The meeting reached no decision or concrete conclusion, the officials said.

Reuters

US and Russian navies hold talks on avoiding accidental clash

BRUSSELS, 13 June — The US and Russian navies met this week for the first time since the Ukraine crisis began to discuss how to avoid an accidental clash at sea or in the air, a US naval commander said on Friday.

Russia has stepped up its probing of NATO's defences since Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region last year caused the worst crisis in East-West relations since the Cold War. NATO has responded by increasing patrols and exercises in eastern Europe. The European Leadership Network, a thinktank, last November chronicled almost 40 poten-

tially dangerous incidents over that period involving Russian and Western militaries, including near-misses in the air and at sea. A Russian Navy delegation led by Vice-Admiral Oleg Burtsev met a US team led by Rear Admiral John Nowell at US Sixth Fleet headquarters in Naples, Italy, on Wednesday. "There was an open, frank and direct discussion ... about how we can better operate in the same bodies of water and avoid miscues, mistakes or miscalculations," Vice-Admiral James Foggo, deputy commander of US naval forces Europe, told reporters on a conference call, giving no further

details. "I think that dialogue was productive."

The two navies, which signed an agreement in 1972 on operating safely in international waters, last met in November 2013. Foggo is leading a 49-ship international fleet in an exercise in the Baltic Sea involving 17 NATO allies or partner nations with 61 aircraft and 5,600 personnel. The exercise is held annually, but this year's edition is the largest and, NATO says, a demonstration of its resolve to defend the Baltic region, where allies feel threatened by an increasingly assertive Russia.

Foggo rejected sugges-

tions that any NATO navies were being intimidated into avoiding the Baltic or the Black Sea. "We are here with 49 ships right now and we are operating in areas all over the Baltic Sea," he said.

"I frequently operate in the Black Sea with destroyers from the Sixth Fleet, so no, they are not no-go areas, and we will continue to operate in both places." Russia plans to modernise and expand its Black Sea fleet, which was based in Crimea even before last year's annexation and is seen by Moscow as a platform for projecting power beyond the Black Sea into the Mediterranean.—*Reuters*

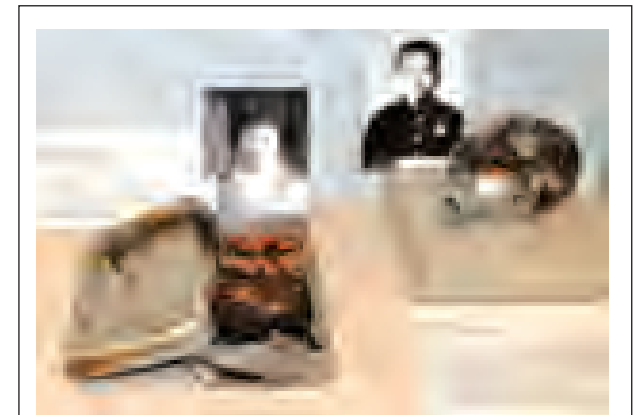


Photo taken on 11 June, 2015, at American University in Washington shows a lunch box and a canteen collected from atomic-bombed areas in Japan. They will be displayed at the first a-bomb exhibition in the US capital in two decades, which will start on 13 June.—KYODO NEWS

Tensions rise between Kurdish and Shi'ite forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 June — Tensions ran high in eastern Iraq on Friday between Kurdish and Shi'ite fighters, highlighting divisions hampering efforts by the US-backed government to blunt the momentum of Islamic State militants.

There were conflicting reports on what transpired in Diyala Province after Kurdish peshmerga fighters attempted to dig a trench to separate two towns there, Jalawla and al-Saadiya, police sources said.

Jalawla is held by Kurds while al-Saadiya is controlled by Shi'ites.

A police official said five people were killed after clashes erupted between the two sides competing for territory in several parts of



Shi'ite fighters ride on military vehicles at Lake Tharthar, west of Samarra, on 6 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Iraq, even though they have joined forces against Islamic State in the past.

But Mahmoud Sangawi, the senior Kurdish

frontline commander in the area, said the forces only fired over each other's heads and the situation tense.

"We don't have a problem with them, but we won't accept for them to attack us," he said.

There have been skir-

mishes in the past between Kurdish and Shi'ite forces, both seen as critical to efforts to contain Islamic State.

The jihadist group has seized a third of Iraq over the past year, presenting the most serious security challenge since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Islamic State's drive, ultra-hardline views and ambitions to create a self-sustained caliphate where any opponents are executed or beheaded have exacerbated a sectarian conflict.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama ordered the deployment of 450 more US troops to the Sunni heartland of Anbar to advise and assist fragile

Iraqi forces being built up to try to retake territory lost to Islamic State.

The plan to expand the 3,100-strong US contingent in Iraq and open a new operations centre closer to the fighting in Anbar marks an adjustment in strategy for Obama, who faces mounting pressure to do more to blunt the momentum of the insurgents.

Obama refuses to send troops into combat or to the front lines in Iraq.

The focus now is on devising an effective plan to retake Anbar's provincial capital of Ramadi, which insurgents seized last month on an operation that highlighted the shortcomings of the Iraqi army.

Reuters

Nine killed in clashes between Islamic State and other militants in eastern Libya

BENGAZI, (Libya), 13 June — At least nine fighters were killed in clashes on Friday between Islamic State and another Islamist force in the eastern Libyan city of Derna, a source in one group said.

Fighting had first erupted in Derna — a long-time gathering point for jihadists — on Tuesday after a leader in the Islamist umbrella group Majlis al-Shura was killed. At least 20 people were killed.

New clashes broke out in one district on Friday and nine fighters were killed, the source said. No more details were immediately available.

Islamic State and other Islamist militant groups have thrived in Libya since two rival governments began fighting for control, leaving a security vacuum four years after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. The rapid rise in Libya of Islamic State, which first emerged in Syria and Iraq, is worrying Western powers who fear the militant group will forge a base just across the Mediterranean from mainland Europe.

The Majlis al-Shura declared holy war, or jihad, on Islamic State in Derna after Tuesday's clashes, in which four Majlis leaders were killed. Islamic State group has carried out attacks on oilfields and embassies and also claimed the killing of dozens of Egyptian and Ethiopian Christians. It has also attacked both governments.

The official government has been based in the east since losing the capital Tripoli in August to rival group Libya Dawn, which set up its own administration with some Islamist links.—Reuters

Iran says concerned over cyber-security of nuclear talks

ANKARA, 13 June — Iran expressed concern on Friday over cyber-security of nuclear talks with six world powers after reported cyber-attacks on venues linked to the negotiations on its disputed nuclear program, the semi-official *Fars* news agency reported.

Russian computer security company Kaspersky Lab said on Wednesday that a computer virus was used to hack into sites including three luxury hotels that have hosted the nuclear negotiations in Austria and Switzerland.

Fars said the Iranian Foreign Ministry had written to the Austrian and Swiss governments expressing "serious concern".

"Tehran has also asked to be informed about the results of investigations over the issue," it said.

Switzerland and Austria are investigating the allegations.

"Iran wants all necessary measures ... taken to secure the talks, including cyber security, as soon as possible," *Fars* cited the ministry's letter to Austria as saying.

Iran and the six world powers — the United States, Russia,

China, Britain, France and Germany — are trying to clinch a deal by 30 June under which Teheran would curb its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of Western sanctions.

Iran denies any ambition to develop nuclear weapons and says its programme is for generating electricity and other peaceful pur-

poses.

Both Kaspersky and US security company Symantec said the virus shared some programming with previously discovered espionage software called Duqu, which security experts believe to have been developed by Israelis.

Israel, widely believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear

power, has rejected as baseless reports on its possible link to the computer virus.

On Friday, Russian news agency TASS quoted a diplomatic source as saying the nuclear talks had virtually stalled and the deadline for a final deal may have to be postponed.

Reuters



Negotiators of Iran and six world powers face each other at a table in the historic basement of Palais Coburg hotel in Vienna on 24 April, 2015. REUTERS

Documents show bitter CIA dispute over pre-9/11 performance

WASHINGTON, 13 June — Top CIA officials fought bitterly in the years after the 11 September, 2001 attacks over whether US intelligence agencies could have done more to stop the deadliest terrorist strikes in American history, documents released on Friday show.

The once-secret documents include a more complete version of a 2005 report by the spy agency's inspector general, which found that the CIA did not have a comprehensive strategy or marshal adequate resources to combat al-Qaeda before hijacked planes hit New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 9/11. A redacted summary of that report was first made public in 2007. But the documents

released by the CIA on Friday also reflect the arguments of former CIA Director George Tenet and his lieutenants that US intelligence was intently focussed on al-Qaeda and leader Osama bin Laden.

At stake in the years-long dispute are the legacies of former top CIA officials and the agency itself.

None of the documents focus directly on how President George W. Bush and his White House dealt with the al-Qaeda threat after taking office in January 2001. Some former officials, including Bush counter-terrorism czar Richard Clarke, have said Bush did not initially make al-Qaeda a priority.

In a heated June 2005 letter to then CIA Inspector General John

Helgeson, Tenet rejected Helgeson's critical draft report.

"Your report challenges my professionalism, diligence and skill in leading the men and women of US intelligence in countering terrorism," Tenet told Helgeson.

"I did everything I could to inform, warn and motivate action to prevent harm," he wrote. "Your report does not fairly or accurately portray my actions, or the heroic work of the men and women of the Intelligence Community."

After the bombings of US Embassies in East Africa in 1998 and the USS Cole in October 2000, Tenet said, he warned President Bill Clinton "to expect from five to fifteen attacks against United

States' interests." Tenet has previously said that he developed a plan to go after al-Qaeda in 1999, and worked to increase US intelligence funding, slashed during the 1990s.

"I said when the executive summary was made public eight years ago that the IG's report was flat wrong," Tenet said on Friday. "Nothing in the additional material just released changes that judgment in the slightest."

The documents, which former CIA officials pressed the agency to release, include a July 2005 memo from 17 top officers of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center disputing Helgeson's report. Helgeson was not immediately available for comment.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 14 June, 2015

Schools must promote students' healthBy *Aung Khin*

Myanmar's school year starts in the early monsoon period. After children spend the summer with their parents, they head to the classroom and into the care of teachers whose enthusiasm has been renewed after the long break.

In addition to their academic duty, teachers must consider the food and personal hygiene of the children. They also have to examine snack stalls at schools to prevent seasonal, airborne

and waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, flu and malaria.

As times change, we should be on the alert for more bacterial infections. At this juncture, medical staff must fully participate in healthcare programmes at schools. They need to give educative talks at the start of school season. Only then can both children and teachers concentrate on education happily and healthily.

Even though Myanmar school children do not yet receive school nutrition programmes, they should undergo basic healthcare programmes that allow the nation to develop education and health simultaneously in a cost-effective fashion. Education is interrelated with social, economic and political conditions.

School and youth health programmes should cover potential health issues faced by school children in accordance with the findings of the World Health Organization.

The UN body has compiled a huge body of

data on the health risks faced by children and teenagers around the world. Among them, worm infections are the greatest cause of disease among 5-14 year old children, while Vitamin A deficiency is the single greatest cause of preventable childhood blindness. Additionally, 15- to 24-year-olds comprise 60 percent of all new HIV infections.

Therefore, collaboration between health and education agencies is vital to improve public health through schools.

Write for us

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

"THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE"

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

The above-mentioned slogan is meant for World Blood Donor Day 2015 which falls on 14 June. Myanmar, being member of World Health Organization, celebrates that event every year.

World Blood Donor Day (14 June) was designed as an annual event by the World Health Assembly in 2005. Since then, countries around the world celebrate this day. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary non-remunerated blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. The celebration of this day by several partners including WHO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Society of Blood Transfusion, and the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations also aims to raise awareness globally about the need for regular and voluntary blood donation. The ultimate goal is that every country should achieve 100% voluntary and unpaid blood donation. Globally, more than 287000 women die each year during pregnancy, childbirth or in the postpartum period – 99% of them in the developing world; Availability of safe blood can save many of them.

Safe blood saves mil-

lions of lives each year. Provision of safe blood is a fundamental need for the health system of every country. Blood cannot be synthesized artificially. Human beings are the only source of this life-saving product. But a shortage of safe blood in several developing countries often leads to unnecessary deaths or ill-health. Hence, there is an urgent need for more people to donate blood on a regular basis to save precious lives. Against an annual estimated requirement of 18 million blood units in the South East Asia Region, only around 15.5 million units are collected every year.

Ministry of Health in Myanmar is continuously providing technical support to national effort in augmenting the availability of safe blood and is working closely with the collaborating organizations for promoting voluntary blood donations through active involvement of nongovernmental organizations. Together, they striving towards the ultimate aim of assuring universal access to safe blood and blood products.

Blood can also be a potential source of transmission of several diseases. These include among others, HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. The shortage of blood and the risk of often fatal infections can be con-

siderably reduced by promoting voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations. All over the world it has been shown that regular, voluntary, non-remunerated donors from low-risk population groups are the safest donors. In the South-East Asia Region, only around 82% of donated blood is obtained from voluntary donors. However, there is a great variation between, as well as within the countries. Clearly, there is an urgent need for social and political leadership to prioritize this critical area.

Blood is the red coloured fluid flowing continuously in the human body's circulatory system. On average, a human being has about 5-6 litres of blood flowing in the body. About 7% of the body weight of a healthy individual is accounted for by blood.

Blood mainly contains a fluid called plasma which has three types of cells – red blood cells or RBCs, white blood cells or WBCs and platelets. Plasma acts as a vehicle to carry nutrition including protein, glucose, enzymes, and hormones etc. Red blood cells carry oxygen from the lungs to various body tissues. White blood cells help the immune system of the body and platelets facilitate the process of clotting and coagulation of blood.

The RBC, granulocytes of WBC and platelets are produced mainly by bone marrow. The lymphocytes and monocytes are formed in the lymphoid

and reticulo-endothelial tissues. The orderly proliferation of the cells in the bone marrow and their release into the circulatory system is carefully regulated according to the needs of the body. Every day, new blood cells are produced in the bone marrow and every day old cells die and are removed from the body.

Red blood cells have a life of about 120 days, white blood cells live for a few days and platelets for a few hours. The addition of new cells and removal of old cells is a continuous process.

Hemoglobin is a substance present in the red blood cells. It helps in carrying oxygen.

All blood units are tested for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, malaria and antibodies to syphilis. Only those units of blood are transfused which

are free from these infectious markers.

There are various types of blood donors:

Professional blood donors- they sell their blood, which may be is of very poor quality and can transmit very dangerous diseases to the recipient.

Replacement blood donor - healthy relatives and friends of the patient give their blood, of any group, to the blood bank. In exchange, the required number of units of the required blood group is given to the patient.

Voluntary blood donors – here, a person donates blood voluntarily. The blood can be used for any patient even without divulging the identity of the donor.

There are many situations in which patients need blood to stay alive:

A patient needs blood after a major accident or

surgery in which there is loss of blood.

On average, for every open heart surgery, about six units of blood are required.

After a miscarriage or childbirth, the patient may need a large amount of blood to be transfused for saving her life and also the child's.

For patients with blood diseases like severe anaemias especially anaemias, leukaemias (blood cancer), haemophilia (bleeding disorder), thalassemia repeated blood transfusions are the only solution.

In many other situations like poisoning, drug reactions, shock and burns, blood transfusion is the only way to save precious human life.

May all needy patients have access to safe blood.

Ref:- SEA-HLM-418

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Why do you consider waste an important topic? It's only rubbish, after all.

It may only be rubbish, but it must be managed for the sake of the environment.

Hmatgyi
(Aungpinle)



ARTICLE

Strategies to Slow Myanmar Kyat Depreciation

U Aye Chan

I had spoken aloud about the potential private property development sector downturn at both day and evening MBA classes I conducted at Yangon University of Economics since the end of last year.

I have also warned about potential Myanmar Kyats depreciation against USD through a short article on social media in March 2015.

Now that both have happened, I would explore possible ways to address these, starting, in this article, with the more urgent rapid appreciation of USD.

So far CBM (Central Bank of Myanmar) has done some sterilization, such as increasing sales of USD, restricting drawing of USD from own accounts, etc., yet, the result of the strategy is at best doubtful.

First and foremost, currency depreciation per se is not necessarily bad. In fact, it can be good for exporters as they earn more income in domestic currency. It also encourages domestic businesses to seek export markets. At the same time, rapid depreciation of domestic currency can be sometimes devastating and may destabilize an up and coming economy like ours. The impacts include sudden higher import costs, cost pushed

inflation and fiscal slippage.

What caused Myanmar Kyats to depreciate? Well, it's a combination of factors:

- Overall strengthening of US dollar: USD has strengthened against all Southeast Asian currencies over the past 6 months to a year, mainly due to the recovery of the US economy. Therefore, strengthening against Myanmar Kyats is also to be expected.

- Myanmar domestic inflation; Inflationary currency depreciating against stable currencies is a well-known economic truth. Recent unjustifiable (not backed by economic growth) salary increases of Members of Parliament and pay increases for civil servants at higher percentages than GDP growth create an expectation of inflationary environment in the minds of general public. This is not good news for a depreciating currency.

- Stalling FDI's; due to the upcoming election season, most of the potential FDI's are on hold by the investors looking ahead for political stability and USD capital fund transfers are likely to be pushed back until after the election. This behavior of the investors is not limited to Myanmar only. It is even evidenced in developed market like Singa-

pore.

- Speculators and institutions hoarding USD; We may be nationalists when it comes to footfall and illegal immigrants, but when it comes to money, short termism and brokerage mentality sets in and we tend to hoard valuable things speculating that their values will go up in the future. USD, unfortunately, falls into that category and prices tend to go up when things are scarce.

So, what can we do as the administrators and economists of the nation?

USD is just another commodity that people buy and sell. We use Myanmar Kyats to get that commodity. Just like any other product, prices are determined by supply and demand. Prices will increase (i.e., USD appreciate/Myanmar Kyat depreciate) if demand for USD increases and/or the supply of USD drops.

We, therefore, have to control the demand for USD and manage the supply of USD to have a chance of stemming the tide against rapid depreciation of Myanmar Kyat.

Demand Management

- Specific checks and balances on Institutions - banks and money changers, to ensure that they do farm out the USD that they purchased from government, to satisfy the demand on the street. Just like mobile teams being put into action at check-

points and ports, such teams should perform surprise audit checks on these institutions to ensure no hoarding takes place.

- Public messages and financial education to general public, to discourage speculation activities, hoarding of USD and to make them understand the impact on the nation of such activities.

- Control of inflation: Law makers should understand simple basic economic concepts e.g., pay increases of civil servants cannot be greater than a country economic growth, else the country will bear the burnt of inflation. A neat analogy would be - can a company survive if the rate of pay increase for its employees is more than the growth in profits? It may be a bit too late now; still some form of financial education for lawmakers would be good.

- Encourage domestic production as a mean to import substitution. We need to make something or provide some service that people are willing to pay for. China economy does not grow leaps and bounds based on being a broker. It really is the world's production house. Domestic producers can be given more incentives such as tax breaks, rebates with import substitutes being given higher benefits. Reduction in imports

will bring down the pressure on USD demand.

- Import controls: May be now is the best time to weed out subpar and unwanted products from overseas through technical standards and specifications. The selection of the products here have to be handled with care, as we certainly do not want a restraint of trade, which would be like a step backwards for Myanmar certainly.
- Understand that wars costs money and strikes creates a seemingly political instability. In such cases, people run to the safe heavens for USD and gold, thus creating further demand. I am all for the National Ceasefire Agreement.

Supply Side Economics

- Obviously CBM selling/ supplying more dollars to institutions does help. It just needs to ensure the dollars are subsequently passed on from these institutions.

- Encouraging the FDI (Foreign Direct Investments): FDI bring much-needed USD into Myanmar. They also help in import substitution. MIC (Myanmar Investment Commission) must

also follow up on agreements to ensure capital is invested on time.

- Export encouragement; FDI law already has clauses to encourage exports, yet we can still promote exports further through updated policies, giving currently restricted exports limited release, or, providing further subsidies such as tax breaks, rebates to exporters.

- At this very time that we need USD, we are yet to make remittance from overseas easier into Myanmar banks, be it from Myanmar citizens abroad or foreigners. Current controls and document requirements by the CBM on incoming funds discourage fund transfers from overseas.

As we always say in Economics, there is no such thing as 'one pill cures all' solution for national problems. But with a combination of treatments described above, I believe we can stem the rapid tide against Myanmar Kyat depreciation and restore the confidence that we all have in Myanmar Economy and reforms for a better future.

U Aye Chan of IMA Group is a graduate in Economics from University of London -London School of Economics and also holds a Master of Business Administration from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore). He is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Kaymu launches mobile app for iOS users in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 13 June— As part of its expansion in emerging economies, online marketplace Kaymu launched its free application for iOS users in Myanmar on Thursday.

"Kaymu distributed the iOS app for Myanmar in June, but the company also distributed this app for over 20 emerging countries in May," Mr Max Langer, country manager of Kaymu.com.mm, said at a media briefing.

The company decided to launch the iOS app in recognition of the rising number of iPhone owners in the country, Mr Langer said.

The new app, which lets shoppers browse and buy goods from their handsets, uses the Zawgyi font most widely employed by Myanmar-language websites.

"About 5,000 sellers have advertised more than 60,000 kinds of goods on the website of Kaymu.com.mm," said U Win Ko Ko Aung, social media marketing manager of Kaymu Myanmar.

Kaymu launched its mobile application for android users in February in Myanmar. Since the launch, more than 30,000 people have been visiting the site per month, he added.

Kaymu connects buy-

ers and sellers but does not sell any good itself. The online marketplace is a subsidiary of Germany-based Rocket Internet and has more than 100,000 sellers and 35 million visitors worldwide per month, according to the company.

A growing number of young people are showing an interest in e-commerce, and the sector is likely to develop in the country in the next few years, U Win Ko Ko Aung said.

There are still some difficulties associated with online shopping, including the sending of goods to incorrect addresses and inability to contact sellers by phone, he added.

GNLM



Members of Kaymu Myanmar are in group photo at its new iOS application launching ceremony.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

World Bank projects Albania's economic growth in next three years



TIRANA, 13 June — The World Bank on Friday released projections of the global economic prospect report, projected an economic growth rate of 3.5 percent for Albania in 2015, and 3.5 percent in 2016 and 2017.

According to the World Bank, the improvement of economic growth will be slow and will be based on rebound of private activity.

Meanwhile the economies in South-Eastern

Europe countries remain fragile to the risks related to natural disasters.

To boost economic growth and job creation, the World Bank puts the emphasis on the need to deepen reforms in South-Eastern Europe countries.

Many countries, including Albania, are still far from the best approaches to business climate which would enable an increase of productivity, according to the World Bank.

Xinhua

Some 400 million lack healthcare worldwide: WHO and World Bank

NEW YORK, 13 June — An estimated 400 million people worldwide lack access to at least one of seven essential health services, ranging from pregnancy care to clean water, according to a report released on Friday by the World Health Organization and World Bank.

At the same time, more people have access to essential health services than ever before, the report said, though coverage gaps remain.

The report, which ex-

amined surveys from 37 nations conducted between 2002 and 2012, is the first to track progress toward universal health coverage.

The goal of universal coverage, which would mean all citizens would have access to health services without experiencing financial hardship to pay for them, is likely to be included in the United Nations' upcoming Sustainable Development Goals.

The report found a median of 1.8 percent of people had experienced "cata-

strophic health spending" — costs totaling more than one-quarter of household expenditures — in the previous year, while 6 percent tipped or fell further below the extreme poverty line of \$1.25 per day because of healthcare costs. When the poverty measure was raised to \$2, that number climbed to 17 percent.

Still, a sub-survey of 23 countries accounting for one-eighth of the world's population found the proportion of people suffering catastrophic payments

dropped 29 percent between 2000 and 2011. Improving payments fell 24 percent over the same period.

The report suggested universal health coverage is an achievable goal and showed that progress has been made toward it. The aim has been controversial, particularly in some advanced nations including the United States, where debate persists over the structure, funding and feasibility of a universal programme.—Reuters

Study finds links between obesity, male breast cancer

LONDON, 13 June — Researchers have found a possible association between the rise in obesity and the increase in cases of male breast cancer, according to a report released on Friday by the University of Leeds.

It is known for a long time that fat cells of obese men contain enzymes that convert male hormones testosterone into female hormones oestrogen.

It follows logically that

the more fat a man carry the more opportunity he has for oestrogen production, so men with a body mass index over 25 have more female hormones in their blood, according to the study.

"We also know that more than 90 percent of male breast cancers seen in the clinic have receptors on the cell surface that recognize these female hormones and use them to grow," said Professor Speirs, from the

University of Leeds.

In addition, cholesterol can be converted into a compound that mimics the activity of oestrogen. Obese men tend to have much higher cholesterol levels, so they have more of the oestrogen-mimicking compound in their bodies which also encourages cancer growth, the researchers said.

It was recently reported at the American Society of

Clinical Oncology's annual conference in Chicago that obesity is set to overtake tobacco as the leading cause of cancer.

As well as raising awareness of male breast cancer, researchers said they also wish to stress that obesity is a preventable condition and men can take measures to reduce their risk of developing the disease, including eating a healthier diet.—Xinhua

UK growth set for boost as construction data changes kick in

LONDON, 13 June — Britain's economic growth rate last year and in early 2015 looks to have been stronger than previously estimated after the country's statistics office revised the way it measured the construction sector.

The pace of growth in gross domestic product in 2014 could rise to 2.9 percent from a previous reading of 2.8 percent due to the changes in the construction data, the Office for National Statistics said on Friday.

In the first three months of 2015, quarterly GDP growth would be 0.4 percent, up from a previous estimate of 0.3 percent, assuming no further changes to data covering other areas of the economy such as the far bigger services sector.

A new reading of GDP is due on 30 June. Construction makes up 6.4 percent of Britain's economy.

The ONS changed the way it calculates price changes and its method for seasonal adjustments in the construction data.

It also said the increase in GDP last year might be affected by changes to estimates of expenditure and income.

Separately on Friday, a Bank of England policymaker said the time for an increase in interest rates was getting closer, given the recovery in the economy.

The ONS said construction output in the first quarter was revised to show a fall of 0.2 percent, a milder decline than a fall

of 1.1 percent previously reported.

In April, construction output fell by 0.8 percent from March when it had risen by 1.4 percent.

Economists said April's data was probably affected by uncertainty about the outcome of May's national elections.

An industry survey published last week showed confidence among construction firms hit a nine-year high in May after Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative Party won the elections with an unexpected parliamentary majority.

The country's economy slowed sharply in the first three months of this year and the weakness in the construction sector was



Construction cranes are seen near The Shard in London, Britain on 4 June, 2015.

REUTERS

one of the drags on the growth rate. The Bank of England has cited a weaker outlook for house-building as a reason for its lower

overall growth forecasts for Britain's economy.

Friday's data showed house-building in April rose by 5.4 percent from

March after falling by a revised 2.0 percent in the first quarter, the biggest quarterly drop in nearly three years.—Reuters

Late Chinese cancer expert wins European inventor prize with collaborator

PARIS, 13 June — The European Patent Office (EPO) on Thursday awarded a prize to late Chinese virologist and cervical cancer expert Zhou Jian and Australian immunologist Ian Frazer for developing the world's first cervical cancer vaccine.

At a ceremony here attended by more than 400 international guests, the EPO granted the Popular Prize

of the European Inventor Award 2015 to Frazer and Sun Xiaoyi, the widow of Zhou Jian.

Since 2006, the European Inventor Award has been presented annually by the EPO to honor inventive individuals and teams all over the world whose pioneering work contributes to technological progress and economic growth and improves

people's daily life.

The award has five prize categories, including Industry, Research, Small-and-medium sized Enterprises, Non-european countries, and Lifetime achievement, to which a new prize category — Popular Prize — was added in 2013.

The Popular Prize is decided by the public who vote for their favourite inventions

from the 15 finalists online during about six weeks before the award ceremony.

"The public's choice was clear this year, with the Australian-Chinese research team receiving more than 32 percent of the 47,000 votes cast online," said the EPO in a statement.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cervical cancer is

the second most common cancer amid women living in less developed regions, with estimated 445,000 new cases reported in 2012.

In 2012, approximately 270,000 women died from cervical cancer, and more than 85 percent of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

"Developing a vaccine has saved countless

lives and also saved many women from a protracted and painful course of treatment, involving surgery and chemotherapy," said EPO President Benoit Battistelli.

"The award shows how grateful people are to Ian Frazer and Jian Zhou for this pioneering invention," he said, "The Popular Prize thus takes on a very special meaning this year."—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA to deploy first interplanetary CubeSats for next Mars mission

WASHINGTON, 13 June — US space agency NASA said on Friday that its next Mars landing mission in 2016 will include two CubeSats, the first time such tiny satellites have been deployed in deep space.

Known as Mars Cube One, or MarCO, the CubeSats will fly by Mars while InSight, NASA's next Mars lander, descends to the Martian surface in September 2016, NASA said.

"If this flyby demonstration is successful, the technology will provide NASA the ability to quickly transmit status information about the main spacecraft after it lands on Mars," the space agency said in a statement.

The basic CubeSat unit is a box roughly 4 inches (10 centimetres) square, but the MarCO's design is a six-unit CubeSat, with a stowed size

of about 14.4 inches (36.6 centimetres) by 9.5 inches (24.3 centimetres) by 4.6 inches (11.8 centimetres).

The InSight lander and MarCO CubeSats will be launched by an Atlas V rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, in March 2016. After launch, the two CubeSats will separate from the Atlas V booster and travel along their own trajectories to the Red Planet.

"MarCO is an experimental capability that has been added to the InSight mission, but is not needed for mission success," said Jim Green, director of NASA's planetary science division. "MarCO will fly independently to Mars."

According to NASA, during InSight's entry, descent and landing operations, the lander will transmit data to NASA's Mars Reconnaissance



Orbiter (MRO), which is now orbiting the planet. But the MRO cannot receive and transmit information simultaneously, resulting in a delay of about one hour in sending back to Earth status information about the Mars lander.

Such problems, however, don't exist for the MarCO

CubeSats, which are capable of immediately relaying information once receiving it from the lander.

"If the MarCO demonstration mission succeeds, it could allow for a 'bring-your-own' communications relay option for use by future Mars missions in the critical few minutes between Mar-

tian atmospheric entry and touchdown," NASA said.

"By verifying CubeSats are a viable technology for interplanetary missions, and feasible on a short development timeline, this technology demonstration could lead to many other applications to explore and study our solar system." —Xinhua

51st Int'l Paris Air and Space Show to kick off on 15 June

PARIS, 13 June — The 51st International Paris Air and Space Show is about to open on 15 June at le Bourget Airport in northern Paris to showcase the cutting-edge technology of today and the future of the air and space industry. This year's air show is divided into two parts. First, the trade days from 15 to 18 June are for trade visitors only. And from 19 to 25 June will be public days for general visitors.

According to the organizers, about 2,260 exhibitors from 47 countries will bring some 120 civil and military aircraft to this year's air show. As usual, the International Paris Air and Space Show is a main battle field for the world's leading civil aircraft manufacturers Boeing and Airbus. Some major aircraft sales contracts are expected to be announced by them during the show.

Airbus will show the new A350 XWB, which uses the latest technologies which can fly further with heavier loads and with consumption of less fuel.

As for Boeing, some 777-200L and its latest 777X are expected to receive orders, according to some professionals.

BOMBARDIER will be showing its new CS300.

Military aircraft plays an important role in every year's show. The Rafale will be on the show, while Antonov will also be there with its new AN178. The JF-17 from Pakistani Air Forces, developed jointly by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and the Chengdu Aircraft Corporation of China, will definitely be displayed at the show. But for the fans, the most anticipated part of the air show is the Patrouille de France Acrobatic Team's special appearance.

In 2013, the 50th International Paris Air and Space Show attracted 139,000 trade visitors and 176,000 general public visitors from all over the world. Founded in 1909, the International Paris Air and Space Show is the biggest show of its kind dedicated to the aerospace industry worldwide. It is currently held every odd year at Le Bourget Airport in northern Paris, France.

The 51st International Paris Air show runs from 15 to 21 June, and the 52nd edition is scheduled for 19 to 25 June, 2017. —Xinhua

Google launches a YouTube built for gamers



A logo is pictured at Google's European Engineering Centre in Zurich on 16 April, 2015.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 June — Google Inc (GOOGL.O) said on Friday that it is launching a live streaming gaming service called "YouTube Gaming", creating a rival to Amazon.com Inc's (AMZN.O) Twitch service.

The service, to be available in the form of an app as well as a website, will focus exclusively on gamers and gaming.

More than 25,000 games will each have their own page on the site, bringing videos and live streams about various titles together in a single space, Google said.

Users will be able to add games to their collection for quick access, subscribe to channels, and receive recommendations on new games based on the games and channels they follow.

"When you want something specific, you can search with confidence, knowing that typing 'call' will show you 'Call of Duty' and not 'Call Me

Maybe," Google said in a blog post.

Amazon bought Twitch Interactive last year for \$970 million, beating a rival bid from Google.

"We welcome new entrants into the growing list of competitors since gaming video is obviously a huge market that others have their eye on," said Matthew DiPietro, Twitch's vice president of marketing.

Twitch also tweeted a welcome message to its rival, saying, "@YouTubeGaming Welcome Player 2. Add me on Google +. #kappa"

"Kappa" is an emoticon used mostly by Twitch users to convey sarcasm.

YouTube Gaming will be available on the web, mobiles and tablets on both Android and iOS operating systems, according to a tweet from its official account.

The service will launch this summer, starting in the United States and UK.

Reuters

Chinese naval ship advances scientific exchange on global voyage

GUAYAQUIL, (Ecuador), 13 June — An oceanographic research ship of the Chinese Navy on Friday ended its five-day goodwill visit to Ecuador, the fourth stop in its six-month global voyage that aimed to strengthen international cooperation through scientific and technical exchanges.

On behalf of the China Hydrographic Bureau, the Zhu Kezhen, the newest oceanographic research ship designed and built independently by China, paid its first visit to Ecuador, a member state of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

Captain Lv Jiedong, deputy commander of a combat support ship flotilla under the East China Sea Fleet, said the Zhu Kezhen, named after a prominent Chinese meteorologist, geologist and educator, has started its global voyage paying visits to foreign countries since February.

Before coming to the Guayaquil Port, the Chinese ship has made calls at the Louis Port in Mauritius, Port of Cape Town in South Africa and Salvador Port in Brazil. After the stop in Ecuador, ship Zhu Kezhen will sail to Micronesia in July before returning to China in early August.

Since the start of its voyage from Zhoushan in the east of China, the Zhu Kezhen has sailed up to 23,000 nautical miles in the past 120 days and nights,

crossing four continents, three oceans, six straits and the equator, Captain Lv said, adding that the ship has carried out anti-piracy drill, emergency survey, damage control exercises and tactical searches during the voyage.

During its friendly visits in Brazil and Ecuador, both of which are IHO member states, the ship has carried out academic and scientific exchanges with its foreign counterparts, he said.

Since China joined the IHO, the Chinese Naval Hydrographic Office (CNHO) has strengthened technical exchanges with member countries and taken relevant obligations. In 2012, the Chinese navy sent a survey ship to attend the 18th international hydrographic conference in Monaco for the first time. Until now, the CNHO has established bonds with several nations in information sharing and cooperation.

Lv said that with the Chinese navy going overseas, technical and scientific exchanges like this will become commonplace. Through these exchanges and cooperation, he said, the CNHO will work together with other nations to provide accurate information for worldwide navigation.

As the newest oceanographic survey ship built by China, the ship Zhu Kezhen has taken up huge tasks since its commissioning. Especially in search-

ing for missing Malaysian flight MH370, it has sailed 34,000 nautical miles in 157 days, he said.

The ship boasted "three first times and three records": the first time for Chinese navy to finish mapping the South Indian Ocean, the first time to take part in international joint search and rescue operation, and the first time to take comprehensive oceanographic survey in South Indian Ocean; overseas deployment for the longest time, the longest navigation range and the longest time in high sea condition (wave over four-meter high), according to Captain Lv.

From May to October in 2014, the Zhu Kezhen crossed the equator twice, held technical exchanges with Malaysian and Australian delegations three times and offered 4 million sets of data to the Joint Agency Coordination Centre seven times, Lv said. Moreover, the ship discovered two seamounts with precise measuring and mapping in a specific task, which provided accurate reference for international ocean bottom naming, he added.

The Chinese naval ship is taking the first step towards global navigation, he said, noting that facing new missions, the Zhu Kezhen would work even harder to hammer out new sailing routes and enhance scientific exchanges with other member nations. —Xinhua

IMF says could lend to Ukraine even if it can't service its debts



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde shares a joke prior to the gala dinner in the honor of the French navy frigate L'Hermione at Mount Vernon, Virginia on 9 June, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 13 June — The head of the International Monetary Fund said on Friday that the global lender could continue to lend to Ukraine even if talks over restructuring Ki-

ev's debt fail and the nation determines it cannot meet its obligations.

Kiev is at loggerheads with its creditors in talks to restructure the country's sovereign debt. Finance Minister Natalia Yaresko said on Wednesday the government could call a moratorium on debt payments.

"In the event that a negotiated settlement with private creditors is not reached and the country determines that it cannot service its debt, the Fund can lend to Ukraine consistent with its Lending-into-Arrears Policy," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said.

During a visit to Washington this week, Yaresko said she expects the IMF to release a \$1.7 billion tranche of aid to Kiev in July.—Reuters

Search for escaped convicts from New York prison enters seventh day

NEW YORK, 13 June — Police hunting two escaped convicts for a seventh day on Friday swarmed the heavily wooded area near an upstate New York prison as more details unfolded about a female prison worker's role in their breakout.

New York State Police used Facebook on Friday to broadcast a refined description of the convicted killers Richard Matt, 48, and David Sweat, 34, changing details about their height, weight and hair colour, and plastering the site with photographs of their tattoos.

Joyce Mitchell, an industrial training supervisor in the tailor shop at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, was being questioned about her possible role in helping the prisoners escape, authorities said.

Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie told CNN on Friday that Mitchell "provided some form of equipment or tools" to the

men whose escape from the maximum security prison was discovered early Saturday.

Mitchell was previously investigated by the Inspector General's office of the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision after a co-worker filed a complaint about her seemingly close relationship with Matt, the *Albany Times Union* reported, citing two unnamed people with

knowledge of the case. No disciplinary action resulted from the investigation.

Other prison employees are being questioned about possibly helping in the elaborate escape, which involved cutting through steel walls, squeezing through a steam pipe and out of a manhole, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Thursday.

"We're talking to several people who may have fa-

cilitated the escape," Cuomo said.

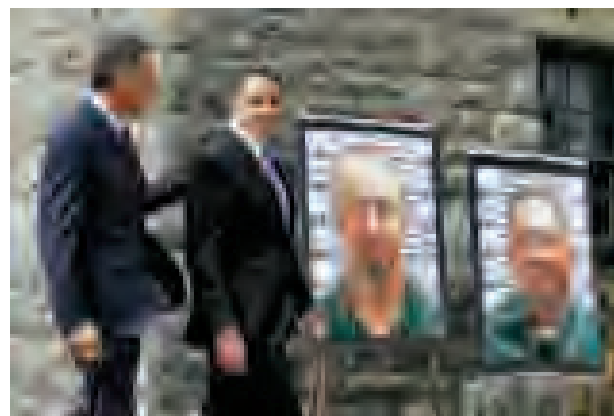
If other prison workers are found to have assisted, the governor said, "you will be convicted and then you'll be on the other side of the prison you have been policing."

A search team of 500 law enforcement officers, along with sniffer dogs and aviation units, scoured woods on Friday just a few miles from the prison, located about 20 miles (32 km) south of the Canadian border, police said.

Schools in the Saranac Central School District remained closed for a second day, schools Superintendent Jonathan Parks said in a statement.

Police on Friday described Matt as 5 foot 10 inches (177 cm) and 190 pounds (86 kg) with brown hair and hazel eyes. Sweat is 5 foot 9 inches (175 cm) and 165 pounds (74 kg), with brown hair and green eyes.

Reuters



Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin (L) and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo arrive at a news conference at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York on 10 June, 2015.—REUTERS

US lawmakers to reconsider Pacific trade agenda next week

WASHINGTON, 13 June — The US House of Representatives decided on Friday to carry over deliberations on a bill that is crucial to concluding a sweeping Pacific free trade deal to next week after endorsing only part of it.

President Barack Obama's administration hailed the passage of the core part of the so-called Trade Promotion Authority bill, but uncertainty grew about final congressional endorsement as clear divisions among lawmakers emerged over the remaining portion.

The chamber held two votes over the bill, which would empower Obama to strike trade agreements including the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership also involving Japan and 10 other countries. It voted in favor of granting the president so-called fast-track authority but against a measure aimed at helping workers affected by free trade deals.

In Tokyo, Akira Amari, Japanese TPP minister, told reporters that the split result of the voting makes it difficult for the 12 countries to swiftly convene a ministerial meeting, for instance by the end of this month.

But Amari added, "We don't need to become pessimistic yet. We'll closely watch

efforts to be made in the US lower house."

The lower house members narrowly passed TPA with a 219-211 vote, but rejected the other motion on aid to workers who could lose their jobs or suffer pay cuts under the TPP by a much larger margin of 302-126.

As the chamber planned to send the bill to the president for enactment only when both motions were endorsed, the lawmakers will seek a revote on the workers' aid motion next week in line with a proposal by Speaker John Boehner.

The Senate already endorsed the bill last month.

Japan and other US trade partners negotiating the TPP have been waiting for the Obama administration to gain authority to fast-track a deal as it will reduce the risk that make-or-break-concessions will be overridden by US lawmakers who want to protect specific industries.

TPA, last granted to a US president in 2007, would enable the Obama administration to sign trade deals by only asking lawmakers for a yes-or-no vote without amendment.

The 12 TPP countries have been working on concluding a deal quickly but negotiations have remained slow. Officials of some of the countries have blamed the delay on Obama's

lack of fast-track authority.

TPP proponents in the US legislature said earlier that TPA would need to be enacted by the end of June because the attention of the American public and lawmakers will shift in the second half of this year to nomination races for next year's presidential election.

The United States, Australia, Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam launched negotiations for signing the TPP in 2010. Malaysia, Mexico, Canada and Japan joined the dialogue later.

Chief TPP negotiators from the 12 countries held a series of meetings earlier this year to bridge gaps over thorny issues such as market access and protection of intellectual property, including data for new drugs, in the envisioned bloc that would cover some 40 percent of the global economy.

The move in the US Congress is also expected to help accelerate bilateral negotiation between Japan and the United States under the TPP framework mainly over Japan's exceptional tariffs on some agricultural produce and automotive trades.

Japan and the United States account for a combined 80 percent of the envisioned trade deal.—Kyodo News

Western tourists in naked Malaysia mountain prank fined and thrown out



British national Eleanor Hawkins (front), along with three other tourists from Canada and the Netherlands, are escorted by police as they leave a court hearing in Kota Kinabalu, in Malaysia's eastern state of Sabah on 10 June, 2015. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 June — Four Western tourists who posed naked on top of Malaysia's tallest peak and were blamed by some for a deadly earthquake six days later were sentenced to three days in jail and fined on Friday after they admitted obscene behaviour.

They will also be deported.

The four, two from Canada and one each from Britain and the Netherlands, infuriated Malaysians, some of whom said their actions angered the spirits of the mountain, Mount Kinabalu, and triggered last Friday's earthquake which killed 18 people.

The four had been offered the choice of a 5,000 ringgit (\$1,330) fine or three months in prison if they couldn't pay it, state news

agency *Bernama* said.

They had already served the three days in jail after being in police custody since Wednesday.

Eighteen climbers died when the six-magnitude earthquake struck the area around Mount Kinabalu.

Sessions Court Judge Dean Wayne Daly accepted the guilty pleas as a mitigating factor but said their acts had caught the nation by surprise and caused public uproar, *Bernama* said.

Foreign and domestic hikers flock to Sabah, in the northern part of Borneo, to climb the 4,095-metre (13,435-ft) Kinabalu, one of the highest peaks in Southeast Asia.

Reuters

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1052E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1034W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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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VOY NO (104N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (104N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

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**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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING LINE PTE
LTD**

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Mandalay Region, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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17 policemen killed in convoy ambush in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 13 June — At least 17 Afghan policemen were killed and three others wounded after militants ambushed a police convoy in the southern Helmand Province overnight on Friday, sources said on Saturday.

The ambush took place in Konjak area of Musa Qala district after militants attacked a convoy of police forces from the neighbouring Baghran district, a dis-

trict security source told *Xinhua* anonymously. About 10 armed militants were killed and seven others wounded during a gun battle lasting for hours in the district, north of provincial capital Lashkar Gah, 555 km south of Kabul, the source added. Three police vehicles were destroyed and two vehicles were seized along with rounds of police weapons by fleeing militants following the clash, the source said.

Omar Zwak, a provincial government spokesman, also confirmed the incident.

"I do confirm that a clash occurred between security forces and militants in Musa Qala last night. Our security forces are investigating the incident and details will be revealed afterwards," Zwak told *Xinhua*.

Helmand, notorious for poppy growing, is also a known Taliban stronghold.

The Taliban-led in-

surgency has been rampant since mid-April when the militant group launched a yearly rebel offensive against Afghan security forces.

The Afghan soldiers and police casualties have risen as the US and NATO troops in Afghanistan have switched from the combat to a support role of training, advising and assisting Afghan forces since 1 January.

Xinhua



A Panamanian policeman stands guard during a controlled incineration in the Cerro Patacon dumpster in Panama city, capital of Panama, on 12 June, 2015. According to local press, Panama's National Police incinerated over nine tons of drugs seized around the country in the last two months.—XINHUA



Chen Tien-hsi, a professor at the Institute of Wildlife Conservation of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, holds a yellow-margined box turtle in his hand at a turtle sanctuary in New Taipei City on 30 May, 2014. Chen, who proposed the establishment of the sanctuary, said it is unnecessary to build a captive breeding colony because the aim of conservation is to reproduce in their natural habitat.—KYODO NEWS

US announces transfer of six detainees to Oman

WASHINGTON, 13 June — The United States has transferred six detainees from its Guantanamo Bay prison to Oman, the Department of Defence announced on Saturday in a statement.

"The United States is grateful to the government of Oman for its humanitarian gesture and willingness to support ongoing US efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility," the department said.

The announcement came as US President Ba-

rack Obama is seeking to close the prison.

Six Yemenis held for over 10 years at Guantanamo have been flown to Oman for resettlement, the statement said.

The transfer, the largest in 2015, leaves the number of the Guantanamo's inmates to 116, less than half the tally when Obama took office in 2009.

The six men were regarded as low-risk detainees cleared years ago for transfer.

Xinhua

Chemical plant fire put out in east China

NANJING, 13 June — Firefighters have put out a fire which broke out in a chemical plant in east China's Jiangsu Province on Friday. Three plant workers and a firefighter were slightly injured as they were putting out the fire in the Dynamic chemical plant in an industrial park in Nanjing, the provincial capital. They were sent to a hospital for treatment, according to the Nanjing firefighting department.

A blast occurred to an epoxyethane device in the plant and then triggered fire at about 9:15 pm on Friday. The fire spread to three chemical tanks nearby.

The fire was put out at around 3 am Saturday. Firefighters were still cooling the tanks to prevent a resurgence of the fire on Saturday morning. Environmental authorities said the incident had little impact to the air and surrounding waterways.—*Xinhua*

Angelina Jolie in S Africa calls for end to violence against women



Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie (R) speaks with African Union (AU) Commission Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma at a panel discussion during the 25th AU Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 12 June, 2015. Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, acting in her capacity as the United Nations envoy on refugee issues, on Friday called for an end to violence against women.—XINHUA

JOHANNESBURG, 13 June — Hollywood actress, Angelina Jolie, acting in her capacity as the United Nations envoy on refugee issues, on Friday called for an end to violence against

women. Speaking at a panel discussion during the 25th African Union (AU) Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, Jolie said violence against women is a global

issue, but African women suffer the most from it.

Fifty million people have been displaced by war today, more than half of whom are women and children, she said.

In Africa, sexual violence is being treated as a lesser crime with greater levels of impunity, as armed groups on the continent use it as a weapon of war, Jolie noted. Sexual crimes against women are becoming the weapon of choice for armed groups all over the world because these often happen without punishment, she said.

“The near total impunity that exists worldwide for crimes against women in conflict zones in particular means women and girls are bearing the brunt of extremists that revel in treating them barbarically,” Jolie said.

Although there is much more awareness of women’s rights today and much good work, progress is slow, she noted.

The AU Commission Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who shared the stage with Jolie, said women should play their role in efforts to end conflicts.

Women must be at the negotiating table when countries seek to resolve civil conflicts, Dlamini-Zuma said.

Women’s voice must be heard and taken into account in efforts to achieve true peace and stability, she added.

This year’s AU Summit, under the theme “Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”, started on 7 June and will end on 15 June.—Xinhua

Marilyn Manson honored with Kerrang! lifetime achievement award

LONDON, 13 June — anson has been honored with a lifetime achievement prize at Britain’s Kerrang! Awards for a musical career spanning over two decades. The four-time Grammy nominee, whose real name is Brian Warner, is known for his controversial stage persona, gothic-inspired black outfits and heavy makeup.

Asked if, at the age of 46, he still had a hard-living lifestyle, Manson held up his fist covered in scratches. “I don’t drink absinthe anymore only because it had too much sugar in it so it made me too hyper,” he said at the awards ceremony in London on Thursday night. “I need to calm down, so I just switched to marijuana and vodka, yeah, that’s sober for me.” Manson, who rose to fame in the 1990s and released his ninth studio

album “The Pale Emperor” in January, said the accolade from British rock magazine Kerrang! was important to him as many of his influences were from the UK.

“Most of the music that’s inspired me — goth music, glam music, it all originated from here so there’s a power and an energy that comes from this part of the world and Kerrang! magazine has really exemplified that,” he said.

Fellow shock rocker Alice Cooper, 67, was also honored with the Kerrang! legend award. “You know it’s always funny — the more legend awards you get, the closer you get to the grave, I guess,” he said. “I am going full strength right now so it’s great to get these while you’re alive, I’d hate to get them after you’re dead.”—Reuters

David Beckham to star in ‘King Arthur’?

NEW YORK, 13 June — Retired soccer star David Beckham will reportedly appear in Guy Ritchie’s new movie, “Knights Of The Roundtable: King Arthur.”

The 40-year-old soccer star will appear in his friend’s Middle Ages epic opposite Jude Law, Charlie Hunnam, Eric Bana and Poppy Delevingne, reported *Huffington Post*.

The former England player, however, might appear in a small role as ‘Blackleg Leader.’



Retired soccer star David Beckham

“There’s going to be a version of the scene where Excalibur gets drawn from the stone.

This is where Beck-

ham factors in,” a source said.

Some ‘football puns’ were specially written for Beckham’s scenes in the

film, which began filming this week.

“There’s a little bit of a sense that Beckham’s character, who fancies himself as a big player in this story, gets a little ticked off when this other fellow, this upstart, is the one who can free the sword.”

Beckham is also rumored to be making a cameo appearance in the “Snatch” director’s new film “The Man From UNCLE”, scheduled for release in August.

Taylor Swift donates USD 15,000 to fire fighter’s family



PTI Singer Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 13 June — Singer Taylor Swift, who recently did a sold-out 1989 World Tour show, donated USD 15,000 to a firefighter who saved his own family.

A friend of Riper set up a ‘Go Fund Me’ account for the family’s mounting medical bills. A donation of USD 15,000 was left for the family, which was signed “Taylor Swift”.

It was later confirmed that it was indeed by the “Love Story” singer.—PTI

Sandra Bullock enjoys villainous debut in ‘Minions’



Actress Sandra Bullock poses with characters in costume from the film during the ‘Minions’ World Premiere at Leicester Square in London, Britain on 11 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 13 June — Hollywood actress Sandra Bullock said she enjoyed playing evil in a debut appearance as a villain in the animated film “Minions”.

The movie, a spin-off of the

“Despicable Me” franchise, focuses on the small yellow minions before they met Gru in the original film. Here the minions find themselves at a loss after accidentally killing off their evil masters. Three

of them, Kevin, Bob and Stuart, eventually set out on a journey that will see them recruited by the villainous Scarlet Overkill, voiced by Bullock, who has her eye on Britain’s crown jewels.

“It’s fantastic because she’s justified, she’s misunderstood,” Bullock said on the yellow carpet at the film’s world premiere in London on Thursday.

“She’s an 8-year old little girl who’s throwing temper tantrums because she wants what she wants. But it was really fun to play” the Academy Award winner said.

Despite her long career, the “Gravity” and “Speed” star said she found it difficult to maintain energy levels when locked alone in a sound booth.

“It’s hard because I like having other actors to play off of or other minions to play off of and I didn’t have that,” she said.

Reuters

Selena Gomez will bare her soul in new album

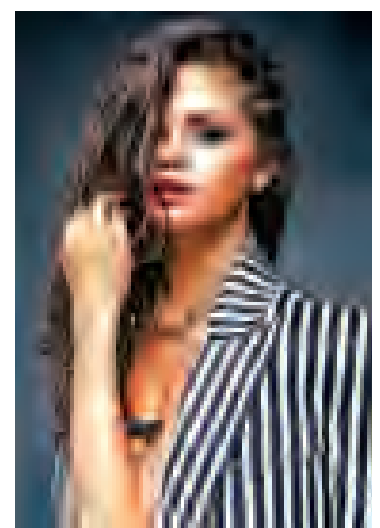
LOS ANGELES, 13 June — Pop star Selena Gomez will be releasing an adult-sounding album this time.

No release date has been revealed, but over the last few days, Gomez, 22, has been teasing about new music on Instagram.

Gomez’s new sound will be “authentic and honest,” and a mix between Lady Gaga and Kelly Clarkson.

She said she wanted to sing songs that reflect where she is in her life, her inner strength, her struggles and challenges, her ups and downs and most importantly, coming out on top, reported *Hollywoodlife*.

“Of course, some of the songs were inspired by her relationship with Justin Bieber, but they are not whiney, victim



Pop star Selena Gomez

songs. Again, it’s music about facing adversity, being empowered and being true to oneself,” a source said.—PTI

GENERAL

Interpol ditches FIFA deal as corruption scandal deepens

PARIS, 13 June — Interpol suspended a 20-million-euro (14 million pounds) sports “integrity” agreement with FIFA on Friday, at the end of testing week for soccer’s scandal-hit ruling body that saw its chief spokesman quit, bidding for the 2026 World Cup shelved and records seized from its Zurich headquarters.

FIFA also faced growing calls — this time from the European parliament — for its outgoing president, Sepp Blatter, to step aside at once, while plans by Germany to reform the way the organisation is run were roundly

China reaffirms 2030 climate commitments

SHANGHAI, 13 June — China’s Premier Li Keqiang reaffirmed the government’s commitment to achieve peak carbon emissions by “around 2030”, the State Council said in a statement issued late on Friday. The statement contained no new commitments ahead of crucial climate talks scheduled to take place in Paris at the end of the year. Li, at a meeting of the State Council’s National Leading Group on Climate Change, also said it would impose a “tough limit” on the expansion of heavily polluting and energy-intensive industries.

China’s coal consumption decreased for the first time in years in 2014, leading some to speculate that its carbon emissions could peak sooner than many had expected. As the country’s energy-intensive heavy industrial sector has suffered over the past two years, electricity production — responsible for the bulk of coal consumption in China — has also lagged.

Electricity output growth in May was flat on the year, after declining outright in the first quarter.

“In 2014, China’s energy consumption and carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP dropped by 29.9 percent and 33.8 percent over 2005,” the State Council, or cabinet, said in the statement. “The binding targets on energy conservation and emissions reduction set in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan could well be achieved as scheduled.” China has also been engaged in a strong push to raise the percentage of non-fossil fuel energy sources in its overall energy supply mix. Nonetheless, the Friday statement contained no explicit pledge to cap coal consumption.

Reuters

rejected by soccer chiefs in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Interpol’s decision to freeze funding from FIFA to fight match fixing and illegal gambling was perhaps inevitable, coming only days after the international police organisation put two former FIFA officials on its most-wanted list and the corruption crisis in world soccer deepened. The increasing damage to FIFA’s reputation raised questions about how long other associated bodies and even sponsors would continue to work with it.

“The real damage of this decision by Interpol is the wider perception that conflicted organisations are now deserting FIFA. It further exacerbates FIFA’s ‘unclean’ image and its escalating isolation,” said Chris Eaton, an ex-Interpol officer and

former FIFA adviser on anti-corruption, now with the International Centre for Sport Security. Interpol’s decision was a disappointment, FIFA said, since the 2011 “integrity in sport” programme was not connected to the “current issues” it faced.

The corruption scandal erupted when police descended on a luxury hotel in Zurich on 27 May and arrested seven FIFA officials, pending extradition to the United States.

At the centre of the investigation are transactions that went into accounts held in a bank in Trinidad in the name of CONCACAF, the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football, that were “controlled” by former FIFA Vice President Jack Warner. In an interview with British television, Oliver Camps, described as Warn-

er’s right-hand man, said he felt “used and abused” by his old friend and associate.

“We were like brothers. I realise that I should not have put so much confidence in him because he made me do the wrong thing and I was doing it very innocently. I knew nothing about those things,” Camps told Channel 4 News.

Warner has denied all charges levelled against him. He was not immediately available for comment.

Channel 4 News said Camps, Caribbean soccer’s finance committee chairman, had signed cheques worth millions of dollars on Warner’s behalf, which were supposed to finance Trinidad’s team in the 2006 World Cup in Germany. It said he was still signing the cheques three years after the World Cup ended.

Reuters

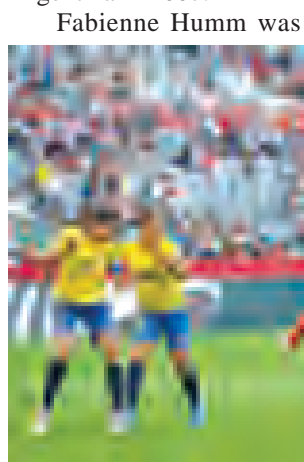


Osaka Gov. Ichiro Matsui (R) and comedian-turned-painter Jimmy Onishi pose with a painting, done by Onishi with the aim of promoting the 2015 Osaka Marathon, at a press conference in Osaka on 12 June, 2015. The 5th event, in which around 30,000 runners have participated each time previously, will be held on 25 Oct, 2015. KYODO NEWS

Switzerland thrash Ecuador, Japan motor on

VANCOUVER, 13 June — Switzerland earned a record-tying 10-1 triumph over Ecuador on Friday for their first ever Women’s World Cup victory as defending champions Japan staved off a spirited fightback from Cameroon to continue their winning run.

The 11 goals scored in the match equalled Germany’s 11-0 thrashing of Argentina in 2007.



Ramona Bachmann (C) of Switzerland vies with players of Ecuador during their Group C match at the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Vancouver, Canada, on 12 June, 2015. Switzerland won 10-1. XINHUA

the star for Switzerland as she needed just five minutes to complete a hat-trick, the fastest one ever recorded.

Switzerland (three points), however, remained three points behind Group C leader Japan (six points) after the Asian team’s 2-1 victory over Cameroon.

Aya Sameshima and Yuika Sugawara scored first-half goals as Japan held off Cameroon’s inspired second half activity which

included a goal in the 90th minute.

Cameroon also remain at three points for the tournament.

The United States were unable to find a goal in a 0-0 draw with Sweden.

The result kept the suspense alive heading into the final matches in Group D as the US, with four, are a point ahead of Australia and two ahead of Sweden.

Sweden controlled much of the first half against the Americans but could not put any real pressure on goalkeeper Hope Solo.

The US subbed in all-time leading scorer Abby Wambach in the 68th minute and she narrowly missed a header opportunity down the stretch.

Earlier in the day, Australia defeated Nigeria 2-0 for their first win of the tournament.

Australia will finish Group D play against Sweden on Tuesday while the Americans close out against Nigeria.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(14-6-2015 07:00 am~ 15-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

- * News
- * Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-2)
- * Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Tin Moe Lwin”
- * News
- * Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
- * Ancient Pagodas In Myaing Township
- * News
- * Thread Charm “A Kayin Threading Ceremony”
- * A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2)
- * Thin Byu Mat
- * News
- * Kayah Style
- * Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
- * A Girl Guide
- * News
- * Food Trip (EP-9) (Part-2)
- * Today Myanmar “Resettlement of Fire Victims”
- * News
- * Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- * News
- * History of Wishfulfilling Maimlamu Pagoda
- * Human Rights Human Dignity International Film Festival HRHDIFF, 2015
- * Sagaing Guitar
- * Myanmar Harpist
- * News
- * Unique & Motivating Chap Char Kut Festival
- * Dhamma School
- * News
- * Let’s Cook (EP-2) Spaghetti with Dried Chilli and Bacon & Chocolate Covered Strawberry
- * Myanmar Masterclass: 3D
- * Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
- * A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)
- * News
- * Discovering Tribes “Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- II)”
- * TECH School
- * Gardener: Rose Plantation

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(14-6-2015, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
- Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
- News / Weather Report
- 7:35 am**
- Business News
- 8:35 am**
- Documentary (SEA Games)
- 9:35 am**
- Weekly Entertainment
- 10:35 am**
- Hight Light (28th SEA Games) (Part-1)
- 11:35 am**
- Hight Light (28th SEA Games) (Part-2)
- 12:45 pm**
- Round up of the Week’s International News
- 1:00 pm**
- Myanmar Movies (Part-1)
- 2:30 pm**
- Head Line News
- 2:35 pm**
- Myanmar Movies (Part-2)
- 3:00 pm**
- News / International News
- 4:35 pm**
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Law)
- 5:35 pm**
- People’s Talks
- 6:30 pm**
- Documentary (SEA Games)
- 7:00 pm**
- News
- 7:35 pm**
- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 8:00 pm**
- News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
- News
- Tasty Trip
- Sing & Enjoy

'No stars, no problem': Myanmar's U23 reach SEA Games gold medal match



Myanmar's Ye Ko Oo celebrates during the team's semi-final win over Vietnam at the Southeast Asian Games Football tournament on 13 June, 2015 in Singapore.—PHOTO: SINGSOC

SINGAPORE, 13 June — Myanmar's Southeast Asian team might be one of the smallest in world football but what they lack in height they more than make up in energy and commitment.

Playing their fifth game in 12 days, they hung tough through long periods of pressure before beating Vietnam 2-1 at Singapore's National Stadium on Saturday to move through to the gold medal match.

Little was expected from the Under 23 side who were missing key players held back for the start of the World Cup

qualifying campaign and also competing at the U20 World Cup in New Zealand but their fighting spirit has captivated a nation.

Adopting the slogan "No Stars, No Problem" they went unbeaten through the group stages with impressive victories over Indonesia and hosts Singapore, but faced their toughest task on Saturday.

Synchronised clapping and thunderous chants of Myanmar echoed around Singapore's National Stadium, where Myanmar people were in the majority in the crowd. Myanmar have lost twice to Thailand in their only appearances in SEA

Games finals — in 2007 and in 1993, the last time the games were held in Singapore — since their golden run ended with a fifth straight title in 1973. Myanmar soaked up a lot of pressure before wide midfielder Aung Si Thu calmly stroked home a 39th minute penalty after Vietnam defender Ho Ngoc Thang stuck his elbow out to block a free-kick.

Vietnam continued to press and were guilty of wasting several chances be-

fore Vo Huy Toan finally levelled with 20 minutes to go after the ball kindly fell on his path in front of an unguarded net.

But plucky Myanmar, with their tallest outfield player only 1.71 metres tall and the goalkeeper Phyo Kyaw Zin not much bigger, got the lead back in the 78th minute when captain Tun Nay Lin's long-range effort looped off defender Nguyen Than Hien into the net.

Reuters

Sea Games 2015 Men's Football Semifinals results 13 June 2015			
Match 26	Myanmar	2-1	Vietnam
Match 27	Thailand	5-0	Indonesia

President U Thein Sein congratulates medalists, U-23 football team

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June — President U Thein Sein has forwarded a congratulatory message to Myanmar's medal-winning coaches and athletes at the 28th SEA Games in Singapore.

The president telephoned Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan in Singapore on Saturday evening, asking him to pass on words of encouragement to the athletes, including the U-23 football team, urging them to play hard and secure more victories.

Myanmar's footballers secured a place in the gold medal match after a thrilling 2-1 semifinal win over Vietnam on Saturday.—MNA



Myanmar's Shine Thuya celebrates with Phoe Chit, Myanmar Popular Classic & Traditional Dancer after a 2-1 victory of Myanmar over Vietnam at the Southeast Asian Games Football tournament on 13 June, 2015 in Singapore.—PHOTO : MFF

Medal Standings for 13 June, 2015					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Thailand	78	74	59	211
2	Singapore	74	65	94	233
3	Vietnam	65	42	55	162
4	Malaysia	45	43	59	147
5	Indonesia	38	47	62	147
6	Philippines	24	32	59	115
7	Myanmar	11	24	28	63
8	Cambodia	1	5	8	14
9	Laos	0	3	19	22
10	Timor-Leste	0	1	1	2
11	Brunei	0	0	6	6



Players from the Bolivia squad wave to the crowd after their first round Copa America 2015 soccer match against Mexico ended in a scoreless tie at Estadio Sausalito in Vina del Mar, Chile on 12 June, 2015.—REUTERS

FIFA U-20 World Cup Quarter-finals Match Schedules for 14 June 2015 (all times local)			
Match 45	Brazil	- Portugal	7:30
Match 46	Mali	- Germany	7:30
Match 47	USA	- Serbia	10:30
Match 48	Uzbekistan	- Senegal	10:30

Mexico, Bolivia booed off after 0-0 draw at Copa

SANTIAGO, 13 June — Mexico and Bolivia were booed off the pitch after playing out a drab goalless draw in their opening match of the Copa America on Friday, leaving hosts Chile top of Group A after the first round of matches.

Bolivia hit the post through Ricardo Pedriel with their first real attack, and Mexican striker Raul Jimenez should have scored after the break with a close range header, but otherwise neither side created much in the way

of clear-cut chances.

The Mexicans also had a penalty appeal turned down late on after Javier Aquino went down under pressure from Alejandro Pinedo.

While on balance a draw looked to be a fair result, it was greeted by whistles and boos at the Sausalito stadium in Vina del Mar at the final whistle.

Mexico have never defeated Bolivia at the Copa America in three attempts, though they have beaten them in each of

their nine encounters in other competitions and friendlies.

The Mexicans now face Chile in Santiago on Monday while Bolivia meet Ecuador in Valparaiso on the same day.

Chile beat Ecuador 2-0 in the tournament opener on Thursday.

"We know that Chile are coming off the back of a victory that will give them a bit of confidence, and they have some quality players, but so do we, and we're going to work hard to beat them," Mex-

ico striker Jesus Corona said.

After two slightly disappointing matches on the opening two days, the Copa is expected to come to life over the weekend when favourites Brazil and Argentina, along with defending champions Uruguay, all open their accounts.

Uruguay face Jamaica in Antofagasta on Saturday, Argentina take on Paraguay in La Serena the same day and Brazil meet Peru in Temuco on Sunday.—Reuters