

President U Thein Sein presents certificate of honour to Dr Than Oo

(News on page 3)

Political parties sign code of conduct for upcoming general elections

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 26 June — Representatives from the majority of Myanmar's political parties on Friday signed a code of conduct for the upcoming general elections aimed at ensuring ethical behaviour from all contestants during the campaign and on polling day.

Of the country's 80 registered political parties, 67 inked the code of conduct at Novotel Hotel in Yangon in the presence of Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, foreign diplomats, civil society organizations and the media.

According to a media release, additional parties and independent candidates are expected to sign in the coming weeks.

The code seeks to ensure the success of the electoral process and encourage open, free and fair competition, it said.

The document is a voluntary instrument for the guidance of political parties and is not legally binding, but signatories are obliged to uphold its principles, the UEC chairman said.

The voluntary principles were developed with the consensus of political parties and with the technical support of the Embassy of Switzerland in Yangon.

Mr Christoph Burge-



Representatives from political parties attend a signing ceremony for the electoral code of conduct for political parties and candidates at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on Friday. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

ner, Switzerland's first resident ambassador to Myanmar, called the document "a manifesto for fair play in elections."

According to the Union Election Commission, similar codes of conduct have been used in other countries undergoing transition such as South Africa in 1994 and Nepal in 2013.

Mr Bojraj Pokharel, the former Head of the Nepal Election Commission and adviser to the process, said political parties in

Myanmar laid a foundation for a political culture of collaboration and mutual trust in developing the document.

Based on principles agreed upon by all political parties last October, an ad hoc working committee including the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), National League for Democracy (NLD) and National Unity Party (NUP) drafted the code. After undertaking a consultative meeting of all

parties in March, the UEC reviewed the draft in April. It was accepted by all parties in May for signing today.

Arakan National Party chairman Dr Aye Maung stressed the importance of adherence to the code for the sake of peaceful and fair elections.

"I acknowledge the need for the code of conduct for parties and candidates in the run up to, during and after elections," the Upper House MP said.

U Tun Tun Hein, a senior NLD official who signed the document at the ceremony, also expressed his view that political parties must adhere to the code.

The general election is

slated for November, but an exact date has yet to be set.

According to sources, the election date and constituencies are expected to be announced next month.

GNLM

Artists, students perform in Myanmar Women's Day showcase

YANGON, 26 June— Performing artists took the stage Friday at the National Theatre in a showcase to mark the upcoming Myanmar Women's Day on 3 July

Actors, musicians and students from the National University for Culture and Arts took part in the event organized by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, which also included a performance by the Academy May Pagyi Anyeint.

Patron of the federation Daw Ni Ni Win and party presented K15 million to the patron of the Yangon Region Women's

Affairs Organization, Daw Khin Thet Htay, and officials.

Officials of the MWAFF and Yangon Region WAO gave bouquets to those who helped stage the event.

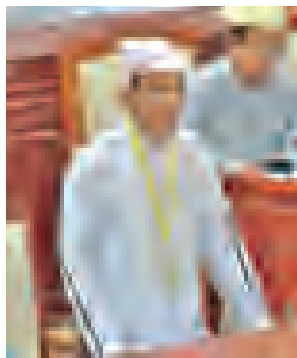
Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, honorary patrons, president and members of the federation were among the audience.

It was the 12th event of its kind organized by the MWAFF, with further shows to be staged for the public on 27 and 28 June.—MNA

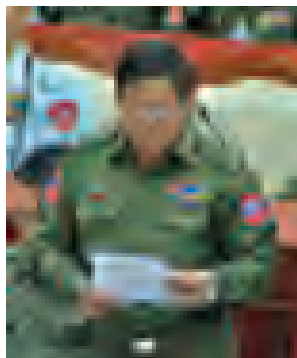
Correction to graph showing results of Hluttaw vote on constitutional amendment bill

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — The Global New Light of Myanmar on Page 1, 26 June, carried a graph showing the results of a secret ballot by Hluttaw representative on a constitutional amendment bill. Due to an error, the graph contained some inaccurate information. The following table contains the correct information.—MNA

Sr	Section	Hluttaw Representatives		Vote in Favour		Remark
		Total	Attendance	Total	Percentage	
1	59 (d)	633	583	556	87.835	Approved
2	59 (f)	633	583	371	58.609	Not approved
3	60 (c)	633	583	386	60.979	Not approved
4	418 (b)	633	583	386	60.979	Not approved
5	436 (a)	633	583	388	61.295	Not approved
6	436 (b)	633	583	388	61.295	Not approved



Deputy Attorney-General
U Tun Tun Oo.
MNA



Defence Services representative Brig-Gen Htay Naing.—MNA



U Win Than of Thabaung constituency.
MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw approves seven bills

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — The Pyithu Hluttaw held its 69th-day session Friday, approving seven bills.

U Win Than of Thabaung constituency and Defence Services personnel representative Brig-Gen Htay Naing discussed the amendment bill for the Union Government Law

submitted to the Lower House by the Public Affairs Management Committee.

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo sought approval from the Hluttaw after reviewing the discussions.

Officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee

and MPs discussed the amendment bills for the Union Attorney-General Law, the Union Auditor-General Law, the Union Civil Services Board Law, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Law, the Union Judicial Law and the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — A Myanmar military delegation led by Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), left Nay Pyi Taw Airport on Friday to pay a visit to

Cambodia at the invitation of General Meas Sopheha, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Royal Cambodian Army.

The Vice-Senior General was accompanied by his wife Daw Than Than

Nwe, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Commander of Central East Command Brig-Gen Win Min Tun and senior military officers.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Chief of the General Staff

(Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint, officials and the Cambodian Military Attaché.

Myawady

More than 28,000 tourists from ROK visit Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — The ASEAN-Korea Tourism Development Workshop 2015 took place in Seoul in the Republic of Korea from 15 to 19 June, with Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe of Myanmar in attendance.

Delegates from ASEAN countries submitted their tourist attractions while Myanmar also presented cultural works in Bagan, ancient religious edifices, scenic beauty of Mandalay royal palace, Taungthaman Bridge in

Amarapura, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Ngapali beaches in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State, agricultural works on floating islands and sales of vegetables and fruits in Inlay region.

The meeting was also

attended by tour companies from Republic of Korea.

A total of 58,472 tourists from Republic of Korea visited Myanmar in 2014 and 28,088 by May 2015. Thanks to the meeting, it is expected to in-

crease number of tourists from Myanmar in 2015.

Visitors from South Korea to ASEAN countries have been rising year by year, the vice chairman of Korea Tourism Organization said.

MNA

Dr U Than Oo appointed as educational advisor to president

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — Dr U Than Oo has been appointed as an advisor to the President's

Education Advisory Board, according to a notification issued by the Union Government dated 26 June.

The notification said the educational advisory board was formed 18 June 2014.—MNA

MR receives 10 DMUs under GGP scheme

YANGON, 26 June — Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, and U Thurein Win, Managing Director of Myanma Railways under Ministry of Rail Transportation signed the grant contract for the project for strengthening rail transportation of Yangon circular line, here, on Friday.

Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) scheme covers the costs of USD749,926 for shipping 10 DMUs (Diesel Multiple Unit) (KIHA 10 and KIHA 48) and for technical training on maintenance, provided by East Japan Railway Company (JR East).

The project will improve the rail transporta-

tion of Yangon City Line, which is one of the most important transportation means for the grassroots level. The project will ben-

efit approx. 100,000 Yangon Circular Line passengers per day or 30 million passengers per year.

The Government of

Japan has assisted 727 various grassroots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993.

GNLM



Japanese ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Managing Director U Thurein Win of Myanma Railways and officials seen in group photo.

Biography of Dr Than Oo



tor-general that he held since 1977.

Social organizations he has involved

He acted as a secretary of the central committee for Myanmar Literacy Campaign as of 1946. In 1971, he represented Myanmar to accept Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Literacy Prize awarded by the UNESCO in Paris, France.

He was born to U Po Thaug and Daw Oh on 9th waning day of Tagu in 1289 ME (Friday) in Pyay.

He attended National High School and State High School in Pyay in his younger days.

In 1950, he graduated from Yangon University with two distinctions in B.A (Ed) and stood first.

In 1960, he obtained B.Ed and stood first to be awarded gold medal.

In 1963, he got M.Ed from University of Hawaii in the United States with distinction.

He served as a headmaster at Padigone State High School in Pyay (1954) and Okpo State High School in Thaya-wady district (1960). He also served as an assistant administrator for administration of schools at Education Commissioner's Office (1963) and a head of Institute of Education in Patheingyi (1964-65).

He held a number of positions— assistant research officer (1966), research officer (1967-68), deputy director (1972) and chairman (1976-77) — at Myanmar Education Research Bureau.

In 1985, he retired from the Department of Education as a direc-

He also acted as an executive committee member of Myanmar Teachers' Federation, a member of the central committee of Myanmar Workers' Association, an executive member of Myanmar Research Association, an executive member of Myanmar Red Cross Society and president of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Since 1951, he has been writing many books on education and social matters.

He was awarded "National Literary Award" for his book entitled "History of Myanmar Education" in 1999.

On 8 January 2015, an Honorary Doctor of Letters was conferred on him by the University of Yangon at a special convocation.

He also received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Hawaii University at the University's 104th convocation On 16 May 2015. At present, he acted as chairman of the supporting committee for Myanmar Literacy Campaign, the Board of Administration of Pinnya Tazaung and U Than Oo Foundation.

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein presents certificate of honour to Dr Than Oo

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—President U Thein Sein on Friday honoured a long-serving education official for his dedication to raising literary levels and improving the standard of teaching across the nation's schools.

In a ceremony at the Presidential Palace, the president presented a certificate of honour to Dr Than Oo, patron of the Advisory Board of the Education Promotion Implementation Committee.

In his speech, the president said Sayagyi Dr Than Oo had devoted his life to promoting national education.

Dr Than Oo served as the secretary of the Myanmar Literacy Campaign Central Committee in 1964 and played an important role in the 3-Rs Literacy Campaign of Myanmar, according to the president.

He also served as patron of the advisory board of the Education Promotion Implementation Committee,

chairman of the Myanmar Literacy Campaign Supporting Committee and the chairman of the Pyinnya Tazaung Governing Body.

In 2015, Yangon University and the University of Hawaii conferred Doctor of Letters and Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa on Dr Than Oo respectively, the president added.

In conclusion, the president said he was proud to confer the certificate of honour on Dr Than Oo, who had devoted his life to the education sector.

Present at the ceremony were Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Dr Daw Khin San Yi, Dr Than Aung, Dr Ko Ko Oo, U Ye Htut, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Attorney General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, deputy ministers and officials.

Before the ceremony, the president received a delegation led by Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN at the presidential palace.

Discussions focused on assistance for human resources development, technological development and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.



President U Thein Sein confers certificate of honour on Dr Than Oo for his long-serving education and literary works.—MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN.—MNA

Present at the call were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, Dr Kan Zaw and officials.—MNA

Nation observes International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — Myanmar observed the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the theme "Let's Develop Our Lives, Our Communities and Our Identities Without Drugs" here on Friday.

Speaking at the celebration, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the fight against narcotic drugs as a national concern.

Myanmar has been a signatory to three United Nations Conventions on international drug control.

The country's measures to control drug abuse and illicit trafficking include the elimination of drug production and usage, and crackdowns on drug dealing, the vice president said.

The 15-year drug control plan from 1999 to 2014 was carried out in 51 townships, resulting in an 80 percent decrease of poppy

cultivation in seven years. However, the percentage rose again after 2006, especially in remote areas, with the vice president blaming difficult accessibility and regional instability for the surge.

He also talked about the government's five-year plan from 2014 to 2019 aimed at curbing drug abuse and illicit trafficking in line with the ASEAN declaration on a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has resolved to achieve a drug-free ASEAN by 2020.

According to the report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2014, there was a gradual drop in poppy cultivation in the country.

The World Drug Report 2014 estimated that the number of people between 15 and 64 using illicit drugs

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views round documentary photos on anti-drug campaign.
MNA



stood between 16 million and 35 million worldwide.

The Ministry of Health works together with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to

run rehabilitation centres as part of its effort to provide systematic treatment for users.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko

Ko presented awards to winners of the literary competition held in commemoration of the international day.

From 2013 to 2014, Myanmar destroyed over

15,188 hectares of poppies being cultivated across the country, while seizing millions of kyat in crackdowns on drug dealing in 2014.

MNA

Businessmen exchange views on development of SME industries



MANDALAY, 26 June — The Small- and Medium-Scale Enterprise Committee under Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized the SME+Financing Workshop at the hall of the chambers in Chanayethazan Township on 25 June.

Economist Dr Tin Tin Soe, Sayagyi U Thein, Chief Editor U Zaw Than of SME Magazine and Daw Thida San of Lucky Home discussed monetary assistance for development of SME industries.

*Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)*

Kyunsu Township receives funds for development tasks

MYEIK, 26 June — Department of Rural Development allocated funds for development tasks in Kyunsu Township this fiscal year.

The department is spending K31 million on construction of an asphalt road in Kattalu village and K120 million on a 240-foot-long jetty in Yeganbaung village.

Moreover, the department is distributing 508 solar panels at a cost of K101

million to five villages and supply drinking water at a cost of K 100 million to nine villages.

Plans are under way to build 13 toilets at a cost of K55 million in 13 villages in Kyunsu Township.

“The department is trying hard to complete all development tasks in the 2015-16 fiscal year,” said U Than Tun Oo of Kyunsu Township Department of Rural Development.

Myint Oo (Myeik)

Head of Patheingyi District Rural Development Department U Sa Tint Wai and officials inspect cultivation, shops and livestock breeding tasks run by the loans from Emerald Green Project in Byaikkyi village in Kyaunggon Township on 23 June.—DAVID (KYAUNGON)



Expo showcases cars, auto accessories, appliances

MANDALAY, 26 June —The Mandalay Lifestyle Expo & Car Show kicked off at the city hall, here, on 25 June, with Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and Minis-

ter for Electric Power and Industry U Kyaw Myint in attendance. Altogether 40 companies displayed automobiles, batteries, fuel and lubricant, electronic equipment, personal goods

Construction of Upok Creek Bridge completed

KALAY, 26 June — Construction of the Upok Creek Bridge on Kalay-Kalewa Road in Kalay, Sagaing Region, was completed this month.

As of 20 February 2015, the 24-foot-wide bridge was upgraded to a 44-foot-wide facility, at a cost of K65 million, Township Senior Engineer U Min Htut said.

“The bridge is located on the main road in Kalay,” said a local resident. “We hoped for quick completion of the bridge so local people can enjoy better transport.”

The bridge will be officially opened at the end of June.

Linlet Kyel Sin



Broadcast promotes Myanmar's traditional Anyeint performance

MANDALAY, 26 June — In an interview at the filming location of the Myanmar Anyeint Performance Programme in Mandalay on 24 June, director Zar Ga Nar (a) U Thura spoke about the upcoming telecast of Myanmar's traditional Anyeint art form, which combines singing, dance, instru-

mental music and comedy routines. Daw Than Than, a veteran dancer in a Mandalay-based Anyeint troupe, also recounted her experiences learning and performing dance routines.

Comedian U Gyar Aye explained, “Anyeint performances could attract people from 1960 to 1988 in Mandalay. Now,

only three or four Anyeint troupes are operating in Mandalay due to lack of interest.”

A shooting manager said the programme of Anyeint performance to be broadcast by MRTV will present famous songs and dances of veteran Anyeint performers.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



REGIONAL

Chinese, Cambodian senior officials meet to strengthen ties



Han Qide (L), vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister Sok An in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 25 June, 2015. Han Qide met with Sok An here on Thursday to discuss ways to further enhance ties and cooperation for the interests of the two countries and peoples, a Cambodian spokesman said.—XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 26 June — Han Qide, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), met with Cambodian Senate president Say Chhum and National Assembly president Heng Samrin on Friday to explore ways to broaden cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries.

Speaking with Say Chhum, Han expressed the CPPCC's commitment to further enhance friendly relations and cooperation with the Cambodian Senate.

Han proposed that the two legislative bodies exchange the visits of officials more often so as to deepen bilateral ties and cooperation.

Say Chhum agreed with the proposal, saying

that the frequent exchange of visits by leaders and officials would increase mutual confidence and cooperation.

In his meeting with Heng Samrin, Han said the CPPCC is satisfied with the China-Cambodia relations and expressed his belief that the ties would be further deepened for the benefits of the two countries and peoples.

Heng Samrin said Han's visit would double possibility for the two countries to further enhance friendly relations and cooperation.

He also reiterated Cambodia's staunch support to the One-China Policy.

Han arrived in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh on Thursday for a three-day visit.

Xinhua

Thailand halts launch of rights report alleging Vietnam abuses

BANGKOK, 26 June — Thai police forced a rights group to cancel the launch of a report alleging Vietnam's persecution of an ethnic minority on Friday, saying it could harm relations between the South-east Asian neighbours.

The launch of the 33-page report by the New-York based Human Rights Watch outlining Vietnam's persecution of ethnic Montagnard Christians in the Central Highlands was due to take place at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand in Bangkok.

But undercover soldiers and police turned up at club to shut down the event, a FCCT official told

Reuters, declining to be named.

Thai police said they acted pre-emptively after receiving a request from the Vietnamese government.

"Vietnamese officials had sent a request to the Royal Thai Police to pay attention to the event," Police Colonel Pornchai Chalordet, superintendent of the Lumpini police station in Bangkok, told *Reuters*.

The cancellation came as concerns grow over freedom of expression in Thailand under the military government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Prayuth, who as army

chief took power in a May 2014 coup, said on Thursday he was not afraid of the press, days before the government is to hold a meeting to teach journalists how to ask questions that won't offend him.

Pornchai said the event was deemed potentially damaging to foreign relations.

Police Colonel Kittiporn Boongsong, who was at the scene, told *Reuters* police had only asked for "cooperation".

He said that the junta did not order the event's cancellation.

Human Rights Watch in a statement said it was disappointed.

"This action today is just the latest indication that Thailand is choosing to side with dictatorships in Asia," it said.

Thailand's military overthrew the previous democratic government last year after months of political unrest. The junta has since stifled dissent, disallowing political gatherings and debate.

This was the third event to be cancelled at the request of Thai authorities within two months, the FCCT official said.

In 2010 Thailand, under pressure from Vietnam, denied visas to two political activists seeking to speak at an FCCT event.—*Reuters*

S Korea's ex-first lady to visit DPRK as early as in July

SEOUL, 26 June — The widow of the late South Korean President Kim Dae-jung will visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as early as in July to possibly meet with DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Un.

Unification Ministry spokesman Lim Byeong-cheol told a press briefing on Friday that the Kim Dae-jung Peace Centre submitted an application earlier in the day for approval of the visits by the center officials to Kaesong to discuss schedules for former first lady Lee Hee-ho's travel to the DPRK.

The centre was quoted by *Yonhap News Agency* as saying that the DPRK has proposed a meeting next Tuesday in its border town

of Kaesong to talk about Lee's trip.

Lee's side offered last on Thursday to have the meeting to discuss schedules, and the DPRK responded Thursday to the offer. Five figures from the Lee side and five others from the DPRK would talk about her schedules if Seoul grants her visit.

Lim said Lee's visit would be a matter of private-sector exchanges, noting that the South Korean government has actively supported such exchanges as well as humanitarian aid and cooperation in private sectors to open a new path of inter-Korean cooperation.

A centre official was quoted as saying that the former first lady would visit

the DPRK as early as next month or no later than the 15 August liberation day from the Japanese colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

Lee's trip was proposed in late 2014 by DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Un who invited her to Pyongyang at an appropriate time in 2015 in token of his gratitude for her sending of condolence flowers to mark the third anniversary of the death of late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il, father of the current top leader.

Lee was accompanied by the late President Kim Dae-jung when he visited Pyongyang in 2000 and held the first inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong Il.

Her visit was expected to ease tensions on the

peninsula as the DPRK denounced South Korea for supporting the establishment in Seoul of a new UN office monitoring human rights performance of the DPRK.

On Thursday when the DPRK responded to the meeting for Lee's schedules, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea (CPRK) blasted the setting up of the UN human rights office in Seoul, saying in a statement that it was the most hideous political provocation against the DPRK.

On 19 June, the DPRK sent an email to notify South Korea of its cancellation of joining the Summer Universiade set to be held in Gwangju from 3 July, citing the opening of the UN human rights office.—*Xinhua*

Abe regrets LDP lawmakers' anti-media criticism of security bills

TOKYO, 26 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his regret on Friday for remarks made by younger lawmakers from his Liberal Democratic Party, which blamed negative media reports for the low public popularity of bills that would expand overseas operations of the Self-Defence Forces.

"If it's true, it would be very regrettable," Abe, who doubles as LDP president, told a session of the House of Representatives panel. He said his party gives priority to freedom and democracy to which press freedom is vital.

Opposition members have protested as outrageous the remarks that were made in a study meeting of

younger LDP lawmakers on Thursday.

Abe said, however, that he has not confirmed the remarks in question and that the study meeting was unofficial.

Earlier in the day, former Defence Minister Akinori Eto, a senior LDP lawmaker, apologized at an executive meeting of the lower house panel for the remarks criticizing media coverage on government-sponsored national security bills.

"We are sorry," Eto said, particularly referring to one LDP lawmaker's reported remark that advertisements should be cut to punish mass media. "We will strictly reprimand the relevant lawmaker."



Photo taken on 26 June, 2015, in Tokyo shows a meeting of the House of Representatives special committee on national security bills, at which the opposition bloc criticized young lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party over their remarks that advertisements should be cut to punish news organizations that maintain a critical stance over the bills. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, "It is quite regrettable, if it is true."—KYODO NEWS

At a Press conference on Friday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga withheld any comment on the anti-media criticism for the reason of lack of knowledge about the Thursday meeting, while noting that freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution in Japan.

"Press freedom is a very important right," Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yoichi Miyazawa separately told reporters on Friday. "It is not appropriate to threaten the freedom."

In Thursday's meeting of LDP lawmakers, some noted newspapers in Okinawa Prefecture are critical of the government. Writer Naoki Hyakuta, who was the lecturer in the study session,

told the meeting that the two Okinawa newspapers should be destroyed, according to participants.

The bills that were being referred to would also allow Japan to exert to the right to collective self-defence, or to defend an ally under attack when Japan itself is not attacked.

Many scholars have said Japan's use of collective self-defence violates the war-renouncing Constitution.

In a *Kyodo News* survey earlier this month, 58.7 percent of people said they are opposed to the security bills, up 11.1 percentage points from the previous poll in May, while 27.8 percent say they support them.

Kyodo News

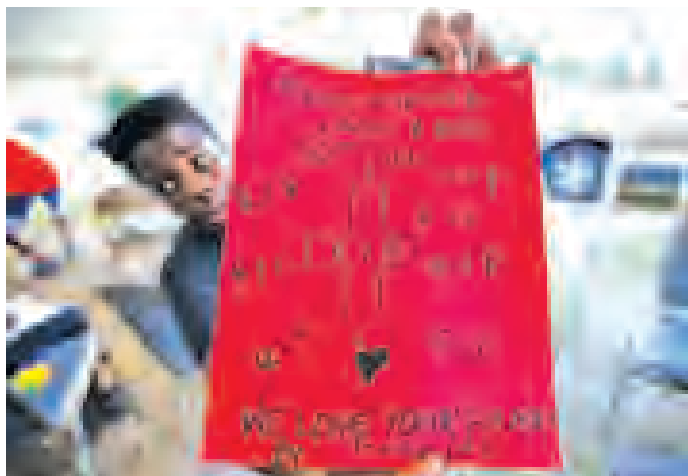
China attacks US rights record in annual report

BEIJING, 26 June — China accused the United States on Friday of being “haunted by spreading guns” and racial discrimination, in its annual tit-for-tat rebuttal to US criticism of China’s human rights record.

In a lengthy report carried by the official *Xinhua* news agency, China’s State Council Information Office said the United States “violated human rights in other countries in a more brazen manner, and was given more ‘red cards’ in the international human rights field”. “The US was haunted by spreading guns and frequent occurrence of violent crimes, which threatened citizens’ civil rights,” the report said.

The China section of the annual US State Department report on human rights conditions globally, released on Thursday, said that “repression and coercion were routine” against activists, ethnic minorities, and law firms that took on sensitive cases.

Human rights have long been a source of tension between the world’s



Fourteen year-old Jordan Deas holds up the card he made for the victims of the mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church during bible study at the Without Walls Ministry in Charleston, South Carolina on 24 June, 2015.

REUTERS

two largest economies, especially since 1989, when the US imposed sanctions on China after a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators around Beijing’s Tiananmen Square. While senior leaders periodically promise China’s citizens democracy and human rights, the last two years under President Xi Jinping’s administration have been marked by a sweeping crackdown on dissidents and activists.

China has long rejected criticism of its rights record, saying providing food, clothing, housing and economic growth are far more relevant for develop-

ing countries, pointing to its success at lifting millions out of poverty.

The State Department report came in the same week that the United States and China held three days of high-level talks in Washington.

The Chinese report, which was mostly compiled from US media articles, said “racial discrimination has been a chronic problem in the US human rights record”, adding that the United States suppressed the voting rights of minorities.

It cited a USA Today report that said preliminary exit polls showed that vot-

ers of African origins accounted for 12 percent in the 2014 midterm election, down from 13 percent in the 2012 presidential election. “In 2014, multiple cases of arbitrary police killing of African-Americans have sparked huge waves of protests, casting doubts on the racial ‘equality’ in the US and giving rise to racial hatred factors,” the report said.

The report also criticized the United States for conducting surveillance on world leaders and civilians and for allowing a few interest groups to influence the government’s decision-making.—Reuters

Pakistan morgues run out of space as heat wave kills more than 1,000

KARACHI, June 26 — The worst heat wave to hit Pakistan’s southern city of Karachi for nearly 35 years has killed more than 1,000 people, a charity said on Thursday, as morgues ran out of space and residents rushed to supply overstretched public hospitals.

Tents offering iced water and rehydration salts have mushroomed on street corners, run by rival political parties and the military. Residents in one neighbourhood hacked into a main water pipe and then danced delightedly in the spray.

The heat wave in the city of 20 million people coincided with severe electricity cuts, leaving many without fans, water or light, and the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, when many Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours.

Some shops have refused to sell ice or water during the day, citing religious laws that mean they can be fined. It is also illegal to eat or drink in public from dawn to dusk.

Temperatures shot up to 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) at the weekend, the hottest since 1981, although they dipped to 38C (100F) on Thursday. Forecasters have been predicting rain for days, but there has been no significant fall. An influx of dead means body bags have stacked up on the floor of the morgues, said Anwar Kazmi, a senior official of the charitable organization

the Edhi Foundation.

“The refrigeration unit was not working properly because there were too many bodies,” he said.

Kazmi said more than 1,000 people had died of heat-related causes so far. The provincial government had done little except try to blame others, he said.

“We pay tributes to the doctors and staff of the government hospitals who are working tirelessly treating an endless number of patients,” he said.

Hospitals called in student doctors to work extra shifts and appealed for basic items like sheets and stretchers. Decades of chronic neglect by successive civilian governments or military regimes have gutted social services like health and education.

Many public hospitals said citizens dropped off carloads of iced water and other supplies. The number of patients was slowly declining as the temperature goes down, doctors said.

Jinnah hospital had an overwhelming response to its appeal for cold water and stretchers, said Dr Tasneem Butt, and a charity had arranged for rented air conditioners. As she spoke, her phone rang with a call from another donor.

Behind her a motorized rickshaw pulled up, a young woman inside shouting for help her as her father slumped out into the arms of volunteers.

Reuters

China’s first MERS patient discharged from hospital

GUANGZHOU, 26 June — China’s first confirmed Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) patient was discharged from hospital and returned to the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Friday, the health and family planning commission of Guangdong Province said.

The 44-year-old Korean man tested positive for MERS in Guangdong on 29 May.

The man has had no fever for more than 10 days, and has tested negative for MERS twice.

The man had visited a MERS patient at an ROK hospital and expressed discomfort as early as 21 May. Despite a doctor recommending that he cancel his travel plans, he flew to Hong Kong on 26 May and entered Huizhou City via Shenzhen.

MERS is a respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus. The first human case emerged in Saudi Arabia in 2012. There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease, which has a fatality rate of about 40 percent.—Xinhua

S Korean court rejects damages claims by S Korean A-bomb survivors

SEOUL, 26 June — The Seoul Central District Court on Friday rejected compensation claims against the South Korean government by a group of South Korean survivors of the 1945 US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

The ruling was delivered to 79 victims seeking 10 million won (about \$9,000) each over the central government’s alleged failure to check with the Japanese government that the right of survivors to seek compensation exists, a negligence which they claim to be illegal.

The plaintiffs had filed the lawsuit in August 2013 on behalf of about 2,600 members of an association formed to promote their rights.

“The government seems to be making diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue of atomic bomb victims with the Japanese government,” the presiding judge said, according to *Yonhap News Agency*. “It cannot be judged that the state has carried out illegal acts.”

The plaintiffs said they



Plaintiffs announce their plan, at the Seoul Central District Court on 26 June, 2015, to appeal to a higher court after the court rejected claims made by a group of South Korean survivors of the 1945 US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to seek compensation from the South Korean government. — KYODO NEWS

plan to appeal the district court’s decision.

In a landmark ruling in 2011, the South Korean Supreme Court determined that the 1965 agreement on normalizing diplomatic ties between South Korea and Japan did not nullify the right of individuals to file for compensation.

The same year, the

Constitutional Court of Korea ruled that the South Korean government’s failure to take specific action, while doubts remained as to whether the individuals’ right to seek damages concerning the atomic bombings and the “comfort women” issue was nullified with the 1965 treaty, was unconstitutional.

South Korea has since been calling on Japan to start negotiations on the matter, but no talks have been held, with Japan sticking to the position that all issues related to compensation during its 1910-1945 rule of the Korean Peninsula was settled by the normalization treaty.

Kyodo News

WORLD

PM: Belgrade respects deal made in Brussels, unlike Pristina



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

BELGRADE, 26 June — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said that Belgrade has kept its word given during the recent negotiations with Pristina in Brussels that details of the process should not be disclosed to the public until the forthcoming resumption of the dialogue, while Pristina has not done that.

Vucic told a special Press conference held at the Serbian government building late Thursday that, at the proposal of EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, the mediator in these negotiations, it was agreed that the public should not be informed about the content of the talks.

Serbian media reports show that Belgrade has not

let anything get to the public, not even by referring to unnamed sources, Vucic said, asking if this means that only Belgrade should keep its word.

The prime minister said that, after different statements have been made, it has to be said that the talks on energy were suspended the moment it became obvious “they are trying to take Serbia’s property,” while Pristina now claims that an agreement on the issue is about to be signed. This can happen, but only if I am dismissed and if someone else is found to do it by that time. I will never sign this and make Serbia’s property become the property of Kosovo, the prime minister pointed out.—*Tanjung*

In tense talks, EU leaders agree plan to confront migrant crisis

BRUSSELS, 26 June — Fractious European leaders argued into the early hours on Friday over how to handle a migrant crisis in the Mediterranean, agreeing a plan to share out the care of desperate people fleeing war and poverty in North Africa and the Middle East.

Determined not to be dragged into negotiations over Greece’s debt debacle at their summit in Brussels, leaders instead found themselves sparring for seven hours about whether to take in 40,000 Syrian and Eritrean asylum seekers now in Italy and Greece and another 20,000 people currently outside the EU.

They eventually agreed a voluntary scheme, sticking to the 60,000 number but granted an exclusion for

Hungary, which earlier described the plan as absurd, as well as for Bulgaria, one of the EU’s poorest countries.

“It was a very intensive debate,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel told

reporters after the meeting ended, describing the migrant crisis “as the biggest challenge I have seen in European affairs in my time as chancellor”.

That is a striking statement considering the euro

zone debt crisis and confrontation with Russia during her decade in power.

Expressing his frustration, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker described the plan as one of “modest ambition” and said at one point in the meeting he had told EU leaders “I don’t give a damn” about objections to the plan’s underlying methodology.

“We have to find out if the system works. It doesn’t matter if it is voluntary or mandatory, it is whether it can help 60,000 refugees,” Juncker told a news conference in the early hours of Friday. However, the EU’s chief executive had been hoping to set a precedent for Europe-wide action that limited national opt-outs.

Reuters



A barbed wire is seen in front of a European Union flag at an immigration reception centre in Bicske, Hungary on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Tsipras to hold talks with Merkel, Hollande on Friday — official

BRUSSELS, 26 June—Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras will hold talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois

Hollande on Friday, a day after euro zone finance ministers failed to clinch a cash-for-reform deal, a Greek government official said. Merkel, Hollande and

Tsipras are in Brussels for a regular summit of European Union leaders. Euro zone finance ministers will meet again in Brussels on Saturday to try to solve the

crisis before the deadline on a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.79 billion) repayment to the IMF that Greece needs to make by 30 June.

Reuters

France cracks down on Uber after taxi driver protests

PARIS, 26 June — France ordered a nationwide clampdown on UberPOP on Thursday, siding with taxi drivers who blockaded major transport hubs in angry protests against the popular online ride-sharing service.

Furious at what they regard as unfair competition, cabbies blocked roads to the capital’s airports, overturned cars and burned tyres to press for the scheme to be abolished.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls condemned the violence and incidents “on both sides” as the government sought to take a tough stand on the protests while backing the drivers’ case.

“They give a deplorable image to visitors to our country,” he said during a visit to Colombia, adding that all available legal measures would be taken to halt the UberPOP activity.

Police said 70 cars were damaged and seven police officials injured in the protests. Ten people



A policeman secures the traffic as taxi drivers, who are on strike, burn tires to block the access to Nice International airport during a national protest against car-sharing service Uber in Nice, France, on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

were arrested.

The protests were among the fiercest in a series of strikes and other demonstrations across

Europe against San Francisco-based Uber, whose backers including investment bank Goldman Sachs (GS.N) and technology gi-

ant Google (GOOGL.O). It is valued in excess of \$40 billion.

Uber, which says it has 1 million users in

France, links drivers to passengers via a smartphone app. It has expanded its UberPOP service in French cities, provoking

anger from taxi drivers and stirring a debate over what is fair competition.

At Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, staff advised passengers to avoid the traffic chaos by walking between terminals. Dozens of passengers lined the roads, with some scrambling up slopes and across motorway barriers, a Reuters witness said.

French TV showed images of burning tyres blocking part of the Paris ring road and scuffles between cabbies and other drivers. Police in riot gear at one point intervened using tear gas.

Taxi drivers set up barriers around Marseilles and Aix-en-Provence in southeast France, including at motorway exits, and blocked access to train stations in the two cities.

“We are faced with permanent provocation (from Uber) to which there can only be one response: total firmness in the systematic seizure of offending vehicles,” G7 taxi firm head Serge Metz told BFM TV.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 27 June, 2015

Education the ultimate vehicle for human developmentBy *Kyaw Thura*

When it comes to education, most people tend to imagine children sitting in a classroom with a teacher standing in front. This is typically what is known as formal education. Another form of education happens in informal settings.

A good example of informal education is community learning. Communities should be encouraged to create informal learning environ-

ments so as to provide opportunities for people of all ages who have difficulty accessing formal education. Informal learning is important, especially to out-of-school children and youth.

Nevertheless, the ultimate aim of education, whether formal or informal, is to expand opportunities for human development by fostering economic growth, improving health and reducing poverty.

The government, for its part, should start by making education a top priority. It should allocate more spending on building school infrastructure and training teachers. In addition, it should refocus on non-formal education so as to redress inequality in education across the country.

It should be noted that reform of the education system does not necessarily depend on making changes to education policies and laws. No matter how well syllabuses and curricula are designed, this alone will not prove fruitful. We must

pay greater attention to improving the quality of education in general, especially through better teachers and learning environments. For example, we need to set up links with international learning institutions.

The better people are educated, the less likely they are to commit crime. It is no surprise that education fights poverty, maintains peaceful coexistence, encourages environmental conservation and fosters healthy lifestyles.

Write for us

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

Myanmar Women's Day for all Myanmar Women*Aye Phyu*

It is generally believed that the term 'culture' has revolved a long way in its use. In the 20th century, 'culture' is said to have emerged as a central concept, encompassing the range of human phenomena that cannot be attributed to genetic inheritance. Exactly fitting in with this idea, the American Heritage Dictionary defines "culture" as the totality of socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions and all other products of human work and thought characteristic of a community or population.

Over the world, different peoples have different cultures. Even within Myanmar, we can see different culture and traditions among the different ethnic groups.

All throughout the world, Myanmar is famous for her fine cultures and traditions. And Myanmar women, as globally accepted, have a unique social status in our society. It is said that for centuries, we have owned "a high measure of independence" and that we have retained our legal and economic rights all along.

The general impression formed by people who came and visited Myanmar for the first time, according to the Women of Burma by Daw Mya Sein in the Atlantic Magazine (Feb, 1958 issue) was that of Myanmar women with a tradition of

hard work and independence.

Today, we are living in a technological age whereby all people, young and old, are consistently bombarded with new ideas, concepts, and all kinds of issues through a variety of media and connected devices. Globalization has made our world flat, paving the way for cultural diffusion. Not only in Myanmar, the whole world has experienced it.

As a result, we see unprecedented changes all around. Several areas of concern seem to be in the dress-mode, fashions and the life-styles of the young people. More girls in jeans and skirts might look quite okay so long as they don't dress themselves up in provocative clothes, but the typical 'living together' lifestyle among young couples might not be acceptable to many Myanmar families.

We, adults, need to join in the concerted efforts to convey a message to these young people to treasure our beautiful, fine and worldly-appreciated traditional values and to behave themselves accordingly towards the sustenance of our cultural heritage and customs.

I think we should all be thankful for the unique social status of Myanmar women and the relatively safer environment here compared to some harmful areas across the world. While we take it for granted and somewhat enjoying our freedom and gender

equality to some degrees, women and girls globally have suffered from multiples of gender-based violence. We have been hearing heartrending examples of mistreatment of women across diverse cultures and societies. Selective abortion and infanticide, honour killings and dowry deaths, genital mutilation and sex trade, mass rape in war zones, domestic violence and many other horrific crimes are taking place. Taken together, around the globe, one UN report states, one in three women has a horrifying experience of gender-based violence in her lifetime.

Many girls have been denied their right to education in the world. Educated women of Myanmar should try to help those less-fortunate women particularly from the rural areas and take part in nation building, making contributions in any ways and means they can. Assisting in awareness

raising programs is just an example.

Despite the global waves of feminism, and the efforts of UN and other international organizations, private sector and governments, the struggles to gain as equal human beings has been progressing very slowly and gender equality on a global scale still seems far away. Various UN's campaigns like "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", "HeForShe" campaign, and Malala's "Dear Sister Initiative" are some efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment that have been launched throughout the years.

In Myanmar, MWF (Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation), has been giving out all the necessary help and assistance in various areas for Myanmar women's protection, for their rights and for their empowerment. With its notable objectives and cred-

POEM:

MWF (1)

(Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation)

We are ordinary women
With varied feelings common in human;
Joy and sorrow, love and hatred, anger and fear,
Family hopes for the future far and near.

Once slim bodies with lovely curves
Right on scale and on the graph;
Middle age spread round the belt
Little by little we collect extra fat.

Not to waste whatever's left
All the food our stomachs get;
Like pictures 'before' and 'after'
Brag of 'a slim figure' now brings only laughter.

No longer slim, no longer thin
No model contest shall we win;
And yet with our bigger hearts growing with age,
We've more room for others outside the family range.

With open eyes and outstretched hands,
Let's all join in the organization so grand;
United and strong will we stand
To promote women's sector in our golden land.

Aye Phyu

it-worthy activities MWF has posed as a source of aspiration and strength for all Myanmar women. We should take pride in MWF and give proper recognition to its significant founding day. To all Myanmar women across the nation, let's all hail the auspicious Myanmar Women's Day!

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(26-6-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 735,500 per tical: Selling K 737,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 735,500 per tical: Selling K 737,500

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1116: Selling K 1118

SGD Buying K 828: Selling K 832

Euro Buying K 1,248: Selling K 1,252



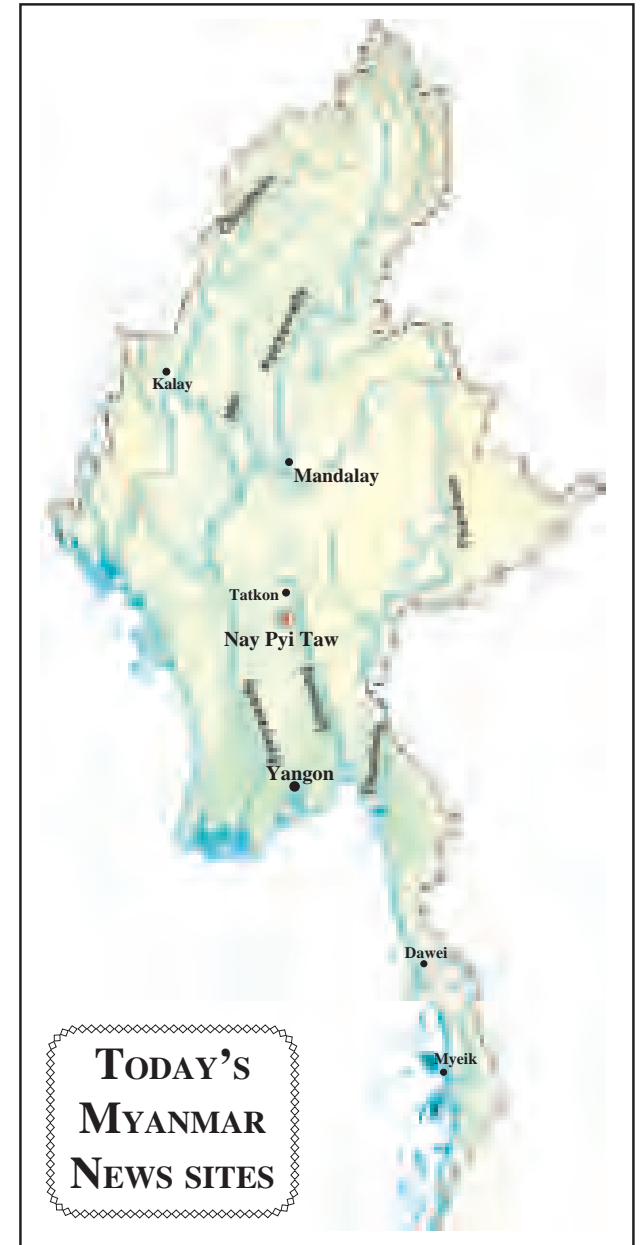
LOCAL NEWS

Minister visits school for girls in Mingaladon Tsp

YANGON, 26 June — Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing recently visited the School for the Girls under the Department of Social Welfare on Yangon-Pyay Road in Mingaladon Township.

Principal Daw Thein Thein Htwe of the school spoke to the minister about the educational program for students.

The deputy minister instructed officials to support the vocational training of students. Students at the school take baking, tailoring and non-formal primary education courses.—*Khin Zaw (Mingala)*



Soldiers receive library management training



NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — The No 2 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit in Ottarathiri Township held a short course on library management at its meeting hall on 25 June. Staff Officer Daw Swe Swe Moe of the Information and Public Relations Department gave a talk explaining different types of libraries, book borrowing systems and library science.

Head of Tatkon Township IPRD Daw Tint Tint Khaing spoke about the cataloguing system and the roles of librarians.

The training course aims to improve librarian knowledge of officers and soldiers of the unit.

Shwe Ye Yint

Dawei University honours volunteers in literacy campaign



DAWEI, 26 June — A ceremony to honour faculty members and students who participated in the summer literacy campaign 2015 was recently held at the convocation hall of Dawei University.

After Acting Rector Dr Ba Han praised the participants in the campaign for their efforts in teaching literacy, leader of the youth team Daw Yut Hmon Oo of the Physics Department and volunteer Maung Thura Aung recounted their ex-

periences of the campaign. The rector and deans of the departments presented gifts to the volunteers.

A 100-student volunteer team led by 10 faculty members from Dawei University taught local people in 20 villages of Kyunsu Township in Taninthayi Region from 1 April to 15 May.

They also participated in the campaign for villages in Bokpyin Township last year.—*Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

Suspension bridge under construction in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 26 June — A suspension bridge is under construction to cross Mon Nawin Creek, east of Shaukkon Village in Tatkon Township.

With the assistance of

donors from Switzerland and local people, the local authorities are building a 150-foot-long and 5-foot-wide suspension bridge starting from 29 April.

Officials of the Town-

ship Department of Rural Development are supervising the construction.

Upon completion, local people including students will have easy access to the Basic Education

Middle School in Shaukkon Village and Basic Education High schools Nos. 1 and 2 in Tatkon, in addition to Tatkon Township Hospital.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)*



Gun attack kills at least 27 at Tunisian beachside hotel

TUNIS, 26 June — At least 27 people, including foreign tourists, were killed when at least one gunman opened fire on a Tunisian beachside hotel in the popular resort of Sousse on Friday, an interior ministry spokesman said.

Police were still clearing the area around the Imperial Marhaba hotel and the body of one gunman lay at the scene with a Kalashnikov assault rifle after he was shot in an exchange of gunfire, a security source at the scene said.

It was the second major attack in the North African country this year, and

took place during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

“One attacker opened fire with a Kalashnikov on tourists and Tunisians on the beach of the hotel,” said a hotel worker at the site. “It was just one attacker. He was a young guy dressed in shorts like he was a tourist himself.”

Tunisia, which has been hailed as a model of democratic transition since its 2011 ‘Arab Spring’ uprising, is one of the most secular countries in the Arab world. Its beach resorts and nightclubs on the Mediterranean are popular

with European visitors.

No one immediately claimed the attack. But Islamist jihadists have attacked North African tourist sites before, seeing them as legitimate targets because of their open Western lifestyles and tolerance of alcohol.

Six other people were wounded, the ministry spokesman said.

Irishwoman Elizabeth O’Brien, who was staying at a neighbouring hotel with her two sons, said there was panic on the beach when gunfire erupted.

“I honestly thought

it was fireworks and then when I saw people running... I thought, my God, it is shooting,” she told Irish radio station RTE. “The waiters and the security on the beach started to say ‘Run, run, run!’”

Sousse is one of Tunisia’s most popular beach resorts, drawing visitors from Europe and neighbouring North African countries. Tourism is also a major source of income for the government.

Tunisia has been on high alert since March, when Islamist militant gunmen attacked the Bardo museum in Tunis, killing a

group of foreign tourists in one of the worst attacks in a decade in the North African country.

Since its 2011 uprising to oust autocrat Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia has been praised for its peaceful democratic transition. But it has also seen the rise of hardline conservative Islamist movements.

Several thousand Tunisian jihadists have left to fight in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring Libya, where some have set up jihadist training camps and promised to return to attack their homeland.

Reuters

Israel releases senior Hamas figure from detention in West Bank

JERUSALEM, 26 June — The Israeli authorities released on Thursday a senior Hamas figure Sheikh Hassan Yousef a year after his detention amid an Israeli military operation in the West Bank.

The Israeli Prison Service’s spokesperson confirmed that Yousef, 60, was released on Thursday from the Ofer Prison near Ramallah, where he had been placed in administrative detention in the past year.

Yousef, one of the founding members of the Islamic movement Hamas in the West Bank, is known as part of the organization’s more moderate faction and is considered as a spiritual leader as well by its followers. He was arrested during a crackdown on Hamas operatives in the West Bank by the Israeli military following the kidnapping of three Israeli teens in the West Bank in June 2014.

The crackdown resulted in a considerable damage of Hamas infrastructure in the West Bank and the arrest of hundreds of Hamas operatives.

During his administrative detention, no charges were brought against Yousef and his incarceration period was extended three times. Yousef was jailed several times in the past years for his “involvement in a terrorist organization.” —Xinhua

Islamic State attack on Syria’s Kobani kills 146

BEIRUT, 26 June — An attack by Islamic State fighters on the Syrian town of Kobani and a nearby village has so far killed at least 146 civilians, the sec-

ond-biggest massacre by the hardline group in the country, a conflict monitor said on Friday.

Islamic State entered Kobani at the Turkish bor-

der on Thursday and clashes have continued with Kurdish YPG forces in the town, also known as Ayn al-Arab, said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Brit-

ain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Abdulrahman, who tracks the conflict using sources on the ground, said it was the biggest single

massacre of civilians by Islamic State since the killing of hundreds of members of the Sunni Muslim tribe Sheitaat tribe in eastern Syria last year.—Reuters

More than 10 killed in suicide bomb attack on mosque in Kuwait’s capital, IS says responsible

KUWAIT CITY, 26 June — More than 10 people were killed or wounded on Friday in a suicide bomb strike on a Shiite Muslim mosque, while the Islamic State (IS) militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, according to media reports.

According to the official *Kuwait News Agency*, a blast rocked the Imam Sadiq Mosque, located in

the busy neighborhood of al-Sawabir of the capital city.

The report also confirmed that there were a number of casualties and injuries, yet did not give exact figures.

At the explosion scene, local police has cordoned off the mosque and the surrounding area, and asked residents to stay away from the site, while ambulanc-

es were seen ferrying the wounded.

The IS group has claimed the deadly attack in a statement posted on the Internet, saying that the suicide bomber’s name was Abu Suleiman al-Muwahed, and the target was a “temple of the rejectionists,” which refers to Shiite Muslims by the extremist militants.

If proven to be true,

then it is not the first time for the IS group to plot and carry out such attacks against mosques. It has claimed responsibility for bombings at two different Shiite mosques in neighboring Saudi Arabia in recent weeks.

On 20 March, IS suicide bombers also attacked two mosques in Yemen’s capital Sanaa and Houthi headquarters in the north-

ern Saada province, killing at least 137 people, the most deadliest attacks in Yemen for decades.

Casualties are expected to grow as Friday’s midday prayers have always been the most attended of the week, while the number of people joining the prayers would increase during Muslims’ holy month of Ramadan that started on 18 June.—Xinhua

Islamic State attack in northeast Syria reported to displace 60,000 — UN

BEIRUT, 26 June — An Islamic State attack on the northeastern Syrian city of Hasaka is reported to have displaced 60,000 people, the United Nations office in Syria said on Friday, warning that up to 200,000 people may eventually try to flee.

Islamic State launched an assault on government-held areas of Hasaka on Thursday, capturing at least one district in the southwest of the city, which lies close to the borders with Turkey and Iraq.

Hasaka is divided into zones run separately by

the government of President Bashar al-Assad and a Kurdish administration. Islamic State fighters also attacked the Kurdish-held town of Kobani, or Ayn al-Arab, in its twin offensive on Thursday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said an estimated 50,000 people had been displaced within Hasaka city while 10,000 had left northwards towards Amuda town, close to the Turkish border.

Its report on developments on Thursday cited the Syrian government’s

Department of Social Affairs and local partners. It said the estimated pre-war population in Hasaka was around 300,000 people.

“An estimated 200,000 people may try to flee the city in the coming hours to northern areas of the governorate, most likely towards Amuda and Qamishli,” it said. Qamishli is a city around 80km (50 miles) north of Hasaka that sits on the Turkish border.

Islamic State said on Thursday it had seized al-Nashwa District and neighbouring areas in the southwest of Hasaka, a



Syrian Kurds from Kobani wait behind the border fences to cross into Turkey as they are pictured from the Turkish border town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province, Turkey on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

city divided into zones of government and Kurdish control.

It said humanitarian partners in Qamishli and the Department of Social

affairs met on Thursday in preparation for an expected influx of displaced people.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based organization that

tracks the war, said clashes in Kobani erupted between Islamic State militants and the Kurdish YPG militia for a second day on Friday.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google starts road tests of new self-driving car prototypes



A Google self-driving vehicle is parked at the Computer History Museum after a presentation in Mountain View, California on 13 May, 2014.
REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 June — Google Inc (GOOGL.O) said on Thursday it had started testing the latest prototypes of its self-driving cars on Mountain View, California roads, with safety drivers aboard.

The prototypes will join Google's Lexus cars, which use the same self-driving software, the company said in a blog post on Thursday. (bit.ly/1GKVqr). Google's self-driving Lexus RX450h

sport utility vehicles have been in operation for several years.

Although the prototypes are designed to work without a steering wheel or pedals, safety drivers will have a removable steering wheel, accelerator pedal and brake pedal during the test phase in case they need to take over driving.

Earlier this month, Google launched a website specifically for the self-driv-

ing car. That came after increasing criticism by customers and consumer groups that the search giant was not providing enough information about the project.

Google has so far reported 12 accidents involving the prototypes. Injuries have been minor, the search giant has said, and accidents were mostly a result of human error by the drivers of the other cars involved.

Reuters

Australian bio-robots to investigate the Indian Ocean

SYDNEY, 26 June — Investigative bio-robots are taking to the water thanks to Australia's leading scientific research organization, CSIRO, in an effort to understand the physical and biological processes of the crucially important Indian Ocean.

Robotic floats, called BioArgos, will for the first time measure the dissolved oxygen, nitrate, chlorophyll, organic matter and particles between Australia's Christmas Island and Madagascar, the CSIRO announced on Friday.

Despite the importance of the Indian Ocean for the fisheries resources, shipping and livelihoods of the large populations around its rim, CSIRO project leader Dr Nick Hardman-Mountford said relatively little is known about the depths

and biological health of the system.

"The East Indian Ocean alone brings in catches of seven million tons of fish per year," Hardman-Mountford said. "And it also drives the climates of its surrounding regions, which make up more than 16 percent of the world's entire population."

"So it's important that we keep track of what's going on below the surface," Hardman-Mountford said.

Four of the bio-robots, each worth up to 100,000 Australian dollars (77,173 US dollars), are being dropped into masses of spinning water, known as eddies, which will then travel up to 2,000 metres below the surface, drifting with the current.

Changes in the chemistry and biology of the marine ecosystems will then be measured before rising to the surface to transmit

the data to researchers via a satellite in real time, building up a three-dimensional picture of the Indian Ocean.

Hardman-Mountford said the robots will enable researchers to understand the growth of plankton and how much carbon gets absorbed, used up the food chain and how much gets buried.

"Knowing about this growth is important for predicting how much food the Indian Ocean can produce and how much carbon dioxide it can capture, and will give us a better idea of what keeps the Indian Ocean healthy and productive," Mountford said.

The bio-robots will be deployed on a U Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) voyage travelling through Mauritius and Madagascar.

Xinhua

Shell shock: Triassic reptile was 'grandfather' of all turtles

WASHINGTON, 26 June — It looked like an odd lizard with a bulky body and only the skeletal precursor of a shell, but scientists say 240 million-year-old fossils unearthed in a quarry in southern Germany represent the grandfather of all turtles.

The scientists on Wednesday announced the discovery of the oldest-known turtle, an 8-inch (20-cm) Triassic Period reptile combining traits of its lizard-like ancestors with a set of emerging turtle-like features.

They named it Pappochelys, meaning "grandfather turtle," owing to its position at the base of the turtle family tree.

"Pappochelys indeed forms a missing link for two reasons. It is far older than all so far known turtles.

And its anatomy is more primitive in many features, showing the ancestral condition of various body regions," said paleontologist Rainer Schoch of Germany's State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart.

It is 20 million years older than the previous earliest-known turtle, Odontochelys from China. While Odontochelys boasted a rudimentary shell on its back, Pappochelys bore only the beginnings of this characteristic turtle trait that evolved in many steps over



An artist's reconstruction shows the stem-turtle Pappochelys in this image released to Reuters on 23 June, 2015.—REUTERS

tens of millions of years.

"The belly armor is composed of thick, rib-like bones that are beginning to fuse to each other in many places," said paleontologist

Hans-Dieter Sues of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, calling this "an important stage in the evolution of the

turtle shell."

Pappochelys, known from 18 fossil skeletons, had a long tail, broad trunk, and, rather than a beak as in later turtles, a lizard-like skull with numerous peg-like teeth suitable for eating insects and small lizards.

It resided alongside a freshwater lake and may have used its tail for swimming and legs for steering in the water.

Schoch said Pappochelys, as a transitional creature between lizard-like ancestors and later turtles, provides a much clearer picture of turtle evolution.

"Transitional creatures are the most important contribution that paleontology can make to the study of

evolution.

They are often unexpected and show surprising features," Schoch said. "They show how complicated structures like the skull or turtle shell formed step by step, and also give evidence on the sequence of evolutionary steps."

Pappochelys lived 10 million years before the first dinosaurs, but plenty of danger existed.

The lake's largest predator was the 16-foot (5-metre) amphibian Mastodonsaurus. The 20-foot (6-metre) terrestrial croc relative Batrachotomus prowled the land.

The research appears in the journal *Nature*.

Reuters

AT&T to invest \$3 billion to boost Mexico mobile network

MEXICO CITY, 26 June — AT&T Inc (T.N) plans to invest around \$3 billion in its high-speed mobile Internet network in Mexico, the company said on Thursday.

AT&T, which owns Mexico's No 3 and No 4 wireless carriers Iusacell and Nextel, said in a statement it expects to cover 40 million people, about one-third of the population, within six months. It aims to reach 100 million by

end-2018. The company's move into Mexico came in the wake of a sweeping sector overhaul which forced billionaire Carlos Slim's America Movil (AMXL.MX) to open up infrastructure and let rivals interconnect to his network for free.

The company's Mexico chief executive, Thaddeus Arroyo, said in May that it will take a couple of years to get the business where the company wants.

A major part of the re-

form was a plan to tender the building of a wholesale mobile broadband network that will require an investment of around \$7 billion.

The network will need at least some operators to become clients in order to attract investors, the minister in charge of the project said in May.— Reuters

A man walks past the AT&T store in New York's Times Square, on 17 June, 2015.

REUTERS



Chinese forced labourers file suit seeking compensation from Japan



Zhang Guang Xun (2nd from L on front row), a Chinese man who was forced to work in Japan during wartime, heads to the Osaka District Court on 26 June, 2015, as he joined a lawsuit filed by other Chinese plaintiffs to seek damages and an apology from the Japanese government over the forced labour.
KYODO NEWS

OSAKA, 26 June — A group of 13 Chinese former World War II forced labourers and relatives filed a lawsuit on Friday, seeking 5.5 million yen (about \$44,500) per victim

in damages and an apology from the Japanese government, their legal agents said.

The plaintiffs include those brought to work at a forced labour mining

camp in Akita Prefecture and at a dockyard in the city of Osaka as well as families of the workers.

Their legal agents said they filed the lawsuit with the Osaka District Court as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In the letter of their suit, the agents claimed that Japan failed to protect the forced workers and to provide appropriate health control for them.

Similar suits have been filed against the Japanese government during the past years. But their rulings followed the one by the Supreme Court in 2007 that Chinese individuals have no right to demand war reparations from Japan as the right was forfeited under a post-war agreement between Japan and China.

Among the 13 complainants were nine survi-

vors and relatives of those killed in a major uprising that occurred at the Hanaoka forced labour mining camp in 1945 which resulted in the death of more than 400 workers.

Zhang Guangxun, one of two surviving plaintiffs, was sent to the Hanaoka camp operated by contractor Kajima Gumi, the current Kajima Corp, after he was captured in a battle in 1943 and sent to Japan at the age of 16.

The major Japanese construction company and a separate group of plaintiffs reached an out-of-court settlement in 2000. They agreed to set up a 500 million yen fund to compensate the Chinese victims of the labour camp.

The remaining 11 plaintiffs said their fathers and grandfathers were conscripted as forced workers.—Kyodo News

Japan gov't to speed up women empowerment measures



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd from R) speaks in Tokyo at a ministerial meeting aimed at empowering women in society. The government decided to expedite legal changes to prevent harassment of pregnant women in workplaces and benefit companies actively helping employees to balance family and career.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 26 June — The government decided on Friday to expedite law revision to prevent harassment against pregnant women in workplaces and benefit companies actively supporting their employees who struggle to balance family and career, government officials said.

The initiatives, also including nurturing more women in scientific fields and helping female doctors continue their work, are among priority issues under the policy of the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to set female empowerment as a key pillar of its economic growth strategy.

The news comes after a report, released by the US government on Thursday, criticized Japan over perceived gender inequality and the harassment of pregnant women and mothers in the workplace.

The measures were decided on during a meeting of a ministerial panel, headed by Abe, and will be reflected in budget requests for the next fiscal year, they said.

Abe told the meeting that he hopes related Cabinet ministers will “make a concerted effort to enhance the basis for women’s empowerment measures” to root out all sorts of harassment toward women and also provide support to single-parent households.

The government has submitted a bill to parliament to promote female

empowerment by obligating major companies and the central and local governments to set numerical targets on the ratios of women among their employees and of women in managerial posts.

Focusing on the improvement of the working environment for women, the measures adopted Friday call for possibly revising legislation including amendments to the Equal Employment Opportunity Law at the next regular Diet session to address so-called maternity harassment, where pregnant women face unfair demotions or employment terminations without just cause.

Under the initiatives, companies that provide positive support to working married women and mothers would be rewarded with favorable treatment in bids for public works or other projects.

The initiatives also aim to open up doors wider to women in the science fields. They call for industrial, academic and governmental cooperation to provide education and employment support for such women, including awarding scholarships and tuition waiver.

Female physicians, meanwhile, are to have a wider opportunity to return to work with flexible hours.

The measures eye the setting up of on-campus daycare centres for the children of workers and employees.—Kyodo News

Emirates A-380 makes emergency landing in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 26 June — An A-380 passenger plane of the Emirates Airline with more than 500 people aboard made an emergency landing at Sri Lanka’s Bandaranaike International Airport on Friday due to a technical failure, an official said.

A Spokesperson from the airport said the Emirates flight had been flying from Sydney to Dubai but had to make an emergency landing in Colombo at 3:45 am local time (2215 GMT Thursday).

The passengers of the plane, who have been taken to nearby hotels, are expected to fly to Dubai on-board other flights.

The Emirates Airline said it is addressing the technical fault.—Xinhua

Polish PM says wants lower taxes after leaving EU deficit process



Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz arrives at the European Union (EU) Council headquarters at the start of an EU leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

WARSAW, 26 June — Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz was quoted as saying on Friday that she wanted to use the easing of European Union fiscal controls on Warsaw to cut taxes, as her party seeks to win back support ahead of an autumn parliamentary election.

“I plan to lower taxes, especially the person-

al ones. I will present the project in autumn together with the whole program,” Kopacz told daily Rzeczpospolita.

“One of the proposals concerning the tax solutions will be an alternative to the tax-free allowance.”

The European Commission recommended in May that Poland no longer be subject to procedures

aimed at cutting its budget deficits, leaving more leeway in budget construction.

Kopacz’s party, the ruling pro-business Civic Platform (PO), has presided over strong economic growth since 2007.

But its candidate lost in the May presidential election to a challenger from main opposition party Law and Justice (PiS) and opinion polls show PO may also lose the autumn parliamentary elections.

PiS candidate for prime minister, Beata Szydlo, said on Thursday that the conservative party wants to cut the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) for small companies as part of its wider plan to boost the economy.

In her interview for Rzeczpospolita, Kopacz added that countries from outside the euro zone should also be able to participate in taking key decisions concerning the common-currency area.

Reuters

15 tourists injured in hot air balloon accident in Turkey

ANKARA, 26 June — Fifteen foreign tourists were injured when a hot air balloon hard landed in central Turkey on Friday, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported.

The hot air balloon hit the electric wire between Ortahisar and Uzengi Mustafapasa towns in Cappadocia region of Nevsehir Province in central Turkey. The engine

of the air balloon caught fire after hard landing, according to the report.

The Chinese Embassy in the capital Ankara has confirmed that among the injured foreign tourists

were Chinese nationals. The embassy is making contacts with local officials for further information.

The embassy told Xinhua that the injured

were rushed to hospitals in Nevsehir, as an investigation into the accident is underway.

Last December, a Chinese tourist was killed and some others injured

when a hot air balloon crashed in Cappadocia. In May 2013, local media reported that three Brazilians died when two balloons collided.

Xinhua

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 27th June, 2015: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, isolated heavy falls in Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV JRS CARINA VOY NO (RY-1506-17N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY No (104N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(TENDER NO. 3(T)MPE/ LBO(2)/2015-2016)**

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Lube Base Oils & Additives (220.11 Metric Tons).
2. Tender Closing Date : **22 . 7 . 2015** at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : **22 . 7 . 2015** at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : **Up to End of December 2015**
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing **29 . 6 . 2015** on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ကျွန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ကုသရေးဦးစီးဌာနတွင် အသုံးပြုရန် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ Surveillance Van ယာဉ်များကို မြန်မာ့ကုန်သွင်းရေးနှင့် ဝယ်ယူရန်အတွက် အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါများ ပေးသွင်းရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (1) Wagons
- (2) Pick Up (Double Cab / Extra Cab)
- (3) Van

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများကို ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (ဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်း) မြန်၊ ဖြူးရေး၊ ဗဟိုဆေးသိုလှောင်ရေးဌာနရုံးခန်း၊ အမှတ်(၅၇) စကားဝါလမ်း၊ ဒဂုံမြို့နယ်သို့ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း လာရောက်စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံများစတင်ရောင်းချမည့်ရက် - ၂၉. ၆. ၂၀၁၅
တင်ဒါဖိတ်ခေါ်မည့်ရက်နှင့်အချိန် - ၂၈. ၇. ၂၀၁၅

မွန်လွဲ(၂၀၀)နာရီ
ဆက်သွယ်ရန်ဖုန်းနံပါတ် - ၀၀-၃၇၁၂၈၄၊ ၀၀- ၃၇၂၉၆၂
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Japan, China to agree on procedures for unexpected military encounters

TOKYO, 26 June — Japan and China will next month conclude an agreement to define procedures for communication between their naval vessels and military aircraft during unexpected encounters to reduce the risk of confrontation, a source told Reuters.

As China's military grows and as Japan looks to expand its Self Defence

Force operations beyond home waters to regions such as the South China Sea, encounters between their armed forces are on the rise.

The rules for communication will apply to encounters on the high sea and in international airspace, although China also wants to extend the agreement to cover territorial waters too, the *Mainichi*

newspaper reported earlier.

"We reached agreement on some parts in Beijing on 19 June, and believe it is necessary to implement this mechanism quickly, so we will continue talking," Japan's Minister of Defence, Gen Nakatani, said at a press briefing on Friday.

While Japan considers much of the South China Sea to be international wa-

ters, China however claims much of the territory, where it is building a series of man-made islands.

A Japanese P3-C patrol plane this week flew over parts of the South China Sea that Beijing claims during a search and rescue exercise with the Philippine military. China criticized the drill as "meddling" by Tokyo.

Reuters

Brazilian expert lauds enhanced cooperation among BRICS nations

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 June — The BRICS bloc, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, made significant advances in its seven years of existence, a Brazilian expert told *Xinhua* on Wednesday. It is clear that the BRICS group grew a lot, and relations among members are much deeper than they were seven years ago when its first summit was held, said Paulo Wrobel from the Brazilian think tank BRICS Policy Centre. He made the remarks ahead of the 7th BRICS Summit slated for 9-10 July in Ufa, Russia. Contact between member

countries is not limited to the annual summits, said Wrobel, adding that a BRICS Development Bank and a Contingency Fund are now in the works, and several meetings on a variety of sectors, such as education, technology, culture and finances, are held periodically.

"Parallel to the summits, a network, a web of relations has been developing among BRICS countries, and those relations are not only state-state or government-government, they involve academics and the civil society as well," Wrobel said. BRICS also

advanced quite a lot in terms of economic cooperation in a short time, Wrobel said. Last year, during its 6th summit in Brazil, the group announced the creation of the BRICS Development Bank and of a Contingency Fund, which Wrobel qualifies as a very important advance on the institutional front. "The BRICS Development Bank represents the first institution in terms of high level governmental collaboration to have a concrete role: to finance development projects to the BRICS members and to countries outside of the bloc," he said.—*Xinhua*



The 2015 China Harbin International Beer Festival opens in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 25 June, 2015. Beers from more than 20 domestic and foreign beer makers are available to fans during the 12-day international beer festival.—XINHUA

One Direction launches fourth fragrance 'Between Us'



"Between Us" comes after the band's successful fragrances "Our Moment", "That Moment" and "You & I", which was the US's number one celebrity women's fragrance launch of 2014.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — British boyband One Direction have unveiled their fourth fragrance "Between Us" at The Sanderson.

"Between Us" comes after the band's successful fragrances "Our Moment", "That Moment" and "You & I", which was the US's number one celebrity women's fragrance launch of 2014, reported *Hollywood Life*.

"As this is our fourth fragrance, we feel like we are really getting the hang of it."

From rap to rock, Glastonbury offers live playlist in digital age

GLASTONBURY, (England), 26 June — In a digital world that is destroying the value of recorded music, the most analogue part of the industry — playing live to thousands in a muddy field — is more popular, and more lucrative, than ever.

Glastonbury, Britain's biggest green field festival and held on a dairy farm in south-west England, sold 135,000 tickets priced at 225 pounds (\$350) in a record 26 minutes in October, months before any of the main acts were announced.

US rapper, songwriter and producer Kanye West tops the bill on Saturday, a choice that generated familiar howls of outrage from some who said who say he does not fit the festival's rock ethos.

But it is a calculated risk that will likely pay off, both in keeping Glastonbury relevant and winning West new fans. And there are plenty of alternatives, including Deadmau5, Jon Hopkins and for 1990s indie holdouts,

"Not sure we're pros just yet, but the four of us have our own opinions on what looks and smells good, and we all bring something different to the finished product," Niall Horan said at the launch event.

The band released a ninety-second clip showing Harry Styles, Horan, Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson going on their own separate adventures from the top of a mountain to the bottom of the sea to find the exotic ingredients.

According to the commercial, the new fragrance also contains Horan's tears.

The bottle is pretty and modern, with a black ribbon around the neck.

"For the new fragrance, we wanted to create a more premium shape, with elegant detail. As One Direction fans are growing up to become young, modern women, we wanted to bring the design in line with this," bottle designer said in a press release.

PTI

Vin Diesel dedicates new 'Fast & Furious' ride to Paul Walker

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — Hollywood star Vin Diesel has dedicated new "Fast & Furious" Universal Studios Ride "Supercharged" to late actor Paul Walker.

The 47-year-old star traded the franchise's signature muscle cars for a new kind of ride, which opened on 24 June, said *The Hollywood Reporter*. "I'm more excited than anybody to get on that tram, and I want to be in the front seat and feel it out and get that adrenaline pumping," said Diesel.

"Supercharged" is a 3-D motion addition to the park's classic studio tour tram ride. It is an explosion-packed car chase using hydraulics and HD images projected on a massive 360-degree screen. Riders are blasted with wind, fog and mist as they attempt a high-speed escape through crashing cars and gunfire.

"I know when we were making it, it felt like we were creating something that I had never experienced. We employed all kinds of incredible technology," said Diesel before opening the ride at the ceremony.—PTI



Revellers take selfies as the sun sets during the Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset, Britain, on 24 June, 2015.—REUTERS

on their books, they expect music sales to be maybe about 10 percent of their income," he said.

The presence of big names rubs off on smaller acts, who can win new fans and use the Glastonbury billing on social media.

Seafret, a hotly tipped acoustic duo from the seaside town of Bridlington in northern England, who have released a couple of EPs, are playing Glastonbury for the first time.

"For us, going there is incredible, but being able to go there and play is on a different level," guitarist Harry Draper said. "We are so excited, we've been looking forward to it for a long time."

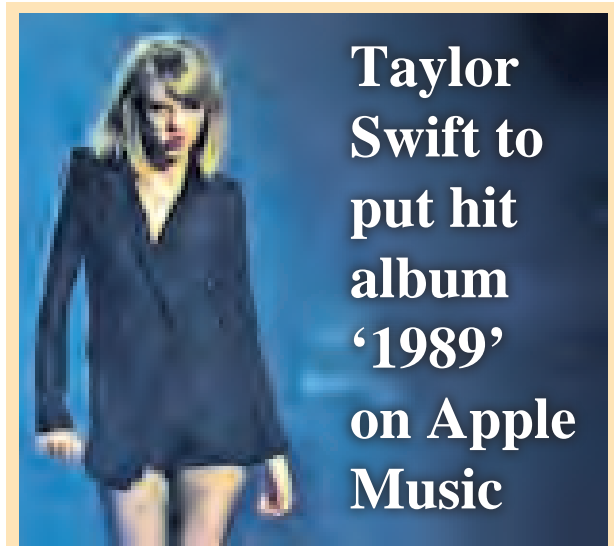
Chris Carey, chief exec-

utive of Media Insight Consulting, said with platforms including Spotify, iTunes and YouTube offering an unlimited array of music, being chosen to play a festival bestowed credibility.

"Playing even a small stage at Glastonbury has huge value because you can say: 'I played Glastonbury'," he said. "It adds to that artist's story, which is hugely valuable from a marketing point of view."

The change in the way people consume music — listening to an ever-changing selection of tracks on streaming services such as Spotify — also means younger fans were much less wedded to genres than previous generations.

Reuters



Taylor Swift to put hit album '1989' on Apple Music

Singer Taylor Swift performs during the BRIT music awards at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, London, on 25 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — Pop star Taylor Swift said she would put her latest hit album "1989" on Apple Music, days after Apple Inc did an about-face, agreeing to pay artists during a free trial of its new streaming music service.

Apple on Monday bowed to pressure from Swift and some independent music groups and labels after its decision of not paying artists created a furor in the music community.

"After the events of this week, I've decided to put 1989 on Apple Music ... and happily so," Swift tweeted on Thursday.

This isn't the Grammy-award winning artist's first fight with music streaming services.

She pulled her entire catalog of music from online streaming platform Spotify last November and refused to offer

"1989" on streaming services, saying the business had shrunk the numbers of paid album sales drastically.

Swift said on Thursday her decision was not because of any exclusive deal between her and Apple.

It was not clear if Swift had inked any deal with other services such as Spotify.

Spotify was not immediately available for comment.

"This is simply the first time it's felt right in my gut to stream my album. Thank you, Apple, for your change of heart." Swift tweeted to her more than 59 million followers.

An Apple spokesman said the company was "thrilled" to offer Swift's entire catalog, along with over 30 million songs by other artists, when Apple Music debuts next week.

Reuters

Foul-mouthed, drinking teddy bear back in 'Ted 2'

NEW YORK, 26 June — Ted, the foul-mouthed and hard-drinking bear, returns to the silver screen in a sequel to the 2012 comedy hit about a man and his talking teddy.

"Ted 2" sees the bear, also known for his womanizing, married to his girlfriend Tami-Lynn and the couple want to have a baby. But Ted has to go to court to prove that he is a person.

"Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane, directed, co-wrote and co-produced both films and also voiced Ted.

While most of the talk around the movie is about its raunchy nature, MacFarlane said the film has more to it.

"I think the 'oh my, well I never' narrative is a popular one in the press right now and I think when you put that

aside and get that out of your system, it is a movie that does have an actual story," he said at the film's premiere on Wednesday.

"There is an actual set of stakes for Ted and hopefully that will come through in the viewing of it."

He said the film was relevant today as it dealt with acceptance and discrimination issues.

Mark Wahlberg, who reprises the role of John, said he did his due diligence before he got involved in the first film, which went on to gross around \$550 million worldwide.

"It's the kind of thing where there is no good way to pitch this movie. A guy with a talking teddy bear ... I didn't like the idea when I first heard it," he said.

Reuters

GENERAL

Japan opens “salon” in downtown Milan to showcase food, agriculture



Visitors make hand-rolled sushi at the food-themed Expo Milano on 25 June, 2015. Japanese public- and private-sector entities jointly opened a venue in central Milan to showcase the country’s culinary culture and farming technology — the “Japan Salone” (Salone del Giappone).—KYODO NEWS

MILAN, 26 June — Japanese trade promotion body JETRO and other public and private-sector entities jointly opened on Thursday a venue in central Milan to showcase Japanese culinary culture and farming technology as a secondary base for the Japan Pavilion at the food-themed Expo Milano.

The “Japan Salone” (Salone del Giappone) will be used to host symposiums and business negotiations in addition to promoting animations, cartoons and other “cool Japan” contents, according to organizers.

The salon will be open

through 13 July at the Stel-line Palace in central Milan. Among participants are soy sauce maker Kikkoman Corp, Fuji Oil Co, and the Japan Agricultural Cooperatives group.

On the opening day, visitors were welcomed by iconic fictional characters Hello Kitty and Doraemon the robotic cat. Sake was offered for promotional sale by the Central Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry. Japanese chef Osamu Ikeda, meanwhile, gave culinary lessons in hand-rolled sushi.

Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(27-6-2015 07:00 am~ 28-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Powell in command, Bolt out of 100m picture

KINGSTON, 26 June — With Usain Bolt a notable absentee, Asafa Powell threw down the gauntlet at the Jamaican national senior trials on Thursday by running a blistering 9.98 seconds to qualify for the 100 metres semi-finals.

Bolt, the world record holder at 100 and 200m, has struggled this year and his absence on Thursday sparked concerns about his fitness ahead of this year’s world championships in Beijing, where he is set to defend his sprint titles.

Bolt’s agent, Ricky Simms, said the 10-times world championship medalist had been entered only as an option.

“Usain was never confirmed to run at the trials,” said Simms. “He put his name in to have the option.”

“I already told the media that coach (Glen) Mills would make a decision on Wednesday if he needed the race or if he preferred him to train ahead of Paris and Lausanne (next month).”

Bolt is scheduled to run Diamond League races in Paris on 4 July, an event he pulled out of last year with a foot injury, and Lausanne five days later.

Bolt’s absence did not



Jamaica’s Asafa Powell (C) competes in the men’s 100m during the national trials at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

seem to sap the motivation of former world record holder Powell, who blasted out of the blocks in lane five and built a commanding lead by halfway before cruising home, with Yohan Blake trailing five metres behind after a horrid start.

Powell said his coach had told him to power out to 40m and control the race from there.

“I’m in very good shape,” Powell told Reuters.

“I’ve not had the best conditions so far in my races this season but I know I’m

in good shape and hopefully I can run a really good time here,” said Powell, whose season best of 9.84 is bettered only by American Justin Gatlin.

“I’m not putting too much pressure on myself so now I’m just going to relax and do what I’m supposed to do.

“It’s very important because this is home so I definitely always want to win in front of my home crowd just to show them that I’m still here to stay.”

London Olympic double

sprint silver medallist Blake, who is continuing his return from an 11-month injury lay-off, was grateful to recover from a poor start and closed well in a time of 10.24.

“I almost fell at the start and to come back like that you know I’m packing some serious power,” Blake told Reuters.

“I just want to get it right even though I think I’m too eager and excited, so I have to just continue working on what I’m working on.”

The semis and final take place on Friday.—Reuters

California wildfires force residents from homes in two towns

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — Residents of two California towns were under mandatory evacuation orders on Thursday as a burgeoning wildfire swept through drought-parched mountains, officials said. The fire in the mountains of San Bernardino County east of Los Angeles was among scores of wildfires raging along the US West Coast, from Alaska through California, in areas

hit by drought and suffering record-low snowpack. In Idaho, officials issued a health advisory tied to extreme heat, as weather forecasters predicted record-breaking highs. The northern end of the Sacramento Valley in California was also unusually hot with 111 Fahrenheit (43.9 Celsius) reported in Redding.

In Southern California, firefighters were losing ground to the long-burn-

ing San Bernardino County blaze. It swelled to 23,199 acres (9,388 hectares) in the face of gusting winds, according to fire-tracking website InciWeb, which pulls information from multiple agencies.

The blaze, now nine days old, prompted evacuation orders late on Wednesday for the towns of Burns Canyon and Rimrock and a voluntary evacuation for

Pioneertown as containment dropped to 21 percent.

The fire had been about one-third contained the day before. Authorities did not say how many people were ordered to leave but some 7,000 structures were threatened. Roadways and campgrounds remain closed and about 360 campers were sent home from the Lake Williams area on Wednesday.

Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(27-6-2015, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 2:20 pm | • Round up of The Week’s Local Hluttaw News |
| 6:25 am | • Physical Exercise | 3:00 pm | • News / Weather Report |
| 7:00 am | • News / Weather Report | 4:35 pm | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Secon Year (Law) |
| 7:35 am | • Hyper Sports | 5:00 pm | • News |
| 8:35 am | • Documentary | 5:30 pm | • Head Line News |
| 9:35 am | • MRTV’s Youth Programme | 6:35 pm | • MRTV’s Youth Programme |
| 10:35 am | • Science and Technology Programme | 7:00 pm | • News / Weather Report |
| 11:00 am | • News / Weather Report | 7:35 pm | • Business News |
| 11:35 am | • Game For Children | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | • News / International News / Weather Report | 9:00 pm | • News |
| 12:35 pm | • Hluttaw Image | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |
| 12:50 pm | • Round up of The Week’s Local TV News | | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(27-6-2015, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 am | • Classical Songs | 7:00 am | • Musical Programme |
| 6:10 am | • (2015) Women Associated Fashion Show (Part-1) | 7:10 am | • Cassette Drama |
| 6:45 am | • Myanmar Series | 8:20 am | • Dramatic Arts |
| | | 9:20 am | • Myanmar Video |

Guerrero hat-trick eases Peru into Copa semi-finals

TEMUCO, (Chile), 26 June — Peru striker Paolo Guerrero scored a hat-trick to give his side a comfortable 3-1 victory over Bolivia at the Copa America on Thursday, setting up a last-four showdown with hosts Chile.

Guerrero scored twice in three minutes midway through the first half to put the Peruvians in the driving seat in their quarter-final clash in the southern Chilean city of Temuco.

His first was a header from a Juan Vargas cross, his second came on the counter-attack after a corner, and his third arrived in the 74th minute when Bolivian midfielder Danny Bejarano gifted him the ball with a

misplaced pass and left him one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

Marcelo Moreno scored a late consolation from the penalty spot after Damian Lizio had been tripped in the box but Peru were never in danger of losing and will face Chile in Santiago on Monday in the first of the Copa semi-finals.

“We’re getting better and better,” said Guerrero, who is closing in on Teofilo Cubillas’ all-time scoring record for Peru.

“Not many people had much confidence in us before this tournament but once again we’re showing that we’re a good side.”

Peru, who also reached the semi-finals of the 2011

Copa America, dominated from the outset and could have been out of sight by the break. After Guerrero’s early double, his striking partner Jefferson Farfan grazed a post with a low shot and then rattled the crossbar with a curling free kick.

Bolivia’s best chance came from a Moreno header which Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese did well to parry. The Bolivians rallied slightly in the second half and had a good appeal for a penalty turned down after Gallese appeared to bring down midfielder Pablo Escobar as he headed goalwards. There was no way back for Bolivia after Guerrero completed his treble, however.—Reuters



Peru’s Paolo Guerrero prepares to score his third goal against Bolivia during their Copa America 2015 quarter-finals soccer match at Estadio Municipal Bicentenario German Becker in Temuco, Chile, on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Nishikori

confident of being fit for Wimbledon

LONDON, 26 June — Japanese ace Kei Nishikori expects to be ready for Wimbledon next week, saying on Friday that his condition is steadily improving after hurting his left calf last week.

“My injury is getting better all the time and I think I’ll be fine,” Nishikori, the fifth seed at Wimbledon, said in a post on his official website.

Nishikori retired in a Gerry Weber Open semifinal against Andreas Seppi with the calf problem on Saturday in Halle, Germany but it turned out to be nothing serious.

“It was disappointing that I had to retire in the semifinals but I can take something from having played three matches on grass and putting in three good performances.”

“My calf started hurting in the third set of the game before the semifinal against (Poland’s Jerzy Janowicz and I somehow

managed to win. But when I got up the next morning the pain had increased to the point where I couldn’t even walk properly.”

“I haven’t felt pain like that for a while so it was a bit of a shock but I was able to gear up well (for Wimbledon) and I will do my best next week.”

Nishikori’s fifth seeding makes him the highest seeded Japanese player at the grass court major in the open era.

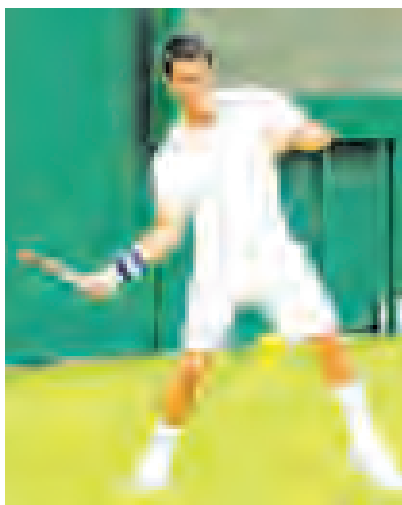
He surpassed the mark of Kimiko Date-Krumm, who was the sixth seed at the All England Club in 1994 and 1995.

Nishikori’s best result at Wimbledon came last year, when he reached the round of 16.

Having reached the quarterfinals at the French Open this year, Wimbledon remains the only major in which Nishikori has failed to make it as far as the last eight.

Kyodo News

Kei Nishikori hits a shot during practice in Wimbledon, England, on 25 June, 2015. The world No 5 player has said on his official Website that his injured left calf is feeling better before the 29 June start of the grass-court championships.
KYODO NEWS



Williams must avoid drama to complete Serena Slam

LONDON, 26 June — Twelve months on from making the most bizarre of exits from Wimbledon, drama queen Serena Williams will be back at the All England Club next week eager to complete the “Serena Slam”.

As the holder of the US, Australian and French Open titles, the American is seven wins away from

holding all four majors at the same time — a feat she last achieved as a 21-year-old.

A dozen years later, the 33-year-old is ready and primed to trample over anyone who dares to stand in the way of another clean sweep.

“I would never have expected at this time in my career to win three grand

slams in a row. This for me is unbelievable,” the world number one said after winning her 20th major at Roland Garros.

“I’m really excited ... I’ve got a Serena Slam and I’m close to another.”

To achieve that, however, she needs to avoid the kind of drama witnessed in her last appearance at Wimbledon or

even at the French Open this month.

Twelve months ago a dizzy and disorientated Williams cut a sorry figure as she walked off the hallowed turf in tears after serving a whole game of double faults in a doubles match.

It was a case of *deja vu* at this year’s French Open when a clearly out-of-sorts Williams again struggled to stay on her feet during her semi-final against Timea Bacsinszky.

While her desire to win at all costs allowed the American to keep alive her dreams of completing a non-calendar grand slam, tennis great Chris Evert believes Williams cannot afford such slips-ups at Wimbledon, where the slick surface can be unforgiving.

Reuters



Serena Williams of the US reacts during her women’s semi-final match against Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on 4 June, 2015.
REUTERS

Recharged Djokovic ready to switch back on

LONDON, 26 June — Defending champion Novak Djokovic’s preparations for Wimbledon have been laid back in the extreme.

The world number one has not played a competitive match since a gut-wrenching defeat by Stanislas Wawrinka in the French Open final at the start of the month, opting out of the Wimbledon warmup events in what has been an extended grass-court swing.

Djokovic even posted a photograph of himself apparently asleep on one of the All England Club lawns this week but do not be deceived.

Once the Serb walks

on to Centre Court on Monday to begin his quest for a third Wimbledon title he will flick the switch and the warrior instincts are sure to return.

Djokovic made it a mission this year to complete his career grand slam at Roland Garros and after back-to-back wins against Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray in the quarter-finals and semi-finals his moment seemed to have arrived. An inspired Wawrinka slammed the door shut though.

It was a heartbreaking defeat for Djokovic but a fortnight in the English country garden setting of the All England Club, with some expected warm

weather too, will provide the perfect antidote for any lingering disappointment.

“He was very close to achieving something that very few players have done ... he probably needed some time away to rest and relax and get his head

right,” said Wimbledon third seed Andy Murray.

Djokovic’s most likely title rivals, Murray and 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer, have been busy sharpening their grasscourt tools.

Reuters



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic in action.—REUTERS