Myanmar launches credit guarantee insurance service for SME development

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 June—Myanmar launched its first-ever credit guarantee insurance service for the development of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in the country on Monday for SME sector development in the country.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

The insurance will be sold to SMEs wanting to take up loans from financial institutions and banks seeking risk sharing as well, at different premium rates for two types of loans.

For a loan with collateral, premium is two kyats per 100 kyats for the first year, 1.5 kyats for the second year and one kyat for the third year and years that follow, while premium for a loan without collateral is set at three kyats for the first year, two kyats for the second year and one kyat for the third year and years that follow, he said.

Myanmar Insurance will reimburse the lenders for a loss up to 60 per cent of the loan in the event of a loan default, he added.

The rising culture of piracy in Myanmar is killing Myanmar developers so they need to have an Intellectual Property Law enacted as soon as possible, said U Min Tayza Nyunt Tin, a legal consultant of Myanmar Software Alliance, on Saturday at a seminar here on the future of mobile applications and IP rights in Myanmar.

He pointed out the need to change individual moral and ethic for the increasing number of developers in the country as there is no IP right in Myanmar. Most users buy pirated applications, which he said are in huge demand.

The development in the ICT sector plays a crucial role in building a modern, developed country and it needs more cooperation of the government and the public, said U Tun Thura Thet, joint secretary of Myanmar Computer Federation-MCF.

He urged users to install licenced versions as well as the developers to create high-tech applications.

While making clarification on the credit guarantee insurance at the ceremony, the deputy minister called for involvement of private banks in microfinance banking services, pointing out that it has a huge potential market for banks and financial institutions. Currently only Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) is lending to SMEs.

He disclosed that an agreement is expected to be signed in October on two- and three-step loan projects for SME development with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), following a visit of Japan’s fact-finding mission next month, saying that a grant of $20 million is likely to come for the first phase.

In Myanmar, licences to operate six types of insurance services including life insurance have so far been issued to 12 firms. But, the credit guarantee insurance service will be operated by Myanmar Insurance, a state-owned firm founded in 1952.

Peaceful coexistence is a norm for international relations: President U Thein Sein

Military conducts monsoon mass plantation

UEC collects preliminary voter lists

Future of mobile applications, IP rights in Myanmar discussed
President U Thein Sein delivers an address at Conference Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in Beijing on 28 June.—MNA

HISTORIC LEGACY: Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai (second left) meets with Myanmar President Ba U (second right) in Yangon, Myanmar, on 28 June, 1954 (Xinhua)

President U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo together with Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.—MNA
Peaceful coexistence is a norm for international relations: President U Thein Sein

President U Thein Sein holds talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.—MNA

Military conducts monsoon plantation ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and military personnel launched monsoon plantation near the Yezin Dam of Zeyathiri Township of Kachin State.

“Forest cover area in Myanmar has declined to 46.96 in 2010 from 60.09 percent in 1955, 57.97 percent in 1990, and 52.82 in 2000. Forest degradation has gradually increased due to exploration of forest resource amidst increasing population of the country. Nationwide plantation activities could not restore the forest areas. The consequence of this result such as decline of water resource, climatic changes, global warming and shortage of agricultural and drinking have made negative impacts on livelihood of the people.”

The commander-in-chief of defence services also urged all the military forces across the country to work mass plantations three times at the areas of respective commands and battalions every rainy season.

He said that the military has grown 2.5 millions of plants from 2010 to 2013, 50 percent of the total plantation in Beijing on Saturday to attend a conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, media reported.

The conference took place at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. In 1954, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai’s visits to Myanmar and India gave birth to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which cover mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

Speaking at the conference, President U Thein Sein over 60 years after the Second World War, countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America thrusted for a new order of international relations that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity and shapes equality and mutual benefit. “Leaders from newly independent states initiated the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which have now been accepted as a norm for international relations,” the president said, adding that the ideas embodied in them are found to be included in the United Nations Charter as well as in other international declarations.

Myanmar’s independent, active, non-aligned foreign policy is based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, the president noted. Regarding the friendly relations with neighbouring countries, President U Thein Sein stressed Myanmar, China and India share a common border, which is miles long, and that they have been good neighbours for hundreds of years, citing the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The president expressed his firm belief that Myanmar, as the ASEAN chair, would be able to bring about security and solidarity between ASEAN countries and China and India as dialogue partners.

Union ministers meet locals in N. Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—Not only the government but all organizations are to participate in development tasks, Union Minister U Soe Than in meeting with townelders and local people at the city hall in Lashio of northern Shan State on Friday.

Nowadays, the government accelerates its Third Wave plan in reform process, said Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein, urging that it is necessary to try hard to turn out necessary human resources for the state.

Union Minister U Win Myint said that Shan State gains development in trade sector thanks to cooperation between the people and the government. The Shan State minister shared K200 million of development funds to officials of Hsienwi, Tanyang, Kunlong, Mongyai and Lashio townships.—MNA

UEC collects preliminary voter lists

NAY PYI TAW, 28 June—The Union Election Commission is now collecting preliminary data of possible voters for by-elections and general elections which are to be held in Myanmar in 2015, according to announcement of commission.

The move is being carried out in cooperation with 25 social organizations including, including a local NGO The Serenity Initiative (TSI) at Aung Township of Yangon, Tiddim Township of Chin State and Myitkyina Township of Kachin State.

These NGOs will also view the computerization of data of eligible voters, will encourage the voters when their names have been mentioned in the voter lists, and will educate public about voting process.

They will conduct their educative programmes with ethnic languages in Kachin and Chin states. UEC has expected their preliminary data collection of voters to finalize at the end of August this year before process is carried out from October 2014 to mid 2015. Further information, may contact 067-404229 and email-info@uec.gov.mm.—MNA

Myanmar calls for broader practice of peaceful coexistence

YANGON, 28 June—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw addressed a dinner hosted at Sule Shangri-La Hotel here in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the five principles of peaceful coexistence initiated by Myanmar, China and India.

The deputy minister called for a broader practice of the principles so as to ensure international equity and justice and maintain peace and stability, giving a pledge of further cooperation with China and India as well as other peace-loving countries in brave challenges and threats of today and tomorrow.—MNA
Mandalay College welcomes freshers

MANDALAY, 28 June—
The fresher welcome ceremony was held at the convocation hall at Mandalay College in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region on Friday.

In his address, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe said that the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is implementing the master tourism strategic plan. At present, there are over 1000 hotels with over 40,000 suites across the nation, he noted. Tour guide courses are being conducted to the trainees and tour licences are being issued to the local tour guides. He urged the students to try hard to learn the tourism course as they are new generations for development of the tourism industry.

Students from first and second years courses of the tourism management department of the college performed performances in plays to the attendees.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Lower House MP meets locals in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 28 June—Myingyan Township Lower House MP U Win Myint met local people at Bogya-monastery in Layeydan Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on Friday to hold discussions on regional development.

The MP explained he is now providing necessary assistance for village development and he has a plan to fulfill the requirement of the local people.

The locals discussed matters related to Bogyoke boat and repair of roads and bridges and the MP reviewed their discussions. A local expressed thanks for peace, stability and security of the village.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Traffic rules, crime reduction lectured at Myingyan GTC

MYINGYAN, 28 June—An educative talks on crime reduction, traffic rules enforcement, drug elimination and anti-human trafficking was given to students at Government Technological College in Myingyan of Mandalay on Friday.

Commander of Myingyan Township Police Force Police Major Aye Myint gave lectures on crime reduction, Head of District Directorate of Road Administration U Lay Naing, do’s for motorcyclists, Deputy District Law Officer Daw Khin Ohn Myint criminal cases and penalties, Head of Myoma Police Station Police Captain Myint Naing prevention against trafficking in persons, Dr Ei Ei Win of District Health Department disadvantages of narcotic drugs, and Police Captain Khin Maung Cho of District Traffic Police Squad traffic rules for motorcyclists.

After the talk, Police Captain Khin Maung Cho presented helmets to the students.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Second Myanma Music Day observed in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 June—Organized by Mandalay Music Association, the second Myanma Music Day was celebrated at Oriental House at the corner of 64th and 27th streets in Chanayethazan Township on Friday.

Academy U Thaw Zin read the message sent by the chairman of Myanmar Music Association (Central), National literary award winner writer Hsu Hnget gave talks about Myanma music day, Troupe of Myoma Band sang the song entitled Doh Bamar. On the occasion, Mandalay Music Association donated cash to the funds of Platform Nursery teaching table, the Home for the Aged and the School for the Deaf and Dorm.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Action taken against illegal sandalwood trafficker

PYINOOLOWIN, 28 June—A team led by Senior Forester U Khin Zaw searched a vehicle with the load of pieces believed to be red sandalwood in front of Kyaukchaw office in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region on Thursday.

The officials checked the pieces at the office of Patheingyi Township Forest Department and found 4.442 tons of dried red sandalwood and 1.431 tons of wet red sandalwood on board. In further investigation, the vehicle was allowed to carry 331 pieces of dried red sandalwood and 40 pieces of wet one but it exceeded 82 pieces of red sandalwood worth K 26,226 million more than the permitted pieces.

Pyinsa police station opened a file of lawsuit against driver Tin Myo Oo, 46, of Namkham under the law. —Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

TODAY’S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Today’s Myanmar news sites

Yangon
Nay Pyi Taw
Mandalay
Thabeikkyin
Pale
Pyin Oo Lwin
Kalay
Myingyan

Local News
School uniforms, stationery worth K1.5 million donated to students in Pale Tsp

Pale, 28 June—In commemoration of upgrading the BEPS to Basic Education Middle School Branch, Abbot Ashin Manitaraca of No 5 Monastic Education Middle School of Sasana Zawtaka Paityati Monastery of Mawlamyine in Mon State donated school uniforms, knapsacks and stationery to students of the upgraded school in Ledhama village in Pale Township of Sagaing Region on Friday.

The Sayadaw recounted his experiences, saying that he attended the fourth standard at the school, five miles from Ledhama village in his childhood. Whenever he set for the examination, he faced much difficulty due to poor transport. So, he made donations to the students of his native village as much as he can. “The abbot donated school uniforms, stationery, mosquito nets, school textbooks and copy books to 198 students and office equipment worth K 1.5 million to the school officials.—Myint Thein Soe (IPRD)

Transport service for Thabeikkyin-Zayatkwin-Shwebo route launched

Thabeikkyin, 28 June—New bus lines plan to launch their buses from Thabeikkyin to Shwebo crossing Yadana Theinga Thabeikkyin-Shwebo route on Friday. The bus line runs its bus line with over 20 vehicles for the Thabeikkyin-Shwebo route. “In the past, ships, speed boats and Mandalay-Bhamo vessels docked at Thabeikkyin but they now do not anchor at jetty of Thabeikkyin. So, the local people could not rely on the waterway transport. Now, thanks to bus lines, the flow of commodity will be swift and domestic products can be exchanged in the market,” said a local merchant.

The launch of the new bus line took place at the bus terminal, attended by local authorities. The bus line extended its transport service under the permission of the Mandalay and Sagaing Regions Road and Inland Water Transport Boards.—Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)

DRD sinks tube-wells in villages for sufficient water supply to locals

Thabeikkyin, 28 June—With the aim of supplying sufficient water to the locals, the Rural Development Department is building water tanks and sinking tube-wells.

Head of PyinOoLwin District Rural Development Department U Than Naing Oo and officials inspected test-running of a four-inch diameter tube-well in Yinkhabin Village of Thabeikkyin Township in Mandalay Region on 24 June.

With the special fund allotted by the Rural Development Department, Silver Mark Company sank the tube-well in the village and the well pumps 1500 gallons of water per hour so as to supply sufficiency of potable water to the locals.

The department has sunk four-inch diameter tube-wells in Zayatkwin, Wetthay, Letpankon and Yankhin villages of the township. At present, the sinking tube-well is being undertaken in Phethay Village.—Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)

Expansion of curved road section completed in Thabeikkyin

Thabeikkyin, 28 June—The curves on the hills at mile posts 1/4 and 3/2 on Mandalay-Thabeikkyin road is being expanded in Thabeikkyin Township of Mandalay Region by Htoopan Construction Company and Public Works. Mandalay Region Hluttaw MP U Than Aung, township authorities and engineers supervised the finishing works at the road section.

Money minded financial literacy training programme conducted in Mandalay

Mandalay, 28 June—Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited, ANZ Bank Myanmar jointly conducted the money minded financial literacy training programme at the YadanaByo Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday.

The course was attended by 110 entrepreneurs from 23 companies and businesses. The experts at home and abroad gave lectures to the trainees on systematic spending of salary, banking services on monetary affairs and credit cards. Admission was free. Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Specialists deliver health care to rural people in Kalay Tsp

Kalay, 28 June—A 45-member medical team including specialists led by Medical Superintendent Dr Nyunt Than of Kalay General Hospital made a trip to Tinthar Village of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region recently.

They gave health care services to 419 local people of the village and performed surgical operations at about 300 patients. Chindwin Thar (IPRD)
Cambodia’s ruling party marks anniversary, vows for prosperity

PHNOM PENH, 28 June — The ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) on Saturday commemorated the 63rd anniversary of its birth, vowing to build a better future for the country and the people. The celebration was presided over by the party’s honorary president Heng Samrin, who is also the president of the National Assembly, and Prime Minister Hun Sen, the acting president.

The party’s ailing president and head of the Senate, Chea Sim, 82, did not appear at the event.

The CPP has ruled the country since 1979.

“In nearly 36 years, under the CPP’s leadership, the Cambodian people have gone through various stages of hardships with success and honour, and we have created numerous historic achievements for Cambodia,” Heng Samrin told the gathering of around 10,000 supporters at the party’s headquarters in Phnom Penh. He urged the Cambodian people to unite as the nation is currently making its energetic and hopeful advancement towards a bright future.

“The CPP is determined to strengthen and expand achievements while making further efforts to build a prosperous future of our country,” he said.

Four killed as three-storey building collapses in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 28 June — A three-storey building collapsed in the northern part of Indian capital New Delhi on Saturday early morning causing four people killed and many are feared trapped, local media reported. The building collapsed around 9 am in North Delhi’s Inderlok area. Firemen have been rushed to the spot.

Twelve people have been rescued so far while four are grievously injured. Many others are feared to be still trapped inside.

A total of twelve people have been rescued and taken to the hospital, while four JCB machines were rushed to the spot to remove the debris. The rescue work is under progress, an official supervising the rescue operations added.

“Thousands of people have been subjected to indignity and therefore should be given humanitarian aid and legal loopholes to prevent the unscrupulous human traffickers from taking advantage of the hapless migrant workers,” he said.

BANGKOK, 28 June — Thai authorities should treat migrant workers humanely and with compassion even as they pursue their relentless campaign against human traffickers in the country, a human rights activist has said here.

Suman Pasuk, the Bangkok-based coordinator for the Human Rights Watch, has called on the Thai authorities to treat migrant workers from any foreign country as victims of human trafficking syndicates and therefore should be given assistance instead of being subjected to indignities. Instead of being arrested for illegal entry charges, those migrants should be given humanitarian aid and eventually legalised as foreign workers, he said.

There is an estimated 2.5 million migrants employed for varied jobs in Thailand ranging from unskilled construction workers, factory employees, fishermen, restaurant waitresses and house servants.

These include some 430,000 Cambodians, about half of whom had recently scrambled out across the Thai-Cambodian border in the wake of uncontirmed rumours of a sweeping crackdown on illegal aliens.

However many have begun to return to their former jobs after the military government assured them of their safety.

“Instead of arresting the migrant workers, the authorities should help them for humanitarian reasons and see to it that they will be no longer abused. Measures should be seriously taken to combat human trafficking in which some abusive employers and corrupt officials may have been involved,” he said. The National Council for Peace and Order, the official name of the military junta that staged the 22 May coup to depose a civilian government, said to have developed close and cordial relationship with Phnom Penh, had dismissed such hearsay about crackdown on illegal foreign workers and recommended that the Cambodian authorities persuade their migrant workers to return to their jobs in Thailand.

Suman suggested that the authorities plug up legal loopholes to prevent the unscrupulous human traffickers from taking advantage of the hapless migrant workers.

“The authorities have largely failed to clamp down on those law-evading traffickers and colluding officials many of whom were said to have remained at large and even strived to make undue gains by ways of labour abuses,” he said.

He disclosed that Thailand used to be second in the United States government’s list of countries engaged in trafficking in persons for the past years.

Thailand has been relegated to the third tier due to reported failure to effectively combat human trafficking, which in some cases had culminated in the “slavery” of migrant workers as alleged by US Secretary of State John Kerry.

However, given the stringent measures taken by the ruling military, the country’s human trafficking report might be moved up from the lowest tier, Suman commented. In order to stop the illegal activities of human traffickers, top Thai ruler Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, who currently heads the military council, has assured the country that the authorities will legalize and regulate the employment of foreign workers.

Rights group calls for human treatment of migrant workers in Thailand

China’s building materials sector weakens

BEIJING, 28 June — China’s building materials sector continued to show weakness in May as the property market cools, according to the latest statistics from the country’s top economic planner.

Cement output rose 3.2 percent year on year in May, slowing 5.3 percent from points of the expansion seen during the same period last year, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said on its website.

Output of flat glass rose 6.4 percent, down 9.1 percentage points from a year earlier. Prices are also re-treating. Compared with a month earlier, the factory gate prices of cement and flat glasses went down 0.9 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively.

The data was a reflection of the weak property market, a major consumer of the cement and flat glass. Latest official data showed average home prices in 70 cities slipped 0.15 percent from the previous month, the first drop in more than a year.

Of a statistical pool of 70 major cities, thirty-five saw month-on-month drops in new home prices last month, compared with eight in April. Only 15 cities saw month-on-month increases, substantially down from 44 in April.

Firemen try to douse a major fire on the fifth floor of the new administrative building at Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) of Central Railway in Mumbai, India, on 27 June, 2014.—Xinhua

Cement output rose 3.2 percent year on year in May, slowing 5.3 percent from points of the expansion seen during the same period last year, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said on its website.
EU signs trade pact with Ukraine, ceasefire extended by 72 hours

BRUSSELS, 28 June — The European Union signed an historic free-trade pact with Ukraine on Friday and warned it could impose more sanctions on Moscow unless pro-Russian rebels accept a wind-down the crisis in the east of the country by Monday.

Shortly after returning to Kiev from Brussels where he signed the pact, Poroshenko announced on his website that Ukraine had extended a ceasefire by government forces against pro-Russian separatists rebels by 72 hours until 10 p.m on Monday.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko came to Brussels to sign a far-reaching trade and political cooperation agreement with the EU that has been at the heart of months of deadly violence and upheaval in his country, drawing an immediate threat of "grave consequences" from Russia.

Georgia and Moldova signed similar deals, holding out the prospect of deep economic integration and unfettered access to the EU’s 500 million citizens, but alarming Moscow, which is concerned about losing influence over former Soviet republics.

The week-long ceasefire had been due to expire on Friday.

The extension was made, Poroshenko’s website said, in line with a Monday deadline set by EU leaders for the rebels to agree to ceasefire verification arrangement, return border checkpoints to Kiev authorities and free hostages including detained monitors of the OSCE rights and security watchdog.

We expect progress in the next hours,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said. “If we don’t see any steps forward on any of the points, then we are also prepared to take drastic measures.”

EU leaders said they were ready to meet again by the end of the week if they see significant sanctions on Russia. Diplomats said they could target new people and companies with asset freezes as early as next week. More than 60 names are already on the list.

Although it has drawn up a list of hard-hitting economic sanctions against Russia, the EU is still hesitating over deploying them because of fears among some member states of antagonizing their major energy supplier.

“We are talking about possible sanctions against Russia but we do not have to introduce sanctions for the sake of sanctions. We do have a need for a dialogue. I hope this dialogue will take place and we will have a real ceasefire,” Poroshenko told a news conference in Brussels.

Bulgarian central bank says banking system under attack

SOFIA, 28 June — Bulgaria's central bank said on Friday there was a systematic attempt to destabilise the country through attacks on the banking system and vowed to protect citizens' savings.

Depositors queued in the capital Sofia to withdraw funds from one of the country's biggest banks and its shares slumped, warning a crisis that has shone a light on weak economic governance in the poorest European Union state.

Last week, the central bank took control of Corporate Commercial Bank (Corpbank) 6C9.BB after a run on deposits sparked by media reports of suspect deals involving the bank and its top shareholder.

The central bank said Corpbank’s problems were isolated. Economists and Fitch Ratings agency also played down the risk of contagion, while foreign banks with subsidiaries in Bulgaria — accounting for more than two thirds of the Balkan country’s banking system — insisted their operations were safe. But the crisis spread on Friday and warned it could impose more sanctions on Moscow unless pro-Russian rebels accept a wind-down the crisis in the east of the country by Monday.

The bank said depositors withdrew about 800 million levs (326.34 million pounds) and announced it would close all branches at 1300 BST until Monday for “logistical reasons”. It said it had enough funds to meet clients’ demands.

A spokesman said Internet banking services and cash machine withdrawals would continue to function over the weekend.

“I was told to come here and take my money out,” said a 32-year-old woman in one bank queue who did not want to be named. “I hope they do not close the doors in front of our noses.”

Japan, China agree to boost people-to-people exchanges

BEIJING, 28 June — Japanese transport minister Akihiro Ota on Friday agreed with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong that the two countries will expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges, although bilateral relations have been badly damaged over territorial and historical issues.

It is the first time a Japanese minister has visited Beijing since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government was formed in December 2012.

Ota told reporters that Liu, one of the two women in the Chinese Communist Party’s 25-member Politburo, talked especially about the need to improve public sentiment in the two countries toward each other.

“It is important to nurture public opinion friendly for both countries by cultivating friendship through exchanges between people,” Ota, a former leader of New Komeito, junior coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, quoted her as saying.

The meeting between Ota and Liu comes as Beijing has started softening somewhat its stance toward Tokyo in recent months, saying it is open to promoting exchanges with Japanese political parties, companies and local government officials.

Still, China has not toned down the harsh rhetoric from its leadership against Abe and has told various Japanese delegations to Beijing since this spring that the cause of heightened tensions between the two countries boils down to his hawkish political stance.

“China is placing a great deal of importance on the New Komeito party,” Liu told Ota at the outset of the meeting at the Great Hall of the People.

“Although bilateral relations are in an extremely difficult situation, the minister’s visit to China has extraordinary significance.”

“I am hoping from my bottom of heart that your visit would actively contribute to the development of China-Japan relations,” Liu said.

She, however, expressed concern over the Japanese government’s attempt to reinterpret the pacifist Constitution and enable the Self-Defence Forces to defend allies under armed attack, according to Ota, though he said that the two did not discuss the issue in detail.

China has historically maintained close ties with the LDP’s junior partner, which is backed by the major lay Buddhist organization Soka Gakkai, as it has pursued dovish foreign and security policies.

Kyodo News
Global power struggle is a threat to development of Asian region

By Aung Khin

International community is making efforts to enjoy peaceful regions which are free from invasion, communal violence and terrorism. Multi-polar world and economic globalization has emerged as a newly developed strategy in creating a prosperous world. Militarily superior countries tried to influence other countries either way. Some powerful economies launched many invasions of other independent states in the history. When the regional countries could not maintain their stability, the global power struggles have occurred in the respective regions.

When the countries in various regions could not implement genuine peaceful coexistence, they then fell victims to global powers. Every global continent has experienced such situation. Unity and mutual respects to other sovereignty play a crucial role to maintain regional strength. With approximately 4.3 billion people, Asia continent has 60 percent of world’s population. Some scholars have predicted that the global power is shifting from the west to the east. From South China sea territorial disputes to conflicts in Central Asia, the continent still has some problems to stand as the globally powerful region.

Asia had influential power in the world 500 years ago. During that period, China and India together represented about 50 percent of world gross domestic product, while Western Europe and North America accounted for only 20 percent.

The industrial revolution changed the balance of power, leading Western Europe and North America to 50 percent of the world’s production by 1950. To regain the previous status the ‘peaceful coexistence’ is important for Asia. Each individual country of Asia should develop their own strength with bilateral cooperation to prevent from the threat of global power struggle.

Outstanding personnel honoured for excellent performances in development of region

Mandalay, 28 June—A ceremony to confer certificates of honour on personnel and social organizations for their performance in development tasks of Mandalay Region was held at the city hall in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday morning.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and officials presented certificates of honour and honorary medals to Mandalay Region Hluttaw MPs U Kyaw Aye and U Saw Htay, Deputy Commissioner U Min Maung Soe of Mekikla District and Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win in the management field. Region ministers also gave certificates and medals to 35 departmental officials and other outstanding persons including Jivitadana Sangha Hospital Management Board of Chamaythazai Township for their performances in the management, education, mechanical, agricultural, livestock breeding and social fields.

Chief Minister U Ye Myint presents certificate to outstanding person for his performance in development of Mandalay Region.

Equipment delivered for rehabilitation of Baluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant

Yangon, 28 June—A ceremony to deliver equipment to project for rehabilitation of Baluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant was held at Asia World Port in Ahlone Township of Yangon on Saturday.

On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo said that the first phase for rehabilitation of the Baluchaung No 2 hydropower plant had been made from 2002 to 2004 with the assistance of Japanese Official Development Assistance, Grant Aid. The 132 transmission line of Lawptata-Kalaw could be extended as transmission line No 2 and some of the parts of cooling water and compressor system of the power plant had been completely replaced. The project will be conducted by two phases; the first three generating units are going to be shut down one by one and rehabilitated during July 2014 to February 2015 so did the second three generating units will be during July 2015 to February 2016 respectively. Power station will be restored in full generation after rehabilitation.

The Official Development Assistance (ODA, Grant Aid) Japanese Yen 6.669 billion was provided for the rehabilitation of Baluchaung No 2 hydropower plant. Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe explained rehabilitation of the power plant. Chief Representative Mr Masahiko Tanaka of Japan International Cooperation Agency handed over documents related to the machinery for the project to Managing Director U Khin Maung Win of Hydropower Generation Enterprise.
Donations and obeisance to sacred Tooth Relic in China

President U Thein Sein accepts replica of sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha from the Sayadaw.—MNA

The sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha kept in Beijing for public obeisance.—MNA

Various items of jewellery to be donated to sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha in Beijing of China.—MNA

Various items of jewellery ornaments and gold works to be donated to sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha in Beijing of China.—MNA

A file photo taken on 6 November 2011 on Buddha Tooth Relic on the way to Uppatasanti Pagoda from Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Photo shows a temple where sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha is being kept for public obeisance in Beijing of China. —MNA
WASHINGTON, 28 June — The United States said on Friday it had decreased its surveillance flights in the search for more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamist militants in Nigeria, but added that the overall effort was unchanged due to more flights by other countries.

“We have no better idea today than we did before about where these girls are, but there’s been no letup of the effort on our part,” Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby told reporters.

Kirby said the same level of effort was being sustained now through international involvement. A US defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said US flights had been reduced only after a body of intelligence had been gathered and that the cuts had been offset by British and French support. Kirby denied a suggestion that US flights over Nigeria had been reduced for two reasons: about Sunni insurgents. He said some of the resources that were being used in Nigeria had been diverted from other missions in Africa and could now be used elsewhere on the continent. The girls were kidnapped in April by militant Islamist group Boko Haram. Nigeria has been assiduous in its search for them by the United States and other countries, including its neighbours.

Officials declined to say how long heightened US surveillance over Nigeria had lasted. Asked whether it was just a week or two, the defence official said, “No. We were building this baseline for a good period of time.”

US surveillance flights over Nigeria were now intermittent, the source said. US military personnel are in Abuja helping to coordinate the effort, and some 80 others were sent to Chad in May to support the surveillance operation. Chad is northeast of Nigeria and borders the area in which Boko Haram is known to operate.

In the last month US officials have played down expectations about a swift rescue of the girls and stressed the limitations of intelligence from surveillance flights.

One US official voiced concerns that Boko Haram may have booby trapped areas where the girls could be held, and there have been reports that they may have been split up into small groups that are not being held in one place. The defence official said surveillance alone would not lead to a resolution. “It will take … the Nigerian piece of the equation with our intelligence and human intelligence coupled with the other forms to really understand the picture.” —Reuters

Venezuela blackout leaves commuters scrambling, silences president

CARACAS, 28 June — A blackout cut power to much of Caracas on Friday afternoon, snarling traffic in the capital Caracas and other major cities and interrupting a televised speech by the president in the country’s second nationwide electricity outage in a year.

The blackout affected Caracas for about three hours, panic tripping commuters anxious to get home before dark in the crime-ridden city, but power was gradually restored by early evening and underground metro trains were running again. Venezuela’s second city, Maracaibo, was also hit.

An outage at a power station in the centre of the country led to other generation centres going offline and disrupting the supply across a broad swath of the Andean nation, Electricity Minister Jesse Chacon told state television. The OPEC nation has suffered an increasing number of blackouts in recent years, which critics have attributed to low electricity tariffs and limited state investment following the 2007 nationalisation of the sector.

The blackout came mid-afternoon as President Nicolas Maduro was speaking during a broadcast of the awards ceremony for a national journalism prize. On television again in the evening, he said it was not clear what led to the “strange” incident.

“We are going to investigate thoroughly and objectively … The causes will be known because, be aware, there are no remiss linked to the service itself. There was not more demand than supply … it was not peak hours,” he said. —Reuters

UN experts trace recent seized arms to Iran, violating embargo

UNITED NATIONS, 28 June — A UN expert panel has concluded that a shipment of rockets and other weapons that was seized by Israel from Iran in June and represents a violation of the UN arms embargo on Teheran, according to a confidential report obtained by Reuters on Friday.

The finding comes just days ahead of the next round of negotiations in Vienna between Iran and six world powers aimed at securing a deal that would gradually lift international sanctions on Teheran — including the arms embargo — in exchange for curbs on the controversial Iranian nuclear programme.

Despite Israel’s public statements that the seized arms were destined for Gaza — an allegation that Gaza’s governing Islamist militant group Hamas dismissed as a fabrication — the experts said the weapons were being sent to Sudan.

The experts do not speculate in the report about why the arms were being sent to Sudan, a country which Western diplomatic and intelligence sources have told Reuters has in the past been a conduit for Iranian arms shipments to other locations in Africa, as well as the Gaza Strip.

The experts said the Israeli UN Sanctions Committee on 13 March about “the transfer of rockets, mortars and related materials from Iran to Sudan.”

The 14-page report on the incident by the UN Security Council’s Panel of Experts on Iran makes no mention of the Gaza Strip as a possible destination for the arms, which were concealed in 20 containers on the Panamanian-flagged vessel Klos C. The weapons were seized by Israeli authorities in March.

The UN experts reached their conclusion after investigating the case and inspecting the seized cargo and documentation related to the shipment, which traveled from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, and from there in the direction of Port Sudan. —Reuters

An Israeli Navy boat escorts the Panamanian-flagged cargo vessel Klos C into the Israeli port of Eilat on Saturday after seizing it in the Red Sea on Wednesday, 8 March, 2014. —Reuters

Demonstrators hold signs while chanting for the release of the Nigerian schoolgirls in Chibok who were kidnapped by Islamist militant group Boko Haram, outside of the United Nations headquarters in New York, on 22 May, 2014.—Reuters

People try to find other modes of transportation after subway services were cut off during a blackout in Caracas on 27 June, 2014.—Reuters

#BRINGBACKOURGIRLS

WASHINGON, 28 June — The United States said on Friday it had decreased its surveillance flights in the search for more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamist militants in Nigeria, but added that the overall effort was unchanged due to more flights by other countries.

“We have no better idea today than we did before about where these girls are, but there’s been no letup of the effort on our part,” Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby told reporters.

Kirby said the same level of effort was being sustained now through international involvement. A US defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said US flights had been reduced only after a body of intelligence had been gathered and that the cuts had been offset by British and French support. Kirby denied a suggestion that US flights over Nigeria had been reduced for about Sunni insurgents. He said some of the resources that were being used in Nigeria had been diverted from other missions in Africa and could now be used elsewhere on the continent. The girls were kidnaped in April by militant Islamist group Boko Haram. Nigeria has been assiduous in its search for them by the United States and other countries, including its neighbours.

Officials declined to say how long heightened US surveillance over Nigeria had lasted. Asked whether it was just a week or two, the defence official said, “No. We were building this baseline for a good period of time.”

US surveillance flights over Nigeria were now intermittent, the source said. US military personnel are in Abuja helping to coordinate the effort, and some 80 others were sent to Chad in May to support the surveillance operation.

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The defence official said surveillance alone would not lead to a resolution. “It will take … the Nigerian piece of the equation with our intelligence and human intelligence coupled with the other forms to really understand the picture.” —Reuters
China approves pilots for 4G development

China Telecom and China Unicom will be allowed to experiment on the joint development of both 4G standards in 16 Chinese cities to "follow the trend of integrated LTE development and promote efficient use of resources," the ministry said.

Beijing, 28 June — China on Friday approved two major telecom operators, China Telecom and China Unicom, to conduct experiments on the LTE FDD and TD-LTE standards of the fourth-generation (4G) mobile network.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said in a statement that it made the approval after the two mobile service operators applied for the pilots.

Slim’s real estate arm to buy AT&T’s America Movil stake

Mexico City, 28 June — Carlos Slim’s real estate firm, Inmobiliaria Carso, will buy AT&T Inc’s equity stake in America Movil, tightening the Mexican tycoon’s control of his flagship telecommunication firm, according to a filing with Mexico’s stock exchange on Friday.

Slim’s Inmobiliaria Carso will buy more than 5.7 billion “AA” shares that have been held by AT&T, equal to 8.27 percent of America Movil’s stock, the Mexican telecommunications firm said in the filing.

The stake represents 23.81 percent of America Movil’s voting stock.

Inmobiliaria Carso and one of its subsidiaries will also buy 72.8 million shares of commonly traded “L” shares, according to the filing. America Movil did not reveal how much Inmobiliaria Carso will pay for the shares.

“AA” shares do not frequently trade, but if the whole deal were valued at the current price of “L” shares, it would be worth close to $6 billion.

Slim’s firms and family already control more than 50 percent of America Movil’s voting stock.

AT&T announced the plan to sell its stake in America Movil in May in order to help it gain regulatory approval for its purchase of DirecTV.

Russia calls off debut launch of first new space rocket design since Soviet era

Moscow, 28 June — Russia was forced to abandon Friday’s debut launch of its first new space rocket since the Soviet era when the Angara booster cut out during a final countdown watched by President Vladimir Putin via video link from the Kremlin.

Angara is seen as a test of Russia’s ability to turn around a once-pioneering space industry and launch a reform the once-pioneering centerpiece of Putin’s plan to consolidate the space program and protect its national security.

"The automatic system aborted the launch," said Anatoly Lissov, an expert with trade association Novosti Kosmonavtiki. “Everything else we have is a modernization of our Soviet legacy.”

Work on the Angara began two years after the break up of the Soviet Union when Moscow lost the maker of its workhorse Zenit and Dnepr rockets in newly-independent Ukraine and its main launch facility in Kazakhstan.

"This is the first launch vehicle that has been developed and built from scratch in Russia," Igor Lissov, an expert with trade journal Novosti Kosmonavtiki, said. "Twenty years of development is over but we are at the very beginning of the flight testing."

Unlike the Proton, powered by toxic hydrazine fuel, Angara uses an ecologically cleaner mix of liquid oxygen and kerosene. Its medium-lift version, Angara-5, is due to complement the Soviet-era Soyuz — currently the only rocket ferrying astronauts to the International Space Station from Baikonur.

"There is absolutely no guarantee that Angara, which is built by the same industry, by the same company, by the same people will be immune to these problems," said Anatoly Zak, editor of the industry website RussianSpaceWeb.

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North Korea on agenda as Chinese president visits South

SEOUL, 28 June — Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit South Korea next week, the two countries announced on Friday, with North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons featuring prominently on the agenda in summits like this.

It will be Xi’s first visit to South Korea as president but his fifth summit with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. South Korea’s presidential Blue House said North Korea would be high on the agenda when the two leaders discuss regional security and cooperation.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said both countries were important cooperative partners and had achieved great success together.

“China and South Korea have many common areas of interest,” Qin told a daily news briefing, though he declined to provide details of Xi’s agenda. Xi will be making a single-country trip and not visit North Korea, which regards China as its greatest ally and has relied on Beijing as its economic lifeline through trade nearly at $230 billion.

China is South Korea’s biggest trading partner. South Korea is also one of the few developed countries that runs a surplus with China, one in excess of $60 billion. The two countries are also on the same page on their demand for Japan to take more proactive steps to show it has adequately atoned for its wartime past, when it colonized Korea and ruled parts of China following a 1937 invasion.

Both Xi and Park took office early last year and last met in March this year on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in The Hague.—Reuters

Syrian troops agree on ceasefire with rebels in Homs ahead of Ramadan

DAMASCUS, 28 June — The Syrian troops and the armed rebels in a central Syrian district have agreed on a ceasefire during the armed rebellion in a city free of rebels, after an agreement took place in that ancient part of the city between the government troops and the rebels.

The deal entailed the evacuation of the rebels from homes in and around the city, allowing government forces to impose control except the al-Waer neighbourhood and three towns in the northern countryside of Homs, named al-Dar al-Kabira, Talbiseh, and al-Rastan.

Friday’s truce is deemed by observers as a good sign for a near-future deal between the government troops and the rebels. There were talks that the peace talks took place because of a desire to strengthen the country’s democracy, saying the jury plans to declare a provisional Constitution in July and draft a formal Constitution in July next year. A rough timeline for democracy was presented just days after it seized power in late May.

“Important agreements were signed between the two sides, and the rebels took very good preparations to ease the evacuation of the refugees,” one of the rebel negotiators told Xinhua.

Panama court orders release of jailed North Korean sailors

PANAMA CITY, 28 June — A Panamanian court on Friday ordered the release of three North Korean ship officers who were jailed after they were caught smuggling Cuban weapons through the Central American country.

The court absolved the captain and two officers, ruling that charges against them fell outside of Panama’s jurisdiction and the country’s judicial authority said in a statement. The Chong Chon Gang ship was seized in July last year for smuggling Soviet-era arms, including two MIG-21 jet fighters, under thousands of tonnes of sugar.

Thirty-two North Korean sailors and the ship were released back in February. A United Nations report issued in March said North Korea had developed sophisticated ways to circumvent United Nations sanctions, including the suspected use of its embassies to facilitate an illegal trade in weapons.

African asylum seekers in Israel to cross border into Egypt amid protest

JERUSALEM, 28 June — Hundreds of African asylum seekers in Israel left their open detention centre on Friday and marched toward the Egyptian border in protest of the government’s policy against them, local media reported.

Israeli security forces prevented the asylum seekers from crossing the border and distanced them from what the army said was a closed military zone, the Ha’aretz daily reported.

The asylum seekers were protesting their stay at the detention center, their living conditions and the fact that the Israeli authorities had not reviewed their asylum requests as is demanded according to international accords.

After a few months in Holot (a detention centre located at the southern Negev desert), we realized that Israel was stalling and that is not reviewing our asylum requests,” one of the protest organizers told Ha’aretz.

“We’ve reached the conclusion that there is no difference between Israel and Egypt and that the situation is bad everywhere,” he added. “We are not going to stay locked up.”

Security forces were asking for reinforcement in order to evacuate the protesters and return them to their detention center, while contemplating the possibility of arresting some of them for trespassing.—Xinhua
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1440)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1440) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.6.2014 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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**Two militants killed in N Afghan police raid**

**Kunduz, Afghanistan**, 28 June Two militants were killed while four others were detained during a police operation in northern Afghan province of Kunduz overnight, police said on Saturday.

The special operation force of Kunduz carried out a raid on a militants’ hideout in Zarkhird area in outskirts of provincial capital Kunduz city, killing two militants named Sayedullah and Samiullah overnight, a provincial police spokesman, Seyed Sarwar Husaini, told Xinhua.

The militant hideout was destroyed and four militants were captured following the raid, he noted, adding no member of the security force was hurt. The Taliban-led violence continues in Afghanistan. Security forces have press on to clear the militants in restive provinces.

The Taliban has yet to make comments.

Afghan security forces took the full operational lead from foreign troops in mid-last year. The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from NATO-led foreign troops by year end. Xinhua

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**Five killed, 16 injured in Afghan bus accident**

**Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan**, 28 June— About five passengers were killed while 16 others injured Saturday when a long-distance bus crashed head-on with a truck in northern Afghan province of Balkh, police said.

“The accident took place in Durrani Hyratan area along Kabul-Mazar-i-Sharif highway in the morning, leaving five travelers dead and 16 others injured,” the highway police chief, Asif Sahra, told Xinhua.

Police and rescue teams rushed towards the site shortly after the accident happened, he said.

All injured have been shifted to the nearby hospitals. There were women and children among the victims.

The Afghan officials blamed reckless driving for the traffic incidents, saying reckless driving on congested roads and highways is the main cause of road accidents in Afghanistan—Xinhua

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**New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 29 June, 2014**

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Beyonce, Jay-Z unveil their wedding video live in concert

LOS ANGELES, 28 June — Hip-hop supercouple Beyonce and Jay-Z unveiled footage from their wedding for the first time, during the opening night of their ‘On the Run’ tour.

The couple, who have two-year-old daughter Blue Ivy together, married in a small ceremony in April 2008 and shared intimate footage from the big day at the opening night of their ‘On the Run’ tour in Florida, reported Hollywood Life.

The footage showed Beyonce wearing a traditional white gown—which was designed by her mother Tina Knowles—and veil, with the rapper in a smart tuxedo as they exchanged vows and rings and had matching IV tattoos on their fingers.

Another clip showed the couple walking down the aisle as watching guests threw confetti at them.

The footage was shown towards the end of the couple’s 41-song set—which saw them perform both together and separately—as they sang Young Forever.

The 32-year-old beauty previously shared footage of herself trying on her wedding dress as part of a montage in the video for her single I Was Here, which depicted a number of significant moments in her life, including childhood home videos.—PTI

In ‘Begin Again,’
Keira Knightley

New York, 28 June — British actress Keira Knightley, known for playing tragic heroines in period dramas, strayed into new territory with her first major singing role in “Begin Again,” a feel-good film about the music industry and starting over.

“Begin Again,” which opens in limited release on Friday and nationwide next month, was written and directed by Ireland’s John Carney, whose 2006 indie musical “Once” nabbed the best original song Oscar for “Falling Slowly.”

“Once” was also adapted into a Broadway show and won eight Tony awards, including best musical.

Like its predecessor, “Begin Again” is laced with music and much of it is sung by Knightley, along with Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine, who makes his film debut.

“The whole thing was out of my comfort zone. I am not a singer. I didn’t know how to do that,” Knightley, a best actress nominee in 2006 for her role in “Pride & Prejudice,” said in an interview.

“A lot of the film was improvised, and I had never done that before. I’d say that those two were major things to be grappling with,” added the 32-year-old actress, who took voice lessons to prepare for the film.

Knightley plays Gretta, a British songwriter and reluctant singer, who arrives in New York with her longtime boyfriend Dave, played by Levine, just as he is about to hit the big time.

Fame clouds his judgment and he strays, leaving a bereft Gretta on the verge of returning home when she is discovered by a chain-smoking, down-and-out record producer named Dan, played by Oscar nominee Mark Ruffalo.—Reuters

Vidya Balan: Romance has no age bar

MUMBAI, 28 June — Actress Vidya Balan, who will be seen romancing actor Ali Fazal in forthcoming film Bobby Jasoos, says that romance has no age bar. “Romance has no age no bar. I don’t think age has anything to do with chemistry. I have worked with Naseer sir (Naseeruddin Shah) in Ishqiya as well. It’s all about getting into the character,” the 36-year-old told IANS.

Detective comedy Bobby Jasoos revolves around a female character. While Vidya plays the female lead, Ali plays the male lead. The film is directed by Sajid Shai-kh and is co-produced by actress Dia Mirza and her beau Sahil Sangha. The film will hit theatres on 4 July.—PTI
British singer to start training for space trip

**Moscow, 28 June** — British singer Sarah Brightman is to start training in August or September for her space trip, a senior Russian official said on Friday.

“Sarah Brightman will be trained as a candidate for a short-term mission to the International Space Station (ISS), accompanied with an international crew,” said the official from Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre, located in the Star City east of Moscow. (The 10-day flight onboard a Soyuz spacecraft has been scheduled for 2015, he added. The British soprano reportedly paid up to some 50 million US dollars for the space trip. She hopes to become the first professional musician to sing from space as the eighth space tourist.

Seven tourists, including one female, have so far traveled to the ISS, with each of them paying at least 20 million dollars. In October 2009, Russia stopped taking space tourists due to lack of room in its three-person Soyuz spacecraft. NASA canceled its shuttle missions to the ISS.

Brightman, 53, has become popular in China, after singing the Beijing Olympics theme song in 2008. She visited China many times in recent years and sang at concerts or other events in several cities during her concert tours.

Work-related mental illness claims rise to record high in FY 2013

**Tokyo, 28 June** — The number of people in Japan who claimed workers’ compensation for work-related depression or other mental illness rose to a record 1,409 in the past year to March, according to data released by the labour ministry on Friday.

The figure, up 152 from the previous year, has increased over fivefold since fiscal 2001 when the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry started releasing the data. Of the past year’s applicants, 436 claims were recognized by the labour standards supervision office, including 63 cases of people who committed suicide due to overwork.

Among the 436 people recognized by the office as suffering from work-related mental illness, 55 said the disease was triggered by harassment or bullying. 28 cited sexual harassment and 17 pointed to troubles with superiors.

Among those whose claims were turned down by the office, 12 people eventually won compensation after reexamination of their cases or through litigation.

“There have been more people feeling stressed because of work,” a ministry official said. The official also attributed the increasing claims to more employees becoming aware that mental illness is subject to workers’ compensation.

By age, people in their 40s and 20s accounted for the majority of the applicants, the ministry said. The number of people who claimed workers’ compensation due to brain or heart disease declined by 58 to 784 in the past financial year, down for the second straight year. Of the claims, 306 were recognized.

The number of people suffering from work-related mental illness caused by work, the largest number of 106 people had worked 80 to 100 hours of overtime over a month while 34 had worked 160 hours or more.

UNESCO working with Mali to protect cultural sites

**United Nations, 28 June** — Two of the World Heritage mausoleums destroyed in Timbuktu, Mali, have not yet been reconstructed through a partnership with local communities, the UN cultural agency said here on Friday.

The rebuilding efforts will need an additional 8 million US dollars to finish the rehabilitation of the site and of thousands that could again store hundreds of thousands of Malian manuscripts, Lazare Eloudou Assomo, representative of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to Mali, said at a Press conference.

“We are looking for 11 million US dollars,” Asso- mo said. The UN agency has been able to gather around 3 million US dollars through bilateral cooperation and other funding, he said, but “if we don’t have the 8 million dollars, it would be difficult for us to complete our activities.”

Timbuktu was an economic, intellectual and spiritual capital and a center for the propagation of Islam throughout Africa during the city’s golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries.

According to UNESCO, the three mosques and the 16 mausoleums comprising the property are part of the fabled city that was once home to 100,000 inhabitants.

The site was heavily destroyed by occupying extremists after fighting broke out in January 2012 between government forces and Tuareg rebels.

The conflict uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and prompted the Malian government to request assistance from France to stop the military advance of extremist groups.

In March, local masons working with UN support laid the first earthy brick to reconstruct two of the mausoleums. “It’s a long and complex task,” said Assomo, who spoke alongside Vibeke Jensen, director of the UNESCO Office in New York. “The monuments look very simple in their architecture but they are complex structures.”—Xinhua

Chinese workers arrive in Baghdad, Iraq, on 28 June, 2014. All of the more than 1,200 Chinese workers trapped in the northern Iraqi city of Samarra have been safely evacuated to the capital Baghdad, according to the Chinese embassy in Baghdad.
London, 28 June — World number one Rafael Nadal, into the third round for the first time since 2011, will be hoping for an easier ride on the Wimbledon grass after two tough rounds when he meets Mikhail Kukushkin on Saturday.

He joins three other former Wimbledon champions — Roger Federer, Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova — bidding for a place in Monday’s fourth round.

Organizers will be crossing their fingers that the weather forecasters will be proved wrong again. Despite cloudy skies, the rain expected to disrupt Friday’s play did not materialise, but showers are expected on Saturday.

They will not affect play on Centre Court, the tournament’s showpiece stage with its retractable roof, where French Open champion Nadal, champion in 2008 and 2010, opens the proceedings against the Kazakh world No 63. Nadal had to fight back from a set down in the first two rounds against Martin Klizan of Slovakia and Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic.

“To be in the third round here again after two, three years is very positive news,” Nadal said. Sharapova, like Nadal, hoping to make it a French Open and Wimbledon double after claiming the Roland Garros title earlier this month, takes on unseeded American Alison Riske in Centre Court’s second clash.

World No 1 Serena Williams, whose older sister Venus was defeated by another former champion Petra Kvitova on Friday, is first on the roofless Court One, playing Alize Cornet. Serena, a five times Wimbledon champion, exited at the fourth round stage last year.—Reuters

Disgraced Suarez goes home, Brazil feel pressure

Brasilia, 28 June — The furore over Luis Suarez’s heavy ban for biting filled the void of the first game-free day at the World Cup in Brazil on Friday, with his Italian victim Giorgio Chiellini leading the criticism of the Uruguayan’s record punishment.

The Italy defender feared the World Cup to Qatar but his manager said the “Der Kaiser” would now cooperate. “As you know Franz is someone we all respect and was an amazing footballer and we would love him to have him here at the World Cup,” FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke told reporters in Rio de Janeiro.

Beckenbauer, however, has indicated he will not be attending the soccer showpiece and will watch from afar like Suarez, who was driven to the small coastal town of Solymar with his family to escape the world’s glare.

In the 27-year-old’s absence and continued silence, opinions flowed on the eye-catching verdict as his Uruguay team mates prepared for Saturday’s last-16 clash with in-form Colombia, which follows hosts Brazil against Chile.

Chiellini, back in Italy after being knocked out by Uruguay following Tuesday’s 1-0 Group D loss, feared for the future of Suarez, who has been found guilty of biting opponents on three occasions in a controversial career.—Reuters

Olympics: IOC mulls Tokyo 2020 Olympic venue changes

Tokyo, 28 June — International Olympic Committee concluded its first commission meeting for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on Friday, with IOC vice president John Coates stressing the importance of making improvements, if any, to the venue plans at an early stage. Coates and other members of the commission were visiting Tokyo for the first time since the Japanese capital won the right to host the Summer Games last September. The IOC, under its new president Thomas Bach, is hoping to rein in costs of future Olympics.

The organizing committee for the 2020 Olympics has recently started to scrutinize the initial plan of locating the majority of venues within an 8-kilometer radius of the Athletes’ Village due to concerns over costs.

Kyodo News

Nadal eyes easier passage to Wimbledon fourth round

A man holds his arm in front of an advertising placard showing Uruguay’s striker Luis Suarez flashing his teeth, at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on 26 June, 2014.—Reuters

Paris, 28 June — Rafael Nadal, bidding for a place in Monday’s fourth round, will have Roger Federer, Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova hoping for an easier ride on the Wimbledon grass after two tough rounds when they meet Mikhail Kukushkin on Saturday.

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International Olympic Committee Vice President John Coates (L) and Yoshirori Mori, chief of the organizing committee for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, shake hands following a press conference in Tokyo on 27 June, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match-51
Netherlands
22:30 MST (29.6.2014)
Mexico

Match-52
Costa Rica
2:30 MST (29.6.2014)
Greece