

Vice President U Nyan Tun attends opening of IEF in St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, 18 June— Vice President U Nyan Tun on Thursday met Mr Alexei Ulyukaev, Minister of Economic Development of Russia, at Lenexpo Exhibition Complex in St. Petersburg, where the 19th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum is scheduled under the theme “Time to Act: Shared Paths to Stability and Growth”. They discussed ways to create new levels of bilateral trade and economic cooperation through transparency and accountability. (See page 3)

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Rice stocks adequate to meet local demand: peak industry body

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 18 June— Rising rice prices are the result of increased exports and U.S. dollar’s surge against the kyat and do not indicate a shortage for the local market, according to the country’s peak rice industry body.

Myanmar Rice Federation vice-chairman Dr Soe Tun said Wednesday fears of prices continuing to rise until the monsoon paddy harvest are unfounded.

Traders and brokerages report prices are 20 percent higher than usual, but appear to have peaked, Dr Soe Tun said.

“As soaring rice prices are making it harder for exporters to ship large volumes, it may result in a certain amount of rice being kept in the hands of local millers and traders who are hopeful of fetching good prices in rice exports to China,” he said.

The information about the volume of rice in the country was released af-



Despite rising local prices amid increased exports, rice stocks in the country are adequate to meet demand until the monsoon paddy harvest, the Myanmar Rice Federation says.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO WORLD BANK MYANMAR

ter a meeting in Yangon between the MRF CEC members and responsible persons from region and state rice associations on Wednesday.

Myanmar sends roughly 3,000 tons of rice and about 1,000 tons of broken rice to China daily, while shipping a small volume

of broken rice to the EU market, according to the meeting.

The MRF called on rice exporters to maintain the volume of rice trading

at the meeting.

Despite rising exports to China, 50 percent of rice produced in the previous monsoon and winter cultivation seasons is

still in storage as part of a strategic reserve, U Win Myint, chairman of the Ayeyawady Region farmers association, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

He expressed his view that the local rice market is likely to cool down as prices have peaked. He attributed the rising prices to the value of the U.S. dollar, which has risen sharply against the kyat.

“I do not think rice prices will rise further, nor do I think they will decrease over the next three or four months.” He also echoed the MRF’s position that stocks will be sufficient to meet domestic consumption.

Last year Myanmar exported more than 1.8 million tons of rice. Some 450,000 tons of rice were sent to China in the preceding four months. According to official statistics, Myanmar produces around 14 million tons of rice a year, with all but 12 million tons consumed locally.

GNLM

Low pressure persists over West Central Bay of Bengal

YANGON, 18 June — The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced Thursday that a low pressure zone is persisting over the West Central Bay of Bengal, bringing strong winds and rough seas.

Due to the low pressure, squalls with rough seas can occur occasionally off and along Myanmar coasts, with surface wind speed reaching 40 miles per hour, the announcement said.

Meanwhile, the monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, the weather bureau said.

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Bago regions, Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states.

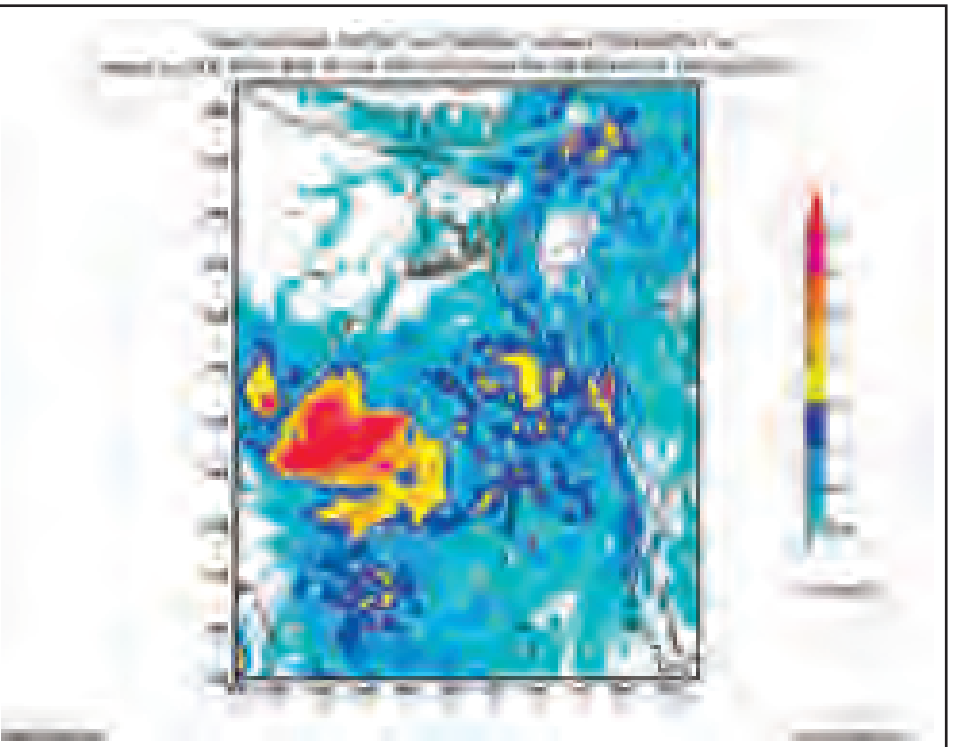
Isolated heavy falls are likely in Yangon, Ay-

eyawady and Taninthayi regions, as well as Mon State, with an 80 percent degree of certainty, according to the DMH.

The weather bureau forecasts the monsoon to be strong next two days.

GNLM

A weather map shows low pressure over west central Bay of Bengal.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues discussions for disputed education amendment bill



NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — MPs at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday continued to discuss the education amendment bill, on which the Pyithu Hluttaw

and the Amyotha Hluttaw had not agreed.

Dr Banyar Aung Moe, U Tin Yu and U Khin Maung Yi argued in favour of the Amyotha Hluttaw's proposals for designing curricula applicable to real life in terms of the acquisition of knowledge, expertise and critical thinking. The Amyotha Hluttaw has suggested abolishing the current exam system,

saying it encourages rote learning. It has also called for inclusion of vocational training on agriculture and livestock at primary and secondary levels.

The government's response to the privatization of the Yeku broadcasting station sparked a debate, with Union Minister of Information U Ye Htut explaining the matter to the parliament.

MNA

MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate privatization of the Yeku broadcasting station.—MNA

Second Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — The second Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 18 June 2015. On the occasion, the Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights Mr Stavros Lambrinidis delivered their opening statements. Also present at the opening ceremony were

Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin. The dialogue was co-chaired by Permanent Secretary U Aung Lynn of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of the European Union Office to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia.

During the course of the dialogue, matters relating to Human Rights

situation and efforts in the European Union and Myanmar such as labour and land rights, illegal migration in Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean, trainings in prisons, Roma people in the Europe Union States, humanitarian and development efforts in Rakhine State, participation to international core human rights instruments and cooperation in multilateral forum were discussed.

For European Union side, officials from the European Union office and embassies of Czech Repub-

lic, French, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands attended the dialogue.

Likewise, high level officials and experts from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, Border Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Religious Affairs, Immigration and Population, Health, Labour, Employment and Social Security, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Office of the Supreme Court of the Union and Union Attorney-General's Office participated in the discussions.

MNA

U Myint Naung concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Hellenic Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Naung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Hellenic Republic.

MNA

Rakhine Patriotic Party applies for registration as political party

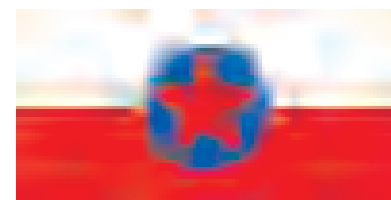
NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the application for registration as a political party. Rakhine Patriotic Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on 18-6-2015.—MNA

Information for Public Remonstrations

1. Rakhine Patriotic Party headquartered at No.32, corner of Zay Street and Tha Zan Hla Street, Kyay-pingyi Ward, Sittway Township, Rakhine State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 18 June, 2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.
2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the party's name, flag and emblem, they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Rakhine Patriotic Party



Emblem of Rakhine Patriotic Party



Myanmar delegation bound for industrial relations training in Italy

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 18 June — The International Labour Organization will send a 15-person delegation from Myanmar, comprising employers, workers and government officials, to Italy for an industrial relations course before the end of the year, a trade union representative revealed Wednesday.

Conducted by the International Training Centre, the two-week course is aimed at ensuring good

relations and stability in the workplace, said U Maung Maung, president of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar.

U Maung Maung, who attended the 104th International Labour Conference in Geneva as a worker's delegate earlier this month, confirmed the Myanmar delegation's attendance at the training course with ILO officials.

The agreement followed a meeting between

the director of the ITC and a Myanmar delegation on the sidelines of the Geneva conference, U Maung Maung said. The course includes a wide range of theory and practical knowledge covering the entire scope of industrial relations.

Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint also asked ILO Director-General Mr Guy Ryder to send experts to Myanmar to provide vocational training in order to increase the number of skilled workers



Employee's delegates including CTUM President U Maung Maung (middle) at 104th session of International Labour Conference in Switzerland.

PHOTO: CTUM

in the country.

The International Labour Organization and the

Italian Government established the International Training Centre in 1964 in

Turin as an advanced vocational training institute.

GNLM

NATIONAL

Myanmar on the path towards multi-party democracy: defence chief

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch at Zeyarthiri Hall on Thursday.

The Senior General said Germany had cooperated with and assisted the country as a good friend throughout the history.

Good military relations have been maintained between the two nations and Germany was Myanmar's true friend, he added.

He also called for further cooperation in all possible areas between the two armed forces.

In his response, the German Ambassador echoed the defence chief's wish to enhance military

diplomacy for further co-operation between armed forces in the future.

He went on to say Germany understands the difficulties of working in an atmosphere of ethnic diversity and it is impossible for the Tatmadaw to leave the political arena before the country can find a lasting peace.

Germany will lend a helping hand to the peace process of Myanmar to the greatest possible degree, he added.

The Commander-in-Chief said Myanmar is on the path towards multi-party democracy that is suitable for its objective conditions and the Tatmadaw's wish is to march on the correct track.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of De-

Vice President U Nyan Tun attends opening of IEF...

(from page 1)

At the same venue, the vice president met a delegation led by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Mr Arkady Dvorkovich, with their discussions focusing on promotion of trade and investment opportunities.

He attended the opening of the 19th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which attracted world leaders, political figures, heads of international companies, economists, business people and journalists. —MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Myawady



Vice President U Nyan Tun meets Deputy Prime Minister Mr Arkady Dvorkovich of the Russian Federation.—MNA

UEC takes steps to help voters with disabilities

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—The Union Election Commission is taking steps to help voters with disabilities by building accessible polling stations and printing ballots with Braille lettering for the blind, UEC Chairman Tin Aye said Wednesday.

In the second meeting on participation of voters with disabilities at the Sky

Palace Hotel, the chairman said electoral rules were amended with the participation of candidates with disabilities.

The chairman invited international organizations to help the commission in its efforts to include people with disabilities in the electoral process.

Attendees discussed establishment of polling

stations for people with disabilities, ballots for the blind, designs of polling stations and posters for the deaf.

U Nay Lin Soe of the Myanmar Pioneer Association for the Disabled reported on future tasks of organizations for people with disabilities in the electoral and voting process.

MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch.—MYAWADY

Country needs more vocational training schools

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Vocational training schools should be extended for supplying skilled workers to the labour market, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing

Thein told the special coordination meeting on up-

grading technology and vocational education sector at the Ministry of Education, here, Thursday.

He added the ministries and private sector need to cooperate in training the skilled trainers. Union Ministers Dr Daw Khin San Yi

and U Aye Myint discussed opening of more vocational training schools for solving the shortage of skilled workers.

It was also attended by deputy ministers, officials and principals of GTIs and THSS.—MNA

MOI issues rules of News Media Law

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — Ministry of Information announced the rules of the News Media Law Wednesday with its announcement No. 45/2015.

There are 12 chapters in the rules of the law, namely (1) title and definition, (2) establishment of news media business, (3) electing members of council (4) substituting members of council and terms of office, (5) tasks of council, (6) members

of council and their rights, (7) handing over duties of council, (8) finance, fund raising, management and spending, (9) rights to information, (10) scrutinizing and reporting information, (11) negotiation and taking action and (12) formation of office.

The full text of the rules of the News Media Law is available at the MOI Webportal Myanmar facebook and www.moi.gov.mm.—MNA

Border police detain foreign security force member after firefight

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Myanmar border police detained a man wearing the uniform of a foreign security force after exchanging fire with the crew of a trawler in Rakhine State on 17 June.

The border police were patrolling Myanmar waters at the Naf River between the mouths of Yedwinkyun Creek and Ywetnyotaung Creek in Maungtau Township when they sighted the suspicious trawler operated by three men.

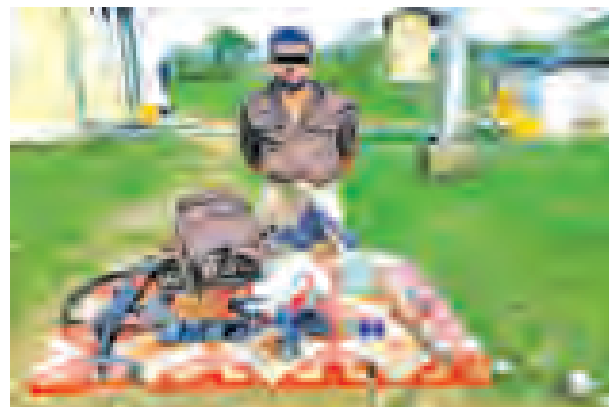
After ordering the vessel to stop, the border police came under gunfire and re-

turned fire.

The men aboard the trawler attempted to flee the vessel after it

stalled due to apparent engine failure.

The border police captured one of the men in



An arrested man wearing uniform of foreign security force seen with firearms and ammunition.—MNA

foreign security forces uniform. The man, who was in possession of firearms and ammunition, was interrogated by authorities.

During the exchange of fire, one member of the border police received a minor gunshot injury to his foot.

The man in custody and the two escapees were identified as members of the foreign security force stationed at Dondonmya camp across the border. Myanmar authorities have raised objection with the country and action will be taken against the man in custody according to the law.—MNA

Residents destroy *Mitragyna speciosa* plants

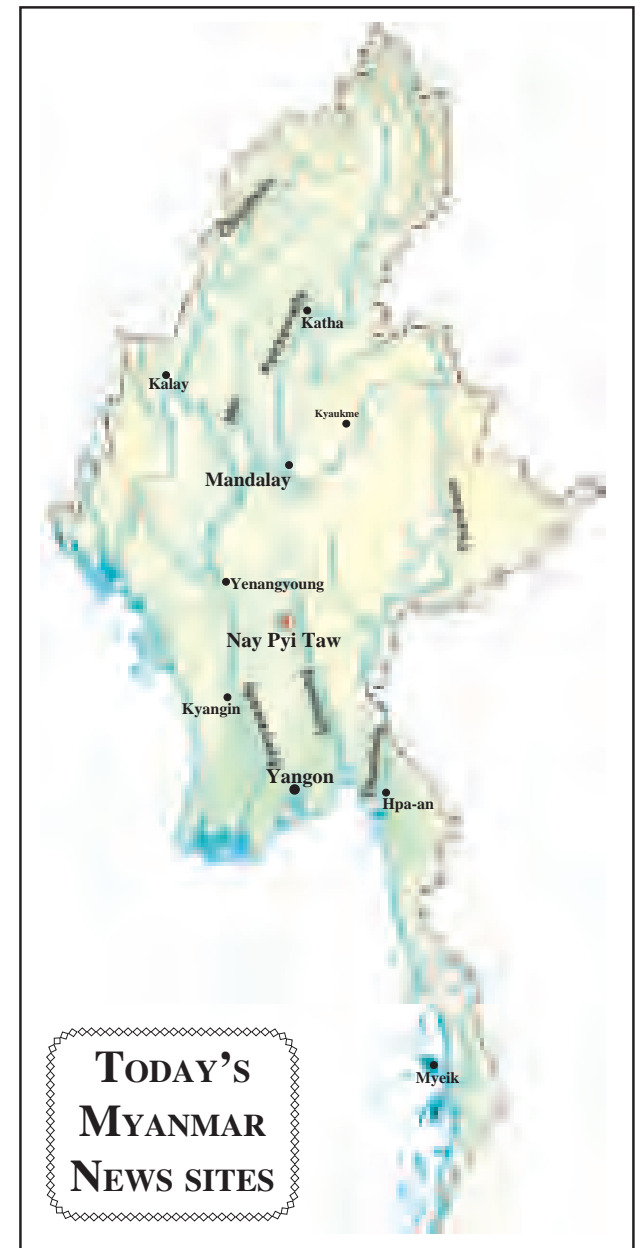


MYEIK, 18 June — Taninthayi Region Police Force Commander Police Col Kyi Lin recently led an operation to cut down and burn *Mitragyna speciosa* plants in the Bankyok area of Thakyet Village-tract in Taninthayi Township.

Police, members of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Narcotics Association, soldiers and local people destroyed 1,644 plants on a 1.85-acre plot.

The operation destroyed K16 million worth of the plant, also known as kratom.

Khaing Htoo



Pyinmana Tsp honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — Authorities from Pyinmana Township in the capital Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday presented awards to private schools received honours. The authorities also awarded the top three schools in the township.

Maung Kyaik Latt

outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam with flying colours.

A total of 105 students, including two who achieved distinctions in all subjects, from both government and



Mobile phone users in Katha to gain 3G access

KATHA, 18 June — Myanma Posts and Telecommunications upgraded its mobile telecommunications towers to a 3G network in Katha, Sagaing Region, this year.

Residents in Katha Township faced difficulties in mobile phone and Internet connection in the past. MPT launched its GSM radio BT stations and a tower near Katha TatU monastery in February this year. Moreover, GSM Radio BT stations are under construction in Ward 9 and Ward 6 in Katha, an MPT official said.

Internet connection has also been upgraded from E1 service to FE in the township, according to the MPT official.

MPT is cooperating with Japan-based KDDI



and Sumitomo Corporation for upgrading all towers to the 3G network level.

At present, Myanmar has 54.42 percent telephone density due to the

growing number of mobile phone users in the last two years.

According to reports, the mobile phone network will cover 75-percent of

the country in 2016 when the number of mobile phone users comprise more than 50 percent of the population.

Katha District (IPRD)

ees to study hard.

Altogether 106 trainees are attending the three-month courses on mechanics, electronics, welding and Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI) engine course.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

Vocational training begins for ethnic youths in Hpa-an Tsp

HPA-AN, 18 June — Vocational training courses opened this week at the Border Region National Races Youths Technical

Training School in Hpa-an, Kayin State, with the aim of providing greater career options for young people from the area.

During the opening ceremony, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min clarified the purpose of the courses and urged the train-

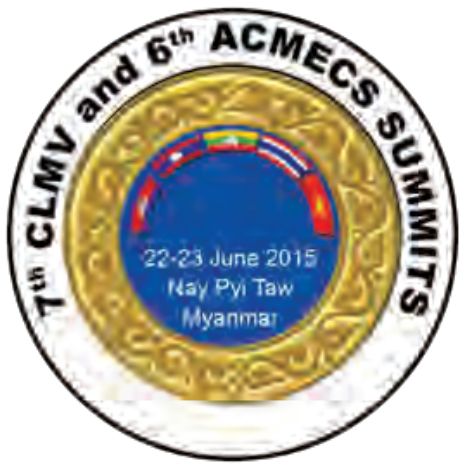
Betye village becomes town in Ayeyawady Region



KYANGIN, 18 June — A ceremony to bestow town status on the former village of Betye was held in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 17 June, with Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung and Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing in attendance. The minister and township authorities cut the ribbon to open the ceremony while the chief minister pressed the button to unveil a stone inscription.

Ayeya U Thar

REGIONAL



Thailand confirms first MERS case: health ministry

BANGKOK, 18 June — Thailand confirmed its first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) on Thursday, becoming the fourth Asian country to register the deadly virus this year.

Public Health Minister Rajata Rajatanavin told a news conference that a 75-year-old businessman from Oman had tested positive for MERS.

“From two lab tests we can confirm that the

MERS virus was found,” Rajata said, adding the man had travelled to Bangkok for medical treatment for a heart condition.

“The first day he came he was checked for the virus. The patient ... contracted the MERS virus.”

The health minister said 59 others were being monitored for the virus, including three of the man’s relatives who travelled with him to Bangkok.

MERS is caused by a

coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered China’s deadly 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The vast majority of MERS infections and deaths have been in Saudi Arabia, where more than 1,000 people have been infected since 2012, and about 454 have died.

Last month, a MERS outbreak erupted in South Korea resulting in 23

deaths so far. A total of 165 people have been infected and 6,700 people are in quarantine.

But there have been signs that the outbreak, the largest outside of Saudi Arabia, may be slowing in South Korea.

The daily number of new cases has dropped to single digits this week compared to as many as 23 last week. Three were reported on Thursday — the lowest number since

1 June.

All of the infections known to have occurred in South Korea have taken place in healthcare facilities. Three hospitals have been at least partially shut and two have been locked down with patients and medical staff inside.

China and the Philippines have also reported one MERS case this year.

Earlier, Thailand’s Disease Control Department said it was screening

travellers at 67 points of entry.

“We are checking 67 ports including land, sea and air,” said Sophon Mekthon, secretary-general of Thailand’s Disease Control Department.

“We’ve told all hospitals in Thailand to be on alert.

Those who come back from the Middle East and South Korea must be checked thoroughly.”

Reuters

Over 200 trafficked Cambodian fishermen return home from Indonesia on charter aircraft

PHNOM PENH, 18 June — Some 213 trafficked Cambodian fishermen, who were rescued from Thai fishing vessels operating from the Indonesian island of Ambon, returned home on Thursday morning on a charter Boeing 737 airliner, a Cambodian government official said.

“At the request of Cambodian diplomats in Jakarta with the coordination from the Indonesian government, the fishing boat operator had paid for airfares for the labourers to return home,” Interior Ministry Secretary of State Chou Bun Eng told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport while visiting those returnees.

“Some of the labourers have health problems, so we will cooperate with the IOM (International Organization for Migration) or other partners to have their health checked up,” she said.

According to a statement from the Cambodian Foreign Ministry, the PT Maribu Industries Group, which represents the Thai boats that the fishermen were working on in Indonesia, had hired a 213-seat Boeing aircraft to transport those labourers directly

from the Ambon island to Phnom Penh.

The remaining 17 labourers will arrive on Thursday afternoon aboard a separate flight, the statement said.

“At the request of the Cambodian Embassy in Indonesia, the Thai company had paid salaries to the 230 labourers already,” it said.

Trafficked fishermen are frequently forced to work long hours and physically and psychologically abused. They are often unpaid and forced to serve on voyages for months or even years.



Rescued Cambodian fishermen from Indonesia arrive at the Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18 June, 2015. Some 213 trafficked Cambodian fishermen, who were rescued from Thai fishing vessels operating from the Indonesian island of Ambon, returned home on Thursday morning on a charter Boeing 737 airliner, a Cambodian government official said.—XINHUA

The discovery of those migrant labourers, who had been forced to work aboard foreign vessels, came after the Indonesia’s Fisheries Ministry imposed a fishing moratorium in November last year.

One of the victims, Tolors Sol, 46, said he had worked as an illegal fisherman in Indonesia for 16 months before being rescued and sent back home. “My family was very poor, I did not know how to earn my living.

When ringleaders told me that working as fishermen abroad could earn

good salary, I followed them,” he told *Xinhua*. “I left Cambodia illegally to Thailand, where a ringleader made a passport for me to enter Indonesia to work as a fisherman.”

He said he got 9,000 Thai Baht (267 US dollars) per month during working on the fishing boat.

Another victim Seng Sinet, 27, said that he was promised by a ringleader to work in Thailand with high wage, but finally ended up working in a Thai fishing boat in Indonesia for more than two years.

“The ringleader persuaded me to work in Thailand with a promised salary of 14,000 Thai Baht (416 US dollars) per month. When I arrived in Thailand, he continued to smuggle me into Indonesia to work as a fisherman,” he said.

“On the fishing boat, we were forced to work both at day and night times, nearly 20 hours per day.”

He said he got 9,000 Thai Baht (267 US dollars) a month.

“I’m very happy to have life to return to Cambodia to meet my parents and relatives. I will never go back to do such risky job again,” he added.

Xinhua

Heads to roll in Indonesian govt after poor performance, says official

JAKARTA, 18 June—Indonesia’s president will soon fire several top government officials due to poor performance, Cabinet Secretary Andi Widjajanto said on Thursday, paving the way for a possible cabinet reshuffle less than a year after taking office.

In a sign of frustration over a flagging economy and policymaking mired in red tape, President Joko Widodo has said he will this week evaluate his cabinet’s work so far.

“The president has been very clear that if his priorities are not implemented seriously, he has no doubts about replacing certain officials,” Widjajanto told reporters at the state palace in the capital Jakarta.

“Just wait, there will be (officials) fired soon,” he added.

Among those who could lose their jobs include senior officials in ministries and directors at state-owned enterprises, Widjajanto said.

The head of the state food procurement agency was sacked earlier this

month, becoming the first Widodo-era government official to be replaced for failing to meet targets.

Widodo is keen to appear more assertive after being criticised for several policy flip-flops and a perceived failure to stand up to vested interests.

“Let it be known that if things get (even more) difficult, I can fire the director general, the people on the ground, even the minister,” Widodo said on Wednesday after discovering significant problems while inspecting Jakarta’s main port, according to local media.

Since taking office in October the president has come under fire for failing to revive an economy growing at its slowest pace in six years. The World Bank has projected that Southeast Asia’s largest economy will grow 4.7 percent this year, below the government’s estimate of 5.4 percent.

The president has also come under pressure, notably from his own party, to reshuffle his cabinet to include more members from his coalition.—Reuters

China approves plan for civilian ships to be used by military

BEIJING, 18 June — The Chinese government has approved a plan requiring civilian shipbuilders to ensure that new ships can be used by the military during an emergency, a state-run newspaper said on Thursday.

The plan will “enable China to convert the considerable potential of its civilian fleet into military strength”, said the China Classification Society, a shipping industry association, reported the official *China Daily*.

It will also improve the People’s Liberation Army’s “strategic projection and maritime support capabilities”, the report added.

“Modern naval warfare often requires the mobilization and deployment of a large number of ships

while the mass production of naval ships in peacetime is not economically sensible,” said Cao Weidong, a researcher at the PLA Naval Military Studies Research Institute in the newspaper.

“Therefore, it is a common practice that shipbuilders reserve some military application platforms on their civilian vessels so they can serve the navy in wartime.”

The Technical Standards for New Civilian Ships to Implement National Defence Requirements is the result of a five-year research project by the shipping body and the military, the paper said.

It includes five types of ship - container, roll-on/roll-off, multipurpose, bulk carrier and break bulk, the

paper said.

Other countries have in the recent past used their civilian shipping fleet to help in military emergencies, including Britain during the Falklands War in 1982.

China has ramped up defence spending to modernize its forces, the world’s largest, which are gaining experience in operating far from its coast, especially the navy.

In a defence strategy paper last month, China vowed to continue growing its “open seas protection” and criticised neighbours who take “provocative actions” on its reefs and islands. China’s increasingly assertive moves to press sovereignty claims in the East and South China Sea have rattled the region and



A Chinese ship is anchored at Port of Santos while being loaded with soybeans in Santos on 19 May, 2015.—REUTERS

aroused concern in Washington, although the country says it has no hostile intent.

China has overlapping claims with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taipei and Brunei in the

South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes every year.—Reuters

South Korea parliament approves Park’s pick for PM after scandal



South Korean President Park Geun-hye delivers a speech during a ceremony marking Korean Memorial Day at the National Cemetery in Seoul on 6 June, 2015.

REUTERS

SEOUL, 18 June — South Korea’s parliament approved President Park Geun-hye’s choice for prime minister on Thursday after the incumbent stepped down following an allegation he accepted illegal campaign funds from a businessman.

The post of prime minister is largely ceremonial

in South Korea with the main responsibility being the head of the cabinet. Three nominees have had to step down before confirmation after allegations of impropriety surfaced.

Park’s nominee is Justice Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, a career prosecutor whom Park’s office said was the right person

to clean up corruption and help bring about political reform.

Following parliament’s approval, Hwang must be formally named by the president and sworn in before he becomes prime minister.

Park has vowed to clean up political corruption as her conservative Saenuri Party tries to maintain its parliamentary majority in a general election to be held early next year.

Park’s public support has dipped below the 35 percent mark in recent weeks because of criticism her government was slow to respond to an outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.

Hwang is the third prime minister to serve in under Park who began a single five-year term in February 2013.—Reuters

DPRK hit by worst drought in 100 years

PYONGYANG, 18 June — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is suffering from the worst drought in a century, which has caused huge damage to its agricultural production, the country’s official news agency KCNA has reported on Tuesday.

The state media said that rice growing was finished in more than 441,560 hectares across the country by 8 June, but at least 136,200 hectares of them are “parching up.”

It said nearly 80 percent and 58 percent of rice seedlings respectively in South and North Hwanghae provinces have dried up due to lack of rainfall.

“Badly damaged” areas include

North and South Hwanghae provinces, South Pyongan Province and South Hamgyong Province, which the KCNA said are “granaries,” indicating the drought has a severe impact on crop production.

The KCNA said that the water levels of reservoirs are at their lowest and rivers are getting dry, adding that besides rice, corn has also been affected by the drought. Other crops are being planted instead to relieve the damage, it said.

Last year, the DPRK was also hit by severe drought, but officials said food production still increased by 48,700 tons compared to 2013 despite the water shortage.—Xinhua

Japan faces dilemma over plutonium stored in France

TOKYO, 18 June — Still dealing with the huge clean up after the Fukushima crisis and debating its future use of atomic energy, Japan now faces another nuclear conundrum — what to do with 16 tonnes of its plutonium sitting in France after being reprocessed there.

The question will be among the issues that come under the spotlight on Thursday and Friday as nuclear proliferation experts meet with legislators and government officials in Tokyo.

With its reactor fleet shut down in the wake of Fukushima, Japan is unable to take fuel made from the plutonium at the moment and could be forced to find other countries to use it.

The matter has taken on greater urgency as Areva, the French nuclear company that owns the La Hague reprocessing facility holding the plutonium in western Normandy, faces

billions of dollars of losses.

“In this whole mess (at Areva) we have a huge amount of Japanese plutonium,” said Mycle Schneider, an independent energy consultant, adding Japan would need to resolve the problem sooner rather than later.

An Areva spokesman said the company had long-standing contracts with Japanese utilities to take nuclear fuel made from the plutonium.

Frank von Hippel, one of the founders of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), a group of arms-control and proliferation experts, will discuss Japan’s stock of plutonium in France when he meets with Japanese legislators, according to a draft of a presentation he will give that has been seen by Reuters.

The group argues the world’s growing inventory of plutonium from civilian

use is a “clear and present danger” as it could be used in so-called dirty bombs.

Japanese government officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Schneider, who is a contributor to a soon to be released IPFM report on plutonium separation in nuclear power programmes, said the alternative to taking back the plutonium would be to pay other countries to use it in their reactors.

He said that France would be one option, but that the cost would likely be high, especially as that country has its own stockpile to deplete. He did not give an exact cost.

“Giving its plutonium away and paying for it would expose the Japanese to the reality of plutonium as a liability rather than an asset,” said Schneider.

A precedent for that kind of deal could be set in Britain, where the government has offered to take ownership of 20 tonnes of Japanese plutonium stored at the Sellafield processing plant, according to the IPFM.

“This is a kind of win-win deal,” said Tatsujiro Suzuki, a former vice chairman of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission, who will join Von Hippel in meeting with legislators on Thursday.

“The British side would make money and the Japanese would lose less,” said Suzuki.—Reuters



A worker looks through a thick glass window at part of the treatment of nuclear waste at the Areva Nuclear Plant of La Hague, near Cherbourg, western France, in this 22 April, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

Putin's confrontation with West 'artificial': dissident Khodorkovsky

WASHINGTON, 18 June — Russian President Vladimir Putin's confrontation with the West is "artificial" and aimed at protecting Russia's ruling elite and distracting attention from a corrupt system, a former Russian oil tycoon said on Wednesday.

"The current confrontation with the West is absolutely artificial," Mikhail Khodorkovsky told the Atlantic Council think tank.

"The cooling of relations has been inspired by those Russian elites who want to hold on to power."

Speaking through a translator, Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man, said, "They desperately need an image of an enemy who would distract the attention of the populace from the corruption and in-



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a session of the State Council's presidium at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia, on 17 June, 2015.

REUTERS

efficiency that exists in the power." Khodorkovsky's empire, which included now defunct Russian oil company Yukos, produced more crude than Qatar before he ran afoul of Putin and was jailed for fraud and tax evasion. Putin pardoned him in December 2013.

Khodorkovsky, one of Putin's most outspoken critics, lives in Switzerland. "Unfortunately, there can be no talk of any new strategic rapprochement while Putin remains in power," Khodorkovsky said.

"In Russia such a system has been built under which any decision can be suddenly changed at the whim of one person, who is not controlled by any internal political mechanisms," he said. Asked whether he would run for president of Russia, Khodorkovsky replied, "I don't want to waste questions that have no practical value right now." But, he said, "sooner or later" a power change would occur in Russia and the West should be prepared to help Russia quickly reintegrate into the glob-

al system.

That could happen by making Russia a member of NATO and the European Union. Khodorkovsky said it would be in Putin's interest to "freeze" the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

He cautioned Washington over sending weapons to Ukraine, and said most Russians already believed the conflict there was between Russia and the United States.

"This situation is going to keep on developing in this direction if arms start being shipped to Ukraine," he said. "Then you have the question whether the United States is ready to step into the conflict and to win because if it is not ready for that this will be interpreted as America having lost."

Reuters

Merkel wants to seal framework for US/EU trade deal by year end



German Chancellor Angela Merkel address members of both Houses of Parliament in the Royal Gallery of the Palace of Westminster in London on 17 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

BERLIN, 18 June — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday that Berlin was still aiming to reach a political framework for a comprehensive trade deal between the European Union and the United States by the end of this year.

In a speech to parliament, Merkel said that Germany would reap enor-

mous economic benefits from the so-called Transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP).

Merkel added that an EU summit next week would not tackle Britain's wishes for EU reform, but she would ask European Council President Donald Tusk to examine the issue.

Reuters

Tsipras says 'blind insistence' on pension cuts would worsen crisis

BERLIN, 18 June — The "blind insistence" on cutting Greek pensions will only worsen the country's already dire financial crisis, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras wrote in a German newspaper commentary on Thursday.

In a guest column for *Der Tagesspiegel* newspaper in Berlin, Tsipras also rejected the "myth" that German taxpayers are paying Greek pensions and wages. He said Greeks, contrary to the widespread belief in Germany, work longer than Germans.

"The blind insistence of cuts (in pensions) in a country with a 25 percent unemployment rate and

where half of all the young people are unemployed will only cause a further worsening of the already dramatic social situation," Tsipras wrote.

He said that pensions are the only source of income for countless families in Greece. In Athens on Wednesday he also rejected pension cuts that creditors are seeking to unlock aid.

Tsipras also wrote that the state's expenditures for pensions and social spending were cut by 50 percent between 2010 and 2014. "That makes further cut-backs in this sensitive area impossible."

Tsipras also chal-



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras gestures during a news conference with Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann at Maximos Mansion in Athens on 17 June, 2015. — REUTERS

lenged perceptions among Germans, a majority of whom now want Greece to leave the euro zone, about

who is paying for Greek wages and pensions:

"Anyone who claims that German taxpayers are

coming up for the wages and pensions for Greeks is lying," he wrote. "I'm not denying there are problems...But I'm speaking out here to show why the 'cuts offensive' of the past years has led nowhere."

Tsipras's leftist government has faced dire warnings that it risks being forced out of the euro zone and left without support if it fails to strike a aid-for-reforms deal with creditors.

Hopes of a breakthrough on Thursday at a meeting of European finance ministers, once seen as a final chance for an agreement, are looking increasingly dim. Athens must find a way out of the

impasse by the end of June, when it faces a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) repayment due to the International Monetary Fund, potentially leaving it bankrupt and on the verge of exiting the euro zone.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble maintained his hard line against Greece, telling *Bild* newspaper the question was whether "Greece fulfils its commitments from the existing programme."

Schaeuble stressed the IMF must continue to take part in the rescue programme: "Without its important contribution, it (the programme) doesn't work." — Reuters

Israel accuses UN children's rights envoy of 'improper conduct'

UNITED NATIONS, 18 June — Israel has accused a senior UN official of misconduct in preparing a report that harshly criticized the Israeli army over the 2014 Gaza war while leaving it off a blacklist of states and armed groups that violate children's rights in conflict. The UN Security Council will hold a public debate on Thursday to discuss the latest United Nations report on children and armed conflict.

In it, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said "the unprecedented and unacceptable scale of the impact on children in 2014 raises grave concerns about Israel's compliance with international humanitarian

law ... (and) excessive use of force." Although formally presented in Ban's name, the report was prepared by his envoy on children and armed conflict, Leila Zerrougui of Algeria.

Israeli UN Ambassador Ron Prosor accused her of "biased conduct against Israel." He also denied Israel had violated international law during the war.

In a letter to Ban, seen by Reuters, Prosor voiced "deep concerns regarding the improper conduct — at every working level — of the office of ... Zerrougui in the process of drafting and producing the report."

More than 2,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians and including 540 chil-

dren, were killed during last year's 50-day Gaza Strip war between Hamas and Israel, while 67 Israeli soldiers and six civilians in Israel were killed.

A UN inquiry found that Israel fired on seven UN schools and killed 44 Palestinians seeking shelter, while Palestinian militants hid weapons and launched attacks from empty UN schools. Prosor said Zerrougui's office "repeatedly refused attempts on our part to provide official evidence and facts." Zerrougui's chief of staff Sharon Riggle said in an email to Reuters Israel had received the standard two weeks to respond, as well as three additional days. She said it

was not possible to incorporate all comments from individual governments.

According to UN officials, Zerrougui included Israel on a draft blacklist of violators of children's rights, although Ban decided not to include Israel's army on the final blacklist, which names groups like the Taliban and Boko Haram. Prosor said the report disproportionately focussed on Israel, even though Iraq, where Islamic State militants control significant territory, had the highest number of child casualties.

The report includes 32 paragraphs on Israel, compared with eight on Iraq, 15 on Afghanistan, 18 on Syria and 11 on Darfur. — Reuters

FARC attack on oil pipeline pollutes water supply in Colombia

BOGOTA, 18 June — An attack against an oil pipeline by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest rebel group, on Wednesday affected water service to more than 16,000 people in Tibu, northeastern Colombia, the environment minister said.

The recent FARC attack against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, the largest pipeline in the country, has polluted the Catatumbo River, the region's main tributary watercourse, Colombian En-

vironment Minister Gabriel Vallejo said.

The water pumps that supply fresh water to several communities had to be closed due to the heavy pollution caused by the oil spill, Vallejo said.

"This is an environmental catastrophe for the country. Two municipalities have been affected in less than two weeks. We have ordered restrictions on drinking water in Tibu, a town with some 16,000 inhabitants," the official told local media.

Xinhua

PIERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 June, 2015

Good governance, clean government go hand in hand

By Kyaw Thura

When viewed from a mature perspective, good governance and clean government are inseparable. Governance can be considered good when governmental bodies conduct themselves transparently and for the public and national interests. Government can be regarded as clean when it is accountable to the welfare of the people and the country as a whole, and its actions are free from corruption.

In other words, good governance puts enduring efforts into exercising transparency, accountability, gender equality, poverty-reduction, environmental conservation and the rule of law.

And the governmental bodies should be well aware of the fact that they cannot shoulder all of these responsibilities on their own. They should not underestimate the role civil society organizations and the media can play in helping put the country back on the right track to prosperity and renown among the international community.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once remarked that infrastructure is not just a matter of building roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and power grids. He added a new meaning to infrastructure, stating it is also a matter of strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law. He defines democratic governance as accountability of the government to its people

and of the people to each other.

Thus, a key measure of good governance and clean government is improving accountability by enhancing transparency in policies that assure the citizenry free and fair elections, responsible legislatures to make laws and an independent judicial system to put those laws into effect.

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

United Nations International Day of Yoga June 21st 2015

Raj Bathan



Why Yoga day?

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi asked the world leaders to adopt an International Yoga Day,

saying that by changing lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Addressing the 193-member UN General Assembly in United Nations. Modi said "Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day," Noting that Yoga is "an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition", he said: "It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

More than 177 countries including USA, Canada

and China have supported this move including 175 nations co-sponsoring the resolution. It had the "highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA Resolution of such nature. On Dec 11, 2014, the 193-member U.N. General assembly approved by consensus a resolution establishing June 21 as 'International Day of Yoga'. The resolution also saw a record number of 175 countries co-sponsoring it.

Philosophy

Yoga means to connect or link with one's

body, mind, nature as well as to achieve higher consciousness. It originated in ancient India and has been practiced by Spiritual practitioners for thousands of years. It involved eight stages or limbs;

- Yama -Ethical standards
- Niyama -Self Discipline
- Asana -Postures
- Pranayama -Breath Control
- Pratyahara -Sense Withdrawal
- Dharana -Concentration
- Dhayana -Meditation

Samadhi -Trance

Nowadays yoga become house hold word and has been practiced in most parts of the world and people are benefitting by doing so.

Benefits

Current life style in the world in general demands people to study hard, work long hours and worst of all in stressful situations. This makes health care one of the biggest growing Industries in the world. Many researches have been done about yoga and the following are some of the benefits

proven by researchers.

By adopting yoga life style one will be able to prevent many inconveniences in the body and live a healthy life free from anxiety.

Yoga increase flexibility, regulates blood flow and blood pressure, massages internal organs, strengthens immune systems, helps deal with stress, anxiety, depression and many more ranging from physical, mind to spiritual.

In fact US based nursingdegree.net has listed 77 benefits of yoga.

(The author of this article is a Yoga instructor as well as a Real Estate Consultant living in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.)

POEM:

Modern Slavery

Since way back in the past, powerful 'Nations' invaded weaker ones, even crossing the oceans, to acquire not only natural resources but also the natives to make them work on their land back home as slaves, deprived of rights as human beings and sold to the highest bidder in the slave markets, just like animals, in an enclosure.

'Slavery' was eventually abolished, but it persists in a different guise, and the trail of slave trade remains despite claims of it's demise, followed up on by the poor and deprived, seeking a better life, and those fleeing from their homes due to conflicts and strife,

tricked by the human trafficker groups in both countries charging for their illegal 'services' exorbitant fees, sending them to their destination on rickety boats across the seas or helping them cross borders illegally and through offering bribes due to hazards of the journey some even losing their lives.

Those who make it, end up unwelcome in the destination countries though filling the needs of some 'employers' for low end employees.

Grim are the destiny of the hapless ones, 'sold' by the human trafficker and held in bondage by 'employers', mostly of the informal sector.

Many to live a life without rights as human beings, and a future unsure at the mercy of the employers, like the slaves of the dis-

tant past were.

Many are forced to work without being paid, only given food and a place to sleep, herded in with other 'illegal migrants' -a blatant disgrace.

They, who are no better than slaves, should be provided social protection in the light of the 1990 United Nations Migrant Workers Convention.

At the same time Governments and Communities should take effective action against the human trafficking groups in the countries of origin and destination, who enrich themselves without any scruples as to how many lives they oppress in the pursuit of their greed, causing to so many hapless people, so much distress.

Lokethar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Myanmar Police Force and Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAP-TIP) jointly organized the workshop on guidance for cooperation in anti-human trafficking and judicial affairs at the Lake Garden Hotel, here, on 16 and 17 June.

Joint Secretary of Cen-

Anti-human trafficking workshop beefs up cooperation between police and law officers

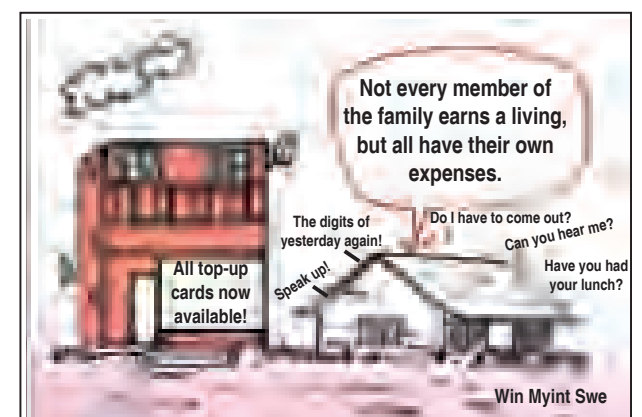
tral Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Pol Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun and Deputy Director-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn of the office of the Attorney-General of the Union spoke on the occasion.

Participants reviewed definition of international community over human trafficking, Myanmar's anti-human trafficking law and compilation on penalties and evidences of the law.

They also discussed

challenges of police and law officers in cases of human trafficking, ways and means to overcome the challenges, and compilation of a report to cooperate between police and law officers.

MNA



LOCAL NEWS

Ayeyawady Region recognizes outstanding matric students



KYANGIN, 18 June — Ayeyawady Region's chief minister presented awards Wednesday to outstanding students who helped the region record the highest pass rate, at 51.78 percent, in the recent national matriculation examination.

In his opening remarks at the award ceremony, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung congratulated the students and spoke about regional education projects.

The exam results were

released on 6 June, with over 30,000 students in the region passing the exam. A total of 61,851 students sat the matriculation exam across the region in March 2014. Of them, Kyangin Township topped the table with a pass rate of 73.99 percent.

In 2012-2013 academic year, Ayeyawady Region stood eighth the whole country with a pass rate of 31.50 percent.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Yazagyo Dam to drive development of Kalay Township

KALAY, 18 June — Located two miles north of Yazagyo village in Sagaing Region's Kalay Township,

the Yazagyo Dam is being built to reduce floods, irrigate crops and generate hydropower for local elec-

tricity consumption.

The project started in 2003 with development of the Myittha River basin.

The dam is being built on Nerinzara Creek with three saddle dikes with a total length of

more than 8,900 feet, plus a 4,765-foot-long main embankment. Upon completion, the earthen dam will store 52,000 acre-feet of water to irrigate about 8,000 acres of farmlands and generate four megawatts of power.

Dredging of a 12-mile canal and five feeder canals in 28 miles of total length will be completed in 2015.

Tube-wells and lakes were dug in villages downstream of the dam to ease water shortage problems of local residents.

In the near future, the dam will irrigate farmlands as well as green the environment for development of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region.

GNLM-018



Han Lay crowned in Miss Universe Mandalay Contest

MANDALAY, 18 June — The first Miss Universe Mandalay 2015 competition was held at the city hall here on Wednesday and awarded handsome prizes to winners.

Han Lay stood first among 20 candidates and has an opportunity to compete Miss Universe Myanmar 2015 contest. She was awarded a diamond crown plus K3 million and a gift voucher worth K100,000. The first runner award went to Aye Yu Mon and the second runner-up to Chit The Phyu.

Before the contest, the winner together with her

opponents took part in the philanthropic activities in

Mandalay including a donation to Aye Yeik Mon

girls' orphanage.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Layer breeding and problem solving seminar held in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 18 June — A layer-breeding and problem solving seminar was held in Kyaukme, northern Shan State on Wednesday with the aim of improving poultry farming in

rural areas.

Layer breeding techniques, problems and poultry diseases and treatment were discussed at the seminar conducted by Dr Thein Lwin, head of Kyaukme

District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, who replied to the questions raised by the breeders.

Myint Aung
(Ka Ma)



Retailers hold annual general meeting in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 18 June — Economist U Tin Zan Kyaw gave a talk entitled "How to set up your own business" at the first annual general meeting of Myanmar Retailers Association (Mandalay Region) recently.

Chairperson Daw Khin Hsan Yi spoke at the meeting at the National Theatre on 66th street in Aungmyethazan Township, while officials explained future tasks of the association and consumer protection activities.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Bank set to disburse K 800 million in loans to Yenangyoung farmers

YENANGYOUNG, 18 June — Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, plans to provide more than K800 million in loans for 25 village-tracts in the township this year.

The bank has disbursed K81.34 million in loans in Yenangyoung Township from 28 May to 15 June, a bank official said.

The bank disbursed loans to farmers in the township as of 28 May to help them plant monsoon crops in time.

Thein Zaw

Gunman at large after killing nine at black South Carolina church

CHARLESTON, (SC), 18 June — A white gunman was still at large after killing nine people during a prayer service at a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina, the city's police chief said on Thursday, describing the attack as a hate crime. Officers with dogs searched the streets for the suspect, whom police described as a 21-year-old white man with sandy hair wearing a sweat-shirt, jeans and boots.

Gunfire erupted inside Emanuel AME Church in downtown Charleston on Wednesday night, Police Chief Gregory Mullen said.

The gunman had yet to be caught hours after the attack and was considered extremely dangerous, he said.

"To have an awful person come in and shoot them

is inexplicable, obviously the most intolerable and unbelievable act possible," Charleston Mayor Joe Riley told reporters. "The only reason someone could walk into a church to shoot people praying is out of hate."

The shooting called to mind a 1963 bombing of an African-American church in Birmingham, Alabama, that killed four girls and galvanized the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

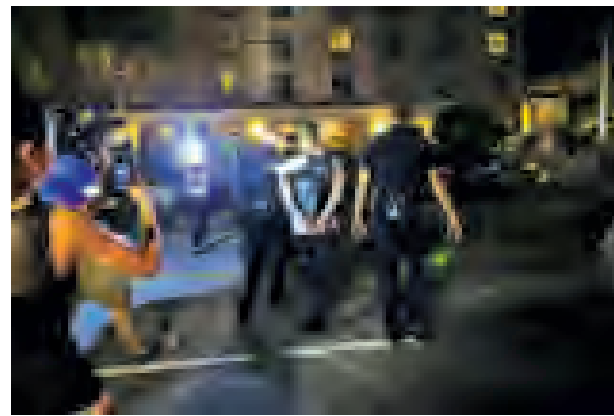
The Charleston church is one of the largest and oldest black congregations in the South, its website says. It has its roots in the early 19th century, and the current building, completed in 1891, is considered a historically significant building, according to the US National Park Service.

The attack follows the

April shooting of an unarmed black man in North Charleston by a white police officer. The officer has been charged with murder in that case, one of a number of deaths of unarmed black men in encounters with police that have raised racial tensions in the United States.

Soon after the shooting, a clutch of men stood in a circle in front of a hotel near the church, one of many landmark buildings in the city. "We pray for the families, they've got a long road ahead of them," Reverend James Johnson, a local civil rights activist, said during the impromptu prayer service. The FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and other agencies have joined in the investigation, Mullen said.

Eight victims were



A suspect is arrested as police respond to a shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

found dead in the church, Mullen told reporters, and a ninth person died after being taken to hospital. One other person was wounded and was being treated at a local hospital, Mullen said.

None of the victims were immediately identified. But the Reverend Al Sharp-

ton, the New York-based civil rights leader, said in a tweet that the Reverend Clementa Pinckney, the church's pastor and a member of the state Senate, was among the dead.

After the shooting, a bomb threat was reported near the church, Charleston

County Sheriff's Office spokesman Eric Watson said, and people who were gathered in the area were told by police to move back.

Mullen said that the all-clear had been given after checks following the bomb threat. A police chaplain was present at the scene of the shooting, and a helicopter with a searchlight hovered overhead as officers combed the area. Following the attack on the church, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida, cancelled an appearance in Charleston that had been scheduled for Thursday morning. "Governor Bush's thoughts and prayers are with the individuals and families affected by this tragedy," his campaign team said in a statement.

Reuters

Islamic State car bombs kill or injure 50 in Yemeni capital

SANAA/GENEVA, 18 June — Car bombs killed or injured at least 50 people near mosques and the headquarters of Yemen's dominant Houthi group in Sanaa on Wednesday, in coordinated attacks claimed by Islamic State.

The four blasts rocked the capital as Saudi-led forces conducted more air strikes against Houthi military bases across Yemen and Houthi delegates attending peace talks in Switzerland reported the first tentative progress on the second day of a UN-sponsored push for a Ramadan truce.

A security official said at least 50 people were killed or wounded in the attacks on the Hashush mosque, the Kibsi mosque, the al-Qubah al-Khadra mosque and the political bureau of the An-

sarullah movement of the Houthis, who belong to the Zaydi sect of Shi'ite Islam.

"The explosion was so loud I thought it was caused by an air strike," said a man in his 70s named Ali, who had just left a mosque when a bomb went off.

"I returned and found cars burning, people screaming and wounded people all over."

The Sunni Muslim Islamic State said in a statement posted online it carried out the attacks.

"The soldiers of the Islamic State in Yemen, in a wave of military operations as revenge for the Muslims against the Houthi apostates, (detonated) four car bombs near the centres of Houthi apostasy," it said.

The attack is the most serious of its kind in Yem-

en since suicide bombers killed at least 137 worshippers and wounded hundreds during Friday prayers at two mosques in Sanaa on 20 March, in attacks also claimed by Islamic State.

The Houthi-controlled state news agency quoted an official blaming Islamic State for the latest bombings. Supporters of Islamic State exchanged celebratory messages on social media.

Islamic State has recently stepped up its operations in Yemen, where al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), also Sunni Islamist, had long dominated the militant scene.

AQAP recently suffered a serious blow when a US drone strike killed its leader, Nasser al-Wuhayshi.—Reuters

US weighs near-term Assad military retrenchment in Syria



Free Syrian Army fighters fire rockets towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in the northern countryside of Quneitra, Syria, on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 18 June — The United States and its allies are weighing the possibility that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, under growing military pressure, may soon narrow his focus on defence of more limited areas of the country, the top US general said on Wednesday.

Losses in the north, east and south have put Assad under more military strain than at any point in the four-year-old war, which has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced millions, according to United Nations data.

General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress that his trip to Israel last week was focused on discussing scenarios involving Assad's departure or his government's collapse. "It's generally the consensus there that, in the near term, it's probably more likely that the regime ... would go over

to the defensive and limit its protection of the Alawite Shia and some of the minority groups," Dempsey said, without himself predicting such an outcome.

Under that scenario, Assad would leave the rest of Syria basically ungoverned, "or governed in ways that wouldn't be positive for the region near term," Dempsey said. "We're working with our partners on the near term," Dempsey said, without elaborating.

US officials have previously acknowledged that Assad was under strain. But Assad has survived such pressure before, notably at the end of 2012 when the West thought his government was near collapse.

However, insurgents have grown in strength since then while government forces have been depleted.

"Because his forces are much weakened, and they have taken great losses ... they're increasingly in

the Damascus area and in the Alawite areas of north-western Syria," Defence Secretary Ash Carter told the House Armed Services Committee, testifying alongside Dempsey.

Carter said the best scenario would be for Assad to cede power to a new government, formed by a moderate opposition.

Carter and Dempsey acknowledged that it was so far proving challenging to recruit Syrian opposition forces for a programme to train and equip them to battle Islamic State. The US-trained forces are not meant to target Assad.

"We have enough training sites and so forth. For now, we don't have enough trainees to fill them," Carter said. Dempsey noted that the training, which officials have said is taking place in Jordan and Turkey, had just started and that it was still too soon "to give up on it."

Reuters



The wreckage of a car is seen at the site of a car bomb attack in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Japan business mood signals pick-up in private consumption

TOKYO, 18 June — Confidence at Japanese manufacturers in June rose for the second straight month and retailers were at their most optimistic in over a year, a *Reuters* poll showed, offering a welcome sign that consumers may have finally shaken off the effects of a sales tax hike.

The *Reuters* Tankan — which closely tracks the central bank's quarterly tankan survey — gives credence to the Bank of Japan's view that the economic recovery will strengthen over the next year although analysts doubt its 2 percent inflation target is achievable in fiscal 2016. The upbeat mood follows recent data that showed the world's third-biggest economy grew at a much stronger-than-expected 3.9 percent annualised rate in the first quarter, led by businesses ploughing more capital investment.

While exports growth has lagged expectations, and the economy is seen slowing in the current quarter, any uptick in private consumption should support the BOJ's argument for no near-term stimulus.

Most analysts, however, say the BOJ won't be able to sit tight for too long — a view supported by still-low inflation and persistent slack in the economy. A *Reuters* poll predicted further monetary expansion in October.

"The GDP data, due in August, is likely to show sharp slowdown in April-June and we expect consumer prices to decline in July-September," said Naomi Muguruma, senior market economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley.

"As both the economy and prices are seen under-shooting BOJ's projections,



People work near cargo containers loaded from trucks at a port in Tokyo, on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

further easing would be inevitable," she said.

In the current quarter, given inventory adjustment, sluggish private consumption and weak exports, Hiroshi Shiraiishi, senior

economist at BNP Paribas, expects growth to slow to an annualised rate of around 0.5 percent.

The monthly poll of 481 big and midsize companies between 2 and 15 June,

of which 263 responded, showed manufacturers' mood is seen improving further and service-sector morale remaining unchanged after rising for a third straight month in June.

Encouragingly, the outlook appeared to brighten for private consumption, which makes up about 60 percent of the economy, with retailers' mood jumping to the highest since March last year, when consumers went on a buying spree before the sales tax rose the following month. It backed recent data showing consumers may be coming out of the cold.

"Retailers' mood is likely reflecting firm domestic demand due to improving job market and rising wages," said Yuichiro Nagai, economist at Barclays.

The *Reuters* Tankan sentiment index for manufacturers rose to 14 from 13 in May. The service-sector index rose to a record high of 36 from 33 in May — led by retailers — and up 15 points from three months ago.—*Reuters*

Study finds Ebola virus mutated slower than first thought

LONDON, 18 June — The Ebola virus that devastated parts of West Africa over the past year did not mutate at a faster rate than in previous outbreaks, according to an international study published on Wednesday.

Contrary to research conducted early in the outbreak which suggested the virus was mutating at twice the rate previously seen, this study showed the mutation rate was only slightly higher in the West Africa epidemic — a finding experts said was reassuring.

"The results are good news for the scientists working to develop long-term solutions for Ebola, such as vaccines and treatments, as it means these... should still work against the mutated strains of the virus," said Miles Carroll,

head of research microbiology services at Public Health England (PHE), the laboratory leading the work.

Ebola has killed more than 11,000 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia in an unprecedented epidemic that began more than a year ago. New cases have declined sharply in the past few months, but the outbreak is not yet over.

Dwindling numbers of new infections have, however, made work on trials designed to test and validate potential vaccines and treatments almost impossible.

For their study, Carroll and researchers across Europe and in affected West African countries had access to data on the virus covering almost a year.

They analyzed 179

patient samples obtained by the European Mobile Laboratory, which was deployed to the epicenter of the outbreak in Guinea, to find how the Ebola virus mutated and spread.

Their analysis confirmed Ebola was introduced into the Guinean population in December 2013 at a single source, supporting theories from epidemiologists. Scientists believe it was first transmitted from a bat to a two-year-old boy.

The team also established how the virus spilled into Sierra Leone in April or early May 2014.

Looking at their results, Carroll said his team now believes one of the key factors in whether Ebola kills someone is the host's genetic makeup, rather than changes in the virus itself.

"Our next study will investigate this theory, which may lead to improved treatment options," he said.

David Heymann, PHE's chairman and a professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said the findings should be reassuring to scientists and the public "that the recent work on Ebola has been worthwhile and could soon lead to a better state of preparedness and response for the future".

Reuters

Oil prices dip on US gasoline build, but supported by weak dollar

SEOUL, 18 June — Oil prices slipped on Thursday after US government data showed gasoline stocks and distillate inventories rose last week, although the falls were checked by continuing Middle East geopolitical tensions and a weaker US dollar.

US July crude lost 42 cents to \$59.50 a barrel as of 0619 GMT after falling 5 cents in the previous session.

Brent August crude declined 30 cents to \$63.57 a barrel after it settled 17 cents higher on Wednesday at \$63.87.

Data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed crude inventories fell more than

expected last week, but gasoline stocks rose by 460,000 barrels, beating analysts' expectations for a 314,000-barrel drop, according to a *Reuters* poll.

The EIA report also showed that operating capacity at US refineries fell to 93.1 percent last week from 94.6 percent.

"Expectations were for an increase ... the reaction to this (inventory) data shows that the reasoning behind such price support is fragile," ANZ bank said in a report.

After the Federal Reserve signalled it may wait until late this year to raise interest rates, the US dollar slid while Wall Street stocks

rose in volatile trading. Asian equities also rose early on Thursday.

"Oil prices were revived by a weakening USD as a result of a bearish FOMC," Phillip Futures said. "Since we expect the FOMC meeting to be the main card this week, we believe that prices should move sideways for the rest of the week."

Prices were also supported by the continuing conflicts in the Middle East.

Islamic State killed five policemen in a town near Iraq's biggest refinery, in an attack that may help ease pressure on some of its fighters trapped in the strategically important facility, a security official said.—*Reuters*

New compound may boost global fight against malaria

LONDON, 18 June — Researchers have discovered a novel antimalarial compound, which has the potential to treat malaria patients in a single dose, the University of Dundee announced on Wednesday.

The compound, DDD107498, was identified through a collaboration between the University of Dundee's Drug Discovery Unit (DDU) and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

DDD107498 not only has the potential to treat malaria efficiently, but can

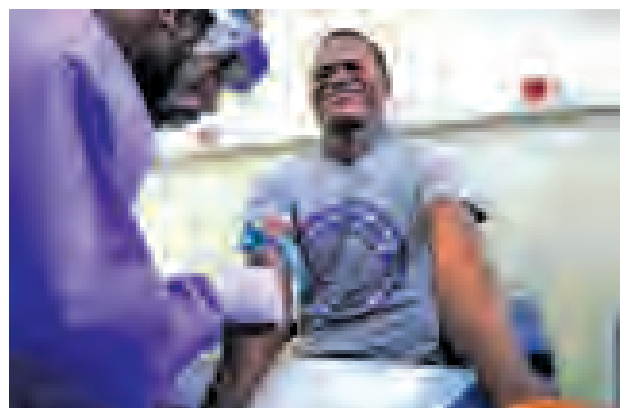
prevent the spread of malaria from infected people, and protect a person from developing the disease in the first place, according to a press release from the university. As malaria continues to threaten almost half of the world's population, new drugs are urgently needed to treat the disease, which is growing more resistant to the current gold-standard antimalarial drug.

"The compound we have discovered works in a different way to all other antimalarial medicines

on the market or in clinical development, which means that it has great potential to work against current drug-resistant parasites. It targets part of the machinery that makes proteins within the parasite that causes malaria," said Dr Kevin Read, joint leader of the project.

Despite the progress made, researchers said there is still some way to go before the compound can be given to patients.

The findings have been published in the journal *Nature*. —*Xinhua*



The blood of a survivor of the Ebola virus is extracted as part of a study launched at Liberia's John F Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

World's displaced hits record high of 60 million, half of them children



Syrian refugee children watch the final match of their own soccer tournament to mark World Refugee Day, which falls on 20 June, at the Al-Zaatari refugee camp in Mafraq, Jordan, near the border with Syria, on 15 June, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 18 June — Almost 60 million people worldwide were forcibly uprooted by conflict and

persecution at the end of last year, the highest ever recorded number, the UN refugee agency said on

Thursday.

More than half the displaced from crises including Syria, Afghanistan

and Somalia were children, UNHCR said in its annual Global Trends Report.

In 2014, an average of 42,500 people became refugees, asylum seekers, or internally displaced every day, representing a four-fold increase in just four years, the aid agency said.

“We are witnessing a paradigm change, an unchecked slide into an era in which the scale of global forced displacement as well as the response required is now clearly dwarfing anything seen before,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres in a statement.

UNHCR said Syria where conflict has raged since 2011, was the world's biggest source of internally displaced people and refugees.

There were 7.6 million displaced people in Syria

by the end of last year and almost 4 million Syrian refugees, mainly living in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

“Even amid such sharp growth in numbers, the global distribution of refugees remains heavily skewed away from wealthier nations and towards the less wealthy,” UNHCR said.

UNHCR said there were 38.2 million displaced by conflict within national borders, almost five million more than a year before, with wars in Ukraine, South Sudan, Nigeria, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo swelling the figures.

Of the 19.5 million refugees living outside their home countries, 5.1 million are Palestinians. Syrians,

Somalis and Afghans make up more than half the remaining 14.4 million refugees, UNHCR said.

It also noted that more than 1.6 million people sought political asylum in a foreign country last year, a jump of more than 50 percent compared to the previous year - largely due to the 270,000 Ukrainians who submitted asylum claims in Russia.

While many conflicts have erupted or reignited in the past five years, few have been conclusively resolved. Just 126,800 refugees were able to return home in 2014, the lowest number in 31 years, UNHCR said.

“It is now absolutely clear that we are not able to deliver,” Guterres said. “It is time for the international community to assume its responsibilities.”—Reuters

Australian company exploits foreign workers : Australian authorities

SYDNEY, 18 June — Australian authorities revealed foreign workers have been exploited, underpaid and subjected to slave-like working conditions at one of Australia's largest chicken processors.

The Australia Fair Work Ombudsman's report, released on Thursday, found chicken processor Baiada used a complex web of labour hire arrangements to outsource costs and legal risks while benefiting from slave-like conditions at three chicken processing plants in regional New South Wales.

Australian labour hire companies provided Baiada with foreign workers on Australian working holiday visas mainly from China — who were paid half Australia's minimum hourly wage while working up to 18 hours per day without paid overtime.

According to the ombudsman, workers at one plant site reported that they would not get any work unless they rented accommodation from the labour hire contractor. The rent was allegedly unlawfully deducted from their pay.

One property — found to be sleeping 21 people — was purchased in March 2012, for 370,000 Australian dollars (286,237 US dollars) as a rental accommodation. The property potentially earned over 100,000 Australian dollars (77,354 US

dollars) a year in rental income.

“I don't believe that any worker in (Australia) should be forced to work in those types of circumstances, nor endure those types of practices by any employer,” Deputy Fair Work Ombudsman Michael Campbell told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Thursday.

Baiada has a 20 percent market share in Australia, providing poultry products for customers including Australia's major supermarket chains Coles, Woolworths and Aldi, and fast-food restaurants including McDonald's, KFC and Pizza Hut.

The investigation was launched in November, 2013, following complaints from plant workers that they were being underpaid, forced to work extremely long hours and required to pay high rents for overcrowded and unsafe employee accommodation.

According to the Fair Work Ombudsman, Baiada was highly uncooperative with the investigation.

The ombudsman found, at the time, Baiada engaged six principal labour hire companies, which, in turn, were connected to numerous other entities. Some of these labour hire companies provided fabricated records or vanished altogether in apparent Phoenix-scheme like operations.—Xinhua

Quarantine Area: Korean patients tested by MERS lockdown

SEOUL, 18 June — Hwang Jeong-rye went to hospital in Seoul on 9 June for a back problem and has been stuck there ever since - locked in along with 78 others as South Korea scrambles to control an outbreak of the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

“It is a prison without bars ... It hurts me because she wants to see my face even at a distance,” said Jeong Yeon-seok, fighting back tears after catching the eye of his 72-year-old mother on the sixth floor of the Mediheal Hospital.

Thousands of Koreans have been put under quarantine, including those inside two hospitals that are under a two-week lockdown —

meaning no one can enter or leave.

MERS has infected 165 people in South Korea, with 23 fatalities, in its largest outbreak outside Saudi Arabia. All of the infections known to have occurred in South Korea took place in health care facilities.

Worryingly for the likes of Jeong and his mother, most of those to die in the outbreak have been elderly or had existing ailments.

Each day at 11 am and 4 pm, Mediheal staff guarded by police officers collect items such as instant coffee, fruit and cigarettes left for patients by relatives or friends at a back door to the hospital.

Jeong, 45, delivered two bags of home-made

leaf-mustard kimchi, sham-poo and towels for his mother.

Mediheal was locked down by officials on 11 June, after a patient there was diagnosed with MERS. The infected patient has been moved to another hospital, and none of those remaining at Mediheal has tested positive for the virus.

“My son comes here every day, seeing me from outside the hospital, and calls me several times. It is just so sad, it is making me cry,” Hwang, who lives across the street from the Mediheal Hospital, told Reuters by telephone.

“It is boring and baffling because we are locked up here six people in our room, so we are killing time

by talking with each other or watching TV.”

Mediheal Hospital said the precaution was necessary, and that staff were trying as much as possible to help patients who might otherwise have been helped family members.

In addition to the two hospitals under lockdown, another has been completely shut and the prestigious Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul, where the most infections have occurred, has stopped taking new patients.

About 6,700 people are in quarantine, some in hospitals but most at home, including an entire village of 105 people.

At Changwon SK Hospital, which was sealed off with 54 people inside after a MERS patient visited, officials brought in exercise bikes to help patients stay fit and cope with boredom.

A patient, surnamed Jeong, at the hospital in the southern part of the country, said a sense of camaraderie had built among the patients.

“We are watching each other if anyone coughs. I heard someone at another floor had coughs but was tested negative. But we have some kind of unity as well and tell each other to keep clean,” said the man, who was admitted to hospital after breaking his finger.

“I want to go outside and get some fresh air.”

Reuters



Employees from a disinfection service company sanitize the floor of Gimpo International Airport in Seoul, South Korea, on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGICTICS
Phone No: 2301185

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

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

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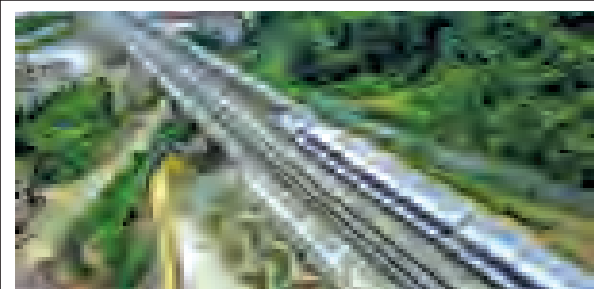
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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 19 June 2015

kpnw@kcyangon.com



The high-speed train G3002 runs past the Guiding section on a newly-opened rail line in Guiding County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 18 June, 2015. A new high speed rail line connecting southwest China's Guizhou Province with the economically better-off eastern regions opened on Thursday. The six-station line connects Xinhuang, a county bordering Guizhou in Hunan Province, and Guiyang, provincial capital of Guizhou. The track is 286 kilometres and forms part of the high-speed rail connecting Shanghai and southwest China's Kunming City. —XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN-947)

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

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

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(10/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars / Myanmar kyat,

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-021(15-16)	5" Drill Pipe (5000) Meter	US\$
(2)	IFB-022(15-16)	5" Heavy Weight Drill Pipe (50) Nos	US\$
(3)	IFB-023(15-16)	6 1/2", " 7 3/4" & 8" Drill Collars (3) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-024(15-16)	13 3/8", 9 5/8" & 5 1/2" Casing Shoe & Collar (16) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-025(15-16)	BJ Cementing Unit Spares (30) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-026(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Casings	US\$
(7)	IFB -027(15-16)	Electrical Spares (22) Items for HDD Rig	US\$
(8)	IFB-028(15-16)	Spares for HDD Rig (10) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-029(15-16)	Pump Spares for D3 T2 Drilling Rigs (23) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-030(15-16)	F 1000 Rig Pump Spares Ex D3 T2 Drilling Rigs (23) Items	US\$
(11)	DMP/L-005(15-16)	Spares for SINO Truck (20 Ton Long Body)	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15-7-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Four hurt in knife attack at Chinese market

BEIJING, 18 June — A knife-wielding man injured four people, including one seriously, in southern China's Guangxi region on Thursday, police said, the latest in a series of such attacks that have raised public concern.

Police in Beihai city detained a 30-year-old suspect over the early morning attack at a market, a statement on the city's police microblog said.

Authorities were still investigating the attack, the statement said, without providing further details.

Public sensitivity to knife attacks in China has heightened following a series of incidents, including a mass stabbing at a train station in March 2014 in the southwestern city of Kunming that left 31 dead. Authorities said that attack was carried out by separatist militants from the western region of Xinjiang.

Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

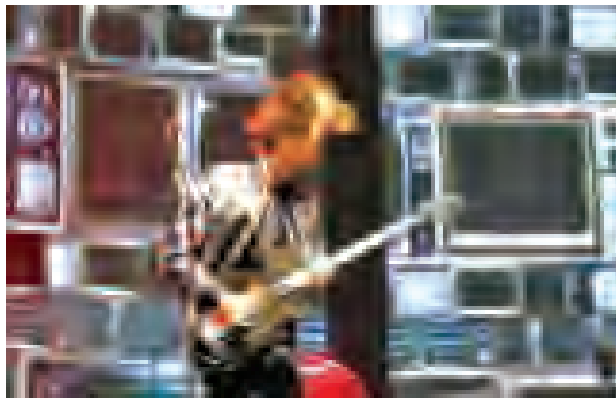
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong monsoon.

British rockers Muse top Billboard 200 for first time with 'Drones'

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — British rockers Muse stormed to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, the band's first time to notch the coveted No 1 spot.

"Drones," the seventh album from Muse, sold 79,000 albums, 26,000 songs and was streamed 3.3 million times, totaling 84,000 units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Taylor Swift's "1989" held steady at No 2 this week, selling 64,000 units in its 33rd week on the chart, while Icelandic folk band Of Monsters and Men debuted at No 3 with "Be-



Lead vocalist Matthew Bellamy of Muse performs at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California on 12 April, 2014. Picture taken on 12 April, 2014. — REUTERS

neath The Skin" selling 61,000 units.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal

one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Last week's chart-topper, British indie-rockers

Florence + the Machine, dropped to No 4 this week.

Veteran British rockers The Rolling Stones entered the chart at No 5 with a re-release of its classic 1971 album "Sticky Fingers," selling 36,000 units last week.

A special vinyl edition of the album, featuring alternate cover art from the record's original release in Spain, went on sale on Tuesday.

Swift's "Bad Blood" single continued its hold on the top spot of Billboard's Digital Songs chart, which measures digital download sales. "Bad Blood" sold 206,000 copies last week.

Reuters

Robert Downey Jr confirms Hulk's presence in Marvel's next film 'Captain America: Civil War'

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr has confirmed Mark Ruffalo (Hulk) about his presence in the "Captain America: Civil War".

Hulk and Thor were initially not enlisted to appear in the upcoming movie. However, the "Ironman"

an interview with HitFix.

The 47-year-old actor also said that he had not been contacted by anyone from the production as of yet. "At this point, I am told that I am in it by Robert, which I will take as biblical, but I just have not heard or seen from production yet."



Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, "Captain America: Civil War" also stars Sebastian Stan as Winter Soldier, Paul Bettany as The Vision, Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye, Don Cheadle as War Machine and Emily VanCamp as Agent 13.—PTI

actor has informed Ruffalo about his presence as Hulk, reported Aceshowbiz.

"If Robert Downey Jr says I am in 'Captain America', I am in 'Captain America'... And I will wait for the day that my call sheet shows up on my doorstep or my script," Ruffalo said in

Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, "Captain America: Civil War" also stars Sebastian Stan as Winter Soldier, Paul Bettany as The Vision, Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye, Don Cheadle as War Machine and Emily VanCamp as Agent 13.

PTI

Film industry 'not an even playing field' for women, Kidman says



Actress Nicole Kidman arrives on the red carpet for the screening of the movie 'Queen of the Desert' at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival, in Berlin on 6 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Academy Award winner Nicole Kidman has called for more opportunities to be created for women in film, describing the industry as "not an even playing field" and joining a chorus of actresses who have condemned gender inequality in Hollywood.

Stars such as Meryl Streep and Kristen Stewart have been vocal about sexism as well as age biases in the movie industry, with Stewart saying in one recent interview that women had "to work a little bit harder to be heard".

"Obviously we need to create more opportuni-

ties, it's not an even playing field," Kidman said on the red carpet at the organization Women in Film's Crystal + Lucy Awards in Los Angeles on Tuesday night.

"We're all working and banding together and trying to change that and that's what's needed. We also need to put cameras in little girls' hands and get them to tell stories and increase their confidence so that they can feel powerful."

The Australian actress received the "Crystal Award for Excellence in Film" at the event, which honors achievement in film and television and hosts a fundraising dinner for the organization's programme.

"Selma" director Ava DuVernay, who received the Dorothy Arzner Director's Award, said there was often oversight when it came to women filmmakers.

"Hollywood is like the boyfriend who doesn't call you as often, that's kind of like what Hollywood is to women filmmakers," she said.

"(There is) a little bit of neglect in terms of recognizing the imagination and talent women filmmakers have ... of older actresses who might be past the window of when the industry says they're valuable. There's so much of that going on so it's certainly something we all have to work to correct."

Reuters

Ashton Kutcher praises Rumer Willis for her essay on bullying

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Actor Ashton Kutcher has praised his former stepdaughter Rumer Willis for her candid essay on bullying.

Rumer is Demi Moore's daughter from her second marriage, to actor Bruce Willis, while Kutcher was her third husband.

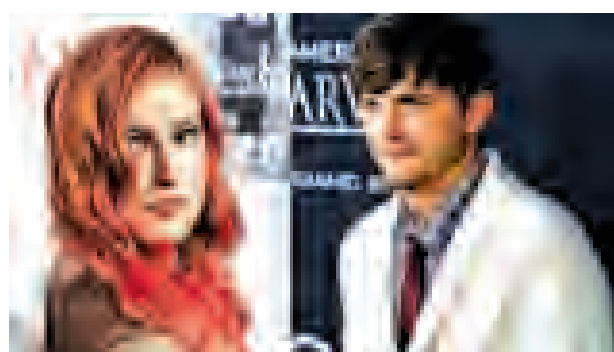
The former couple did not have any child.

Kutcher, 37, praised 26-year-old Willis on Facebook along with a link to her piece on bullying and body image, reported Aceshowbiz.

"It is amazing that you are telling your story and speaking up for other women," Kutcher, who has a baby daughter with his current partner Mila Kunis, wrote on the social networking site.

The "Dancing with the Stars" winner revealed in the essay that she was growing up struggling with body images.

"When you grow up in the public eye the way that I did, everyone is looking at you and waiting for you to do something crazy or say something wrong or



Rumer Willis revealed in the essay that she was growing up struggling with body images.—PTI

have a meltdown," she wrote.

This is not the first time when Kutcher has lent his support for Willis.

The "Jobs" actor encouraged fans to vote for Willis while she was competing on the dance show.

PTI

Edinburgh Film Festival opens with premiere of "The Legend of Barney Thomson"

EDINBURGH, 18 June — The 2015 Edinburgh International Film Festival was being opened by the World Premiere of British film "The Legend of Barney Thomson" on Wednesday evening.

Starring Scottish actor Robert Carlyle, who also makes his directorial debut with the opening film, the delightful jet-black comedy tells about a downtrodden barber, Barney Thomson, whose mundane life is turned upside down when he accidentally turns killer. Shot in Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, the film also stars the Oscar-winning British actress Emma Thompson, who acts as Barney Thomson's hilariously fierce mother.

The 69th Edinburgh International Film Festival explores new ideas in cinema, inviting local and international audiences to engage with a dynamic programme of fiction and documentary work, including 134 selected new features and 127 selected new shorts from 44 countries and regions, said the organizer.

Brotherhood of Blades (Xiu Chun Dao) from the Chinese mainland, Paradise in Service (Jun Zhong Le Yuan) from Taiwan, and It's Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong, jointly produced by Hong Kong and the United States, are also among the films in the Festival programme.

Awards at the film festival include Best International Feature Film, Best International Documentary Feature, the Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature Film, which is named in homage to one of Britain's most original filmmakers, the Student Critics Jury Award and the Audience Award, as well as the awards in the categories of animation and short film.

Mark Adams, Artistic Director of the Festival, said: "Alongside a wonderful spread of news films and retrospectives, we'll be offering the chance to meet talent from the films" and "will be staging some enthralling and entertaining special events," stressing the commitment to supporting film education and young audiences.—Xinhua

GENERAL

Shakespeare's 'Othello Tower,' victim of Cyprus's division, to reopen after facelift

FAMAGUSTA, (Cyprus), 18 June —The 14th-century Cypriot tower that is the fictional setting of Shakespeare's play "Othello" reopens next month after undergoing renovation following decades of decay on the internationally isolated Turkish side of the ethnically divided island.

The "Othello Tower" was long a tourist magnet. But after Cyprus was partitioned by a 1974 Turkish invasion triggered by a brief Greek-inspired coup, hundreds of the island's heritage sites fell foul of what became a frozen conflict.

Part of a fortress in the medieval city of Famagusta just within the Turkish side of Cyprus's "Green Line" on the eastern coast, the tower has been undergoing emergency stabilization for the past year to protect it from extensive water damage. According to the Bard, it was in the tower that the dark-skinned Moor Othello, egged on by his supposed trusty adviser Iago, goes into a jealous rage over the alleged infidelity of his new bride Desdemona and smothers her. In true Shake-



Workers are seen near a Saint Mark emblem of the 14th-century Othello Tower in Famagusta, Cyprus, on 17 June, 2015. —REUTERS

spearean fashion, Othello takes his own life after realizing his mistake.

Barricaded to visitors for the past 11 months, the tower will reopen in July — fittingly with a performance of the Shakespearean drama by young Turkish and Greek Cypriot actors.

"This is part of our common heritage," said Glafcos Constantinides, a member of a joint team of Greek and Turkish Cypriot cultural experts tasked

with salvaging monuments on the Mediterranean island, showing it off during a press preview. "Our heritage comes from the past, but also what we expect to build in the future." The restoration project is one of several earmarked by a group of Greek and Turkish Cypriots who, acting with the approval of their respective political leaderships as inter-communal tensions along the Green Line have eased in recent years, are working to

conserve Cyprus's cultural heritage. "Our biggest challenge was the rainwater. The complex absorbs it like a sponge," said Fatma Terlik, contract manager for the project carried out under the supervision of the United Nations Development Programme with European Commission funds.

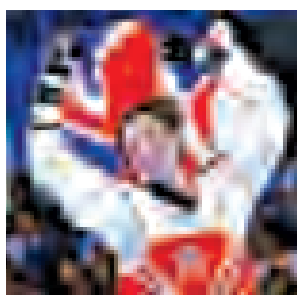
A drainage system was installed, together with work to restore some of the walls of the building, she told Reuters. —Reuters

Olympic champion Jones wins taekwondo gold for Britain

BAKU, 18 June — Olympic champion Jade Jones won gold for Britain in the women's -57kg taekwondo on Wednesday to make it two British victories in the sport at the inaugural European Games.

After team mate Charlie Maddock had claimed gold in the -49kg event on Tuesday, Jones defeated Croatia's Ana Zaninovic 12-9 in the final to claim Britain's third gold and fifth medal in total.

Jones, 22, led 5-0 after a dominant opening period, 8-6 after the second and



Jade Jones of Britain reacts after winning her women's 57Kg taekwondo gold medal fight against Ana Zaninovic of Croatia at the 1st European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 17 June, 2015. —REUTERS

held her nerve to triumph by three points after a tense final two minutes.

Jones became the first ever British athlete to win Olympic gold in taekwondo in 2012 and was also the winner of the inaugural Youth Olympics in Singapore in 2010.

"I'm just buzzing to be honest," Jones told reporters. "I got the Youth Olympic Games, the senior Olympic Games so to get the European Games as well and have all three at such a young age is amazing." Reuters

"I want to become a legend of my sport so I'm not done yet."

Jones said Maddock's success on Tuesday had provided her with extra motivation to emulate her team mate and top the podium in the Azeri capital.

"Charlie did amazing," Jones added. "She's only been doing taekwondo a year. It gives me confidence in our programme. I've been doing the same training as her, we're all a team and doing the same thing so it gives you confidence." Reuters

Costa Rica goalkeeper Navas out of Gold Cup

SAN JOSE, 18 June — Costa Rica goalkeeper Keylor Navas will miss the CONCACAF Gold Cup with an inflamed left Achilles tendon, coach Paulo Cesar Wanchope said on Wednesday.

The Real Madrid keeper, who shone at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, aggravated the sore tendon during Costa Rica's 2-1 defeat by Spain in a friendly last week. "Navas won't be able to play at the Gold Cup," Wanchope told reporters. "I think he has two options, surgery or treat-

ment. It's a shame he can't be there... but the priority is (the) Russia 2018 (World Cup)." Wanchope called up Patrick Pemberton of local Costa Rican side Alajuelense to replace Navas, who is returning to Madrid.

The Gold Cup will be played from 7-26 July in the United States where Costa Rica will be in Group B with El Salvador, Jamaica and Canada. The 'Ticos' have a warm-up lined up against Mexico on 27 June.

Reuters



Costa Rica's Keylor Navas makes a save during their international friendly soccer match against Spain at the Reino de Leon stadium in Leon, northern Spain, on 11 June, 2015. — REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

- (19-6-2015 07:00 am~ 20-6-2015 07:00 am) MST
- * News
 - * A Pretty Custom of Kandyawady Asia Vut A @ Rice Pounding Competition
 - * A visit to today's Along-Daw-Katthapha Sticky Shan Snack
 - * News
 - * Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
 - * An Oasis Trip to Mt.Popa
 - * News
 - * Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
 - * Pet Fish Biz
 - * Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
 - * News
 - * Kayin Child Boxer
 - * Myanmar Traditional Toys
 - * Independent Filmmaker
 - * News
 - * Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...to Kachin State
 - * Today Myanmar "Labour Force"
 - * News
 - * Discovering Tribes "MUUN (Episode - I)"
 - * Crocodile Keeper
 - * News
 - * Great Shwedagon The Architectural Heritage
 - * Talented Musicians
 - * News
 - * Yangon Markets: Mingalar Wholesale Market
 - * Today Myanmar & ICT "Sectorwise Integration with ICT"
 - * Scented Buddha Images
 - * News
 - * Products of Myanmar — Stone of The Heavens
 - * Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
 - * News
 - * Caneball Sport: Amazing May Phoo Han
 - * Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary
 - * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon

MRTV News Channel in Brief

- (19-6-2015, Friday)
- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
 - 6:20 am**
 - Physical Exercise
 - 7:35 am**
 - People's Talks
 - 8:35 am**
 - Current Affairs
 - 9:30 am**
 - Head Line News
 - 10:35 am**
 - MRTV's Youth programme
 - 11:35 am**
 - Science and Technology Programme
 - 12:00 noon**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
 - 1:15 pm**
 - Talk on Old Film (Part-2)
 - 2:35 pm**
 - Traditional Boxing
 - 3:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
 - 3:35 pm**
 - People's Talks
 - 4:35 pm**
 - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Zoology)
 - 5:00 pm**
 - News
 - 5:35 pm**
 - Current Affairs
 - 6:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
 - 6:35 pm**
 - Hyper Sports
 - 7:00 pm**
 - News
 - 7:35 pm**
 - Documentary
 - 8:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
 - 9:00 pm**
 - News
 - Hluttaw Image
 - Amazing World
 - Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

MRTV Entertainment Channel

- (19-6-2015, Friday)
- 6:00 am**
 - Mono Classical Songs
 - 6:25 am**
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
 - 6:45 am**
 - Song Programme
 - 7:00 am**
 - Fashion Show
 - 7:10 am**
 - TV Drama Series
 - 7:55 am**
 - TV Drama Series
 - 8:35 am**
 - Musical Programme
 - 8:55 am**
 - Teleplay
 - 9:35 am**
 - ABU Radio Song Festival (2015)
 - 9:50 am**
 - Myanmar Video

Europeans turn on the style as World Cup enters knockout round

MONTREAL, 18 June — England and France qualified in style for the last 16 of the women's World Cup on Wednesday, with the tournament looking as though it will be dominated by a strong contingent of European sides.

On the evidence of the first round the winner could well come from a group that includes Germany, France, England and Norway, while defending champions Japan and the United States, who although not at the same level as the others, benefit from massive fan support and could go on a run.

England have picked up momentum as the tournament progressed and



England forward Lianne Sanderson (20) and Colombia midfielder Nataly Arias (14) battle for a loose ball in Montreal, on 17 June, 2015. —REUTERS

showed an impressive encounter with Norway. Coach Mark Sampson has already used 21 of his 23 players, giving game

time to every team member apart from the two back-up goalkeepers, and praised his side's versatility.

"Whatever we're going to face in the latter stages, we know we have got something to throw back," he told reporters.

"We have got the bonus of a lot of people getting game time and a lot of people who are fighting fit," he said. England's pace might come in useful against an experienced Norwegian side that has looked ponderous at times. The winner of that game could well end up playing hosts Canada in the quarter-finals in Vancouver.

France, ranked third in

the world, blasted Mexico 5-0 with four first-half goals in Ottawa to win Group F.

"When you win 5-0, a coach is always going to be happy ... we know we played very well," said coach Philippe Bergeroo.

France should be too strong in the second round for a South Korea side that qualified after a bad error by Spain's goalkeeper in their final Group E game on Wednesday.

Germany, who are due to meet a weak Sweden in the second round, look to be the outstanding team of the World Cup so far.

Japan should brush aside Switzerland and could then meet Brazil,

who are beginning to look past their best.

High-scoring Cameroon play China in the second round while the United States meet Colombia.

The number of teams in the World Cup was expanded this year to 24 from 16 and some sides have struggled badly, but the standard of play should now improve and Canadian organizers will also be hoping more people at the games.

Less than 14,000 turned up on Wednesday to watch the two matches in Montreal's Olympic stadium, where attendances have largely been disappointing.—Reuters

Colombia beat Brazil, Neymar sent off after final whistle



Brazil (in blue) and Colombia players scuffle at the end of their first round Copa America 2015 soccer match at Estadio Monumental David Arellano in Santiago, Chile, on 17 June, 2015.—REUTERS

SANTIAGO, 18 June — A first-half goal from Jeison Murillo gave Colombia a 1-0 win over Brazil at the Copa America on Wednesday in a game marred by ugly scenes at the final whistle that saw Neymar and Carlos Bacca shown red cards.

The defeat was Brazil's first in 12 matches and the

first game coach Dunga had failed to win since taking over following their disastrous 2014 World Cup.

The scrappy game threw up few clear chances but Colombia put away the one that mattered to get the win over their illustrious rivals and record only their second victory in 10 Copa

America encounters against the five-times world champions.

Colombia were the better side throughout with defender Murillo seizing on a loose ball to get the all-important goal nine minutes before half time after a Juan Cuadrado free kick had bobbed around in the box.

Scuffles broke out at the end of the match and Neymar and Bacca were both shown red cards. The Brazilian had already been given a yellow and will miss Brazil's next match against Venezuela and probably at least one more game.

The striker was a different man from the one who turned on the style in previous matches for club and country and his team mates blamed the referee for singling him out.

"Referees need to show Neymar more respect," William told television reporters after the game. "He is always being targeted."

Brazil's Roberto Firmino should have equalised 13 minutes into the second half but he skied a golden chance over the bar with the goal gaping.

The result leaves Colombia and Brazil tied at the top of Group C along with Venezuela, who play Peru on Thursday.

Reuters

Aston Villa sign Richards from Man City

LONDON, 18 June — Aston Villa have signed former England defender Micah Richards from Manchester City on a free transfer, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

Richards, 26, has agreed a four-year contract and will move to Villa Park on 1 July.

The right back helped City win the Premier League title in 2012 but rarely played for the first

team under current manager Manuel Pellegrini and was loaned to Italian Serie A side Fiorentina last season.

"I'm sure he will prove to be an excellent signing for the football club," Villa manager Tim Sherwood told the club's website.

Richards has played 13 times for England and made nearly 250 appearances for City.—Reuters



Manchester City FC manager Manuel Pellegrini talks with defender Micah Richards (2) during the second half of a game against Liverpool FC at Yankee Stadium.—REUTERS

Top two FIFA officials hire lawyers as Swiss probe bank transactions

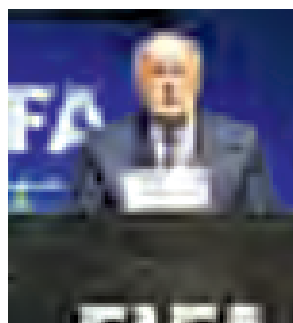
BERNE/ NEW YORK, 18 June — FIFA's embattled president, Sepp Blatter, and his second-in-command have hired high-powered lawyers to represent them, two sources said as a corruption probe engulfs football's global governing body with Swiss authorities identifying suspicious bank transactions.

Blatter recently retained Richard Cullen, the chairman of the law firm McGuireWoods and a former US federal prosecutor,

said a person familiar with the matter who spoke to Reuters on the condition of anonymity.

Jerome Valcke, FIFA secretary general, has hired prominent New York defence attorney Barry Berke to represent him, a separate person familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Swiss prosecutors looking into the international football scandal identified 53 suspicious bank transactions, the attorney general said on Wednesday, stress-



FIFA President Sepp Blatter addresses a news conference at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland on 2 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ing that the investigation may take time.

Swiss Attorney General Michael Lauber told journalists he would not rule out interviewing Blatter and Valcke, although Switzerland had so far targeted no individuals.

Switzerland, where FIFA is based, announced its criminal investigation and seized computers at FIFA headquarters last month on the same day that the United States revealed indictments of nine football

officials and five businessmen as part of a separate probe into corruption.

"We are faced with a complex investigation with many international implications," Lauber said in his first public comments since his office obtained the computer data last month.

"The world of football needs to be patient. By its nature, this investigation will take more than the legendary 90 minutes," he said, referring to the length of a football match.

US prosecutors have not accused Blatter of wrongdoing.

Among the issues the Federal Bureau of Investigation is examining is Blatter's stewardship of FIFA, sources have said.

US prosecutors believe that Valcke was involved in \$10 million in FIFA bank transactions that are a key part of the investigation, a source said in early June. He also has not been accused of wrongdoing.

Reuters