

## Myanmar, Thailand ink MoU on energy, electric power cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung and Thai counterpart Dr Narongchai Akrasanee signed a memorandum of understanding here Monday on cooperation in the energy sector in the presence of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr Pridiyathorn Devakula.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and Thai Minister of Energy Dr Narongchai Akrasanee also inked an MoU on cooperation in the electric power sector between the two countries.

The vice president later had a luncheon together with the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and party.

The MoU will speed up the 26-year Myanmar-Thai oil and natural gas cooperation agreement. It will benefit en-



**Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr Pridiyathorn Devakula attend signing ceremony of MoU on energy and electric power sectors.—MNA**

ergy sufficiency of the cross-border energy sector. The MoU covers natural gas and will ensure a greater level of supply.—MNA

two countries, development of infrastructure, the cooperation in import and distribution of liquefied

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## Myanmar National Airlines receives new Boeing 737-800 NG

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 15 June—Flag carrier Myanmar National Airlines on Monday took delivery of the first of several new Boeing 737s ordered as part of an international fleet upgrade.

In a bid to become a competitive member of the global aviation market, the national carrier began upgrading both its domestic and international operations with new aircraft six

months ago.

“We celebrate today an incredible achievement in the history of our airlines and our country by welcoming the first member of our brand new fleet,” MNA CEO Captain Than Tun said during a media briefing at Yangon International Airport.

The 164-seat aircraft, worth US \$51 million, is one of six 737-800 and four 737-Max 8 Next Generation aircraft that MNA has

ordered from Boeing. Further deliveries are scheduled to take place over the next five years.

The carrier is set to launch a Yangon-Singapore route this August, said the CEO, adding that four more destinations in the Asia-Pacific region will be added. The airline is scheduled to receive another six 737-800 NGs, as well as four 737-Max 8s, by 2018.

Services to four more

destinations including Hong Kong and Taipei will be added in November, with two cities in China to be added next year.

The airline has also ordered six ATRs to boost its domestic fleet, which flies to 26 destinations.

According to MNA, the national carrier received more than 500,000 passengers last year, marking a 26 percent increase on the previous year.

GNLM



**Myanmar National Airlines introduces its new arrival of Boeing 737 aircraft at Yangon International Airport on Monday. — PHOTO: YE MYINT**

## Yangon Region OKs controversial new town project

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 15 June — The Yangon Region parliament in a 100 to 10 vote Monday approved a town plan for a contentious development in southwestern Yangon that has been tied to money laundering and criticized for a lack of transparency.

The new town plan is one of seven modern housing projects of the Greater Yangon Development Strategic Plan 2040 designed by the Yangon Region Government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The seven modern housing projects will be established on more than 100,000 acres of land on

the outskirts of Yangon and accommodate more than 10 million people.

The new town project approved by parliament Monday will be established on 11,716 acres between the Panhlaing River and the Twantay-Yangon Canal and between the Hlaing River and Hlaingthaya-Twintay Road in southwestern Yangon.

MP Dr Nyo Nyo Thin of Bahan Township Constituency during the debate in parliament said the project should not be implemented at present, as the country's financial situation is not stable.

She said the project lacked transparency and noted that it was suspended (See page 9)

## Closing ceremony of 28<sup>th</sup> SEA Games to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanma Radio Programme will broadcast live the closing ceremony of the 28<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games in Singapore starting at 6:30 p.m Myanmar standard time on 16 June.—MNA

## MPs raise queries about immigration issues

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — Offspring who was born of a Myanmar citizen parent and a foreigner will only be applied for the status of associate citizen, said U Win Myint, deputy minister for Immigration and Population to Pyithu Hluttaw on Monday.

In response to the query of U Zaw Tun, MP of Momauk constituency, U Win Myint said such newborn baby outside home country must be reported to the Myanmar missions within one year in the relevant countries, and the associate citizenship can be applied for

the baby when he/she was brought into Myanmar.

When asked about travel permits of temporary identity card holders by MP U Ba Shein from Kyaukpyu constituency, the deputy minister also said as these persons have not been approved as citizens, they need travel

permit in advance from the local officials in the registered areas.

He also denied such restriction is not meant to violate human rights, but to ensure security of temporary ID card holders and rule of law in the country.

MNA

### Pyithu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister  
U Win Myint.  
MNA



U Ba Shein  
from Kyaukpyu  
constituency.—MNA

## Homalin to get arts and science college when state and region university plan is drawn



Deputy Minister for  
Culture U Than Swe.  
MNA



Deputy Minister  
Dr Zaw Min Aung.  
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — A college needs 2,000 students in minimum, buildings, faculty members, staff, teaching aid and furniture for its establishment, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung replied to the question of U Aung Chit Lwin of Sagaing Region Constituency No 11 on Monday

session of Amyotha Hluttaw. The deputy minister said that 853 students from Hkamti and Mawlaik districts are pursuing education at Monywa University for 2014-15 academic year. He replied that when a plan for universities is drawn for all regions and states, arrangements will be made to open an arts and sci-

ence college in Homalin, Sagaing Region.

U Saw Maw Tun of Bago Region constituency No 1 asked about a plan for building a modern museum with the shape of royal structures in Mandalay Royal City. Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe replied that as the government has built Myanmar Sankyaw golden palace with buildings of royal structures for public ob-

servations, there is no plan to build a modern museum with Myanmar kings' royal designs.

The Hluttaw approved the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The Hluttaw invited MPs to discuss the Myanmar Red Cross Bill and the Border Area and National Races Development Bill with second amendment.

MNA

### Amyotha Hluttaw

## Agriculture Dept urged to lead farmers for cultivation of monsoon paddy

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — A coordination meeting to speed up cultivation of Palethwe hybrid monsoon paddy took place at the hall of Ottarathiri Township

Department of Agriculture recently.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Department of Agriculture U Tin Oo Kyaing instructed officials of the

department to draw the plan of cultivation for eight townships in the council area and lead the local farmers in growing monsoon paddy through good

agricultural patterns.

A similar meeting was held in Kyaukchet Village in Zeyathiri Township.

Ko Pauk  
(Okkar Myay)

## Myanmar to begin sales of health insurance from 1 July

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 15 June — Health insurance policies will go on sale for the first time in Myanmar under a one-year trial as of 1 July, Deputy Finance Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein told media on Monday.

State-owned Myanma Insurance and 11 private domestic companies will offer identical policies, with customers able to buy between one to five units of coverage, with a single unit

providing the most basic level of coverage.

"People can buy health insurance premiums worth K50,000 per unit," said Dr Maung Maung Thein, who is also the chairman of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board.

"Persons aged between 6 and 65 years will be eligible for health insurance."

Myanmar citizens and foreigners residing in the country can buy the insur-

ance, Myanma Insurance managing director U Aye Min Thein said at a media briefing.

People living in areas without insurance company branches "may get the services through agents, who will get a 10 percent commission on the insurance premium from insurers," U Aye Min Thein said.

"This is a type of private health insurance aimed at reducing people's medical treatment costs to a certain degree. Only healthy persons will be allowed to

buy this insurance."

If a single-unit policy holder is hospitalized, insurers will pay K15,000 a day. He or she may receive 30 days worth of hospitalization costs per year.

If a policy holder dies in hospital, their designated beneficiary will receive K1 million per unit of insurance in compensation.

Since May, 2014, a task force including the Ministry of Finance and related ministries and representatives from local private companies has worked to adopt the health insurance scheme, with consultation from foreign insurance companies with representative offices in the country.—GNLM

## U Thit Linn Ohn presents Credentials to DPRK President

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June — U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 3 June 2015 in Pyongyang.—MNA

## Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr Pier Giorgio Federico Aliberti as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

H.E. Mr. Pier Giorgio Federico Aliberti was born in Cuneo, Italy in 1965. He graduated from the University of "Luigi Bocconi" in Milan, Italy where he obtained the degree in Political Economy. In 1993, he joined to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He then served in his various capacities at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and in Copenhagen, Denmark and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union. From 1995 to 1997, he served at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, France. In 2003, he was promoted to First Counsellor and served as the Head of EU Institutions Department of Directorate General for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has been serving as the First Counsellor at the Italian Embassy in Washington D.C., USA since 2010.—MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein clarifies health insurance policies of Myanmar Insurance.



PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

NATIONAL

## Vice President U Nyan Tun leaves for Russian Federation

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—At the invitation of Mr. Nikolai P Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Vice President U Nyan Tun left Yangon International Airport for the Russian Federation via Singapore Monday.

The vice president will attend the St Petersburg International Economic Forum to be held in St Petersburg at the invitation of Mr Sergei Prikhodko, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

The vice president, accompanied by Union

Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, deputy ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and U Thant Kyaw and officials, were seen off at the airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Mayor U Hla Myint, and the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

*Vice President U Nyan Tun being seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials.*

MNA



## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar



*Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann cordially shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.*

MNA

YANGON, 15 June—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on Monday met Mr. Yang Houlan,

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, who had completed his tour of duty at his office here.

Also present at the call were chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Commission and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

## MJA to send 20 outstanding students to Japan

YANGON, 15 June—The Myanmar-Japan Association arranges an eight-day trip of twenty outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2015 to Japan coming September.

MJA has announced 100 outstanding students including 75 from regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 10 each from arts and science combinations in the matriculation examination.

List of eligible applicants is available at the region and state education

offices and Myanmar-Japan Association office. They must submit the applications to the MJA (Yangon) of their own accord before 10 July.

The association officials will meet the applicants in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay to choose 20 outstanding students. The association will select 15 outstanding students from regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, two each from science and arts combinations and one from arts and science combined subject.—MNA

*Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin being welcomed by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vasil Pospelov at the reception to mark Day of Proclamation of the State Sovereignty of the Russian Federation at Sule Shangri-La Hotel on 15 June.—MNA*

## Trainees of NPO Myanmar Egress visit Union Election Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—Some 48 trainees and representatives of non-profit organization Myanmar Egress visited the head office of Union Election Commission here on Monday.

U Hla Tun Khaing, leader of the visiting train-

ees, explained the objectives of Myanmar Egress, founded by Myanmar scholars and social workers who have been actively involved in various aspects of civil society.

UEC members including Dr Daw Myint Kyi explained activities of the

body such as collection of voter lists.

In his concluding remark, UEC chairman U Tin Aye said the commission would ensure a free and fair election, and called for participation in the voter education process.

MNA



*UEC chairman U Tin Aye meets trainees of NPO Myanmar Egress.*

MNA



## Ye Township to develop Phayataung Beach

YE, 15 June — The Ye Township Development Affairs Committee has invited applications for construction of bungalows at Phayataung Beach, Mon State.

The committee will award a private developer the right to carry out works to upgrade facilities at the beach.

Any Myanmar citizen may apply until 20 June. The winning company must build the bungalows on schedule.

Ye Township in Mon State is located adjacent to the sea with many pleasant beaches.

*Htut Htut (Ye)*



## Cooperative holds annual general meeting



KYAUKME, 15 June — Kyaukme Township's No 2 Cooperative Ltd held its annual general meeting for fiscal 2014-15 at the town hall in Kyaukme, northern Shan State, on 14 June.

The ceremony was attended by more than 600 people including departmental officials, bus owners and workers, local ethnic groups and members of micro-finance societies.

Township Administra-

tor U Aung Lwin and Staff Officer Daw San San Tint of Kyaukme Township Cooperative Department spoke on the occasion.

Officials submitted the report of the Board of Directors and financial statement for 2014-15 FY.

The cooperative Ltd donated K1.3 million to a township development fund.

*Myint Aung (Ka Ma)*

## Chin State publishes report on regional administration process

HAKA, 15 June — The Chin State government recently released a report on regional administration processes at the city hall in the state capital Haka.

Chief Minister of the state U Hong Ngai said the new government adopted the reform process for good governance.

He stressed the need for good regional administration and quality public services.

Miss Emilie Roell of the United Nations Development Program explained regional administration process while Chin State Commissioner U Maung Maung Hsan outlined other salient points.

*Chin State IPRD*

## Posters, signboards to raise public awareness for anti-drug campaign

MYAWADY, 15 June — Under the guidance of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, a special project for anti-drug activity is being implemented across the nation.

A ceremony to erect a signboard and poster promoting anti-drug activities was held at the corner of Padamyia and Bogyoke streets in Ward 2, Myawady, Kayin State, on 14 June.

Head of No. 32 Anti-Drug Squad, Major Aung Si, and local authorities together with residents erected the signboard and poster.

*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*



*Staff of Township Development Affairs Committee and General Administration Department together with residents carrying out sanitation in Mithasu Ward, Seikkan Township, on 13 June.*

**BANYA MAUNG MAUNG (IPRD)**



TODAY'S  
MYANMAR  
NEWS SITES



*Secretary of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association Daw Khin Thet Maw seen at Yangon International Airport on 14 June to attend AEC Information for Business-Tariff Reductions, Rules of Origin and Customs Procedures in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 and 16 June.*  
**MYEA**

## Construction of staff housing completed in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 15 June—Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu on Sunday inspected progress of a housing complex for staff of Mandalay Sub-printing House under the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Minis-

try of Information in Pale Ngweyaung Ward, Aungmyethazan Township.

Aung Zay Thun Company built a four-storey reinforced concrete building in fiscal 2014-15.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

LOCAL NEWS

## Bronze Buddha image conveyed to Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Toungoo

TOUNGOO, 15 June — A bronze replica weighing about 1,200 viss of Mandalay's Maha Muni Buddha Image was conveyed from Mandalay to Toungoo along Yangon-Mandalay expressway on Monday and is being kept at the Shwethaphu prayer hall of Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Toungoo.

A total of 100 Buddhist monks, religious associations, members of pagoda board of trustees and local residents conveyed the bronze Buddha image round the downtown Toungoo for public obeisance.

GNLM-017



## Chinese Wushu master trains Myanmar athletes

MANDALAY, 15 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing recently viewed training for athletes conducted by Wushu master Mr Tu Jingli from Kunming, in China's Yunnan Province, at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay.

Deputy Director U

Wai Zin of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department and officials provided necessary assistance to the trainees.

The region minister donated K500,000 to be used in training of wushu to Mandalay Region Wushu Subcommittee.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



## Archaeological sites in ancient Inwa city attract visitors

TADAU, 15 June — Ancient Inwa city in TadaU Township attracts tourists from around Myanmar and abroad. Inwa Shwezigon

Pagoda, Nanmyint tower and the Maha Waiyapahta brick street are among the most popular sites.

Visitors can also enjoy

scenic beauty of confluence at Myitnge and Ayeyawady rivers.

Inwa Archaeological Museum is home to more

than than 400 artifacts from the first to fourth Inwa periods.

Tein Taman

## Irrigation dept demonstrates flood prevention



HINTHADA, 15 June — Hinthada District Irrigation Department in Ayeyawady Region recently held a demonstration on prevention of floods at Ayeyawady-Hinthada embankment 3/7 in Eikpyet village.

Assistant Director U Wai Lwin of Hinthada District Irrigation Department spoke about maintenance of embankments for prevention of floods, public awareness for flood prevention, and necessary equipment for

disaster prevention.

Officials and staff of the department demonstrated repairing of damaged embankment and upgrading of embankment to prevent overflow of water.

Hinthada District IPRD

## Residents clear road to Myingyan in plastic-free campaign

MYINGYAN, 15 June — Myingyan District deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung spoke about the environmental damage caused by plastic and polyethylene bags at a re-

cent plastic-free campaign event.

Staff of Myingyan district and township departments, police, firefighters, Red Cross society, social organizations and local

residents participated in sanitation along the road from Myingyan-Mandalay road to entrance to Myingyan.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



## Firefighters demonstrate use of modern suits

MANDALAY, 15 June — A firefighting and rescue course for firefighters concluded at the hall of General Administration Department in Pyigyidagun Township on Sunday.

A total of 35 firefighters from Pyigyidagun Township and seven from Mingalar Mandalay Company attended the course.

Project manager U Sai Zaw Moon donated firefighting suits worth K3.5 million to officials of Pyigyidagun Township Fire Station. In the demonstration, firefighters used modern suits while putting out fires.

The firefighting and rescue course was conducted from 1 to 14 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



## Schools reopen as South Korea seeks normality in MERS outbreak



*An employee wearing a mask to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) disinfects the floor at the Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea on 14 June, 2015.—REUTERS*

SUWON, (South Korea), 15 June — Thousands of South Korean schools that were shut by worries over Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) reopened on Monday as the country sought to return to normal, nearly four weeks into an outbreak that showed signs of slowing.

Five new cases were reported by the Health Ministry on Monday, taking the total to 150, the largest outbreak outside of Saudi Arabia. The ministry also said another patient

infected with the MERS virus had become the 16<sup>th</sup> fatality.

All the cases have been traced to healthcare facilities.

Four hospitals have been shut down completely or partially closed in an effort to stop the spread of what the World Health Organization (WHO) has said was a “large and complex” outbreak.

At least 440 schools remained closed on Monday, compared with the 2,900 that were shut on

Friday.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye, whose approval rating has been battered over the government’s response to MERS, urged the country on Monday to return to normal.

“I ask the business community, too, to continue to go on with investment, production and management activities as normal and particularly help with ensuring that consumers don’t hold back from spending money,” she told a meeting of senior aides.

Park, who last week postponed a scheduled visit to the United States, saw her public support rating dip below 35 percent last week, according to a Real-meter poll.

Her government has been criticised for refusing in the early days of the outbreak to release the name of the hospital where infected and suspected patients had stayed, fuelling public fear and confusion.

On Saturday, the WHO cited shortcomings in South Korea’s early re-

sponse to MERS and urged better communication by the government to improve confidence and trust in its effort to fight the outbreak, domestically and internationally.

The Health Ministry said it was moving to quarantine more than 5,500 people who may have been exposed to the MERS virus at a prominent Seoul hospital, which has suspended most services after becoming a new epicentre of the outbreak. The number will take the total in quarantine to about 10,000.

Samsung Medical Centre said on Sunday it was suspending all non-emergency surgery and would take no new patients after more than 70 cases were traced to it, including an infected worker who was found to have been in contact with more than 200 people.

At Myoungin Elementary School in the city of Suwon, south of Seoul, teachers greeted students at the gate for the first time in 10 days, taking their temperatures to send home an-

yone who had a fever.

The WHO last week recommended schools be reopened, saying schools have not been linked to transmission of the MERS virus in South Korea or elsewhere.

“The child’s mother and I both work, so I think it’s better for kids to be in school where there can be proper measures, rather than keeping them home,” said Bin Ko-ok, who brought her first-grader grandchild to school.

The school was one of the first to shut as the fear of MERS spread two weeks ago. Its principal, Kim Hak-yu, said he had received no calls from parents opposed to it reopening.

South Korea said more than 108,000 tourists had called off visiting the country by Saturday since the start of the outbreak, 75 percent of them from China, Hong Kong and Taipei.

The trend is expected to continue through the summer, the culture ministry said.

Reuters

## China-Vietnam cooperative meeting to be held

BEIJING, 15 June — The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the China-Vietnam steering committee on cooperation will be held in China this week, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

The meeting will be held during Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh’s visit to China from Wednesday to Friday, spokesman Lu Kang said in a statement.

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi will co-chair the meeting with Pham Binh Minh, said Lu.

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the China-Vietnam steering committee on cooperation was held in Hanoi in last October.—Xinhua

## Indonesian court to decide on French death row convict’s appeal next week

JAKARTA, 15 June — An Indonesian court will rule next week on an appeal lodged by a Frenchman on death row who is challenging the president’s refusal to grant him clemency, a judge told a hearing on Monday.

Convicted drug trafficker Serge Atlaoui was due to face the firing squad with other convicts in April

but was granted a last-minute reprieve to allow for the completion of his legal appeals.

“We have received the arguments of both the defence and prosecution and will deliver a verdict on 22 June,” said presiding judge Ujang Abdullah.

Indonesia drew international condemnation in

April for executing a group of foreign drug traffickers from Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, and Ghana despite repeated pleas for clemency from their governments.

President Widodo has declared war against what he calls a “drug emergency” in Indonesia, one of Southeast Asia’s biggest markets for narcotics.

France’s foreign minister has warned Indonesia it would face repercussions if the Southeast Asian nation goes ahead with the execution. Atlaoui was sentenced to death for his involvement in an ecstasy factory in Jakarta that was capable of producing 100 kg (220 lb) of the illegal pills per week.

Reuters

## Indian DM says Indian Army’s importance has diminished “without war”

NEW DELHI, 15 June — Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has reportedly said the Indian Army’s importance has diminished because of lack of wars in the past 40

to 50 years.

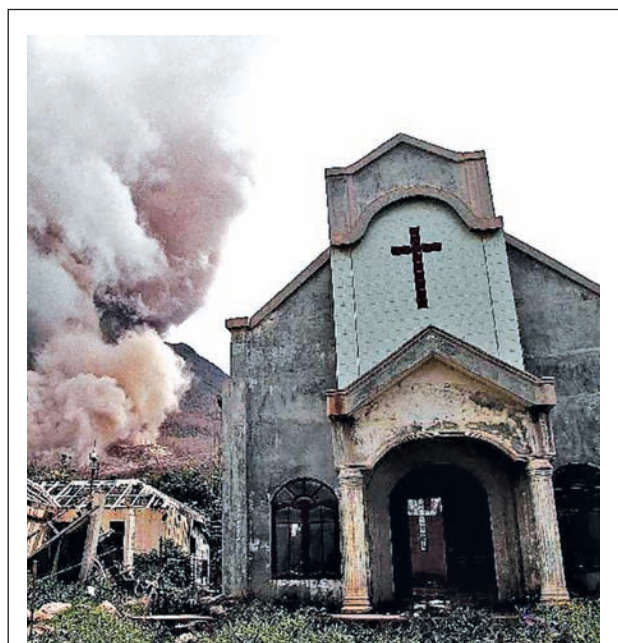
The minister said Indian soldiers have been facing immense difficulties because people’s respect for the Army has reduced in peacetime.

“I have written to many chief ministers. Some have acted on it and at many places, it has ended. The primary reason for this is we have not been to war for 40 to 50 years,” he said at

a conference on border safety in the western Indian state of Rajasthan’s capital Jaipur on Sunday.

However, he said, “I don’t mean to say that we should go to war. I mean to say that without war the Army’s importance has diminished.

Xinhua



*Photo taken on 14 June, 2015 shows hot gas and ash spewing out from Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra, Indonesia. More than 2,700 people moved from their homes near a volcano on Indonesia’s Sumatra island on 4 June following a sharp increase in volcanic activity, an official said.*

XINHUA

## WORLD

## New Zealand to become AIIB founding member

SYDNEY, 15 June — New Zealand has agreed to become a founding member of the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and will invest NZ\$125 million (US\$87.2 million) in capital over five years, the government announced on Monday.

The AIIB, aimed at addressing the infrastructure gap in Asia, will have initial capital of close to US\$100 billion (NZ\$139 billion) and New Zealand's contribution is proportionate to its economic size.

"Increased infrastructure investment will enhance the Asian region's growth and that will be good for New Zealand," Finance Minister Bill English said in a joint statement with Foreign Minister Murray McCully.

"This new bank will be a welcome addition to existing institutions and it stands to make a significant contribution to infrastructure in the region," he said.

The formal signing ceremony will take place in Beijing later in the month and the AIIB is expected to begin operating before the end of the year, according to McCully.—Kyodo News

Visitors take photos outside the venue of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Kunming Import and Export Fair in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 13 June, 2015. The third China-South Asia Expo is held simultaneously with the Expo from 12-16 June in Kunming. XINHUA



## 7,000 residents near Fukushima seek compensation over nuclear crisis



Citizens (L side) representative of around 7,000 people living in Tochigi Prefecture, adjacent to Fukushima Prefecture, submit documents to the Nuclear Compensation Dispute Resolution Centre in Tokyo on 15 June, 2015, seeking compensation worth 1.85 billion yen (\$15 million) through an out-of-court settlement with Tokyo Electric Power Co, the operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

KYODO NEWS

UTSUNOMIYA, (Japan) 15 June — Some 7,000 people living in areas adjacent to Fukushima Prefecture sought compensation on Monday worth 1.85 billion yen (\$15 million) through an out-of-court settlement with the operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

In the first collective appeal made by residents who have not been compensated by Tokyo Electric Power Co, a total of 7,128 people from Tochigi Prefecture, located some 100 kilometres from the Fukushima plant, argue that they should be eligible for compensation even though they were not living in Fukushima at the time of the 2011 disaster.

The residents, who were living at the time in Otawara, Nasushiobara, and Nasu are also demanding an apology and the establishment of a fund to pay

for decontamination work and health checkups, their lawyers said. The combined population of the two cities and town stands at around 218,000.

The residents' appeal was filed Monday with the Nuclear Compensation Dispute Resolution Center under an alternative dispute resolution system that enables quicker settlements with the participation of a third party that has expertise.

Leading lawyer Koji Otani said it is "irrational" to treat his clients differently from the Fukushima residents who decided to evacuate on a voluntary basis and received compensation, as the same amount of radiation was detected in Tochigi.

"We want TEPCO to take seriously the fact that over 7,000 people raised their voices," Otani told a Press conference at the Tochigi prefectural govern-

ment office. The residents are demanding sums ranging from 120,000 yen to 720,000 yen per person — equivalent to the amount awarded for voluntary evacuees in Fukushima — as compensation for mental suffering and extra living expenses caused by the nuclear accident, according to the lawyers.

More than 30 percent of those seeking compensation were under 18 at the time of the Fukushima accident or born afterward, they said.

"I let my (elementary school) child play in the garden without knowing radiation levels immediately after the accident," said Mako Tezuka, 45, one of the residents who filed the appeal.

"Four years later, I still haven't received any explanation or apology from TEPCO and I'm only left with worries about the future and health of my child," she said.—Kyodo News

## N Korea informs overseas missions defence chief executed

SEOUL, 15 June — North Korea has confirmed to its overseas diplomatic missions that its defence minister, Gen Hyon Yong Chol, was executed, a Seoul daily reported on Monday, citing a source in Beijing. North Korea recently informed embassies in China and elsewhere of Hyon's execution and listed several instances of his "disobedience," the report in the Chosun Ilbo said.

The country's leader Kim Jong Un "believes dozing off or getting distracted in a meeting is

worse than opposing his decisions," the source was quoted as saying, backing up the speculation Hyon aroused Kim's anger after being caught dozing off in a meeting.

Hyon was reportedly unable to answer a question Kim asked in the meeting because he had been asleep and also disobeyed an order the leader gave, though what the order was is not known, the report said.

In May, South Korea's intelligence organization told lawmakers that the reason given for the purge was

that Hyon, 66, had shown disrespect to Kim, including being caught dozing off during a military meeting on 24-25 April and not implementing instructions from the leader.

In a move to secure his grip on power, Kim has purged a number of senior officials, including his uncle and de facto No 2 leader Jang Song Thaek and former general staff chief Ri Yong Ho, since taking control of the nation upon the death of his father Kim Jong Il in late 2011.

Kyodo News

## CPC expels two former senior officials

BEIJING, 15 June — A former senior official and a former senior executive of a major state-owned enterprise have been expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) for "serious violations of discipline and the law," said China's top anti-graft body on Monday.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a statement that Sun Hongzhi, vice minister of the State Administration

for Industry & Commerce, and Liao Yongyuan, former general manager with China National Petroleum Corporation, have been expelled from CPC following graft investigations.

It accused the two of accepting a huge amount of bribes, seeking profits for others and committing adultery. As senior leading cadres of the CPC, Sun and Liao seriously violated Party rules and organizational discipline, said the state-

ment, adding that they also broke the law and "showed no restraint even after the 18th CPC National Congress" in 2012 when an upgraded anti-corruption campaign was started.

The penalties were imposed according to Party regulations. The two were also dismissed from their public posts with State Council approval while their cases will be transferred to prosecutors.

Xinhua

## N Korean soldier defects to S Korea via land border

SEOUL, 15 June — A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea on Monday via the heavily fortified land border, a South Korean Defence Ministry official said.

The incident, which took place in Hwacheon, Gangwon Province, involved a soldier in his late teens, the official said.

While there have been cases of defections from the North to the South by land

and sea, they are rare.

Most North Koreans defecting to the South do so via third countries, first crossing into China and then travelling to Mongolia or countries in Southeast Asia.

More than 25,000 North Koreans have fled their homeland and sought asylum in South Korea and other countries since the end of the three-year Korean War in 1953.—Kyodo News

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 16 June, 2015

## Elections are symbol of democracy

By Myint Win Thein

In accordance with the 2008 constitution, all of Myanmar's national representatives, save for 25 percent of defence services representatives, are directly chosen via general election. For instance, winning representatives in the upcoming general

election, scheduled to be held in late October or early November, along with defence services representatives will choose three presidential candidates, one of whom will become the president of the Union.

Therefore, the general election is more important for Myanmar than other countries where balance of power has been exercised for a long time. As history has shown, defects in elections can mar the success of the legislature and administrative branch, as well as other branches, including the judicial branch, and hinder the successful implementation of government policies.

The fewer the defects there are in the general election, the better the government and the parliament can lead the people and country. As elections are also a symbol of democracy, nobody in Myan-

mar should allow any mistakes in the election process. Everyone should cooperate with election sub-commissions. Likewise, all election sub-commissions should welcome whoever renders a helping hand to correct errors. If they are not corrected as soon as they are found, people will suffer for five years.

## Write for us

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

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

## Books for Children

Maung Hlaing

The Global New Light of Myanmar of 10-6-2015 issue carried an interesting news story of publishing three illustrated books for children. According to the news, the books were prize winning books of Children's Literature Competition jointly organized by Myanmar Writers Association and Shanti Volunteer Association of Japan. Besides, the books were printed on quality paper by the Printing and Publishing Enterprise. It is heartening to see such books which will be a cog in the wheel of the children's literary world.

Today, books on various subjects are coming out. And various book societies and public libraries sprout. Previously, we hardly had 20 kinds of reading materials including magazines and very few books for children but now nearly 200 kinds of magazines and journals are being published monthly. Writers who know how to uplift the quality of children come to write more books for them. However, quality books for children are still in need.

In order to meet the needs and to honour the outstanding writers, the highest national literary awards are conferred every year. The literary awards scheme has started since 1962 to encourage, propagate and perpetuate the most treasured national culture and traditions through promoting literary talents and works of prose, poetry, drama, translation, non-fiction and many other in various genres including literature for children. The best works in each prescribed category, published during the year are evaluated and scrutinized by the National Literary Awards Selection Committee and awards are conferred to the

most deserving.

Initially, the awards were given to the published books only in accordance with the calendar year. However, to encourage wider participation and nurture potential talents, whose manuscripts could never see print due to various reasons, "Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards Scheme" has been supplemented since 1969. It is now gaining momentum. Writers both veteran and novice, who are interested in literature for children can take part in the is competition. (Later, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript Award Scheme was introduced in 1993.)

The two schemes of "National Literary Awards" and "Manuscript Award" can attract the writers who write fiction, non-fiction and poems for children because awards for three genres (fiction, non-fiction and poems) are included in both schemes. As progress is seen in all aspects in accordance with changing political and economic systems, technical advancement can be vividly seen in the publishing business.

However, there are problems and issues concerning publishing books for children in developing countries including Myanmar. In those countries, publishing books is a very expensive task. Though there are some printers in the city, there are hardly any publishers who are interested in books for children only. In some countries there are many problems such as lack of reading habit, lack of publishing houses, poor literacy rate, lack of affordable prices, and etc. Moreover, on the part of the publishers, there are some problems on alluring use of topics and titles, layout and design, attractive use of illustrations (including photographs), marketing

of the books, planning and editing and so on.

Likewise, writers of children's literature are complaining of acute shortage of (traditional) themes for children's books. If they have run out of themes, they turn to translated works for children. It is believed that translation could be one of the fastest methods of producing books for children. This is why, we can see so many books for children are translated from other land's fairy tales, folk tales, myths, epics or epic poems (including long stories about legendary heroes), fables, fictions and non-fictions, fantasies, adventure stories, animal stories, mystery and detective stories, fables and science fictions.

Actually, children want to read the literary works of creation, innovation or re-make. Even a veteran writer admits that although he can write so many books on fiction or non-fiction, he finds difficulties in creating literary works for children. As for the books on poems for children, they do not gain a foothold in the market.

I would like to introduce a true creative literary work for children from the book "Laughing together" (Asian/Pacific Copublication Programme Series Six) to readers. The title is "They Did Move Their House, But ...". The story is as follows: -

On the right side of the house of a minister, there lived a blacksmith, and on the left side, a carpenter. The blacksmith and the carpenter made noise night and day and disturbed the minister. When he could not take it anymore, the minister called the two and demanded that they move their houses.

One day, the blacksmith visited the minister and said, "Your Excellency, I am moving my house today as desired by you."

After a while, the carpenter also paid a courtesy

call on the minister, saying, "Your Excellency, I am moving my house too."

The minister was relieved to hear this, but pretended to be sorry at losing them as neighbours. He treated them to good food and sent them off.

But strangely enough, the noise of sawing and hammering continued. The minister was both surprised and annoyed. He called his servants and ordered them to find out what was going on.

The servants came back with the news that the carpenter and the blacksmith did move houses as they had promised. The carpenter had moved to the blacksmith's house and the blacksmith to the carpenter's where they happily continued hammering and sawing night and day. (Republic of Korea).

According to the survey, most of the children like such creation of literature because they have sense of humour. By nature, young readers like to read stories with happy or funny endings but not tragedies. Myanmar writers can create such themes for children. The writers who write for children will have to avoid boring or preaching style which gives too much lessons.

Today, thousands and thousands of books are published all over the country. Unfortunately, we cannot say that the number of books for children has come out to meet the needs of present population of children. To make matters worse, producing a quality book for children is easier said than done.

In such a situation, the three quality books for children that have come out recently will make our dear ones happy. That is why, my heartfelt thanks will go to Shanti Volunteer Association of Japan.

More books for children are welcome!!

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

## Why no action against dangerous motor drivers?

I have read about Authorities warning motor drivers with noisy exhausts. But compared to more dangerous drivers mentioned below, at least they cause no fatalities apart from being a disturbance.

The really dangerous drivers who should be punished as Criminals are as follows: (Only priorities are mentioned.)

- Taking the wrong opposite lane while taking a Left Turn, near traffic lights;
- Changing lanes without warning;
- Driving at speed across pedestrian crossings;
- Changing lanes close to traffic lights;
- Trying to beat the Yellow Traffic Light by speeding;
- Breaking the Priority Rule at traffic circles.

The majority of these offenders are taxi and bus drivers, who seem to have nothing to lose in case of an accident, at least in Yangon, so far.

So, as a good citizen, although I have no power to say or suggest on the planning of importing vehicles into our country for which we all are suffering now, may I request the authorities to take some action basically to enforce traffic discipline and reduce accidents. Perhaps some of my ideas may work:

- Train and equip more Traffic Police. Present taxes should be enough for the purpose;
- Pay them enough to keep away from bribes and earn their dignity; Exemplary punishment for corruption;
- Station static and mobile Traffic Police to take immediate action either to impose immediate fine or criminal action; Fine-vouchers are necessary;
- Take action against such Owners of Vehicles also;
- Mark 'Taxi-stands' and build proper recessed Bus-Stops, away from traffic lanes;
- Paint Lane Markers to be prominent day and night; Extend them from the traffic lights as necessary;
- Traffic lights need to be higher;
- Build over-head bridges where necessary, like congested crossing or schools;
- Plan more fly-overs and Rail passenger traffic.

Thanking you  
Sincerely,  
(A Patriot)





ARTICLE

# Thilawa Special Economic Zone project attracts US\$ 400 million in short span

**Byline: Ye Khaung Nyunt;  
Photos: Po Htaung**

YANGON, 15 June— The Thilawa Special Economic Zone Project, located some 20 km from the former capital Yangon, has attracted about US \$400 million worth of investment within five months, according to SEZ management committee chairman U Set Aung.

Thirty-six out of 40

chairman added.

In addition, a computerized system of issuing investment permits not only allows the management committee to assess the standards of companies but also to monitor their business and investment activities.

The chairman pointed out that other benefits of

As for local people who are affected by the project, the chairman said the management committee, developer companies, NGOs and civil society organizations have formed a group to manage the needs of the local people affected by the project, including seasonal floods and sewage systems which were built by local people by themselves.

The group is carrying out maintenance tasks for

the sewage system and has completed electricity and water supply tasks. Other assistance for affected people includes free vocational training courses which even provide transportation fares, financial management courses for micro-finance and employment. There is also a complaint centre set up at the SEZ, according to the chairman.

Moreover, the electronic tax collection



*Special economic zone management committee chairman U Set Aung.*

system to be applied by the SEZ allows the government to levy all kinds of taxes that would otherwise be lost outside the SEZ, including trading taxes, value taxes and council taxes. Companies prefer the system as it collects taxes more transparently and recognizes taxpayers, the chairman said.

Nobody will need to carry cash in the SEZ

including employees, as they can use mobile banking, online banking and ATM cards systems.

Thilawa SEZ benefits not only the government but also members of the public who have bought shares.

Most shareholders are ordinary people like hawkers and will be able to enjoy benefits for about 75 years.

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*Buildings under construction in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, 20 km from Yangon.*

companies have reached reservation agreements with the management committee and received investment permission. Operations of the SEZ are set to start in September, a little later than scheduled, according to the chairman.

However, the chairman is adamant that operations of the SEZ will begin this year. The committee has completed water and electricity supply tasks and implemented waste management systems which do not allow any waste to be dumped into the river. Decoration of offices and installing of sensors at the main gates of the SEZ have yet to be completed, the

the SEZ include expansion of the export sector and human resources development as factories there will export 100 percent of their high-quality products which require highly skilled labour.

For human resource development of people around the SEZ, vocational training centres will be set up in the zone, according to the chairman. One of the professional vocational training centres was opened on 9 June by Fuji World Company and the management committee is arranging skill training courses for 40 local people who had to move to nearby place due to the SEZ project.



*Heavy machinery at work at Thilawa Special Economic Zone.*

## Yangon Region OKs controversial...

(from page 1)

last September after being tied to money laundering disclosed by the local media.

Mayor U Hla Myint said the project will ensure transparency and the Yangon Region government will invite tenders for its development.

As the plans are for the long term, the seven projects will not contribute to financial instability in Myanmar, the mayor said.

During the debate, some MPs seconded the plan, calling for establishment of the new town to help local people and address the rising population

in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, which has more than 5 million people and is experiencing annual increases of 2.6 percent.

GNLM

*A map show a site for implementation of new satellite town of Yangon.*



*The site where new satellite town project will be implemented.*

## Greece overplaying its hand and patience wearing thin, Merkel ally says



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

BERLIN, 15 June — Greece is gambling too far and the patience of its creditors is running out, said a senior official in Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats on Monday.

Julia Kloeckner, a member of the CDU party executive, told reporters on her way into a meeting in Berlin that Greece was "overplaying its hand" and that "the patience of creditors is running out".—Reuters

## Vucic expects chapters in accession talks to be opened soon

GOTTWEIG, 15 June — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Sunday that he expects the first chapters in the accession talks with the European Union to be opened soon, adding that this depends on the next round of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, scheduled for 23 June in Brussels.

We will soon have the opportunity to open the chapters — perhaps even sooner than many

people expect, Vucic told reporters after attending the European Forum Wachau in Austria. Serbia will not accept pressure from the Pristina side in the dialogue in order to be able to open the first chapters in the accession talks as soon as possible, and Belgrade cannot accept Pristina's proposals that are unacceptable to Kosovo-Metohija Serbs, Dacic said. Talks are ahead on four topics in the dialogue with Pristina — on



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

establishing the community of Serb municipalities and on tele-

communications, energy and the bridge on the River Ibar, which connects the two parts of Kosovska Mitrovica, northern Kosovo-Metohija, he said. The prime minister noted that the community of Serb municipalities is the most significant issue, adding that Pristina has requested that the community be a non-governmental organisation pursuant to its laws, but that Belgrade cannot accept this.—Tanjug

## Danish opposition retakes poll lead days before vote, race close

COPEHAGEN, 15 June — Denmark's center-right bloc of opposition parties has taken back the lead in surveys days ahead of a national election, but many people are still undecided and the vote will be one of the closest in years, pollsters said on Monday.

The opposition bloc, including the Liberals and the right-wing Danish People's Party, led politiko.dk's poll of polls with 51.4 percent, against 48.6 percent for Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt's Social Democrats and its allies.

Thorning-Schmidt's campaign got off to a strong start as her ratings rose on the back of a raft of spending promises and her declarations that Denmark's economic crisis was over, after months of trailing the opposition.

But analysts say Liberals leader Lars Lokke Rasmussen came out on top in last week's debate on immigration and state spending, while Thorning-Schmidt had faced criticism, even from her allies, over what they say is her overly negative campaigning style.

Just one out of a series of re-

cent polls, a survey conducted by Voxmeter, showed the ruling parties still ahead with 50.3 percent.

"Twenty percent of the voters don't know who to vote for on Thursday. Of course, it goes a little bit up and a little bit down all the time — in fact, it's 50-50," said Camilla Fjeldsoe, head of Gallup's political division in Denmark.

Gallup has the opposition at 51 percent and the ruling parties at 49 percent but noted that 1.5 percent of the opposition's votes belonged to party highly unlikely to get into parliament because if

its to a 2-percent threshold.

Adding to the mix, most polls do not take into account voters in Greenland and the Faroe Islands, who each send two parliamentarians to the 179-seat assembly and could tip the balance in a close vote.

Analysts say the parties likely to win in the North Atlantic lands will lean towards the Social Democrats but they may first try to eke out concessions and could flip to the opposition bloc if they feel that would serve their interests better.

Reuters

## Varoufakis rules out 'Grexit', deal possible if Merkel takes part

BERLIN, 15 June — Greece Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said he could rule out a 'Grexit' because it would not be a sensible solution to the Greek debt crisis and in a German newspaper interview on Monday also said a debt restructuring was the only way forward.

"I rule out a 'Grexit' as a sensible solution," Varoufakis told mass circulation *Bild* newspaper, referring to a possible Greek exit from the euro zone. "But no one can rule out everything. I can't even rule out a comet hitting earth."

Talks on ending the deadlock between Greece and its international creditors broke up in failure, with European leaders venting frustration as Athens stumbled towards a debt default that threatens its future in the euro.

Varoufakis said he believed it could be possible for Greece to

reach an agreement with creditors quickly. He said the only way Greece would be able to repay its debts was if there was a restructuring and a deal could be possible if Chancellor Angela Merkel took part in the talks.

"We don't want any more money," he told the German daily that has been especially critical of the rescue efforts, adding Germany and the rest of the eurozone had already given Greece "far too much" money. "An agreement could be reached in one night. But the chancellor would have to take part."

He said the austerity programmer had failed.

"There's no way around it: We have to start all over again. We have to make a clean sweep," Varoufakis said.

He added that his government wanted to prevent a 'Grexit' but needed "a restructuring. That's the only way possible that



Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis answers a question during a parliamentary session in Athens on 11 June, 2015. REUTERS

we can guarantee and also afford to repay so much debt."

He added he would say 'yes' immediately to any such agreement with a debt restructuring and Greece would forego any further aid if the European Central Bank, the IMF and the European Union would offer a debt haircut.

On top of that Greece needs an "extension" of the terms.

EU officials blamed the

collapse of the talks on Athens, saying it had failed to offer anything new to secure the funding it needs to repay 1.6 billion euros to the IMF by the end of June.

Greece said it was still ready to talk, but that EU and IMF officials said they were not authorised to talk further. Athens said it would not give in to demands for pension and wage cuts. "We don't want a single cent for wag-

es, pensions or debt repayment," Varoufakis told *Bild*. He said that the Greek government would have trouble collecting taxes if creditors forced it to raise them too high.

Athens has proposed VAT rates of 7, 14 and 22 percent in an effort to redistribute the tax impact and lighten the burden on lower income groups.

But lenders want rates of 11 and 23 percent and are pressing for an increase in VAT on energy to 23 percent.

"You know what our problem is with the VAT?" he said. "We're not able to collect it." He said if Greece is forced to raise VAT to 23 percent "then there will be less tax revenues."

"It sounds crazy but that's the way it is: the higher the tax rate, the less (willing) people (are) to pay, they then feel entitled not to pay more."

Reuters

## Without IMF, German parliament won't back any Greece deal

BERLIN, 15 June — The German parliament will not back any agreement to rescue Greece if the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not taking part, the parliamentary leader of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) said on Monday.

Volker Kauder, a close Merkel ally, also said that Merkel clearly wants Greece to remain in the euro zone. He said

that Greece leaving the euro zone would definitely not be a cheaper alternative to its staying in the currency bloc.

"I couldn't vote for a further payment if the IMF says it won't work," Kauder told ARD TV. "We're pleased that the IMF is with us but if it says it won't work then our parliamentary group will also say we can't pay out further (loan) tranches." "We all know what's at stake.

No one else in Europe is carrying the responsibility for this except Greece itself.

"Not only Angela Merkel (wants to keep Greece in the euro), a lot of people want that.... We're saying Greece should remain. But it won't work that Greece sets the terms and says 'everyone else has to dance to our tune'. Greece needs to get back to reality."

Reuters

## Swedish prosecutors plan to question Assange in June or July

STOCKHOLM, 15 June — Swedish prosecutors plan to question WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange at Ecuador's embassy in London in June or July, the prosecutor said on Monday.

The prosecutors have submitted a request for legal assistance to the English authorities and a request to Ecuador for permission to interview Assange during those two months, the prosecutor said in a statement.

The 43-year-old Australian has been in the embassy building since June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over allegations of sexual assault against two women in 2010. He denies the accusations.

Prosecutors first insisted Assange should travel to Sweden for questioning, but in a U-turn in March agreed to conduct the interview in London.—Reuters

## Saudi planes strike Yemen's capital ahead of talks

SANAA, 15 June — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition bombarded Yemen's capital Sanaa overnight, a *Reuters* witness said, as the country's warring factions prepared for talks due to start in Geneva on Monday.

Air strikes caused large explosions before dawn and hit locations south and west of the city as part of the coalition's nearly 12-week campaign to target the Houthi militia and army forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The talks hosted by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon are aimed at finding a political solution to the fighting that has caused thousands of deaths in Yemen, but it was not clear if the opposing factions would meet each other.

Delegates will instead



People search for survivors under the rubble of houses destroyed by an air strike in Sana'a on 12 June, 2015.—REUTERS

meet initially in separate rooms for talks with UN officials, who will try to bring them closer together with the ultimate aim of getting

them around the same table.

There is little sign so far that either the Iran-allied Houthis and Saleh, or the Riyadh-based President

Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi are ready to compromise after fighting that has resulted in stalemate since Saudi strikes began on 26 March.

While Western countries largely backed Riyadh's air campaign as a way of pushing the Houthis to the negotiating table, they have more recently started to press the kingdom to commence another humanitarian pause to allow aid in, and to negotiate.

An existing humanitarian crisis in Yemen was worsened by an air and sea blockade imposed to stop arms supplies to the Houthis and Saleh, but which also cut off access to food, medicine and fuel for many of the country's citizens.

In recent weeks an "alarming" number of dengue fever and measles cases have also been reported in Yemen, contributing to a public health crisis, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a note late on Sunday.—*Reuters*

## Islamic State teenager said to be UK's youngest suicide bomber

LONDON, 15 June — A 17-year old who left northern England to join Islamic State was reported to have become Britain's youngest suicide bomber when he blew himself up in a car in northern Iraq, British media said after the militants posted pictures on social media.

The young man, who was named as Abu Yusuf al-Britani, was shown standing next to a black vehicle in photographs posted on Islamic State-affiliated social media accounts, the *Guardian* newspaper reported. The posts said he then took part in a suicide attack in Iraq's Salahuddin province.

He is believed to be Talha Asmal, a teenager who left West Yorkshire in March, and was thought to have joined Islamic State, according to a statement from his family.

"Although the information within these reports has not been confirmed and the relevant UK authorities are working hard to verify the facts, we can confirm that the photographs shown of a youth purportedly named Abu Yusuf al-Britani appears to show our 17-year-old son Talha," the family of Talha Asmal said in a statement issued by West Yorkshire police on Sunday.

"We are all naturally utterly devastated and heartbroken by the unspeakable tragedy that now appears to have befallen us."

Security services have estimated that at least 600 Britons have gone to Syria or Iraq to join militant groups, including the man known as "Jihadi John" who has appeared in several Islamic State beheading videos.

Hundreds of other Europeans have also joined the fight.

The family said Asmal came from a close knit, hard-working, peace loving and law abiding British Muslim family, and the entire family unreservedly condemned and abhorred all acts of violence wherever they were perpetrated.

West Yorkshire police said they were aware of the reports, but were unable to comment further as the person's identity had not been confirmed.

According to media reports, Islamic State said 'al-Britani' was one of four suicide bombers - with the others said to be a German, a Kuwaiti and a Palestinian - who took part in the attack.

Islamic State controls swathes of territory in eastern Syria and northern Iraq where it has declared an Islamic caliphate.—*Reuters*

## US airstrike in Libya likely kills man blamed for Algeria attack

CAIRO, 15 June — An Islamist militant who mas-termined a deadly Algerian gas field attack in 2013 was likely killed in a US airstrike in Libya, the country's government said on Sunday, according to US media.

While Washington has not confirmed the death of the Algerian man, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, Pentagon spokesman Col Steve Warren said the US military believes the airstrike was successful and hit the target in the Saturday attack.

Belmokhtar was placed on a wanted list by the Japanese police on 1 June in

connection with the 16 January, 2013, attack, in which Islamist militants took over a gas complex in southeastern Algeria, resulting in the death of at least 40 foreigners, including 10 of the 17 Japanese who were taken hostage.

US authorities had offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to the arrest of Belmokhtar.

A Libyan government official reportedly said an airstrike in Ajdabiya on Saturday night hit a group believed to be affiliated with Ansar al-Shariah, killing several members.

There have been reports of Belmokhtar being killed before. But he was recently reported to be alive and active in Libya. In May, he issued a statement saying he supported al-Qaeda, not the Islamic State.

Libya has been divided between Islamist-led forces and liberal forces following the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. The latest airstrike was conducted after the United States consulted with the liberal forces, which are recognized as the government of Libya by the international community.

*Kyodo News*

## Kenya says kills al Shabaab commander and possibly militant Briton

NAIROBI, 15 June — Kenya's army said it killed a regional commander from Somalia's al Shabaab group, and possibly also a Briton who joined the militants, in fighting over the weekend.

Eleven Somali militants and two Kenyan soldiers were killed when al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab fighters attacked a military base in Kenya's northern coastal region of Lamu County, officials said.

Al Shabaab confirmed the weekend attack, saying "many Kenyan soldiers were killed", without giving precise figures. It gave no details about any al Shabaab members killed. The group

often cites a higher death toll than officials.

Among those killed was al Shabaab's Luqman Osman Issa, also known as Shirwa, blamed for leading attacks on Kenya's Mpeketoni area a year ago in which 65 people were killed, Kenya Defence Forces spokesman Colonel David Obonyo said on Monday.

"This is a big victory for us and also a major setback for al Shabaab because now there is no mainstream commander in the Lamu area," he told *Reuters*, adding Shirwa's body was in a morgue in Mpeketoni.

He also said the dead may have included Thomas Evans, also known as Ab-

dul Hakim, a Briton in his mid-20s who had converted to Islam aged 19 and later joined al Shabaab. Obonyo said data about Evans and pictures publicly available "point at him".

"But we cannot be certain becomes sometimes looks can be deceiving. The necessary forensic investigations are being done including a DNA test I understand," he said, adding police were carrying out the tests.

Obonyo said another man of apparently of Caucasian or Arab origin was among the dead, while the others killed appeared to be from the region.

*Reuters*

## Three Tunisian police killed in clash with militants - TAP

TUNIS, 15 June— Three police officers were killed in clashes with Islamist militants at a checkpoint near Sidi Bouzid in central Tunisia, *TAP* state news agency reported on Monday.

Two police officers died in an attack on the checkpoint and another in a later clash. One Islamist fighter was killed and another captured, *TAP* said.

Tunisian forces have stepped up their campaign against jihadist groups since gunmen killed foreign tourists in an attack on the Bardo museum in the capital Tunis in March.

No group claimed the Sidi Bouzid attack, but several small brigades of Islamist armed groups are active in Tunisia, including Okba Ibn Nafaa, which operates along the border with Algeria. One of its Algerian commanders was blamed by Tunisian officials for orchestrating the Bardo assault.—*Reuters*

## US confirms militant Belmokhtar was target of Libya air strike

WASHINGTON, 15 June — The US military confirmed on Sunday that Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar was the target of a US air strike in Libya but did not say if he had been killed.

"The strike was carried out by US aircraft. We are continuing to assess the results of the operation and will provide more details as appropriate," Pentagon spokesman Colonel Steve Warren said in a statement.

Libya's recognized government said earlier on Sunday that Belmokhtar, blamed for masterminding an Algerian gas field attack and running smuggling routes across North Africa, had been killed in a US air strike inside Libya.

*Reuters*

## Hahn: Serbia anchor of stability in region

GOTTWEIG, 15 June — Serbia is an anchor of stability in the Western Balkan region, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Johannes Hahn, said on Sunday.

Speaking at the European Forum Wachau, Hahn noted that the Balkans is on the path of stabilisation, particularly thanking Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic for his contribution to stability in the entire region.

Serbia is an anchor in the region and has a relevance that is bigger than the country itself, Hahn noted, adding that the path Serbia chooses towards a pro-European future is therefore important as well.



European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Johannes Hahn

The Western Balkans will be fully stabilised once all its countries become EU members, Hahn said, adding that this will take time as the countries must be brought closer to the Union. There is no halting the enlargement process, and it must be understood as a process of those countries' accession to the EU in the social, economic and legal sense,

Hahn said. Commenting on Serbia's non-participation in the EU sanctions against Russia, he said that he understands that a country that was bombed by the West 16 years ago has not gone that route. I have understanding for the fact that things in society are still not at that level and that the political elite must tread cautiously, Hahn said.—*Tanjug*

## N Korean leader observes drill of firing anti-ship rockets

BEIJING, 15 June — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has observed a drill of test-firing "new type" anti-ship rockets, expressing satisfaction at improved capabilities to strike a specific target, state-run media said on Monday.

The announcement of the observation, carried out by the *Korean Central News Agency*, came a day after North Korea fired three short-range ship-to-ship missiles off its eastern coast into the Sea of Japan.

The *KCNA* report did not say when and where Kim watched the drill of the North Korean army's naval units.

It said that "ultra-modern" rockets "safely flew at the designated altitude, accurately detecting and hitting the 'enemy' warship."

On Monday, *KCNA* also said in a separate report that Kim has attended

an art performance of the Korean People's Army, during which he was accompanied by a senior military figure believed to be the country's new defence chief.

Pak Yong Sik was named after Hwang Pyong So, director of the General Political Bureau of the army who has been seen as the closest aide of Kim, in the list of top military officials who were present at the performance.

Pak's name came before that of Ri Yong Gil, chief of the General Staff of the army, raising the possibility that he might have already replaced Gen Hyon Yong Chol as North Korea's defence minister.

In mid-May, South Korea's spy agency said North Korea had purged Hyon for treason and he may have even been executed.—*Reuters*

## Napoleon Bonaparte's getaway ship found in Australian waters

SYDNEY, 15 June — The ship French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte used to sneak back to France while in exile has been found in Australia, a Queensland shipwreck hunter has claimed.

Australian filmmaker and shipwreck hunter, Ben Cropp, claimed that he's found the final resting place of the 337-ton brig "Swiftsure" in shallow, crocodile infested waters off far north Queensland, Local media reported on Monday.

Queensland authorities are verifying the claim.

The significance of the find dates to 1815 when Napoleon was living in exile on the island off Elba, off Italy, following a defeat

during his march on Russia in 1814.

Napoleon escaped the island by commandeering a 337-ton brig named L'Inconstant, later renamed the Swiftsure to retake his homeland, famously confronting the soldiers of King Louis XVIII and ultimately forcing the monarch into exile.

England later seized the brig as a war prize after the battle of Waterloo, renamed her and used her on the England-Australia shipping route.

The brig was believed to have sank after striking a coral reef on the great barrier reef while en route from Sydney to Mauritius in 1829.

Cropp said it took

years of meticulous research to narrow the search area, with the final line of debris he found during a scuba-dive corroborating reports from a ship's log in 1830 which noted wreckers stripping the vessel of its valuables.

Cropp made the discovery in November 2014, however kept it secret as plans were made to create a film of the discovery. Those plans were abandoned due to the site being highly decomposed and in crocodile infested waters.

"I counted six crocodile tracks leading into the water a mile away and that's not funny. My dive there (in November 2014) was very brief," Cropp said.—*Xinhua*

## Nepal reopens World Heritage sites 7 weeks after quake

BHAKTAPUR, (Nepal), 15 June — Nepal on Monday announced the reopening of UNESCO World Heritage sites in Kathmandu Valley, seven weeks after a deadly quake that killed 8,787 people and damaged hundreds of cultural monuments and some key trekking trails in the country where tourism employs about a million people.

At a function organized at the historic Bhaktapur Durbar Square in Bhaktapur district neighbouring Kathmandu, Tourism Minister Kripashur Sherpa declared Kathmandu Valley, comprising of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts, open for tourists.

Kathmandu Valley boasts of seven World Heritage sites, of which all except the Changunarayan temple in Bhaktapur were reopened Monday because many houses on the way to the temple are on the verge of collapse, said Bheshe Narayan Dahal, director general of the Archaeology Department.

Debris of collapsed monuments at the other sites has been cleared to welcome tourists, Dahal added.

Even as the announcement was made, no tourist was visible in Bhaktapur Durbar Square area, but officials insist that Monday marks a turning point in Nepal's tourism that was badly shaken by the quake.

"After the quake, we were not sure whether we were ready to welcome tourists.

But today we have opened our arms to welcome them. We are now in a position to arrange safe sightseeing tours for them," said Tulasi Prasad Gauram, director general of the Tourism Department.

The Archaeology Department's Dahal said the quake damaged 741 cultural monuments across the country, of which 133 completely collapsed.

"As a safety measure, we can provide helmets to tourists visiting the World Heritage sites," Dahal said.

Japanese singer You

Waki sang the Nepali song Resham Phiriri and his own song, Arigato Ya, at the function.

"I came to Kathmandu on 8 June to see the impact of the earthquake," Waki, 51, from Tokyo, told *Kyodo News*. "I am going back on Tuesday to hold concerts in Japan for asking people to visit Nepal," he said.

Waki, who visited Nepal 10 years ago, added that he held a concert in Tokyo after Nepal's earthquake to generate funds for children orphaned by the quake. He plans to return here later to hold a concert here to generate additional funds for social causes.

At display in Bhaktapur are pictures of Kathmandu Valley's world heritage sites before the April 25 quake, and the condition of the sites after the quake.

"There cannot be a more attractive tourism product than this," said Tourism Secretary Suresh Man Shrestha, adding, "We are offering earthquake disaster education tourism."

*Kyodo News*

## Vietnam Football Federation bigwigs face bribery scandal

HO CHI MINH CITY, 15 June — Two top officials of the Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) have been accused by a subordinate of taking bribes from him, only a few days after he was laid off in a major downsizing, local online newspaper *Thanh Nien (Young People) News* reported on Monday.

Nguyen Van Chuong, the former director of VFF's

Young Football Players Training Centre, was dismissed along with some other employees on 1 June under a lay-off plan. After that, Chuong revealed that VFF chairman Le Hung Dung and his deputy Tran Quoc Tuan had taken 100 million Vietnamese dong (4,587 US dollars) each from him.

Chuong said as soon as

he heard about the lay-off plan, he asked to meet the two officials to offer them the bribes, but he still ended up being fired.

In his complaint sent to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the General Department of Sports and Physical Training, and local press agencies, Chuong said he gave Tuan 100 million Vietnam-

ese dong on 15 July, 2014, but in May this year Tuan gave him back the money, saying he could not help.

"Maybe the money is not enough for him," Chuong said. Chuong said he met Dung at the latter's house, giving him 100 million Vietnamese dong and other gifts on 28 August, 2014.

Chuong told the media

he hired a lawyer to represent him and is ready to provide evidence to support his accusation. Meanwhile, Dung denied taking any bribe.

Dung said Chuong accompanied Tran Duy Long, former chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Football Federation, to his house on 28 August, 2014 after he returned from Singapore

for medical treatment. Dung said he did not expect to see Chuong at his house.

Dung said Chuong gave him a clock as a gift, but he refused to take it. Dung said Chuong tried to leave the clock at his house and left. Dung said there was no money involved. Dung said he would also hire a lawyer to represent him.

*Xinhua*

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

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

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1. Open Tenders are invited for Supply/Transportation of the following Tenders in Japanese Yen (JP¥):

SrNo.	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)12/MR(ML) 2015-2016	Transportation of DMU (9)Nos of JR East Railway Company From Japan to Yangon (Myanmar)
2.	12(T)13/MR(ML) 2015-2016	Supply of DMU (18)Nos of JR Central Railway Company (Japan)

Closing Date & Time - 29.6.2015(Monday)(12:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 15.6.2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

**WEATHER REPORT**

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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**Suspect in husband's suicide may have been involved in fraud**

SAITAMA, (Japan), 15 June — A woman already arrested for allegedly assisting in her husband's suicide may have swindled acquaintances of a large sum of money by getting them to join a non-existent membership reserve fund service, police sources said on Monday.

Hiroko Morita, 51, of Saitama Prefecture, north of Tokyo, could have collected several hundreds of millions of yen in total

from dozens of people by soliciting them to join the service supposedly offered by Tokyo-based department store operator Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings Ltd, at which her husband was previously employed, they said. Police are set to serve a fresh arrest warrant on her on suspicion of fraud, according to the sources.

One person was quoted by the police as saying that Morita asked the person to sign up for the non-

existent scheme by depositing 1 million yen (\$8,100), saying the program would award a gift certificate worth 40,000 yen every six months.

Morita was arrested 26 May this year on suspicion of aiding her 55-year-old husband's suicide on 20 April by buying charcoal that her husband burned inside a car to commit suicide. At the time, they were living separately, the police said.

Under the official Isetan Mitsukoshi department store membership reserve fund service, a member deposits between 5,000 yen to 50,000 yen a month for one year to get a bonus equivalent to the monthly deposit that must be used for shopping at its group stores.

There is also a six-month plan where a customer deposits 5,000 yen a month and receives a bonus gift certificate worth 2,000 yen.—Kyodo News

**Chinese police bust teen drug trafficking ring**

KUNMING, 15 June — An international gang of drug smugglers with over 50 juveniles used as drug mules has been busted in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Of the 63 suspects arrested in the operation, more than 50 are aged between 15 and 25 years old. A total of 13.2 kg heroin was seized in the process.

Kunming railway police said 23 teenagers were detained in 10 days last August, all with drugs concealed inside their bodies. Another 32 were seized from September to January.

Investigators found all the teenagers were coerced by a gang mastered by a suspect from neighboring Sichuan Province. They were trained in Sichuan before going to border areas in Yunnan and taking drugs back to Sichuan by train.

According to the police, drug dealers have tended to recruit "cleaner" teenagers to traffick drugs in recent years. The Kunming police busted a similar gang in 2013.—Xinhua

## Britain's Muse score fifth number one album with 'Drones'



Dominic Howard, Matthew Bellamy and Chris Wolstenholme (L-R) from the British rock band Muse arrive for the world premiere of the film "World War Z" in London on 2 June, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 15 June — British rock band Muse scored their fifth British number one album on Sunday when "Drones" went straight into the chart in the top spot, the Official Charts Company said.

The cut, which features the singles "Dead Inside" and "Mercy", sold almost 73,000 copies, pushing Florence & the Machine's "How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful" down one place to number two, and Collabro's "Act

Two" to number three.

Jason Derulo's "Want To Want Me" was the top-selling single for the third consecutive week.

The track, which is Derulo's fourth chart-topper following "In My Head" in 2010, "Don't Wanna Go Home" in 2011 and "Talk Dirty" in 2013, ended the week with more than 11,000 sales over its nearest competitor, OMI's "Cheerleader", the Official Charts Company said.

Reuters

## Manga "One Piece" sets Guinness record for No of published copies



Yoshihisa Heishi (4th from L), editor in chief of the Weekly Shonen Jump comic magazine, poses for photos with characters from the popular Japanese manga series "One Piece" in Tokyo on 15 June, 2015, after the series was officially recognized by Guinness World Records the same day as the comic series by a cartoonist with the largest number of copies published to date. Shueisha Inc. had published roughly 320,866,000 copies of Eiichiro Oda's cartoon in 77 volumes by the end of 2014.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 15 June — The popular Japanese manga series "One Piece" was officially recognized by Guinness World Records on Monday as the comic series by a cartoonist with the largest number of copies published to date. Shueisha Inc had published roughly 320,866,000 copies of Eiichiro Oda's cartoon in 77 volumes at the end of last year. The series began in the publisher's Weekly Shonen Jump comic magazine in 1997. At a ceremony in Tokyo, Yoshihisa Heishi, the magazine's editor in chief, received the Guinness certificate on behalf of Oda. In a statement, the cartoonist said he hopes to continue producing a work that matches the significance of the record. The cartoon's story centers on Monkey D. Luffy, its main character who dreams of being the king of pirates as he travels the seas with his buddies in search of the treasure called "One Piece."—Kyodo News

## Taylor Swift hosts Jaime King's baby shower



Taylor Swift shared a photo collage of her, Jaime, Gigi and Alana Haim funnily posing in a photo booth.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 15 June — Pop star Taylor Swift threw a baby shower for her best friend Jaime King. The "Shake It Off" hitmaker took to Twitter and Instagram to share photos from the celebration. She brought her other friends, including Sarah Hyland, Gigi Hadid, Serayah, HAIM and Hailee Steinfeld, to the bash, reported Ace Showbiz.

Swift, 25, shared a photo collage of her, Jaime, Gigi and Alana Haim funnily posing in a photo booth. The "Blank Space" songstress wore a black hat, a white sleeveless top, and skirt and carried a drink and a black fur fan. Jaime donned a printed dress with a white fur on her neck. Gigi sported a nude-coloured dress while carrying a red fur fan while Alana wore a black hat and a big polka bow. Jaime thanked Swift in an Instagram post, writing, "How can I put this into words... @taylorswift is not only going to be an exquisite Godmother but one of the best friends one could ask for. Thank you Tay for throwing me such an insanely beautiful baby shower. Less than 12 hours after performing for 60k strong. I love you SO MUCH xx @babyhaim @gigihadid." She then posted a collage of pictures from her baby shower along with caption, "Lovin'."—PTI

## Beyonce sued for USD 7 million



Beyonce

LOS ANGELES, 15 June — Pop sensation Beyonce is being sued by a backing singer for USD 7 million after it was claimed the star had plagiarised her music to write her hit song "XO".

The 33-year-old star and her company Parkwood Entertainment and Columbia Records have been taken to court over her hit "XO" after Ahmad Lane filed a federal lawsuit claiming she had stolen the music for the track, reported Radar online.

Ahmad alleged that Beyonce's current backing singer Chrissy Collins gave her a copy of his song "XOXO" after he passed on the track to her when the pair were working together for another artist. However, the Grammy Award-winner has vehemently denied the claims in court documents.

"The two works at issue are entirely different songs that share no lyrical or musical similarity, other than perhaps the letters X and O," the response read.

"The two songs are distinct from a thematic perspective. They have different melodic content and there is no meaningful similarity in pitch series, rhythm or rhythmic patterns, melodic development or structure."

The "Crazy In Love" hitmaker also stated that Ahmad hasn't filed a "copyright registration" for his track and asked for the USD 7 million payment to be dropped.

PTI

## Chris Pratt to return for 'Jurassic World' sequel



Chris Pratt: I liked to entertain people and I liked comedy and I liked to escape with a movie now and then.

PTI

LOS ANGELES, 15 June — Actor Chris Pratt is expected to return for the second "Jurassic World" movie. The 35-year-old actor is currently starring in the film, which has topped this weekend box office, grossing an amazing USD 204.6 million on its debut weekend, reported Entertainment Weekly.

When asked if he will be back for the sequel, the actor replied, "I am," before adding with his usual sense of humour, "They have me for I think 38 movies or something." Pratt also talked about his childhood love for the franchise. "I was 13. It started when I saw the movie trailer on TV. I was like, 'Oh my god, I have to see that!' I saw it on opening week-

end twice. It just captured my imagination and swept me up." That's why he said working with Steven Spielberg is a big deal for him. "Working with him and having him be a peer now is pretty remarkable. He's a guy who's an icon. I was never a film buff as a kid. I liked to entertain people

and I liked comedy and I liked to escape with a movie now and then, but I knew who Steven Spielberg was. "He was the first real celebrity director. Like the director you'd go see his movie because it was his movie. And Jurassic Park was a big event for me."

PTI

## Paul Walker's estate sues his friend for stealing cars



Paul Walker's estate is suing the deceased actor's acquaintance, Richard Taylor, over missing cars.

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 15 June — Paul Walker's estate is suing the deceased actor's acquaintance, Richard Taylor, over missing cars.

In a lawsuit filed on Thursday, 11 June in Los Angeles Superior Court, the man is accused of holding on to some of the movie star's car collection and trying to extort his family, reported Ace Showbiz.

Paul's father William

Walker, who is also the executor of his estate, stated in the suit that Richard used to help Paul with his extensive car collection. Richard was said to be keeping seven of the vehicles including a Porsche and multiple BMWs for his own.

According to the legal documents, Richard's associates removed the vehicles from Paul's Valencia warehouse where they were

stored less than 24 hours following the actor's fatal car crash. He has since been hiding the cars in an unknown location. While the property was regularly used by multiple companies and people, including Richard, the star's family argued that the guy had no right over the cars. "Richard has intentionally and fraudulently concealed the existence and location of such vehicles from Plaintiff in order to wrongfully convert such vehicles for his own benefit," read a statement in the suit obtained by The Hollywood Reporter. The legal paper further claimed that Richard refused to give the vehicles back so that he could "extort money or other concessions" from the estate. In the suit, the family demanded Richard to return the cars and asked for some money for unspecified damages.—PTI

GENERAL

# Sharp Nadal returns to form for Stuttgart title



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their men's quarter-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

STUTTGART, 15 June — Rafa Nadal claimed his first grasscourt title for five years when he beat Serbian Viktor Troicki 7-6(3), 6-3 to win the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart on Sunday.

The Spaniard, seeded one, produced some sparkling tennis in the sunshine, serving solidly throughout and snatching the one break point that came his way in the second set.

It was only his second title of a disappointing year and Nadal looked delighted with his form after his early French Open exit.

“Since 2011, I didn’t play a final on grass, so finally to win a title again after five years on grass is very good news for my game, for my mentality too and at the same time is another title,” said Nadal, who now has 66 career titles.

“At this point of the season for me, every victory is important, every title means a lot to me. This is not confidence for Wimbledon, this is an important victory for me and I’m happy for that today.”

There was precious little between the players in the first set as eighth seed Troicki

stayed with Nadal.

The Serb did little wrong other than fail to convert the one break point opportunity he was offered.

Nadal, whose last grass-court title came at Wimbledon in 2010 — the second of his titles at the All England Club, broke for a 4-1 lead in the second set and cruised to the title in one hour 27 minutes, picking up 104,000 euros (£75,092) and a gleaming yellow Mercedes sports car for his trouble.

Eying the car with a degree of envy, Troicki said: “I hope maybe they will give me a toy one at least.”

Nadal will now continue his preparations for Wimbledon at the Aegon Championships at London’s Queen’s Club next week.—Reuters

# Disney’s powerful marketing force: social media moms

LOS ANGELES, 15 June — Wendy Wright is a home-schooling mother of two, a prolific blogger and a self-described “Disney Nut.” Her cats are named Mickey and Minnie, and her blog is filled with advice for visiting Disneyland, tips for holding Disney-themed parties and reviews of Disney movies.

Wright’s enthusiasm for all things Disney eventually drew the attention of the Walt Disney Co, which invited her to join a carefully vetted group of roughly 1,300 Disney Social Media Moms. The group of mothers — and a few fathers — are part of a Disney effort to incorporate the enthusiasm and influence of parents into its marketing efforts.

Wright isn’t sure why she was picked, but guesses her online postings about Disney helped. “There’s been a lot on social media about our trips to Disney,” said Wright, who writes about technology, entertainment and other subjects from her home in Phoenix. “It’s very obvious we are a Disney family.”

Disney moms are not paid, but they receive perks from the company for their efforts, including — for some — deeply discounted, four-day family trips to Walt Disney World for the Disney Social Media Moms Celebration, an event that is part vacation and part educational conference.

Disney does not tell the mothers what to write or tweet about, and it doesn’t require them to post. Still, this year’s social media moms event in May generated 28,500 tweets, 4,900 Instagram photos and 88 blog posts full of ride reviews

and videos of kids meeting Disney characters. And the moms’ postings are overwhelmingly positive.

The theory is that mothers with a large online presence have the ability to influence travel and entertainment planning of other mothers. “For a big chunk of our guests, it’s the moms who are making [travel] decisions,” said Tom Staggs, Disney’s chief operating officer.

The mothers say they like having a connection to Disney — as well as the possibility of scoring a spot at the Social Media Moms Celebration, which was first held in 2010. Each year, the company’s theme parks division e-mails invitations to 175 to 200 people.

This year, the moms made #DisneySMCM a trending Twitter topic on the day the invitations went out.

cover topics such as family life, parenting, cooking, travel and crafting in addition to their postings about Disney, and only a minority are superfans who write primarily about the company’s products and theme parks,

social media moms said. This year’s celebration attendees had a combined Twitter following of 5 million people, or about 27,000 each on average.

To get on Disney’s radar, Rachel Pitzel, a mother of two who lives in Playa Vista, California, filled out an online application for, and was accepted to, a social media event the company held in Scottsdale, Arizona last June.

This year, she was thrilled to receive an invitation to the celebration in Orlando, Florida. “You feel like a kid again,” said Pitzel, CEO of Club MomMe, a social and educational group for parents.

But the invitation doesn’t come free. Attendees get deep discounts, but they nevertheless pay for their packages, which include three nights at Disney’s Yacht Club Resort, theme park tickets, fast passes to skip lines and a beach-themed party. Families also pay for their own transportation.

At the day-long conference, the moms attend motivational sessions and receive social media tips and Disney updates. This year, they learned how to use Pinterest data, heard from 11-year-old lemonade stand entrepreneur Vivienne Harr and listened to a Pixar producer talk about the Disney-owned animation studio.

Disney reminds attendees of government requirements that they disclose the benefits they received when writing about the event. The company declined to disclose how much it spends on the programme. — Reuters



Chief executive of California-based social and educational group for parents Club MomMe Rachel Pitzel poses for a picture at her home in Playa Vista, California, on 10 June, 2015.—REUTERS

“A very magical invite with pixie dust arrived!” Wright tweeted on 21 March.

In the run-up to the celebration, the invitees posted on Pinterest the “Frozen”-inspired outfits and Mickey Mouse-adorned handbags they planned to bring to the Mother’s Day weekend event.

Exactly how Disney chooses its social media moms is a mystery, stoking online speculation about the secret formula. One blog post that offered advice on how to get picked was shared 1,600 times. Common tips include interacting with Disney’s Twitter accounts and expressing interest in attending one of the smaller social media events Disney hosts in various cities.

Disney executives will only say they look for moms who fit its family-friendly

## mitv Myanmar International

(16-6-2015 07:00 am~ 17-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

- \* News
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- \* Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
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- \* Life In Night .....Art In Life (Ep-1)
- \* News
- \* In Pursuit of a dream
- \* News
- \* A Day Out With Sarah (EP-2)
- \* Today Myanmar “The Lake, Inle”
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- \* Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder
- \* News
- \* Sagaing: Gold Leaf School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
- \* News
- \* Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market
- \* Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises
- \* News
- \* “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Novicehood in Myanmar
- \* Products of Myanmar — Bomboo Hat
- \* News
- \* Youth of The Future (EP-2) (Harryko)
- \* Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake
- \* Entrepreneur: Dr Thin Nwe Win

# Ibrahimovic double secures Sweden win over Montenegro

STOCKHOLM, 15 June — Two Zlatan Ibrahimovic strikes formed part of a three-goal burst just before halftime that gave Sweden a 3-1 win over a feisty Montenegro in their Group G Euro 2016 qualifier at the Friends Arena on Sunday.

The result means Sweden stay in second on 12 points, four points behind leaders Austria, who beat third-placed Russia 1-0 in Moscow. Montenegro lie fourth on five points.

The home side took the lead in the 38th minute after Ibrahimovic drifted out to feed Sebastian Larsson, who set Albin Ekdal free down the right and his pinpoint cross was firmly headed home by Marcus Berg.

Two minutes later it was Ibrahimovic’s turn, col-

lecting a throw-in on the left before cutting inside and thumping a shot from distance past Vukasin Poleksic, whose poorly-timed dive saw the ball squirm under his body.

Ibrahimovic netted his 56<sup>th</sup> goal for his country a minute before halftime, latching on to Larsson’s long ball before coolly dispatching it past the helpless goalkeeper.

Dejan Damjanovic pulled a goal back for Montenegro midway through the second half, firing home a penalty after Stefan Mugosa was hacked down in the box, and they could have had a second moments later but for Andreas Isaksson, who got a hand to Fatos Beciraj’s close-range effort.

Reuters



Montenegro’s Stefan Savic fights for the ball with Sweden’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic during the UEFA Euro 2016 Group G qualifying soccer match between Sweden and Montenegro at Friends Arena in Stockholm, Sweden on 14 June, 2015.—REUTERS

## President U Thein Sein praises Myanmar U-23 for their great efforts

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — President U Thein Sein sent his congratulation to the Myanmar U-23 footballers who played against Thailand football team in the final match of SEA Games in Singapore on Monday.

The President in his phone conversation with Union Minister U Tint Hsan said he, on behalf more than 50 million Myanmar people, appreciated the efforts of Myanmar football players who have already won hearts of people. U Thein Sein also said Myanmar U-23 football team and responsible persons led by coach U Kyi Lwin are regarded as the Champions of Myanmar People.—MNA

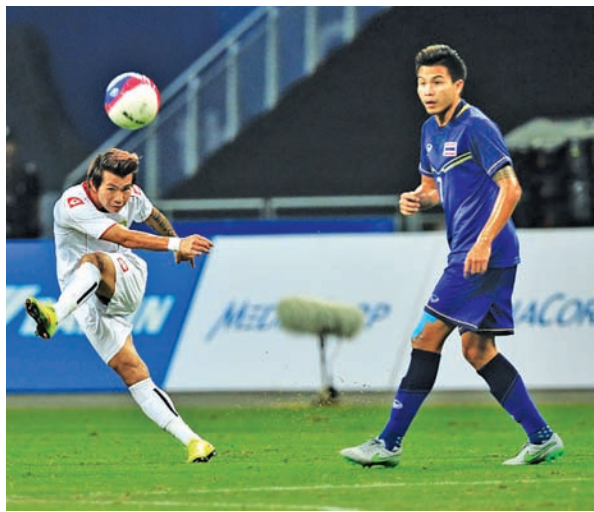
## Thailand win back to back SEA Games gold

SINGAPORE, 15 June — Thailand picked up their second football gold medal in two editions of the SEA Games when they beat Myanmar 3-0 in the final that was played tonight at the National Stadium.

Myanmar tried to put things together for a semblance of a chance at goal but Thura Shine and Naing Kaung Sat just could not be effective getting into the Thai box. However, if there is one person from the Myanmar camp who deserved

applause, it would be goalkeeper Phyo Kyaw Zin, who frustrated Chananan Ponbupha and Chanathip Songkrasin on more than a few occasions.

Just nine minutes into the second half and Kyaw Zin's goal was breached for the first time when Tanaboon Kesarat stabbed home following some poor clearance from the Myanmar defence. Ten minutes later, Thailand then doubled the advantage when Chanthip provided the cross for Chananan to slot the ball home. Substitute Pinyo Inpinit then wrapped up the fabulous win for Thailand with the third goal of the game in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute as he beat his marker to roll the ball in past a static Kyaw Zin.—*aseanfootball.org*



## Vice President U Nyan Tun encourages Myanmar U-23 footballers



Vice President U Nyan Tun together with former Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong watch final football match between Myanmar and Thailand.—SPED

SINGAPORE, 15 June — Vice President U Nyan Tun met Myanmar U-23 football players Monday prior to their final against Thailand at the 28<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games.

The vice president encouraged Myanmar players at the Day's Hotel, saying football fans at home and

in Singapore would be applauding the Myanmar players and expecting gold medals.

He also urged the players to exhibit team spirit and help return Myanmar to the pinnacle of Southeast Asian football.

The vice president cordially greeted former

Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and watched the final match between Myanmar and Thai football teams. Myanmar were made to settle for silver after Thailand cruised to the gold medal with a 3-0 victory at Singapore's National Stadium.—MNA

## Park In-bee registers Women's PGA triple treat

NEW YORK, 15 June — Park In-bee closed with a superbly solid 68 to win the KPMG Women's PGA Championship by five shots on Sunday as her closest rival took a roller coaster ride at the undulating Westchester Country Club. Park was impeccable in claiming her sixth major, running a bogey-free streak to a remarkable 56 holes as she finished at a tournament record-matching 19 under par with a 273 total to beat fellow South Korean Kim Sei-young, who shot 71 for 278.

It was a triple treat for Park, who won the event for the third year in a row, reclaimed the world number one ranking and avenged a sudden-death defeat to Kim in April's Lotte Championship in Hawaii, as she claimed the \$525,000 (£337,422) prize.

"It feels amazing to win three times in a row," Park said after matching the feat previously achieved by Sweden's Annika Sorenstam. "I feel extremely honoured, and I can't believe that I just did it. "This is really

*Inbee Park poses with her trophy after winning the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and holds up three fingers after winning her third consecutive Women's PGA Championship at Westchester Country Club at Harrison, NY on 14 June, 2015.*

REUTERS



a great accomplishment in my career. Obviously there's a lot more things to do from now on but this is definitely one of the great-

est accomplishments I've ever had." The 26-year-old Park, winner of five of the last 12 women's majors played since 2013, began

the day with a two-shot lead over Kim, an LPGA Tour rookie who has won twice this season.

Large galleries followed the Korean duel through the hills of the Westchester layout to watch a to-and-fro tussle in which Park built a four-shot lead by the fourth hole that shrank to one after Kim ran off four birdies in a row from the fifth. But as she had done on Saturday with a four-putt bogey at the last hole, Kim imploded by taking four putts at

the par-five ninth for a double bogey that dropped her four back as Park birdied. The ultra-steady Park was never again threatened.

"In-bee was very (solid) today, and I tried to find the chance to get close to her, but I didn't have my A Game to get there today," said Kim, who chipped in to force a playoff with Park in Hawaii two months ago and won it by holing out from 154 yards.

As a consolation, Kim also leapfrogged previous world number one New Zealander Lydia Ko into number two in the rankings.—Reuters

## Brazil edge Peru to extend winning streak

TEMUCO, 15 June — An injury time goal from Douglas Costa gave Brazil a barely deserved 2-1 win over a plucky Peru side in the Copa America on Sunday.

Substitute Costa slipped the ball past the keeper from close range in the 48<sup>th</sup> minute of the second half to break the deadlock and extend Brazil's winning run to 11 matches.

"I managed to control the ball from a perfect pass from Neymar and I scored," Costa said in a pitchside interview.

Brazil have kept a perfect record under Dunga, who took over for a second stint as coach last year following the disastrous 7-1 loss to Germany in the semi-finals of their home World Cup.

Brazil have conceded just three goals under Dunga but looked vulnerable during a frantic opening few minutes against Peru, who got off to a dream start with an unexpected opener to Christian Cueva after just three minutes. David Luiz failed to clear a long ball and goal-

keeper Jefferson passed the ball straight to Cueva who hammered it home from 10 yards out. However, Peru's lead lasted just two minutes. Dani Alves stroked a lovely cross into the box where an unmarked Neymar headed home his 44<sup>th</sup> international goal in 64 matches. The Barcelona striker was the stand-out performer of the match. He had a shot saved off the line in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute and saw a long range strike crash off the underside of the bar eight minutes into the second half.

He was also booked moments before half-time for wiping away the referee's spray before taking a free kick. "I just want to help my team with goals and passes," he said afterwards. "The win is what is important." The results leaves Brazil joint top of Group C with three points, alongside Venezuela, who beat Colombia 1-0 earlier on Sunday. Brazil play Colombia on Wednesday, while Peru play Venezuela the following day.

Reuters

28th SEA GAMES		Medal Standings for 15 June, 2015			
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Thailand	93	83	68	244
2	Singapore	83	73	102	258
3	Vietnam	73	52	60	185
4	Malaysia	60	55	66	181
5	Indonesia	45	58	74	177
6	Philippines	29	36	66	131
7	Myanmar	12	26	31	69
8	Cambodia	1	5	9	15
9	Laos	0	4	25	29
10	Brunei	0	1	6	7
11	Timor-Leste	0	1	1	2