YANGON, 7 June — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected healthcare facilities at the West Yangon General Hospital on Sunday.

The 200-bed hospital in Kyimyindine Township is also providing medical services to outpatients, and it consists of 17 wards including a medical ward, a surgical ward, a pediatric ward, and an obstetrics and gynecology ward.

Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, the medical superintendent of the hospital, explained the number of staff, healthcare services and free medical treatments in 2014.

Minister U Myint Swe presented the possible infrastructural development at the hospital.

At the meeting with responsible persons, Dr Sai Mauk Kham said renovation and development works at the hospital will be carried out depending on the budget allocation each fiscal year together with the contribution of private sector.

He also urged the staff member of the hospital to be hospitable to the patients. The West Yangon General Hospital was constructed in 1965-1966 and the four-storey building in 1997.

The hospital provided free medical treatments to 14,746 inpatients in 2014.

MJA offers exchange visit for excellent Myanmar matriculation students

YANGON, 7 June — Myanmar Japan Association made the outstanding Myanmar matriculation students an offer of applying for exchange visit programme.

A total of 20 outstanding matriculation students in 2014-2015 academic year will be awarded the 8-day visit to Japan in September this year, according to the announcement of MJA.

Some 95 students from states and regions who got the highest market in previous exam can apply for this exchange visit programme by 10 July, and MJA will interview the shortlists.

U Saw Hla Min, the President of Myanmar Japan Association, said the exchange visits is aimed to promote relations between two countries, providing human resource development and honouring outstanding Myanmar students in the matriculation exam.

Under the programme, the selected Myanmar students will get a chance to visit a university in Tokyo and general science museum during their three-day visit in the capital and a four-day home stay in northern Japan, according to MJA.

MJA has donated school uniforms and stationary to the students at two basic education primary schools in Phyyys Station and Shwemayya monastic education middle school, in north district of Yangon, on 2 June.

The authorities arrested 93 traffickers during the five months, but 51 suspects are still at large. All of the wanted traffickers are Myanmar nationals, Police Captain Min Naing said.

According to the official figures, the number of trafficking cases from 2006 to May this year reached 1,179 nationwide, with police rescuing more than 2,000 victims and arresting 2,199 traffickers. More than 1,000 suspects remain on the run.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime in both developed and developing countries, with cases involving forced labour or sexual exploitation prevalent. Most Myanmar victims were sold into forced marriages in China and forced labour in Thailand. —GNLM

Vice President looks into West Yangon General Hospital

Police rescue 22 human trafficking victims in May

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 7 June — Myanmar police last month rescued 22 human trafficking victims bound for foreign countries as forced labourers or brides, Police Captain Min Naing said Saturday.

In May, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division arrested 18 traffickers in 11 separate cases, most of them women, he added.

According to the police, 56 trafficking cases have been recorded from January to May, nearly doubling from the same period last year.

Fifteen cases occurred in Shan State, while Mandalay and Yangon were the next highest, with 10 and seven respectively.

Bagan, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, and Kayin, Mon and Kachin states all had fewer than seven cases but there have been no reports of human trafficking cases in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State this year.

The authorities arrested 93 traffickers during the five months, but 51 suspects are still at large. All of the wanted traffickers are Myanmar nationals, Police Captain Min Naing said.

According to the official figures, the number of trafficking cases from 2006 to May this year reached 1,179 nationwide, with police rescuing more than 2,000 victims and arresting 2,199 traffickers. More than 1,000 suspects remain on the run.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime in both developed and developing countries, with cases involving forced labour or sexual exploitation prevalent. Most Myanmar victims were sold into forced marriages in China and forced labour in Thailand. —GNLM
Local farmers receive poppy-alternative crops

Kyaunkse, 7 June — A ceremony to distribute poppy-alternative crops to local farmers was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Mantong, northern Shan State, recently.

On the occasion, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Pe gave talks on prevention of narcotic drugs, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zeyar Min Aung, cultivation of poppy-alternative crops in implementation of special Yimmar project, and cultivation of crops through good agricultural patterns.

Township officials presented Palenthwè paddies and maize seeds and 60 bags of pearl and compound fertilizers to local farmers.

Mandalay Region secures 38.56 percent of pass rate in 2015 matriculation exam

Mandalay, 7 June — The result in the matriculation examination for 2015 was announced at respective exam centres across the nation on 6 June.

A total of 33,625 students of 87,201 passed the examination, accounting for a 38.56 percent of pass rate in 2015, compared with a 34.40 percent in 2014.

Of the winners, a total of 6,943 students won the distinctions.

Mandalay District secured a 43.34 percent pass rate with 11,473 students passing the exam of 26,471 candidates and 3,065 distinction winners.

Kyaunkse District produced a 33.23 percent pass rate with 2,446 students passing the exam of 7,361 candidates and 345 distinction winners.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung San spoke about economic cooperation and investment in the region and easing the restrictions for development of border trade between the two countries.

Indian Consul General Dr Nandakuma explained export of Myanmar products by Mandalay Region to Indian market, cooperation in development of IT, and bilateral trade promotion and investment matters.

Chairman of MRC-Cl clarified cooperation in seeking Indian market for exporting Myanmar products and Indian products to upper Myanmar market. Deputy Director U Swaytint Kyu reported on agricultural produces and chemical free vegetables and fruits to the market.

Advocates discuss legal aid law (draft)

A total of 12,871 students passed the exam, accounting for a 38.97 percent pass rate with 3,278 students winning distinction of 12,871 candidates and 457 distinction winners.

The exam results were released on 6 June, with over 5,000 students in the township passing the exam. A total of 12,871 students sat the matriculation exams across the district in March 2015.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Meiktila District had 1,000 outstanding students who passed the examination with flying-colours, including 33 students who achieved distinctions in all subjects. Of these students, 571 were from Mahlaing Township. There were nearly 150,000 students from over 800 basic education schools plus 35 monastic education schools in Meiktila District last academic year.

Mahlaing Tsp records top pass rate in matriculation exam

Meiktila, 6 June — Mahlaing Township topped the table in the recent matriculation exam in Mandalay Region’s Meiktila District, recording a pass rate of 53.73 percent, followed by Wundwin Township with 42.95 percent and Meiktila Township with 41.42 percent.

The exam results were released on 6 June, with over 5,000 students in the township passing the exam. A total of 12,871 students sat the matriculation exams across the district in March 2015.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Meiktila District had 1,000 outstanding students who passed the examination with flying-colours, including 33 students who achieved distinctions in all subjects. Of these students, 571 were from Mahlaing Township. There were nearly 150,000 students from over 800 basic education schools plus 35 monastic education schools in Meiktila District last academic year.

Ministers, local residents participate in tree growing ceremony

Myaungshwe, 7 June — A tree growing ceremony marked the World Environment Day 2015 in Lweweint Village, west of Inlay Lake in Myaungshwe Township, on 5 June.

Shan State Minister for Forestry and Mining U Sai Aik Paung, Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Win, Minister for Electricity and Industry U Sai Tun Yin, Minister for Social Welfare Dr Myo Tun, Inn Ethnic Affairs Minister U Win Myint, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people planted 853 saplings of various species nearby village.

Myat Tha (IPRD)
Stone age mural paintings discovered in Ywangan Tsp

A team of archaeologists and experts led by Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu on Saturday visited the site where stone age mural paintings were discovered by locals called U Win Bo and U Soe Naing. The site is located about 3-hour walk in the jungle from Ywaseopyin Village on the bank of Kinta Dam. The mural paintings were found on the largest boulder of 80-foot length and 40-foot breadth, which stood like a roof, and depict animals, palms and others drawn with natural dyes made of mud and stones. On a stone wall of 50-foot length and 22-foot height were paintings of a 14-foot long and 9-foot high elephant and others. Some of the drawings cannot be seen clearly as they were covered with dust.

After studying the paintings, the union minister advised the archaeologists and experts to protect the murals properly, do more research and search other possible sites for similar mural paintings.

The Ministry of Culture will invite local and foreign experts to the site for research, preservation and identification of the times the paintings were drawn.

Computer painting contest marks International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe on Saturday attended a computer painting contest to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Information Technology University in Bahan Township.

The competition was organized by Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control with the aim of raising awareness on danger of drugs. The chief minister together with rector of the university Dr Saw Sanda Aye and Chairman U Myat Kyaw Kyaw of Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control enjoyed the contest. Altogether 25 students from basic education schools in Yangon participated in the competition.

Union Minister delivers speech at hotel service courses in Rakhine State

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hla Aung made a speech at the opening ceremony of Hotel Service Courses (16/2015) organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Rakhine Zone) under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism at the Amazing Ngapali Resort Hotel in Ngapali Beach, Thandwe district in Rakhine on Saturday.

In his speech, the union minister said that with considerable development of tourism in Myanmar, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been conducting hotel service courses and tour guide courses at tour destinations for human resources development.

Nation building tasks require educated youths and only educated youths can bring about development for the country, the minister added.

In conclusion, the union minister urged the trainees to continue their learning after the courses in order to conduct multi-talented courses in their towns and cooperate with the government, private sector and the public for the sustainability of tour destinations.

After the union minister’s speech, Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation U Yan Win made a speech.

As tourism can benefit the country as well as individuals involved in it, the trainees can contribute to the interests of the country by trying at the courses, the chairman concluded.

Present at the opening ceremony of the courses were Thandwe District Police Administrator U MyoOo, Thandwe District Police Officer Police Lt-Col Kan Win, Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Rakhine Zone) U AungMyo Min Din and executive members.

The courses are conducted free of charge for 301 trainees from Rakhine State.

Myanmar, Chinese FMs exchange messages to mark 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

Union Election Commission released a notification on Sunday for the 2015 general elections. The notification stated that voter lists will be announced for the third time at the offices of district sub-commissions in all districts in Kayah State, all districts in Kayin State, all districts in Chin State, all districts in Mon State, all districts in Magway Region, Sagaing, Shwebo, Monywa, Yinnabbin and Tamu districts in Sagaing Region, Dawei and Myeik districts in Taninthayi Region, Bago District in Bago Region, Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse and Myingyan districts in Mandalay Region and Taunggyi, Loilen, Langkho districts, Pao-O Self-Administered Zone and Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan Sttae from 8 to 21 June 2015.

Voters may apply registration for absence of their names in the list with form No 3 and for correction of wrong facts and figures with form No 4-C. People may complain for nomination of unsuitable persons (e.g., dead persons or prisoners) with form No 4. Visitors’ names will be included in voter list of permanent residences where they hold the household registration form No. 6656. Political parties should cooperate with the Union Election Commission in the tasks to enable voters to include the list and to have comprehensive voter lists.—MNA

Charge d’Affaires ai of Swedish Embassy Mr Johan Hallenborg welcomes Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife at the reception to mark National Day of Sweden at Noridc House, 7 Pyuthu Lane, Mayangon Township, on 6 June.—MNA
Mobile school accepts cash and stationery

Myawady, 7 June — The donation ceremony of cash assistance, school textbooks and stationery for Myanmar mobile schools in Thailand was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Myawady, Kayin State, on 5 June. Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min delivered an address while Chairperson Daw Naw Phaw Yay of Myanmar Mobile Education Assistance Foundation of Myanmar Mobile Education Committee and Principal of Satulay School Daw Naw Sar El accepted the donations.

On the occasion, Kayin State also donated K3 million, 2,200 dozens of notebooks, 300 dozens of pencils, 200 dozens of half-pens and other stationery. More than 6,000 students are attending over 30 Myanmar mobile schools in Thailand.

Hein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Trainees complete manual trades course in Dawei

Dawei, 7 June — Courses in a variety of trade disciplines concluded at the Border Region Youths Industrial Training School in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 5 June.

Deputy Director of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs U Aung Kyaw Myint presented prizes to the best trainees in the carpentry, masonry, steel fixing and basic mechanic courses.

Win Bo (Myaung Township IPRD)

Today’s Myanmar News Sites

Winners bag prizes in bullock-cart and equestrian contests

Dawei, 7 June — Bullock-cart and equestrian contests were held in commemoration of the hoisting an umbrella, a diamond orb and a pennant shape vane atop Wairawsana Jade Pagoda.

On 5 June, a prize presentation ceremony for two contests took place at Hsmywa Myinhmu village in Amarapura Township.

Pauksa Nyinaung club secured the first prize, Wek-yaw Kyunhla, the second and Yadana Min the third in the junior bullock cart contest while Yehtaik Zwelaik won the first prize, Aung Khant-Aung Paing the second and Sun Daung third in the senior contest.

Maryar Kyihsan and Wiza bullock-carts grasped the first prizes in the junior and senior skill demonstrations. Thaha Tin bagged the first prize in the canter event, Shwe Moe The in the junior show jumping and Moe Star in the senior show jumping respectively.

Officials of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department and the well-wisher of the pagoda presented prizes to the winners.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)
China, Japan finance ministers meet for cooperation

BEIJING, 7 June — The Fifth China-Japan Finance Dialogue was held in Beijing on Saturday after about two years of delay due to sour relations.

Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei talked with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso over cooperation in economic, financial and international affairs.

The fourth dialogue was held in Tokyo in April 2012. But rows and friction delayed the fifth scheduled in 2013 in China.

“The ministers shared the common view that the Dialogue will cement further the dialogue in budget, taxation, social security reform, public debt management and tariff, scale up financial cooperation and support collaboration in the economic, trade and investment fields. China and Japan agreed to strengthen cooperation in the G20 to actively implement previous summits’ consensus, and push for new achievements in the Antalya Summit in 2015.”

As two major countries in Asia, both sides pledged to further advancing financial cooperation in East Asia and discussed the direction for the future development of ASEA+3 financial cooperation.

The two sides will promote infrastructure development in Asia, including financing, to support development financial institutions, on the basis of common interests.

Lou also agreed to hold the Sixth China-Japan Finance Dialogue in Tokyo next year.

South Korea to track cellphones to prevent MERS spread; 5th patient dies

SEOUL, 7 June — South Korean authorities will track the cellphones of hundreds of people under quarantine to prevent the spread of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and reported a fifth death in the outbreak, with the number of infections rising to 64.

The government, criticized over its lack of transparency in handling the outbreak, bowed to public pressure on Sunday and identified 24 health facilities where infections took place or MERS patients visited.

It reported 14 confirmed new cases of MERS, adding to the largest number outside of the Middle East.

“The ministers shared the common view that the Dialogue will cement further the dialogue in budget, taxation, social security reform, public debt management and tariff, scale up financial cooperation and support collaboration in the economic, trade and investment fields. China and Japan agreed to strengthen cooperation in the G20 to actively implement previous summits’ consensus, and push for new achievements in the Antalya Summit in 2015.”

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Cambodia protests Indian plan to build Angkor Wat replica

PHNOM PENH, 7 June — Cambodia sent a letter of protest to India on Saturday, urging it to intervene to prevent the building of an replica of the Southeast Asian country’s famous 12th century temple Angkor Wat.

The Foreign Ministry’s diplomatic note, a copy of which was seen by Kyodo News, said Cambodia has learned that Mahavir Man- dir, a Hindu trust based in India’s eastern state of Bihar, plans to build the replica there. “The Royal Government of Cambodia considers this copy of Angkor Wat temple for commercial benefit seriously violates the world heritage which is of a universal and cultural value of humanity,” the ministry said in the note addressed to India’s Ministry of External Affairs.

It strongly requested in India to seriously and urgently address this issue to prevent traditional historical relations between the two countries and peoples from being undermined.

The Indian trust says on its website that the massive temple it plans to build on land acquired some 60 kilometres outside the ancient city of Varnahal, in western Bihar, would replace Angkor Wat as the largest Hindu temple in the world.

It says the name has been changed from Virat Angkor Wat Ram Mandir to Virat Ramayan Mandir “to respect the sentiments of the Cambodian people.” “When this project is contemplated, it will cement further the strong bond between the two culturally rich countries India and Cambodia,” it added.

On 6 June, the Indian embassy in Phnom Penh said the firm had sent a letter to the Cambodian government, saying it was not planning a temple “in respect of the sentiments of the Cambodian people.”

The government of Cambodia notified the Indian embassy of its opposition to the construction.

After the letter was sent, the government called a meeting of religious experts to discuss the issue.

Tourists wearing masks to prevent themselves from contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) arrive at the Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea, on 7 June, 2015.—REUTERS

13 dead, six still missing on Malaysian mountain after quake

KUNDASANG, (Malaysia), 7 June — The death toll among climbers on Mt Kinabalu, Malaysia’s highest mountain, in the wake of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake rose to 13 on Saturday while six are still unaccounted for, officials said.

Eleven bodies were recovered between 6.5 kilometres and 7.0 km from Timponoh Gate, the starting point for the trek up to the 4,095-metre high mountain on the west coast of Sabah state on Borneo island, Ranau district police chief Mohamad Farhan Lee Abdullah said.

Late Friday, rescue personnel found two other bodies — that of a 30-year-old male local mountain guide and a 12-year-old Singaporean girl.

The girl was part of a group of 29 primary school students and eight teachers from Singapore who were on school excursion to Mt Kinabalu when the quake hit shortly after 7 am on Friday, according to Singaporean media.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital director Dr Hercz Corray told Kyodo News nine out of the 10 bodies sent to the hospital on Saturday have been identified. Of the nine, six are from Singapore, two from Malaysia and one from the Philippines.

“This is a very sad day for Kinabalu,” Sabah state Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Masidi Manjun told a Press conference at Kinabalu National Park Headquarters.

A total of 187 climbers from 21 countries to gather with 107 mountain guides, park rangers and lodge workers were at the peak when the quake hit, triggering rock falls that left them stranded.

Malaysian police said on Sunday one of the missing is a 29-year-old Japanese man, Masahiro Ozaki, while the park’s manager separately told Kyodo News that a search team has found another body in the mountain that seems to be Ozaki’s.

Japan’s consular office in Kota Kinabalu said it has yet to confirm the information.

The body was found in the area where rock falls occurred and other bodies were recovered, the manager, Yassin Miki, said.

Most of those who died were doing the “via ferrata” route, a more extreme form of climbing with climbers attached to ropes secured to pegs hammered into near vertical slopes on certain stretches.

Mountain Torq, the company running the route, touts it as the world’s highest via ferrata, beginning at 2,200 metres and ending at 3,776 metres above sea level.

“Via ferrata” is Italian for “iron road.”

Friday’s quake had a relatively shallow depth of 10 km, with its epicenter located 12 km from Ranau, according to the US Geological Survey.

Sabah has a history of earthquakes since it is located near the Pacific Ring of Fire, which includes some 450 volcanoes and accounts for 90 percent of the world’s quakes.

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Abe seeks G-7 opposition to China’s muscle-flexing at sea

MONACO, 7 June
Group of Seven leaders will start a two-day meeting on Sunday in Germany at which Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will seek to drum up the major democracies’ opposition to attempts by Russia and China to “change the status quo” in Ukraine and the East and South China seas, respectively, by force.

Drawing parallels between the Ukraine crisis sparked by Russia’s annexation of Crimea last year and China’s massive land reclamation in disputed waters in the South China Sea, Abe, together with his G-7 peers, is expected to urge Moscow and Beijing to refrain from flexing muscles that escalate tensions with other countries and undermine international law, according to Japanese officials.

Abe will not put forward the claimant states in the South China Sea, but it is embroiled in a row with China over a group of islands in the East China Sea. China has repeatedly been sending official ships into Japanese waters around the Senkaku Islands in an attempt to undermine Japanese administration of the islands.

“The situation in Ukraine is shaking the foundation of the basic rules of the international community,” a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. “This is a problem not only for Europe, but the whole world.”

Abe will attend the summit at Schloss Elmau, south of Munich, just days after affirming closer defense and security cooperation with the Philippines and Malaysia, two of the countries locked in territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

“As Japan is the only G-7 member from Asia, I would like to have substantive discussions on Asian affairs,” he told reporters Friday.

A senior US official said the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States will affirm the United Nations aims to adopt at a climate change conference late this year in Paris, according to the Japanese government.

Abe is expected to explain Japan’s decision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent by 2030 from 2013 levels and express the nation’s willingness to contribute to the adoption of an emissions cut deal that would involve all countries, they said.

Separately, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is advising G-7 agreement for a 60 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2050 from 2010 levels in an effort to inject fresh momentum into climate negotiations in the run-up to the Paris meeting, according to G-7 delegates.

Abe is likely to call for transparency in management and lending standards of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a position that is likely to be shared by other leaders, the Japanese officials said.

The G-7 members are split in their response to Beijing’s initiative. While Britain, France, Germany and Italy have signed up to become founding members of the AIIB, Canada, Japan and the United States have stayed out given concerns over the forming body’s governance and debt sustainability.

Abe also plans to brief Japan’s recent $110 billion, five-year “high quality” infrastructure investment initiative for Asia, seen as a counterbalance to the AIIB, which will have an initial capital of $100 billion.

Referring to his meeting on Saturday with Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko in Kiev, Abe is likely to tell his G-7 peers that the G-7 next year, will increase its engagement with Ukraine to help achieve a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the crisis. As the situation remains unstable in eastern Ukraine where fighting and battles continuing in some areas, the G-7 leaders will demand that all parties fully implement their commitment under a cease-fire agreement reached between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists in February in Minsk.

On Monday, the leaders will hold enlarged talks with so-called outreach countries such as Ethiopia, Iraq, Liberia, Nigeria and Tunisia about terrorism, development, public health and the importance of maintaining economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

In the fight against terrorism, the leaders are likely to attempt to degrade Islamic State militants through air campaign inside Iraq, as well as to unite international anti-ISIS security forces as they seek to reclaim territory taken by the militants.

Minsk was invited to join the G-7 in 1995 and remains a member of what was then called the Group of Eight nations, or the G-8, that met in Japan next year. It suspended Moscow’s participation in retaliation for its action in Ukraine.

Kyodo News

Website of national pension service halted over security concern

TOKYO, 7 June — The Japan Pension Service, now at the heart of massive personal data leaks, said on Saturday that it made its website inaccessible by Internet users after finding a security vulnerability.

The national pension provider said the move will not affect its core computer system containing sensitive personal information, such as Social Security numbers and contributions, because the website is not maintained on its own server.

The website was halted at 3:40 pm, according to the pension provider. It said it was working to resume access to the website.

The pension body said earlier this week that the names and ID numbers of about 1.25 million people in the nation’s public pension programme were leaked after its personal computers were compromised in cyberattacks.

Kyodo News

Iran vows removal of “oppressive” sanctions to rev up economy

TEHRAN, 7 June. — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday called on nation to remove the “oppressive” western sanctions so as to make the economy and 16th五年期 the removal of the sanctions, capital could flow in, and financial, environmental, industrial and employment issues would be solved.

Rouhani was quoted as saying by IRIB.

He criticized the West for the imposition of sanctions on Iran, saying that “those who exerted sanctions on Iran made an oppressive move against the Iranian nation.”

“These sanctions are like fever. At its early stage, the person says it is not important and does not care,” Rouhani said, adding that but when the fever intensifies and starts to affect, then it is late and he should strive to recover. “Inhaut

India, Bangladesh sign historic land boundary agreement

DHAKA, 7 June — India and Bangladesh signed an agreement on Saturday to simplify their 4,000-km border and clarify the identities of 52,000 living in enclaves, over four decades after the neighbours first tried to untangle complex territorial rights set down in 1971.

Under the deal, signed in Dhaka in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, the two countries will swap some 200 tiny enclaves dotted around the border. Their residents have been deprived of public services and living in squalid conditions. A string of trade disputes and investments accompanied the land deal, with $4.5 billion of investments in power and a $2 billion credit facility for Bangladesh unveiled on Saturday.

Established by a treaty between two former princely states, the 106 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 92 Bangladeshi enclaves in India are islands of foreign territory inside each country. Under the pact, each country will demarcate most of the enclaves on its territory and residents will have the right to stay where they are or move to the other side of the border.

“We have shown political consolidation and good will with the signing of this deal,” Modi, who arrived Bangladesh on a two-day state visit, told a joint news conference.

Hasina said: “I salute all the citizens of India for supporting this bill in parliament.” The land accord was originally agreed in 1974 by Indira Gandhi of India and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh. Progress stopped for a long time, however, after Mujib was assassinated in 1975 and subsequent governments failed to agree on the transfer of enclaves.

Dhaka’s Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali has described the deal, which has since been updated, as “a historic milestone in the relationship between the two neighbours south Asian countries.” The two prime ministers, along with the chief minister of West Bengal, India Mamata Banerjee, also inaugurated bus services along the border. The two countries are looking to boost trade and security along the border and to fight trafficking.

India’s announcement of a $2 billion new credit line to Bangladesh follows a $1 billion instance it provided in 2011 for infrastructure development. Among other investments, Adani Power Limited of India and Reliance Power Limited of India signed deals worth over $4.5 billion with state-run power plants to develop six units of power plants to produce 4,600 MW of electricity. Reliance will invest $3 billion to produce 3,000 MW power, while Adani will set up two coal-fired plants with a total capacity of 1,600 MW, costing more than $1.5 billion.

“Bangladesh will be able to more than double power imports from India to 1,100 MW from 500 MW at present,” Modi said.

Reuters

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on 6 June, 2015. —REUTERS

Indian Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at Munich International Airport on 6 June, 2015, for Group of Seven summit talks beginning the following day. Abe will seek to drum up the major democracies’ opposition to attempts by Russia and China to “change the status quo” by force in Ukraine and the East and South China seas, respectively. —Kyodo News

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at Munich International Airport on 6 June, 2015, for Group of Seven summit talks beginning the following day. Abe will seek to drum up the major democracies’ opposition to attempts by Russia and China to “change the status quo” by force in Ukraine and the East and South China seas, respectively. —Kyodo News

Global New Light of Myanmar

WORLD

India, Bangladesh sign historic land boundary agreement

Global New Light of Myanmar
**WORLD**

**EU Parliament president warns Athens of dramatic consequences if talks fail**

**Monday, 8 June, 2015**

A European Union flag flutters next to a Greek flag atop the Greek Ministry of Finance during sunset in central Athens, Greece on 5 June, 2015. **Reuters**

**Berlin, 7 June — European Parliament President Martin Schulz urged Greece to accept a proposal by its international lenders for a cash-for-reforms deal, warning Athens that failing to reach an agreement would have “dramatic” consequences.**

“The European Union is willing to compromise with the Greek government,” Schulz told German newspaper Welt am Sonntag in an interview published on Sunday, adding that the lenders had already made concessions in the debt negotiations.

“I can only warn the Greek government against turning down the hand held out to them,” Schulz, who has been supportive of Greece’s cause, said. “Time is running out and the consequences would be dramatic.”

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has spurned the terms of proposed aid talks, calling an impasse that threatens to push Greece into default and out of the euro zone.

Schulz said Tsipras and his Syriza party should come to terms with the fact that they were not only accountable to their voters, but that they also had a responsibility for the country and the European Union.

Greece is in a standoff with its euro zone and International Monetary Fund creditors over an aid package aimed at unlocking money for the country.

The impasse, which is weighing on financial markets and could hit the global economic recovery, will hang over a Group of Seven leaders’ summit that Chancellor Angela Merkel will chair in southern Germany from Sunday. **Reuters**

**Turkey vote set to shape Erdogan’s legacy**

The AKP is expected to again be the largest party by far. But achieving a majority may depend on the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) falling below the 10 percent hurdle required to enter parliament. The AKP polls it around that level.

Polling stations opened at 8 am (0650 GMT) and some of the country’s 54 million voters began voting, including in the HDP stronghold of Diyarbakir in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

“I am certain the HDP will exceed the threshold,” Cameron said on the eve of the summit. “It is time to wake-up to that threat.”

He is expected to say Britain is ready to “lead the way” and work with the World Health Organization to try to harness better global research, more drug development, and a faster and more comprehensive approach to fighting disease outbreaks.

He will announce a British programme to focus on the most threatening diseases, a requirement for UK-funded vaccine research to be shared globally, and the creation of a rapid reaction unit of specialists backed by a reserve force of doctors who can be dispatched to global disease hot spots. **Reuters**

**Cameron calls for cooperation in environmental protection**

Venesa, June — OSCE Chairperson in Office (OSCE/ODIHR) Ambassador Michaela Stratuli, has voiced a call on Saturday prompting improvement of cooperation in environmental protection on all levels. Violation of the environment has a potential to contribute to conflicts, Dacic warned on Friday to mark the World Environment Day.

He noted that inadequate management and exhaustion of natural resources can jeopardize progress and sustainable development. According to a release issued by OSCE, Dacic underscored the preservation of the environment for the future generations calls for investments in sustainable energy.

Such solutions are the key to efficient response to challenges embodied in global climate changes and security issues connected to energy sources, he said. Dacic also emphasised the adoption of the joint declaration on cooperation which was accepted by Aarhus Centres in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia on 3 June, and underscored that this constitutes a good example of international cooperation in combating common challenges in the environmental protection sector. **Tanjug**

**Turks vote in election set to shape Erdogan’s legacy**

Istanbul, 7 June — Turks began voting on Sunday in the closest parliamentary election in more than a decade, one that could pave the way for President Tayyip Erdogan to amass greater power or end 12 years of single-party rule for the AK Party he founded.

A deadly bombing in the mainly Kurdish southeast on Friday has magnified the regional influence and economic advances of NA’s economic recovery, will hang over a Group of Seven leaders’ summit that Chancellor Angela Merkel will chair in southern Germany from Sunday. **Reuters**
Monday, 8 June, 2015

The destiny of the country lies in the capable hands of teachers

By Kyaw Thura

The new academic year has just begun. There may be some truth in blaming the current education system on the lower creative and intellectual powers of students. Yet, the reform of the education system will definitely take time.

The downward spiral of education in the country will no doubt apportion the blame to teachers too. In a country like Myanmar, teachers are held in high esteem by people from all walks of life. They have a formative influence over the lives of their students.

The academic success of children should not rest with the government alone. Teachers should accept their share of the responsibility and bear in mind that effective teaching is a matter of how much students have learned rather than how much they have been taught.

It is important for teachers to come to school with an inspiration to encourage students to become more self-sufficient in their lifelong learning process. If the future is in the hands of students, then the future of students is in the hands of teachers.

Better education requires teachers to enhance their pedagogic skills on their own and seek approaches best suited and directly applicable to the needs of their students in class. Just as learning is a lifelong process, a teacher is a perennial student.

Anyone who stops learning and reading is a living death. Good books are teachers’ best friends. Continuous learning will one day convince us that what we have learned today will be just like a drop of water in the bucket then.

Write for us

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

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

An Expedition into the Past

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

It was nearly 11 am (of 21 May) when our mini-bus went past the Hlainghpaya Industrial Zone. In no time, it came to the river-crossing bridge on a tributary of the Pan Hlaing River, which lies some distance behind the industrial zone. When I looked down, I saw some plots of land under the bridge being reclaimed with heavy machines for the establishment of organic vegetable plantations.

After crossing the toll-gate at the end of the bridge, the driver increased the speed of the bus and it shot like an arrow along the Twantay-Kawhmu High Way. A vast flat sedimentary plains covered with greenery patched with clusters of huts or groves of trees and shrubs around the road were being left behind kaleidoscopically.

The lamp-posts erecting by the side of the car-road seemed to be moving behind more rapidly. As the bus came out of the town, the windows were opened to let fresh air come in and turning off the air-conditioner. As two or three showers of rain fell down in the morning, the air was impregnated with the smell of the earth and the dew-wet sky. All of a sudden, lightnings flashed, followed by peals of thunder rolling from the south-western direction. An inrush of cold air came hind more rapidly. As the road was getting looser, the wind blew more violently, bringing down rain-drops together with it. But this did not come up to our expectation. It was just a drizzle.

We were now on the way to the Sein Phaya Monastery at Pi-the-gon Village in Kawhmu Township where an ancient building was being excavated under the supervision of U San Win, a retired assistant director of the Department of Historical Research. Our expedition was comprised of six members headed by my teacher, a retired history professor. In point of fact, we had been poised to visit the excavation site since hearing some days ago of the interviews of the correspondents from private and public newspapers with U San Win and the comments of some scholars on the finger-marked bricks discovered during the excavation of the ancient building within the precinct of the Sein Phaya Monastery. But, to be frank, we postponed our visit as late as possible, taking shelter indoors from the intense heat of the scorching sun of late May.

Only when U San Win telephoned us that his field season would expire the day after tomorrow, we shook off our anxiety for the heat and made an unplanned trip to the Sein Phaya Monastery.

About twenty minutes after we had followed the Twantay-Kawhmu High Way, our mini-bus got to the bridge which crossed the Twantay Canal. At the end of the bridge, we saw some piles of gneiss and granite and some road-rollers on the road-side. It seemed that the road was being upgraded with some more better-quality rocks. When we reached the side of Tantwe, the drizzle developed to a heavy shower. So we had to close the windows of the bus. Everything outside was blurred by the rain. I caught the glimpse of a newly-gilded Sandawgyo pagoda (Pagoda which welcomes the hair-relics of the Buddha) standing in a large precinct on the right side of the road. I could not read the title of the pagoda written on the arch of the gate-way due to the rain. Our mini-bus passed through Twantay village, San Kalay village and Phaya Gyi model village in a few minutes. When we reached Phaya village through Twantay village, San Kalay village and Phaya Gyi model village, I saw the Buddha standing in a large precinct on the right side of the road. I could not read the title of the pagoda written on the arch of the gate-way due to the rain. When we reached the side of Tantwe, the drizzle developed to a heavy shower. So I could again see everything on the road-sides very clearly.

On the right side of the road, I saw the Sandawgyo Phaya Gyi Pagoda. I was suddenly reminded by the Sandawgyo pagodas found on the way of the history of the Shwedagon Pagoda included in a Mon chronicles which I had read some years ago. According to it, it is learnt that Singuttara Hill where the Shwedagon Pagoda stood was surrounded by four towns during the life time of the Buddha. Pokhkaravati town, the native town of Taphussa and Bhallika, who brought the Buddha image had not discovered there yet. So he remarked sensibly that it was too early to conclude whether it might be a religious building or a burial site or a resting place or a ceremonial site or a burial site or a resting place or a ceremonial site.
Monday, 8 June, 2015

NATIONAL

Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation welcomes back silver medalist walker

YANGON, 7 June—Silver medalist Than Thoe Soe in the walking of the 28th SEA Games arrived back at Yangon International Airport on Sunday morning for Singapore to take part in the 28th SEA Games. The remaining sports teams will leave for Singapore till 10 June.—MNA

Myanmar sports teams leave for Singapore

YANGON, 7 June—Myanmar men’s basketball team and Myanmar Squash team left Yangon International Airport on Sunday morning for Singapore to take part in the 28th SEA Games. The remaining sports teams will leave for Singapore till 10 June.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 7 June—A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation led by member of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee and Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations, Inter-Parliamentary Friendship and Cooperation Committee U Nyunt Tin left Yangon International Airport on Sunday afternoon to attend the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Fact Finding Committee-12th AIFOCOM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 11 June. The delegation consists of member of Pyithu Hluttaw Health Promotion Committee Dr Khin Maung Shwe and Assis tant Director U Soe Min Oo of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Sedona Hotel Yangon set to open new wing in late 2015

YANGON, 7 June—Sedona Hotel Yangon announces that it is adding an expansive and iconic addition to the existing five-star luxury hotel. Set to open in late-2015, the new wing to Sedona Hotel Yangon, complete with a high-end retail experience and a luxury spa, will position the hotel as one of the city’s top destinations for visitors and locals alike.

As one of Yangon’s five-star hotels, Sedona Hotel Yangon is an icon of gracious elegance, sitting on eight acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and water features with breath-taking views of the Shwedagon Pagoda and Inya Lake. Currently, the hotel offers 366 newly up graded guest rooms and suites along with several dining options, executive club rooms and a fitness centre with a swimming pool, sauna and steam bath. Sedona Hotel Yangon’s new Inya Wing derives its name from the tranquil lake just in front of the hotel. The elegant tower will offer an additional 431 well-appointed guest rooms and suites along with a grand lobby and high-end retail gallery which will connect the new tower to the existing building. The Inya Wing will also feature a new state-of-the-art fitness centre, an all-day restaurant, a new luxury spa and an executive lounge with services and amenities specially suited for the hotel’s business and leisure guests.

When it opens, the new Inya Wing will offer visitors to Yangon a retreat from the rigors of travel, with its signature Sedona services, products and amenities that which will allow them to relax and rejuvenate during their stay.

The traditional Myanmar umbrella is one cultural theme carried through out the new wing from the magnificent lighting centerpiece in the lobby to the fitted glass ceiling. The lacquered rice bowl is used as a sculptural element that is incorporated into the lobby art and the guestroom lamps. The central colour palette of red and gold are woven throughout the new wing, a nod to Myanmar’s traditional Buddhist influences and the region’s ingenious lacquerware.

Championing green practices, Sedona Hotel Yangon has ensured that its new wing has been designed and built utilising sustainable materials and incorporated energy- and water-efficiency into the building’s features.

For more information about Sedona Hotels and Suites, or to make a reservation, please visit www.sedonahotels.com.sg.—GNLM

An Expedition into ...

(from page 8)

Saya U Hla Thaung also added that the practice of making finger-marked bricks originated in India, that they were found in Rajagaha and Savaththi in India. India, sites such as Dhannavati and Vesali cities in Rakhine State, the sites of Pyu cities such as Sri Khetrai, Shinhu, Halin, Maungham etc, the sites of Mon old cities such as Thaton, Taikka, Kyaiakatha, etc and the site of Dvaravati in Thailand, that these brick might date back to Mauryan Period(3rd century B.C to 1st century A.D) in India and that the finger-marked bricks found in Myanmar might, at any rate, go back to the first millennium. I was compelled by their explanation to think that this Twantay-Kawhu area might go back to pre-Christian era.

Then we paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw of the Sein Phaya Monastery and viewed the Sein (diamond) Buddha image kept in the shrine room. It is learnt from the Sayadaw that this Buddha image was found about a hundred years ago from a remote place buried underneath the ground according to a dream the then presiding Sayadaw had. Out of this phenomenal event, we were filled with great awe and reverence for this Buddha image. We left the Sein Phya Monastery at 3 pm, saying farewell to the team of excavators. On the way back home, we called in on the Maung Dee Pagoda which is situated in San Kalay Village. It was also an ancient pagoda standing on a high brick plinth. We learnt that it was renovated by King Anawratha in the 11th century A.D and that he donated large votive tablets to the pagoda during the renovation. We saw some the large votive tablets donated by King Anawratha and a few broken Buddha images kept in a small museum located some feet on the north of the shrine of the Maung Dee Pagoda.

When our bus came out of the precinct of the Maung Dee Pagoda, the pattering sound of rain-drops on the roof of the bus lulled me to slumber. In my mind’s eyes appeared the image of King Ukkalapa in full regalia, paying obeisance to the hair-relics of the Buddha loaded in the golden casket studded with nine types of gems, with a great congregation of queens, princes, princes, ministers, generals and the public, in a pavilion surmounted with a multi-tiered roof in Pakkharavati City with Sin-guttara Hill thickly wooded in the distant northern background, and then gilded Sandawgyo Pagoda, the ancient building being excavated, the finger-marked bricks and glazed wares exhibited at the make-shift museum within the precinct of the Sein Phya Monastery, the Anawratha votive tablets displayed at the museum within the precinct of the Maung Dee Pagoda, etc in a series. Truly enough! Our party has journeyed into the past to-day, so to speak, up to the Buddha’s time through Pyu and Mon periods which flourished in Lower Myanmar.
Syrian army regains ground against Islamic State in Hasaka city

The Syrian army said on Sunday it had repulsed a major offensive by Islamic State militants in the northeastern city of Hasaka and drove out fighters who had taken over key installations on the southern edge of the city.

The northeastern corner of Syria is strategically important because it links areas controlled by Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Syrian Kurds have also sought to expand their territorial control over a region that stretches from Kobani to Qamishli they see as part of a future historic Kurdish state.

The militants, approaching from their stronghold the city of Shadadi, further south of Hasaka city, made lighting advances this week after conducting around a dozen suicide attacks using explosives-laden trucks on army checkpoints in the city.

But Syrian state television, quoting an army source, said in a newflash they had taken back an electricity station, a juvenile prison and two villages almost two kilometres (one mile) south of the city that had been occupied by militants.

The attacks were the biggest push launched by the ultra hardline militants on Hasaka, the provincial capital of the oil and gas producing province of Syria, that is divided into zones run separately by the government of President Bashar al-Assad and a Kurdish administration.

The offensive was meant to relieve pressure on hardline jihadists who have otherwise lost significant ground recently to Kurds and some local Arab tribes backing them after their loss of Arab inhabited villages around Ras Al Ayn and Tal Abyad, both major towns that lie north west of Hasaka along the Turkish border.

The Kurds, whose well-organized militia PYP/PKK receive air support from a US-led alliance bombing Islamic State, had been helping government forces to repel last week’s attacks according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory, which tracks violence across the country, said at least 71 army and loyalist militiamen were killed in the week-long battles with Islamic State.

The United States and its allies said on Thursday they staged 17 air strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq with four of the raids near Hasaka. —Reuters

Israel launches air strike on Gaza after militant rocket salvo

Jerusalem, 7 June — Israeli aircraft struck the northern Gaza Strip early Sunday in response to a rocket fired from the Hamas-controlled territory that hit southern Israel, the Israeli military said.

The militant rocket landed in open ground and caused no damage or injuries, the army said. No casualties were reported in Gaza following the air strike, which struck a Hamas training facility. An Israeli army spokesman’s statement said the air strike was aimed at “terror infrastructure in the Northern Gaza Strip. Hits were confirmed.”

Sporadic rocket fire from Gaza in recent weeks has broken a lull in cross-border violence since a 50-day Israeli war against Hamas ended with an Egyptian-brokered truce last August. —Reuters

Rocket fired from Gaza strikes Israel, no casualties — military

Jerusalem, 7 June — A rocket fired from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip struck southern Israel on Sunday, causing no damage or casualties, Israel’s military said.

Air raid sirens sound- ed throughout Ashkelon, a city about 10 km (6 miles) north of Gaza with a population of about 120,000.

A Jihadist Salafi group, the “Omar Brigades”, sympathisers with Islamic State, claimed responsibility for firing the rocket at Ashkelon. It also claimed the previous recent firings at Israel. The group said the rocket aimed at Ashkelon was in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, and their own members, imprisoned in integrated Hamas-controlled jails in Gaza. “The Jews will never enjoy security and safety as long as we are alive,” the group said in a statement. —Reuters

Saudi-led air strikes kill 20 Yemeni soldiers — residents

Sanaa, 7 June — Saudi-led air strikes killed at least 20 soldiers who had gathered to collect their salaries at the Yemeni army headquarters in the capital Sanaa on Sunday, government officials and residents said.

They said that four explosions shook the compound in central Sanaa, where the soldiers allied with the Houthi group that dominates Yemen had gathered since Saturday evening to get their pay cheques.

Saudi-led forces have been pounding the Houthi group since 26 March in a campaign aimed at restoring President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power. Residents said Saudi-led aircraft also targeted military camps east and west of the capital but there was no immediate word on casualties.

On Saturday, the Houthis and their army allies fired a Scud missile into Saudi Arabia which the kingdom said it shot down, in a major escalation of two months of conflict.

Arab air strikes and shelling after the attack killed 38 Yemenis in provinces near Saudi Arabia, according to reports in the Houthis-controlled state news agency Saba which could not be immediately confirmed. —Reuters

Scud missile fired at Saudi Arabia as 38 Yemeni troops reported killed

Dubaï/Sanaa, 7 June — Yemen’s dominant Houthi group is reported to have fired a Scud missile at Saudi Arabia which the kingdom said it shot down on Saturday, in a major escalation of two months of war.

Arab air strikes and shelling after the attack killed 38 Yemenis in provinces near Saudi Arabia, according to reports in the Houthi-controlled state news agency Saba which could not be immediately confirmed.

The United Nations said on Saturday it would convene the talks on 14 June, and renewed a call for a pause in hostilities. “This could also help create an atmosphere that is more conducive for peaceful dialogue,” a spokesman said.

The coalition has said its main goal of war effort is to neutralise the threat that rockets and other weapons present to Saudi Arabia and its neighbours. The alliance’s spokesman, Saudi Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri, said in April that it had removed the threat of missiles.

Residents said Saturday’s attack was intercepted by two Patriot missiles, a statement by the Saudi military said.

The area is home to the largest air force base in southern Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter, with no oil facilities in the vicinity. Al Masirah, the Houthi group’s official channel, confirmed the launch and said it targeted the King Khaled air base.

An alliance of Gulf Arab nations has been bombing Yemeni Houthi militiamen and allied army units loyal to powerful ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh since 26 March in an attempt to reverse exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

Yemen’s official Saba news outlet said Saudi shelling and air strikes hit a camp for displaced people, a medical centre and a school in the border prov-ince of Hajja, killing 28 people, and bombings else-where in the north killed 10 others. It was not immedi-ately possible to confirm the reports among residents of the remote border area.
Apple set to introduce Apple Pay in Britain

WASHINGTON, 7 June — A massive breach of US federal computer networks disclosed this week is the latest in a flood of attacks by suspected Chinese hackers aimed at grabbing personal data, industrial secrets and weapons plans from government, military and private computers.

The Obama administration on Thursday disclosed the breach of computer systems at the Office of Personnel Management and said the records of up to 4 million current and former federal employees may have been compromised.

US officials have said on condition of anonymity they believe the hackers are based in China, but Washington has not publicly blamed Beijing at a time when tensions are high over Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea.

China has denied involvement.

It was the second computer break-in in less than a year at the OPM, the federal government’s personnel office.

The first breach has been linked to earlier thefts of personal data from millions of records at Anthem Inc, the second largest US health insurer, an attack also blamed on Chinese hackers, and Premera Blue Cross, a healthcare services provider.

Guidance Software, a cybersecurity firm, said the first signs of data “exfiltration” were originally detected with Einstein, a US government intrusion detection system. That activity, it said, was eventually traced back to a machine under the control of Chinese intelligence.

“It’s a different form of Cold War at this point,” said Rob Eggebrecht, co-founder and chief executive of Denver-based Intelisecure, a private cybersecurity firm.

Eggebrecht said his firm had seen a spike in attacks on private company networks by Chinese actors over the past three months. The latest was a previously undisclosed breach at a US pharmaceutical group, which cost the firm hundreds of millions of dollars in sensitive research and development work.

Eggebrecht declined to identify the firm, which he said only learned of the major breach within the last 72 hours.

“We’ve seen a huge uptick in opportunist exfiltration of high-value data,” he said, adding that the attack on the pharmaceutical company involved malicious software installed together with the Chinese-language search engine Baidu.

Admiral James Winnefeld, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a cyber conference at West Point military academy last month that US adversaries like China and Russia were rapidly increasing their assaults on military networks.

“We’re hemorrhaging information at a dizzying rate, evidenced by the uncanny similarity of some of our potential adversaries’ new platforms to those we’ve been developing,” said Winnefeld.

China has in recent years introduced two new stealth fighters that analysts say bear a striking resemblance to the F-22 and F-35 built by Lockheed Martin Corp. Lockheed redoubled security efforts focused on suppliers after a “significant and tenacious” attack on its computer networks in 2011 that was enabled by lax security at a supplier.

US senators have added $200 million in funding to their proposed fiscal 2016 budget to fund a detailed study of the cyber vulnerabilities of major weapons systems. The move came after the Pentagon’s chief weapons tester told Congress that nearly every major weapons programme tested in 2014 showed “significant vulnerabilities” to cyber attack, including misconfigured and unpatched software.

US government officials and cyber analysts say Chinese hackers are using high-tech tactics to build massive databases that could be used for traditional espionage goals, such as recruiting spies, or gaining access to secure data of other networks.

The latest incident gives hackers access to a treasure trove of personal information, including birth dates, Social Security numbers, email addresses, and security clearances.

All that data could help hackers identify information about specific targets, including potential passwords for websites that may be portals to information about weapons systems or other research data.

“They can dig down into that data and learn more about the individuals, what their hobbies are, what their vices are, what skeletons they have in their closet,” said Babak Pasdar, president and chief executive of Bat Blue Network, a cybersecurity firm.

He said he was involved in a recent case in which hackers gained access to private data of a website administrator by finding passwords on a public website linked to the victim’s hobby.

“This empowers the malevolent cyber actor to target a huge number of people with phishing and other schemes to reel in information,” said one US defence official. “The more targets you have, the more likely you are to score.”

China to host World Robot Conference in November

BEIJING, 7 June — The World Robot Conference 2015 will be held in Beijing from 23 to 25 November, focusing on collaborative innovation and the building of an intelligent society, organizers announced on Friday.

Jointly held by China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the event will include a forum, an exhibition and an international robot competition for teenagers, senior CAST official Wang Chunfa said at a press briefing.

According to Wang, speakers from China, Germany, the United States and Japan will deliver reports on such topics as robot research and technology development, and the latest products and research findings will be showcased during the three-day event. Vice Minister Mao Weiming revealed that sales of industrial robots in China hit 57,000 last year, marking a year-on-year increase of 55 percent and a quarter of global sales.

However, Mao noted China’s inadequate capacity in independent production of high-end robots, revealing that a plan is being mapped to boost the country’s robot research, development and application in key manufacturing fields.

Organizers estimate that some 40,000 people will take part in the conference.

Near-extinct species should be bred in the wild: study

LONDON, 7 June — Critically endangered species should be encouraged to breed in the wild rather than in captivity, according to a new research released on Friday by the University of East Anglia (UEA).

The study looks at the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, a rare bird in India, which faces major threats from agriculture, powerlines and hunting. Its numbers have declined from more than 1,000 in 1970 to as few as 100-200 today.

The research team used population models to evaluate the potential effectiveness of a captive-breeding and release program compared to an alternative strategy of conservation in the wild, according to UEA.

Researchers said the results indicate that only urgent and effective action to protect and extend the Great Indian Bustard’s natural habitat can prevent extinction in the wild.

“Wealth conservation in the wild there is no point in captive breeding — as the birds would be trapped in captivity with no hope of returning to nature. Effective conservation offers a better chance to save this species, without diverting energy and funds away from the urgent action needed to protect the last remaining habitats,” said Lead researcher Dr Paul Dolman.

He also said the new research challenges the assumption that when a species is perilously close to extinction in the wild, it is always a good idea to set up a captive breeding population.

The new study has been published in the Journal of Applied Ecology.
Eight Australian veterans to visit Brunei to mark Oboe campaign against Japan in WWII

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7 June — Eight World War II (WWII) Australian veterans will visit Brunei from 8 to 11 June to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Oboe campaign; amphibious landings of Australian troops on Borneo in 1945 to liberate its people from Japanese occupation, the Australian High Commission in Brunei said on Sunday.

In a press release, the Australian High Commission said Australian Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, and a delegation of eight Borneo campaign veterans will visit Brunei from 8 to 11 June. The eight veterans will represent all service arms and major aspects of the landings. They are aged from 89 to 96 years old and are from across Australia.

Senator Ronaldson will also be opening here a multimedia exhibition entitled Stories through Memories, showcasing stories through the memories of survivors who witnessed the tumultuous events of WWII in Brunei and historical images of Australian forces’ leading role in the 1945 liberation of Borneo.

Launching the people of Borneo from Japanese occupation involved more than 75,000 Australians supporting the Borneo landings from May to July in 1945, including the largest Australian amphibious landing of the WWII, the press release said.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 12 to 30 June, and is a joint research project between the High Commission and Universiti Brunei Darussalam.—Xinhua

Eighty per cent of Brunei’s population is of Bornean descent, and 40 percent of Brunei’s population is of Chinese descent, making it a key destination for Australian forces during WWII. The Australian forces played a vital role in liberating the people of Borneo from Japanese occupation.

More than 50 lawmakers from David Cameron’s Conservative Party are to join a campaign backing Britain’s exit from the European Union unless significant changes are achieved, while urging an end to EU membership unless significant changes are achieved, the paper said.

“Personal animosities” and “ties to put aside “personal animosities” and begin the campaign before holding a referendum on Britain’s continued membership of the bloc. Cameron is attempting to persuade European leaders to back UK demands over the ongoing talks with the European Union unless Britain’s exit from the EU is on the table.

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More than 50 lawmakers from David Cameron’s Conservative Party are to join a campaign backing Britain’s exit from the European Union unless significant changes are achieved, while urging an end to EU membership unless significant changes are achieved, the paper said.

The lawmakers will be part of a new group called Conservatives for Britain (CfB), which will support Cameron’s bid for reform while urging an end to EU membership unless significant changes are achieved, the paper said.

Cameron is attempting to persuade European leaders to back UK demands over the ongoing talks with the European Union unless Britain’s exit from the EU is on the table.

“This is the most significant event since the ship capsized with the loss of more than 430. According to Chinese tradition, the seventh day is a key occasion to mourn the passing of the dead. At around 9 am, following an announcement from Minister of Transport Yang Chuantang rescue workers stopped what they were doing and removed their hats to face the salvaged vessel. They set up a table with candles and chrysanthemums on it at the large crane vessel that dragged the ship from its muddy grave on Thursday night. Families of the victims prayed for their loved ones on the riverbank or in their hotels. Jianli, a once un

China mourns Yangtze shipwreck victims as search continues

JIANLI, (Hubei), 7 June — Ship horns wailed as hundreds of people gathered in the drizzle on Sunday to mourn the victims of the Eastern Star disaster. Rescue workers and government officials at the site bowed their heads during a three-minute silence on Sunday, the seventh day since the ship capsized with the loss of more than 430. According to Chinese tradition, the seventh day is a key occasion to mourn the passing of the dead. At around 9 am, following an announcement from Minister of Transport Yang Chuantang rescue workers stopped what they were doing and removed their hats to face the salvaged vessel. They set up a table with candles and chrysanthemums on it at the large crane vessel that dragged the ship from its muddy grave on Thursday night. Families of the victims prayed for their loved ones on the riverbank or in their hotels. Jianli, a once un

Greek PM to hold talks with Merkel, Hollande in Brussels on Wednesday

ATHENS, 7 June — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras will hold talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande on the sidelines of a summit in Brussels on Wednesday, a Greek government official said on Saturday.

The three leaders held a teleconference on Saturday, which the official said was held in a “good climate”, without giving details on the content of the call. Greece is locked in a standoff with its euro zone and IMF creditors over an aid package aimed at unlocking money for the cash-strapped country.

“The hope the deal can rest in peace and go home soon with their relatives,” said Qu Zhigang, an organizer of volunteers in Jianli. Qu said psychologists are available to help the relatives at any time. Only 14 people survived and 11 remain missing.

Hu Kaihong, deputy director of the Press Bureau of the State Council Information Office, told a news conference on Sunday that the search is continuing and authorities are matching the DNA of the victims with blood samples provided by their relatives. Rescuers are still searching along the Yangtze River from Jianli where the ship sank, more than 1,000 km downstream from Shanghai.

A mourning ceremony is held for 406 deceased people on the capsized ship Eastern Star at the sinking site in the Jianli section of the Yangtze River, central China’s Hubei Province, on 7 June, 2015. —Xinhua

A mourning ceremony is held for 406 deceased people on the capsized ship Eastern Star at the sinking site in the Jianli section of the Yangtze River, central China’s Hubei Province, on 7 June, 2015. —Xinhua

AThomas the Tank Engine steam train commences operation in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, on 7 June, 2015. Oigawa Railway Co will run the train through 12 October, mainly on weekends.—KYODO NEWS

Over 50 of UK Cameron’s lawmakers will join EU exit campaign — paper

LONDON, 7 June — More than 50 lawmakers from David Cameron’s Conservative Party are to join a campaign backing Britain’s exit from the European Union unless significant changes are achieved, while urging an end to EU membership unless significant changes are achieved, the paper said.

Cameron is attempting to persuade European leaders to back UK demands over the ongoing talks with the European Union unless Britain’s exit from the EU is on the table.

“We wish David Cameron every success, but unless senior EU officials awake to the possibility that one of the EU’s largest members is serious about a fundamental change in our relationship, our recommendation to British voters seems likely to be exit,” Conservative lawmaker Steve Baker said.

Cameron wants to restrict EU migrants’ access to British welfare, improve the single market, and win safeguards to ensure countries outside the euro zone are not put at a disadvantage by greater integration.

The Telegraph said CfB had already signed more than 50 lawmakers (MPs) and expected numbers to soon rise to about 100, including some ministers.

“Have been struck by the dozens of Tory (Conservative) MPs who would vote to quit the EU now and who will not settle for anything less than fundamental change,” Baker, who is chairing the CfB group in parliament, wrote in a separate article for the paper.

On Saturday, the leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) called for Euroscptic politicians from rival parties to put aside “personal animosities” and begin the “No” campaign against Britain’s continued membership of the bloc.

Nigel Farage said his party, which won almost 4 million votes in last month’s national elections, would start to “fight the ground game” but warned that unless a coordinated campaign begins now, it would be too late if Cameron calls a referendum early next year.

An ICM poll indicated that 59 percent of Britons supported staying in the EU, and 41 wanted to leave, the Telegraph said.

In an interview with the Observer newspaper, Rafal Trzaskowski, Poland’s Minister for European affairs, said European leaders wanted Britain to stay in the EU, but not at any cost.

“Many people in Europe want to be accommodated,” he said, “but if the demands are too extreme, they are not going to be met.”

A mourning ceremony is held for 406 deceased people on the capsized ship Eastern Star at the sinking site in the Jianli section of the Yangtze River, central China’s Hubei Province, on 7 June, 2015.—Xinhua
WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCES: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 7th June, 2015: Rain or thundershower will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeawaddy Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Blast kills US citizen, injures four at Bulgarian military plant

SOFIA, 7 June — An explosion at a military plant in central Bulgaria killed one American citizen and injured four other people on Saturday, the US embassy in Sofia said.

Bulgaria’s Interior Ministry said earlier in the day that the accident occurred during an experimental production test at a shooting range located in a military complex in the village of Anevno — part of the state-owned arms producer VMZ Sopot.

“The US Embassy regretfully confirms the death of one Department of Defence contractor and the injury of two other contractors and a Bulgarian translator in a training accident on 6 June in Anevno,” the embassy said in a statement.

Bulgarian authorities are investigating the cause of the accident. The US Embassy said it did not have any further details.

A series of powerful blasts at an explosives plant in northwestern Bulgaria killed 15 employees and injured three others last October, just two months after government officials warned of serious safety breaches at the factory.

Half of dolphins caught in drive hunts in Japan exported

WAKAYAMA, Japan, 7 June — About half of dolphins caught in drive hunts in western Japan were exported to China and other countries despite criticism of the hunting technique overseas, according to data confirmed by Kyodo News.

The drive hunt practice, used for decades in the coastal town of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture, has been criticized as cruel and recently prompted an international association of aquariums to suspend the membership of the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums, forcing the Japanese body to ban its domestic members from acquiring drive-hunted dolphins.

JAZA issued the ban last month after the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums threatened to expel the Japanese body if its members continued to purchase such dolphins.

In drive hunting, fishermen capture dolphins by herding them into coves by banging metal poles against their fishing boats. The practice has spurred international controversy, especially after the Oscar-winning 2009 US documentary film “The Cove” showed the bloody slaughter of dolphins during a drive hunt.

According to data from Japan’s Fisheries Research Agency, 760 live dolphins were sold between September 2009 and August 2014 after they were caught off Taiji.

The Finance Ministry’s trade statistics show 354 live dolphins were exported to 12 countries during the same period, including 216 to China, 36 to Ukraine, 35 to South Korea and 15 to Russia.

One dolphin was exported to the United States.

In Japan, live dolphins are supplied only from Taiji, so the dolphins covered by the trade data are presumed to have been caught there.

UN data based on the Washington Convention for the protection of endangered species showed the export of live dolphins from Japan between 2009 and 2013 was almost entirely to zoos or aquariums.

According to the WAZA website, Anevno is not represented in the world body through a national association.

An official at an aquarium in western Japan pointed out that WAZA is mainly composed of US and European associations, saying dolphin trade not subject to WAZA rules is prevalent in Asia and other regions.

Between the period between 2009 and 2014, 11 dolphins were also exported to Thailand, followed by 10 each to Vietnam and Saudi Arabia, seven to Georgia, five to Tunisia and four each to Egypt and the Philippines.

Kyodo News

Cambodia’s rice export up 64 pct in 5 months

PHNOM PENH, 7 June — Cambodia exported 243,025 tons of milled rice in the first five months of 2015, a 64 percent rise from the 148,262 tons over the same period last year, according to an official report on Sunday.

Sixty-nine companies have exported Cambodian rice to 46 countries and regions around the world, said the report compiled by the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export.

Three top buyers of Cambodian rice are China, France and Poland. During the first five months of this year, Cambodia exported 68,437 tons of rice to China, 29,717 tons to France and 26,513 tons to Poland.

The Southeast Asian country produced over 9 million tons of paddy rice a year. With this amount, it has more than 3 million tons of milled rice left over for exports per year.

In 2010, Cambodia launched a rice promotion strategy, setting a goal of exporting 1 million tons of milled rice by the end of 2015.

However, Commerce Minister Sun Chanthol said early this year that the country was unlikely to achieve the self-imposed target due to a lack of milling capacity and funding.

Xinhua

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Notice to Aamir Khan for using emblem in TV show ‘Satyamev Jayate’

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — “Game of Thrones” writer G. R. R. Martin has defended the portrayal of violence against women in the hit series and its small screen adaptation have of- fended some of its female characters, some of whom love the books and its many women calling it unnecessary and in bad taste.

Martin said he was not writing about “utopia” but a fantasy which is deeply rooted in the reality of middle ages despite its fantasy tone, reported the Entertainment Weekly.

LONDON, 7 June — “Marvel’s Agent Carter” has already been renewed for a second season by ABC, which will air in the US in 2016.—PTI

“Marvel’s Agent Carter” has been picked up by a UK channel. FOX UK has acquired the rights to the 8-part first season starring Hayley Atwell as Peggy Carter, reported Digital Spy.

A TV spin-off from the Marvel Cinematic Uni- verse, “Agent Carter” will get its UK premiere in July. The first season sees Peggy working for the covert SSR (Strategic Scientific Re- serve) while dealing with the loss of Steve Rogers — Captain America — and his male colleagues’ chau- vinist attitudes. Jeff Ford – Managing Director of FOX International Chan- nels (FIC) UK — said: “Marvel’s Agent Carter is blockbuster Hollywood enter- tainment at its best. “With high production values and a stellar UK and international cast, the series is the perfect addition to FOX UK’s summer line up, continuing the channel’s commitment to bring exclusive, original and breakthrough series to a UK audience.”

The series also stars Dominic Cooper as How- ard (father of Tony) Stark, and James D’Arcy as Jar- vis, Stark’s butler and Peg- gy’s greatest ally. “Mar- vel’s Agent Carter” has already been renewed for a second season by ABC, which will air in the US in 2016.—PTI

G R R Martin explains “Game of Thrones” violence against women

“Now there are people who will say to that,” Well, he’s not writing history, he’s writing fantasy—he put in dragons, he should have made an egalitarian soci- ety….”

“I wanted my books to be strongly grounded in history and to show what medieval society was like, and I was also reacting to a lot of fantasy fiction. Most stories depict what I call the Disneyland Middle Ages—there are princes and princesses and knights in shining armor, but they didn’t want to show what those societies meant and how they functioned.”

The author said despite the recent backlash there are millions of women who love the books and its female characters, some of which are very strong be it Arya, Daemerys Targaryen and Brienne while others love Sansa and Queen Cersei despite her obvious flaws. “And then there’s the whole issue of sexual vio- lence, which I’ve been crit- icized for as well.” Martin said, war is not only about “cool battles and heroes killing orcs”. “…you don’t portray (sexual violence), then there’s something fundamentally dishonest about that. Rape, unfortunately, is still a part of war today. It’s not a strong testament to the human race, but I don’t think we should pretend it doesn’t exist.”

“I want to portray struggle. Drama comes out of conflict. If you portray a utopia, then you probably wrote a pretty boring book,” said the writer.—PTI

Ennio Morricone announces 2016 world tour

LONDON, 7 June — Composer Ennio Morricone is going on a worldwide tour to celebrate 60 years in the film industry.

Morricone will travel across the globe from January 2016 to cities including Prague, Dublin and Amsterdam, reported Digital Spy.

The tour will arrive at Dublin’s 3Arena on 14 February and London’s O2 Arena on 16 February. During his years in the industry, Morricone has composed music for more than 500 films and TV shows, including “Django Unchained”, “The Untouchables”, “Once Upon A Time in America” and “The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.”—PTI

Models present creations at Bridal Couture Fashion Week

LONDON, 6 June — Models present creations at Bridal Couture Fashion Week in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 6 June, 2015.—Xinhua

First look of Chris Hemsworth’s ‘The Huntsman’ revealed

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — The first set photos from “The Huntsman” have arrived and they feature Jessica Chastain joined by Chris Hemsworth in costume as the titular charac- ter, Eric the Huntsman.

The 31-year-old actor sported a black dress with a braided hair style. Some of the photos showed Hemsworth’s character and Chastain’s character con- versing in a boat. The scenes are seemingly taken in a lake, reported Ace Showbiz.

“Marvel’s Agent Carter” to premiere in the UK

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Canada, Dutch win openers but fans the big winners

EDMONTON, 7 June — Canada scored a heart-stopping injury time win over China to kick off the Women’s World Cup on Saturday as the spotlight returned to action on the field after a deflating week of scandal away from the pitch.

Christine Sinclair sent a capacity crowd at a sun-kissed Commonwealth Stadium home happy by slotting the winning spot kick in a 1-0 victory over China.

The Dutch were also celebrating after the Netherlands made a winning World Cup debut with a 1-0 victory over New Zealand.

But the biggest winners on the day were the fans who basked in the excitement and joy the ‘beautiful game’ can create rather than dwell on the dreary details of a corruption bribery scandal that has engulfed the sport’s governing body, FIFA.

“It was an amazing atmosphere to kick off the World Cup in front of 50,000-plus fans,” I’m so proud of our team,” said Canadian midfielder Sophie Schmidt, who named the player of the match. “There was never a doubt that game was going to get away from us.”

While the World Cup got off to a rousing start, it is unclear if the scandals and controversy have had an impact on the tournament that will conclude with a championship game on 5 July in Vancouver.

The Canadian Soccer Association announced that close to a million tickets had been sold for games at the six venues across the country and while it remains an impressive number, it falls well short of the 1.5 million organizers have targeted.

The biggest event in women’s sport, the World Cup, was far from the only show in town.

While the sporting world stops for the men’s World Cup, for the women’s tournament it barely slows down.

The Formula One Grand Prix of Canada, a Stanley Cup playoff game, a Triple Crown winner in thoroughbred racing and golfer Tiger Woods’ nightmare round all grabbed a chunk of the Saturday night North American sport spotlight.

A superb Champions League final in Berlin between Juventus and Barcelona also satisfied much of the football appetite.

With the wider football world caught in the grip of a corruption and bribery scandal, grabbing attention has proven a challenge for the women’s showcase.

The Women’s World Cup has not been touched directly by the scandal but the questions and media’s search for answers hung over the tournament buildup like a dark cloud.

A controversy over the use of artificial turf that triggered a lawsuit and claims of discrimination by a group of unhappy players also lingered as Canada and China took to the plastic pitch.

In the end it was a column from Globe and Mail columnist Cathal Kelly baking Edmonton as an unfit venue for the prestigious kick off that provided the greatest outrage in the host nation.

But scandals big and small evaporated in the roar of the largest Canadian crowd for a national team football game as 53,058 filled a sun-kissed Commonwealth Stadium, topping the 51,136 that watched the Canadian men draw 1-1 with Brazil 21 years ago in Edmonton.

“The three points, Canada is on a roll,” beamed Canada coach John Herdman. “Good start, three points in the bag, exactly where we want to be.”— Reuters

Greece and Ukraine crises draw out G7 summit agenda

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, 7 June — Leaders from the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations meet on Sunday in the Bavarian Alps for a summit overshadowed by Greece’s debt crisis and ongoing violence in Ukraine.

Host Angela Merkel is hoping to secure commitments from her G7 guests to tackle global warming to build momentum in the run-up to a major United Nations climate summit in Paris in December. The German agenda also foresees discussions on global health issues from Ebola to antibiotics and tropical diseases.

But on the evening before the German chancellor welcomes the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United States, she and French President Francois Hollande were forced into their fourth emergency phone call in 10 days with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to try to break a deadlock between Athens and its international creditors.

The two sides have been wrangling for months over the terms of a cash-for-reform deal for Greece. Without aid from euro zone partners and the IMF, Greece could default on its loans within weeks, possibly forcing it out of the currency bloc. An upsurge of violence in eastern Ukraine has also played a part in the role that the gathering of leaders will play in the near town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen on Saturday. There were sporadic clashes with police and several marchers were taken to hospital with injuries, but the violence was minor compared to some previous summits.

The Germans have deployed 17,000 police around the former winter Olympic games venue at the foot of Germany’s highest mountain, the Zugspitze. Another 2,000 are on stand-by across the country.

Merkel is due to hold talks with US President Barack Obama on Sunday morning before the summit gets underway, with Ukraine, Middle East turmoil and the TTIP free trade agreement being negotiated between Washington and the European Union at the top of the agenda. Obama may also be keen to hear the latest from Merkel on the Greek talks. Officials in Washington, worried that a so-called “Grexit” could hit the world economy, have stepped up pressure on their European counterparts in recent weeks to clinch a deal.— Reuters

Netherlands midfielder Tessel Middag (17) shoots against New Zealand midfielder Katie Duncan (4) during the second half of a Group A soccer match during the 2015 women’s World Cup at Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta, CAN, on 6 June, 2015.
Myanmar demolishes Philippines, 5-1

SINGAPORE, 7 June — The Philippines U-23 Men’s football team were outclassed by favorites Myanmar, 5-1, at the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games at the Jalan Basar stadium in Singapore on Sunday.

With no wins to their name, the nationals were fighting for their pride. It was the Filipinos who found joy early on in the first half as Shirmar Felongco struck a driven shot from outside the box to gain an early 1-0 advantage.

But the Myanmar struck back quickly as a deflected Nay Lin Tun free kick sent Nathan Villanueva the wrong way to even up the match at 1-1.

It didn’t take long after the break for Myanmar to wrestle control of the game with a Shine Thura strike in the first minute of the second half to make it 2-1. The Myanmar showed why they were one of the favorites to win the gold in this year’s games as they dominated the second half with ruthless play.

A Ye Win Aung goal in the 65th minute seemed to settle the tie for Myanmar, but just three minutes later Si Thu Aung pounced on a keeper error to make the scoreboard 4-1 with 20 minutes to play.

With time winding down Kyaw Zin Lwin struck at the death for the Myanmar as they took home a dominant 5-1 win against the Filipinos.

CNN Philippines

Union Minister for Sports honours Myanmar athletes in SEA Games

SINGAPORE, 7 June — Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan awarded winners in the sports competitions in the 28th SEA Games Sunday.

The union minister viewed participation of Myanmar athletes in the triathlon event, traditional boat race, shooting, eques-trian, Chinlon and Wushu events.

Myanmar beat Thai-land 250-195 points in the Chinlon event. Aye Thitsa Myint of Myanmar secured her second gold medal in the Wushu event for the sixth gold of Myanmar.

On Sunday, Myan-mar Chinlon, Wushu, traditional boat race and basketball teams won one gold each.—SPED

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, officials and Myanmar athletes celebrate victory in 28th SEA Games.—SPED

Uzbekistan win books last 16 spot

WHANGAREI, 7 June — Uzbekistan have booked a place in the FIFA U-20 World Cup last 16 after a 3-0 win over Fiji, coupled with Honduras’ heavy defeat to Germany, saw them leap from bottom to second place in Group F.

A trio of second-half goals sealed the dramatic upturn in fortunes, with Eldor Shomurodov and Zabikhillo Urinboev on target in the space of a minute before Mirjamol Kosimov rounded off the scoring.

Both sides fielded unchanged sides, which was certainly no surprise when it came to the islanders, coming off the back of that historic 3-0 win over Honduras. Unless the Central Americans pulled off a surprise and earned a point of more against Germany, the Oceanian side knew a point would do.

For the Uzbeks there was much less margin for error — it was win or bust. That was clearly reflected in their start to the game, which was one-way traffic for the first ten minutes and included several goal-scoring chances. First, Fiji keeper Miswani Nairube spilled a bouncing free-kick only to see Oddion Hamrobekov head straight at him from four yards, before both Shomurodov and Urinboev hit the woodwork in the space of three seconds.

Waga ruffled the side-netting as Fiji looked to secure a position in the next round, but they were always on the back foot. Hamrobekov had another opportunity before Rustamjon Ashurmamov missed a golden chance, failing to make contact with a header when all five points were on offer. The Uzbek front line was becoming visibly frustrated as the break neared, but they would finally get their reward. It came from something of a comedy of errors as, having allowed Khamdamov — arguably the most creative figure on the field — to get his cross in, Shomurodov badly misjudges his header. But it proved to be his lucky day as the ball cannoned off a Praneel Naidu’s heel giving him a second bite at the cherry, with his weak effort slipping through the hands of Nairube.

Within a minute it was two and the Fiji fan- tale was all but over, as Urinboev’s shot squirmed under the goalkeeper. Mirjamol Kosimov then fired across goal into the bottom-right corner for a late cherry, with his weak effort slipping through the hands of Nairube. With no wins to their name, the nationals were fighting for their pride. It was the Phil- ipines who found joy early on in the first half as Shirmar Felongco struck a driven shot from outside the box to gain an early 1-0 advantage.

The Philippine U23 football team was eliminated from contention after losing to Myanmar. — REUTERS

Medal Standings for Sunday 7 June, 2015

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FIFA U-20 World Cup results 7 June, 2015

Group E
- Hungary 3-0 Nigeria
- Brazil 0-0 Korea DPR

Group F
- Honduras 1-0 Germany
- Fiji 0-0 Uzbekistan

Eldor Shomurodov of Uzbekistan scores the opening goal during the FIFA U-20 World Cup Group F match between Fiji and Uzbekistan at the Northland Events Centre on 7 June, 2015 in Whangarei, New Zealand.—FIFA