Vice president joins ceremony to mark 65th anniversary of Myanmar-Sino diplomatic relations

YANGON, 8 June—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and his wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmion attended the ceremony to mark the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China on Tuesday evening.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan and his spouse Ms Ruan Du hosted the ceremony held at the Novotel Yangon hotel with attendance of General Hla Hlay Win, the Chief of General Staffs (Army, Navy and Air) of the Defence Services.

In the morning, Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Yangon Orthopaedic Hospital to inspect its medical services and facilities.

The vice president was accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and Yangon Region government ministers.

Upper House passes boat people motion in landslide

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Myanmar’s Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) overwhelmingly passed a motion Monday to “adopt a decisive policy for the detained boat people from a neighbouring country.”

The motion, tabled by a lawmaker from the ruling party and submitted to the Amyotha Hluttaw on 2 June, was adopted by 136 votes to 4.

Of 208 boat people who were discovered in a boat in the Bay of Bengal on 21 May, 150 were deported to Bangladesh on Monday after having been identified as citizens of the neighbouring country, according to Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs.

Meanwhile, a further 50 people from the boat, along with 734 found aboard another vessel off the coast of the Ayeyawady Delta in late May, are being scrutinized to determine their origins, he added.

Based on humanitarian grounds, investigating the origins of the boat people and giving them temporary shelter is in the interests of the Myanmar people and the government has adopted a policy to settle the boat crisis, said Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs.

Ancient Pyu stone inscription discovered in Thazi Township

YANGON, 8 June—An ancient Pyu stone inscription was found in Thazi Township in Mandalay Region in May, Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu of the Ministry of Culture said at a press conference Monday at the National Museum here.

The inscription including eight lines of Pyu language was uncovered at the foot of a mountain about 3 miles east of Hsin Village in Okpo Village-tract in Thazi Township.

By Khairung Thanda Lwin

Stone inscription experts view ancient Pyu inscription found in Thazi Township.

PHOTO KHAING THANDA LWIN

Myanmar hands over verified Bangladeshi nationals among those rescued by Myanmar Navy

1. On 8 June 2015, Myanmar officially handed over 150 persons who are verified as Bangladeshi nationals among the 208 boat people rescued by the Myanmar Navy on 21 May 2015. A seven-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Commanding Officer of No. 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox’s Bazar Lt-Col Khandaker Saiful Alam arrived at Taung Pyo (Let Wei), where the handing over ceremony took place at 11 am today. The handing over of the 150 Bangladeshi nationals were completed at 13:30 hrs after the inspection process and signing of official document. Lt-Col Khandaker Saiful Alam received 150 Bangladeshi nationals who were handed over by Police Colonel Myo Swe, Deputy Regional Commander of Police Border Guard of Myanmar.

PHOTO KHAING THANDA LWIN

Press Release

Myanmar hands over verified Bangladeshi nationals among those rescued by Myanmar Navy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
8th June 2015

Khalequzzaman, Sector Commander, Border Guard of Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Consul, Consulate of Bangladesh in Sittwe were also presence as observers.

2. Myanmar and Bangladesh authorities have continued verifying the rest of the 208 boat people and over 700 boat people who were rescued on 21 and 29 May 2015 respectively. The remaining boat people will be handed over to the country of origin after completion of the verification process.

Honesty needs decent rules to survive

Mr. Kyaw Zaw Min, Special Envoy to the President, Myanmar, said that honesty needs decent rules to survive.

INdE

Upper House speaker gives address at Australian National University

UEC holds press on collecting preliminary voter list

Myanmar receives UN award for reduction of hunger

Honesty needs decent rules to survive

PAGE-8
Govt negotiates ODA loan for water supply in Yangon townships

On completion of the first phase of the project, the government will be able to distribute 60 million gallons of drinking water to the designated areas, the deputy minister added. The government distributed 3.5 million gallons of water to the wards on the far bank of Kyimyindine last summer, according to the deputy minister.

Myanmar hands over boat people to Bangladesh

The two sides are negotiating for handing over the boat people to say they are from Myanmar at every place they arrived? U Khin Aung Myint said.

Upper House passes boat people …

Affairs U Thant Kyaw said.

The speaker also questioned the accuracy of some reporting on the crisis, saying a number of boat people arriving in destination countries had falsely claimed to be Myanmar citizens in what appeared to be a deliberate strategy.

“Who made that strategy? Who made that plan for boat people to say they are from Myanmar at every place they arrived?” U Khin Aung Myint said.

He also called for an investigation into the causes of the boat people crisis. — GNLM

Amyotha Hluttaw raises questions on underground water, farm oxen

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June — Representatives at the Amyotha Hluttaw raised questions on underground water and slaughtering of farm oxen, as well as discussing the emergency motion on boat people at the Monday session.

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 June — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bhutan.

U Aung Khin Soe concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Bhutan

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 June — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Myanmar national archery, bowling and volleyball teams seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Singapore to take part in 28th SEA Games. — SPED

Govt negotiates ODA loan for water supply in Yangon townships

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Myanmar hands over boat people to Bangladesh

Nay Pyi Taw (Letwe), 8 June— Boat people already verified as Bangladesh nationals were handed over to Bangladesh officials at a flag raising meeting held in Taungpyo (Letwe) on Monday. The boat people were rescued by Myanmar Navy at sea near Thinbawkway Village in Maungtaw District on 21 May.

Deputy Director U Saw Naing and officials of Maungtaw District Immigration and National Registration Department handed over the boat people to Colonel Md. Khalequzzaman of Border Guard Bangladesh, Cox’s Bazar.

The two sides are negotiating for handing over of the remaining boat people as soon as possible, according to sources. —MNA

Bangladeshi boat people return home under supervision of officials. —MNA

Upper House passes boat people …

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Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said research for the utilization of underground water for the whole country is a comprehensive task that should be carried out under the guidance of a national-level water resources management committee, and his ministry will cooperate with others concerned.

Concerning the question on farm oxen, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han said development affairs committees around the country permit slaughtering of oxen in accordance with rules and regulations, and action is taken against those who export or kill more oxen than permitted.

Representatives later discussed the motion urging the union government to adopt a firm policy on boat people.

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Myanmar national archery, bowling and volleyball teams seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Singapore to take part in 28th SEA Games. — SPED
Upper House speaker gives address at Australian National University

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June— Amyotha Hlutaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint gave a speech Sunday at the opening ceremony of the 2015 Myanmar Update Conference held at the Australian National University, saying the focus of the present government is on laying a democratic foundation for the next generation.

The Upper House Speaker said he is satisfied with international interest in the country’s democratic transformation, which some western media have called the “Myanmar Spring.”

In his briefing on political developments in the country, U Khin Aung Myint said Myanmar is still facing two unsolved problems—the first being civil war between the government and ethnic armed groups, and the second being public mistrust of the government as a legacy of long-term military rule.

He also said the political culture of Myanmar has been complicated by obsession with norms, rationalism and worship of personality, which are obstacles to the institutionalization of democracy in Myanmar.

U Khin Aung Myint said Myanmar is one of the few countries in the world that have not yet achieved a National Ceasefire Accord, with only one main ethnic group, the Kachin Independence Army, yet to agree in principle.

The conference was also attended by the Myanmar Ambassador to Australia and diplomats. The Myanmar delegation arrived back home at the evening on 7 June.—MNA

Myanmar receives UN award for reduction of hunger

YANGON, 8 June— The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization on Monday recognized Myanmar for its progress in fighting hunger, after the country dramatically slashed the number of its citizens living in chronic undernourishment. “One out of nine people on the planet still do not have enough food to conduct active, healthy and productive lives. It is not acceptable,” he said.

The year 2015 marks the completion of the monitoring period for the Millennium Development Goals which will be replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals currently being negotiated by the international community.—MNA

Vice president joins ceremony...

He then visited patients at the 300-bed facility which is also being used as a teaching hospital.

The vice president and officials proceeded to three Universities’ Hospital in Kamayut Township in Yangon, where he examined the hospital’s renovation and development plans.—MNA

NATIONAL

UEC holds press conference on collecting preliminary voter list

YANGON, 8 June— Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye on Tuesday gave a press conference on the electoral body’s primary voter list collection process before 2015 general election.

During the press conference held at the Myanmar Peace Center in Yango...
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Plans under way to build small power stations in rural areas**

PyinOoLwin, 8 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint on 6 June reviewed plans to expand the number of small power stations in Letpanhla, Zayatkwin, Twinne, Pyahnyat and Tagona regions to supply electricity to villages in PyinOoLwin District.

The minister inspected sites in Thabeikkyin and Tagona townships and met staff at Tagona Township Electrical Engineer’s Office.

Upon completion, the stations will supply power to Madaya, Singu, Thabeikkyin, Mogok and Tagona townships.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

**Local youths attend rescue course**

Mawlamyine, 8 June — The Myanmar RESCUE Social Rescue Federation wrapped up an international-standard emergency response course for young trainees in Mawlamyine recently.

Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung spoke on the occasion while chairman of the federation U Hla Tun presented prizes and certificates to trainees.

A total of 75 trainees from around the country attended the course from 1 to 6 June.

On 5 June, the trainees demonstrated their emergency rescue skills in a traffic accident drill in front of the Myoma police station in Sitkekon Ward, Mawlamyine.

*Win Ma Ma (IPRD)*

**Farmers attend mechanized harvesting demonstration**

Aunglan, 8 June — Technicians from the Agricultural Mechanization Department recently demonstrated harvesting of summer paddy with a combine harvester at the farm of U San Lwin in Duyingaboo Village, Aunglan Township, Magway Region.

Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Win Pe briefed local farmers on the strong and weak points of various paddy strains and the benefits of using combine harvesters.

The ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Thein Hsint, members of the agricultural coordination committee, departmental officials and local farmers.

The demonstration produced 212.66 baskets of summer paddy per acre.

*Aunglan Township IPRD*

**Mandalay aims to abolish plastic shopping bags**

Mandalay, 8 June — Mandalay City Development Committee discussed becoming a plastic bag-free city during a meeting with owners of restaurants, teashops, pubs and hotels on 6 June.

MCDC member Dr Thwin Kyaw Kyaw outlined plans to eliminate the use of plastic and polyethylene bags and urged business owners to help keep the city clean by correctly disposing of waste.

Head of Mandalay Region Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department U Swe Tint Kyu, Dr Nyein Nyein Chit of Upper Myanmar Infectious Disease Prevention Department and officials of MCDC outlined the respective environmental conservation efforts of various departments.

*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

**University students visit organic vegetable farms in Inlay Region**

Nyaungshwe, 8 June — Fourth year students of Yezin University of Agriculture on 7 June observed production of high yield Palethwe paddy seeds and cultivation of organic vegetables at the farm of U Win Shwe in Tilaw village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State.

Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Zaw Win Tun gave a briefing on topics including cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy, production of paddy seeds and the emergence of the organic crop market.

The students visited farmlands including a thriving tomato plantations in Ngaphechaung village in Inlay Region.— Nay Myo Thurein
**REGIONAL**

**PM Modi promises support for Bangladeshi investment in Gujarat**

DHAKA, 8 June — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave his support on Sunday to a Bangladeshi proposal to invest $25 million in selling Bangladeshi garments in India, the main Bangladeshi business group said.

Modi, on the second and final day of a state visit to India’s eastern neighbour, had promised on Saturday to help to reduce India’s huge trade surplus with Bangladesh.

In a meeting on Sunday, the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry told Modi it was seeking $50 million of land either free of cost or at a nominal price in Gujarat.

“We told him that we want to set up warehouses and retail shops, and for that we will invest $25 million. The purpose is to sell and distribute our garments products directly,” said Matlub Ahmed, president of the Chamber.

“If we get this facility, then our sell will rise to $1 billion from the present $300 million in the next three years.”

After the meeting, he told Reuters that Modi had promised “all cooperation and support” for the proposal.

Bangladeshi exports were worth $24 billion in the fiscal year that ended in June 2014.

The textile industry is an important contributor to the economy, with duty-free access to Western markets having helped to make Bangladesh the world’s largest apparel exporter after China.

But the industry, which supplies many Western brands such as Wal-Mart, Tesco and H&M, has faced pressure after a string of fatal factory accidents, including a building collapse in 2013 that killed more than 1,130 people.

Modi sobered several deals during his visit, including a land boundary agreement. — Reuters

**S Korea reports 6th MERS death, 23 new MERS cases**

SEOUL, 8 June — South Korea on Monday reported its sixth death from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus and also 23 new cases in the country’s first outbreak of the deadly disease, raising the total number of cases to 77.

The announcement by health authorities comes amid rising fears the virus may spread further nationwide since the first case was confirmed on 20 May, involving a 68-year-old South Korean man with a recent history of travel to four countries in the Middle East.

The latest MERS-linked death was confirmed after an 80-year-old man died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the central city of Daejeon, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Meanwhile, a teenager was among the new 23 cases, becoming the first teen infected with the virus. The 16-year-old student, who was admitted to a Seoul hospital for treatment of an illness not related to MERS on 27 May, was confirmed as being infected on Sunday.

More than 1,800 schools nationwide, mostly kindergartens and primary schools, have decided to temporarily close on Monday.

As of Sunday morning, some 2,300 people have been quarantined at hospitals or at their own homes.

Acting Prime Minister Choi Kyung-hwan told a Press conference on Sunday that the counter-MERS efforts will involve regional authorities, the civilian sector and the military.

“We will reinforce its response involving all parties, including local governments, the private sector, the military and schools, until mid-June, the most critical point in containing the spread of the MERS virus,” Choi said. Choi, whose government had come under criticism for refusing to make public the names of hospitals where MERS patients have been diagnosed or treated, took the occasion to identify all 24 of them — six that have had confirmed cases of MERS and 18 that have MERS patients pass through them.

South Korea now has the second-largest number of MERS patients after Saudi Arabia, which has reported over 1,000 confirmed cases since the virus emerged there for the first time in 2012.

So far, cases of infection have been confined to hospitals, though fear of the disease spreading through communities has caused cancellations of festivals, concerts and major events, while public panic has manifested itself in fewer people seen on Seoul’s streets.

Globally, since September 2012, the World Health Organization has been notified of at least 1,185 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS, including at least 443 related deaths. — Kyodo News

**Prayut’s minimum wage is obstacle to investment: Prayut**

BANGKOK, 8 June — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-chai said on Monday that Thailand’s 300-baht (about $8.85) national daily minimum wage imposes a heavy burden on investors and encourages capitalists from investing in the country.

Prayut said the minimum wage, which is uniform across the country, is impracticable, and people who wish to be paid more should undertake training to acquire new skills.

“Who benefits from the current minimum wage? Aren’t they migrant workers? If we increase the ceiling they would come in greater numbers because in their hometowns the minimum wage is just 100-150 baht or not more than 200 baht,” he said.

On Thursday, the national wage committee approved a retrospective change to the labour wage policy by setting different minimum wages for each province based on its economic situation amid concerns among labour rights groups the new system will lower the daily income of poor workers.

Nakorn Silpa-archa, permanent secretary of the Labour Ministry, said on Friday the new regime will take effect at the start of 2016.

He claimed the change would increase Thailand’s competitiveness and employment rates and would also improve the living conditions of workers and reduce wage disparities, according to local media.

The nationwide minimum wage was one of the flagship policies of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her Phue Thai Party. — Kyodo News

**China fights terrorism to protect citizens’ human rights: report**

BEIJING, 8 June — China has been combating terrorism in accordance with law to protect citizens’ human rights, according to a white paper issued by the State Council Information Office on Monday.

The document, titled “Progress in China’s Human Rights in 2014,” said that in 2014 China strengthened supervision over foodstuffs, improved laws and regulations on production safety, combated terrorism according to law, attached more importance to protecting the rights of the accused, detainees and criminals, and stepped up drug-control efforts to protect citizens’ personal rights.

According to the white paper, the people’s courts at all levels dealt with 558 cases of crimes of inciting separatism and terrorism, prosecuting 712 culprits. The judicial organs severely punished crimes such as the terrorist attacks at Tian’anmen on 28 October, 2013 and at Kunming railway station on 1 March, 2014 to ensure the safety of life and property of the people. Also, in October, China’s draft of the Anti-terrorism Law was first deliberated at the 11th Plenary Session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People’s Congress and was included in the top legislation. In November 2014 public views of the draft were solicited via www.npc.gov.cn.

On 28 December, 2014, the 12th Plenary Session of the Standing Committee of the 12th NPC approved the Anti-terrorism Convention of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to further international co-operation against terrorism, according to the white paper.

The white paper also noted that the rights of the accused, detainees and criminals in China are better protected, another step the country is taking to improve human rights.

Regulations have been issued to make sure audio-video recording is used in the entire process of interrogating criminal suspects, with resident lawyers from legal aid organizations providing legal consultation for the accused and detainees to protect their legitimate rights and interests.

The white paper said the law enforcement process is made fairer, stricter and more civilized.

Also, the document said that in 2014 the Chinese government promoted development concepts and systems innovation, adopted effective measures to guarantee citizens’ access to fair development, had more people share the fruit of reform and development, and better protected the people’s economic, social and cultural rights.
G-7 affirms unity in dealing with China-led bank

MUNICH, 8 June — Leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized nations agreed on Sunday to ensure close coordination in dealing with a China-led regional investment bank to be launched by the end of this year.

Speaking on the first day of a two-day summit in Germany, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he “does not mean to criticize” some G-7 members that have signed up to become founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, but called on other G-7 leaders to “look at things with the same will” and “ensure close coordination in the G-7,” according to a Japanese official.

The G-7 members are split in their response to the AIIB. While Britain, Canada, France, Germany and the United States have stayed out due to concerns over the body’s governance and debt sustainability, Abe called for transparency in the management and lending standards of the AIIB, saying, “Infrastructure investment initiatives for Asia in partnership with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, a project some see as a bid to counter the AIIB, which will be initially capitalized at $100 billion.

“Through enhancement of the ADB’s ability, Japan will create a system to respond to enormous infrastructure needs in Asia,” Abe was quoted as saying.

“When building infrastructure, you must take into account economic welfare of local people, debt sustainability, as well as the impact on human rights, society and the environment.”

When the G-7 leaders touched on trade issues, Abe expressed resolve to speed up negotiations for a 12-nation Pacific free trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and to conclude talks for a free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union by the end of the year, Seko said.

Among the G-7 nations, Canada, Japan and the United States are involved in the TPP negotiations.

During a working dinner on Sunday, the leaders were expected to focus on issues such as the crisis in Ukraine and escalating tensions over China’s massive land reclamation in disputed waters in the South China Sea, according to Japanese officials.

Abe, US President Barack Obama and EU leaders have expressed concern about the Chinese action, saying Beijing should clarify the basis of its territorial claims based on international law, not the threat or use of force and coercion.

On Monday, the G-7 leaders will discuss climate change and energy before holding enlarged talks with so-called outreach countries such as Ethiopia, Iraq, Liberia, Nigeria and Tunisia about terrorism, development, public health and women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, the officials said.

Russia was invited to join the G-7 in 1998 and remained a member of what was then called the Group of Eight nations until 2014 when the G-7 suspended Moscow’s participation in retaliation for its annexation of Crimea in southern Ukraine in March last year.

KATHMANDU, 8 June — Nepal military and police have recovered the bodies of 53 trekkers and villagers buried in avalanches set off by an earthquake in April, and were digging through snow and rocks with shovels and hoes on Monday for signs of more victims.

Search and rescue operations had been suspended in the village of Langtang, 60 km (40 miles) north of Kathmandu, last month as fresh avalanches buried some of the 128 bodies that had been recovered, putting rescue workers in danger.

Soldiers from the army’s disaster response unit resumed the search after the risk from avalanches abated and recovered 53 bodies including three of foreign trekkers over the weekend, the military said in a statement.

“It is still confusing whether all those 53 bodies are new or also included those that were washed away by the avalanche after being recovered earlier,” army spokesman Brigadier General Jagdish Chandra Pokharel told Reuters.

Uddhab Bhattachar, the most senior bureaucrat of Rasuwa district where Langtang is located, said scores of soldiers, joined by police and villagers were looking for more than a dozen trekkers and Nepalis missing since the 25 April earthquake.

REUTERS

Earthquake victims from Langtang District gather to receive food at a Tibetan monastery, a month after the 25 April earthquake, in Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 May, 2015. —REUTERS

Search resumes in Nepal trekking village, 53 bodies found

Three thermal scanners to be set up in joint industrial zone in N Korea

SEOUL, 8 June — Three thermal scanners will be set up in North Korea’s border town of Kaesong on Monday to help efforts in detecting people with elevated temperatures entering a joint industrial zone there amid the current outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus in the South, the South Korean Unification Ministry said on Monday.

“Sometime this morning, three thermal scanners will be installed (in the industrial zone),” ministry spokesman Lim Byung Cheol told journalists.

The move follows the North’s request for such devices to screen South Korean workers at the industrial zone for possible infection with the potentially fatal viral respiratory illness.

On a daily average, about 300 to 400 South Korean workers commute to the industrial zone, where more than 120 South Korean firms employ around 52,000 North Korean workers.

The increasing numbers of deaths from the virus and confirmed cases in South Korea have sparked fear in North Korea as well.

Since a South Korean man who returned from the Middle East was confirmed positive on 20 May, the number of deaths from MERS has risen to six while the total of those infected has reached 87, including the fatalities, as of Monday.

The industrial zone, launched in 2004 with a combination of the North’s cheap labour and the South’s capital and technology, is a key source of revenue for North Korea.

Kyodo News
Munter: Serbia’s success is US success as well

A senior AKP official voiced the message that Serbia’s success is also a success for the US and that the economic reforms which are being implemented in Serbia are good for the people of Serbia as they make room for investments and trade and also open the possibility for business partners to take part in Serbia’s development, Munter said in an interview for Tanjug. Everyone wants to see economic reforms which will lead to a stronger Serbia which would be a partner for the US business scene, he said.

Comparing Serbia from the year of 2007 when he was appointed as the ambassador and Serbia nowadays, Munter said that eight years ago, there was a question as to whether the Serbia would turn to the future or would remain stuck in the past. Now, in the year of 2015, Serbia is committed to its future in Europe and EU membership, Munter said.

“I hope that the US voiced the message that Serbia’s success is also a success for the US and that the economic reforms which are being implemented in Serbia are good for the people of Serbia as they make room for investments and trade and also open the possibility for business partners to take part in Serbia’s development, Munter said in an interview for Tanjug. Everyone wants to see economic reforms which will lead to a stronger Serbia which would be a partner for the US business scene, he said.”

Krusen, (Germany), 8 June — German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Group of Seven (G7) leaders to commit to tough goals to cut greenhouse gases at the final day of their summit in the Bavarian Alps on Monday.

Merkel, once dubbed the “climate chancellress”, hopes to revitalize her green credentials by getting the G7 industrial nations to agree specific emissions goals ahead of a larger-year-end United Nations climate meeting in Paris.

Climate change topped the agenda for Monday’s sessions, at which the leaders were also set to discuss concerning other health issues, the fight against terrorism from Boko Haram to Islamic State, and African development.

In a boost for Merkel’s push to combat global warming, Japan said on Sunday it would favour the G7 countries setting their own target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

US President Barack Obama kept his commitment to the climate issue on Sunday, the first day of the summit, with leaders presented a unified front in facing Russian over the Ukraine conflict and discussed the global economy.

Japan and Canada were regarded before the summit as potential hold-outs on the climate issue, diplomats and environmental campaigners said.

French President Francois Hollande, who will host a UN summit on fighting climate change at the end of the year, was also looking for an ambitious commitment from the G7 to ending their dependence on fossil fuels by mid-century.

He was also seeking a financial commitment to aid poorer countries to transform their energy sectors so they can reduce carbon emissions.

But it was not clear if Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper would accept a specific G7 goal.

Canada supports an agreement in Paris that includes all GHG (greenhouse gas) emitting countries,” Stephen Lecce, spokesman for Harper, told Reuters in an email.

The green lobby is hoping that Merkel will push for a pledge to phase out fossil fuels by 2050 as part of the Paris meeting, which aims to agree on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

Greenpeace’s head of international climate politics, Martin Kaiser, said the only way for the summit to be seen as a success is for US, Japanese and Canadian leaders to “take their feet off the throat of a climate agreement.”

“This means an unequivocal commitment and support for competitive renewable energy technologies,” he added.

The G7 leaders will meet Monday in a boost for Merkel’s hope of winning greater powers suffered a major setback on Sunday when the ruling AK Party he founded failed to win an outright majority in a parliamentary election for the first time.

Erdogan, Turkey’s most popular modern leader but also its most divisive, had hoped a crushing victory for the AKP would allow it to change the constitution and create a more powerful US-style presidency. To do that, it would have needed to win two-thirds of the seats in parliament.

Instead, it has been left unable to govern alone for the first time since it came to power almost 13 years ago. It faces potentially weeks of difficult coalition negotiations with reluctant opposition parties as it tries to form a stable government and the possibility of another early election.

With 98 percent of ballots counted, the AKP took 40.8 percent of the vote, according to broadcaster CNN Turk, down from 49.8 percent at the last parliamentary election in 2011.

“Everyone should see that the AKP is the winner and leader of these elections,” a deputy Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, leader of the AKP, said in a balloon speech to the party faithful at its headquarters in Ankara.

“No one should try to build a victory from an election they lost,” he told thousands of supporters.

The uncertainty sent the lira currency TRYOM=D3 to a record low against the dollar in thin out-of-hours dealing as investors positioned themselves for what is likely to be a turbulent start on Monday.

But for jubilant Kurds, who flooded the streets of the southeastern city of Diyarbakir setting off fireworks and waving flags, there was plenty to celebrate.

The pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) crossed a 10 percent threshold to enter parliament for the first time.

With initial results putting it on around 13 percent, HDP co-leader Selahattin Demirtas ruled out a coalition with the AKP and said the election outcome had put an end to talk of the stronger

Merkel encourages G7 leaders to agree tough climate goals

(Clockwise from L) French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Italy’s Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Council President Donald Tusk, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US President Barack Obama and G7 Finance Minister and leader of these countries set to discuss climate issues, diplomats and environmental campaigners said.

“Canada supports an agreement in Paris that includes all GHG (greenhouse gas) emitting countries,” Stephen Lecce, spokesman for Harper, told Reuters in an email.

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“This means an unequivocal commitment and support for competitive renewable energy technologies,” he added.

The G7 leaders will meet Monday in a boost for Merkel’s hope of winning greater powers suffered a major setback on Sunday when the ruling AK Party he founded failed to win an outright majority in a parliamentary election for the first time.

Erdogan, Turkey’s most popular modern leader but also its most divisive, had hoped a crushing victory for the AKP would allow it to change the constitution and create a more powerful US-style presidency. To do that, it would have needed to win two-thirds of the seats in parliament.

Instead, it has been left unable to govern alone for the first time since it came to power almost 13 years ago. It faces potentially weeks of difficult coalition negotiations with reluctant opposition parties as it tries to form a stable government and the possibility of another early election.

With 98 percent of ballots counted, the AKP took 40.8 percent of the vote, according to broadcaster CNN Turk, down from 49.8 percent at the last parliamentary election in 2011.
Honesty needs decent rules to survive

By Myint Win Thein

When a new rule that nobody wants to obey is imposed on a society, it is sure to be breached by some people through various ways and means. Those who are accustomed to breaking rules and using dishonest means to avoid punishment will have no problem with the addition of one more regulation to disobey. They will tell lies and happily break the new rule without hesitation. For them, breaking the rules is second nature.

For naturally rule-abiding members of society there are two options. The first one is compliance with the rule, even if it appears unjust or illogical, and the second is disobedience. If they follow the new rule, it will burden them or limit their movements more strictly. If they break it, they will have to sacrifice their honesty, telling lies to avoid punishment by the authorities.

Therefore, what is really at risk in society is the honesty of some of its members. Eventually, their honesty may fail victim to the new rule which has no place in society. Enough space should be left for honesty in every society, since it is still the best policy.

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.

SOURCE OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

Maung Hlaing

Recently, I read a news item of a paper reading session on Children’s Literature organized by the Association of Dissemination of Children’s Literature (unofficial translation) in the dailies. According to the news, it was conducted by Dr. Chit San Win and interesting papers on children’s literature were read by prominent writers and cartoonists. Though I was not invited to such a paper reading session, I take my hat off to those who conducted it and those who came to read their esteemed papers on children’s literature.

Today, hundreds of books are published in our country. Unfortunately, we cannot say that books for children may come out in full swing. Books of tales are still coming out but some of them are translated works from other lands. Some famous writers have come to create new tales for children and others remake the old ones. To my opinion, the story-telling is the source of children’s literature.

When we were very small, before we had even learned to read, we loved to listen to the tales or stories Mother or Grand- ma or Grandpa told us. Hundreds of times, we were transported to the Benares and saw King Brahmadhat who is well ac- quainted with children. Together with the brave prince, we broke the spell the witch had cast over Sleeping Beauty.

And we all were quite familiar with the classic story of “Mae Htwe Lay and the serpent,” an origi- nal Myanmar folk tale. We had pity on Mae Htwe Lay who was simple and honest. We had an antipathy on her cruel elders.

However, although we grew older, we did not lose contact with the well-wishing, the fearless characters from our favourite tales. We still met them in books, on the stage and the screen.

Story-telling has great influence over our children and has become the source of children’s literature. And in the guise of entertainment, the story is often the vehicle conveying the children to the wholesome moral lesson or the bit of desirable knowledge so necessary to their wellbe- ing.

Very often, the parent is at a loss for fresh materi- als. In such a circumstance, he or she is compelled to make up a story, but with poor satisfaction to them- selves or their children. These made-up stories are what we call creative stori- es.

Every nation has its own fairy tales. While the tales of different nations resemble each other, they are at the same time widely different. It is not difficult to distinguish between My- anmar, English, French, German, Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Russian tales, because each describes the life and national surround- ings of the land to which it belongs and where it has been handed down from generation to generation.

Almost all the tales were first told long, long ago. As they were retold, the tellers added new de- tails and changed the old ones according to individual views and tastes. The older the stories grew, the more interesting and artistic they became, for the people polished and per- fected them in the course of the centuries.

Whatever it may be, fairy tales are a poetic in- vention, but at the same time, they reflect the real environment from which they spring. They tell of the people’s hopes and as- pirations, their desire to improve life and lighten labour; they show that the people have always be- lieved in their own strength and in happiness which is sure to come.

One of the most inter- esting things is the life-sto- ry of some great men or women. Children like to listen to a story with a hero who accomplishes some- thing in the face of difficul- ties, and every great person is such a hero. Whether it be Napoleon or Florence Nightingale, Tabin-shwe- tee or Bayint Naung of Myanmar old history, Jawaharlal Nehru of India or Bogoyoke Aung San of Myanmar, the biography is inspiring.

Reading of the deed of such people seems to link the reader in intimate friendship with the great. Moreover, tales deal with varied subjects in the most varied ways. Children know countless tales about animals, especially about the sly fox who gets the better of the stupid wolf and clumsy bear.

I think that these ani- mal-tales were made up many years ago by hunters, who studied the beasts of the forests and found that each had character and in- dividuality. They admired certain animals for their daring and despised others for their trickery. Today, these tales like fables, have symbolic significance, ex- posing human vices and shortcomings, such as greed, cunning and stupidi- ty.

Most poetic and amus- ing are the wonder-tales. They transport us to the world of fantasy. These tales are based on imagina- tion and invention. No ordi- nary laws govern the actions of the heroes of these tales. Their heroes are the incar- nation of the popular ideal. They are always fearless, courageous, noble, and in- variably conquer evil.

Grown-ups enjoy fairy-tales as much as chil- dren, for it is quite impos- sible to resist the charm of their heroes, the beauty of their language, and the force of their message, which speak of love of one’s country, faith in the strength of the simple folk, confidence in a better fu- ture and the triumph of good over evil.

These stories and tales are transformed into pic- ture books, pictorials, comic journals, modern short stories, tales, and cre- ative stories, drama scripts, humour and translations of literary works.

We can say that most of the children, when they grow up, will tell their chil- dren the tales or creative stories they themselves heard when they were very small. This is an unending process that will be going on generation to generation.

As long as we can tell stories to our children, there will always exist children’s literature.

I am looking forward to seeing more paper read- ing sessions on children’s literature. Besides, I will try my best to devote my- self to writing more arti- cles on children’s litera- ture.
Local residents dredge earthen lakes for rainwater storage

**Myanma Railways carries out track maintenance**

**Myanmar Railways**

**Volunteers make plastic-free urban in Myaingyin**

Kanbalu Tsp extends electricity supply to villages

Tachilek, 8 June — A workshop on rules and regulations for storage of prohibited chemical precursors took place at the meeting hall of the Township General Administration Department in Tachilek, Shan State, recently. Police Captain Than Shwe of Anti-Drug Squad No 30 explained plans to combat narcotic drugs, as well as rules for prohibited chemical precursors. Staff Officer U Aung Kyaw Naing of the Fire Services Department outlined correct storage of chemicals and preventive measures of fire. —Kyemon-111

Tin Myint (Nattalin)
Yemen’s exiled president plays down coming peace talks

DUBAI, 8 June — Yemen's exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has played down next week’s talks in Geneva between his country’s warring parties, saying they will only address ways to implement a Security Council resolution demanding his enemies retreat.

Hadi and his government’s host, Saudi Arabia, have insisted that any talks centre on resolution 2216, which demands that the Iranian-backed Houthis and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh quit cities they seized since last September and surrender heavy weapons.

But with the Houthis still entrenched in populated parts of western Yemen despite 11 weeks of Saudi-led airstrikes, international pressure has grown for Hadi to accept a compromise and negotiate with the Houthis and Saleh’s representatives.

"These are not talks, it is only a discussion to implement UN Security Council resolution 2216, how to implement it on the ground,” Hadi said in an interview with the Saudi-owned al-Alarabiya television.

He denied the United Nations-sponsored meeting due to start on 14 June was aimed at wider reconciliation or finding a political compromise to end the conflict.

Hadi says 2216, adopted in April, had created a framework for peace by demanding that the Houthis leave Yemeni cities they had seized since last year and allow his government to resume work from San’aa.

The Houthis have rejected the resolution, however, saying Hadi’s international recognition and exiled government has lost its legitimacy.

Hadi also reiterated accusations that Iran was systematically interfering in his country's affairs by backing the Houthis.

"What Iran does at (my country) is more dangerous than al-Qaeda,” Hadi said in the interview, parts of which were broadcast on Monday.

Hadi fled Yemen and took refuge in Saudi Arabia in March after the Houthis closed in on the southern city of Aden, where he had fled after escaping house arrest imposed on him by the militia a month earlier.

The president, who came to office in 2012 elections after Saleh was forced to step down by mass protests against his 33 years in office, has long accused Iran of meddling in Yemen’s affairs. “I had asked Iran: ‘lift your hand from Yemen’,” Hadi said.

“I did not bring this from vacuum, we caught people who had been trained by the (Iranian) Revolutionary Guard. They were jailed in our prisons,” he added.

Britain to expand Iraq training mission to counter IS — Cameron

KUWAIT, (Germany), 8 June — Britain is to expand its military training mission in Iraq in the coming weeks, Prime Minister David Cameron announced on Sunday, saying the Iraqi army needed more help to deal with improvised bombs planted by Islamic State militants.

Cameron was speaking before a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations (G7), said Britain would send 125 new military advisers to Iraq, most of whom would train the Iraqi army in how to counter improvised explosive devices and also sweep operations.

That will take the total number of British military trainers in Iraq up to 275, officials said, and the overall number of British personnel engaged in various roles against Islamic State across the region up to around 900.

“We’re already the second largest contributor in terms of air strikes in Iraq, and support for the Syrian opposition,” Cameron told reporters at the G7 in Germany.

“But I’m announcing today that we’re increasing our training effort in Iraq. It’s a particular request the Abadi government has made, it’s a particular thing we’ve been working with the Americans on.”

Cameron was due to brief US President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on the plans at the G7. He was also expected to discuss with Obama what more Britain can do to help train moderate Syrian opposition forces in locations outside Syria such as Turkey.

Critics say gains made by Islamist militants in both Iraq and Syria show that the US-led strategy against them is faltering, and that training Iraqi forces to clear them would allow local people to return more quickly to their homes. She said the deployment was consistent with the scale of Britian’s current engagement in Iraq, and did not herald deeper involvement.

British officials said the new trainers would be deployed in “a handful of locations” across Iraq including Tikrit, Basimaya and Al Asad. Around 100 would carry out IED training, while 25 would focus on first aid, equipment maintenance, or logistics and information support.

A spokeswoman for Cameron’s office said Iraqi State routinely planted large numbers of bombs when retreatting, and that training Iraqis to deal with them had been a priority.

Western officials say the UN talks are the only hope of forming a unity government and halting the fighting among factions allied to either government.

Previous rounds have yielded little progress with the two governments and parliaments arguing for months over an agreement to form a unity government, but the UN said this round would be “decisive”.

“The mission has received thousands of messages from Libyans grave ly concerned about the deteriorating conditions in their country, demanding the swift resumption of the dialogue talks and expressing hope that the Libyan political actors would seize the opportunity,” the UN mission for Libya said in a statement. “The meeting in Skhirat (Morocco) will discuss a new draft of the political agreement based on the latest input of the parties,” the UN said on its website.

CAIRO, 8 June — The United Nations plans to host on Monday in Morocco a round of talks aimed at persuading Libya’s warring factions to join an “effort to end a conflict that threatens to break up the country.”

The internationally recognized government has had to operate out of the East of the north African oil state since an armed group known as the Libyan Dawn took over the capital Tripoli and set up its own self-declared government.

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Four soldiers, 19 militants killed in clash in Pakistani tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 8 June — Seven Pakistani soldiers and 19 militants were killed in a clash in Pakistan’s North Waziristan tribal area near the Afghan border early Monday morning, the Defence Ministry said.

A press release by the ministry said the clash took place on a route often used by militants to cross into and out of Afghanistan.

The army personnel were killed when a suicide bomber they had apprehended after the battle blew himself up, the press release said.

The 19 militants included five known commanders of the Pakistani Taliban.

The Pakistani army is currently engaged in a sweeping operation against terrorists operating from their North Waziristan stronghold.

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan often accuse tribesmen in their border areas of cross-border attacks and terrorist activities.

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Samsung Elec’s new smartwatch to offer mobile payments

SEOUL, 8 June — Tech giant Samsung Electronics Co Ltd plans to offer a mobile payments function in a smartwatch to be launched in the second half of the year, South Korea’s Electronic Times newspaper reported on Monday citing unnamed sources.

Sony Music CEO confirms launch of Apple’s music streaming Monday

NEW YORK, 8 June — Apple Inc will announce its new mobile phone app enabling civilians in conflict-torn countries to capture and share verifiable footage of war crimes will help authorities to prosecute the perpetrators, a leading legal body said as it launched the app on Monday.

Mobile phone footage of human rights abuses, mainly shared on social media in recent years, is often fake, impossible to verify or lacking the information necessary to be used as evidence in court, said the International Bar Association (IBA). The “EyeWitness to Atrocities” app records the user’s location, date and time, and nearby Wi-Fi networks to verify that the footage has not been edited or manipulated, before sending it to a database monitored by a team of legal experts.

“This could be a real game-changer in the fight for human rights and international justice... and provide a solution to the evidentiary challenges surrounding mobile phone footage,” said IBA executive director Mark Ellis.

“It will also allow media outlets to use the footage and remove any doubts regarding authenticity that may have previously prevented them from showing mobile phone videos,” Ellis told The Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

The app was devised following controversy surrounding mobile footage aired by British broadcaster Channel 4 in 2011 which purported to show Sri Lankan troops executing Tamil prisoners.

Sri Lanka’s government initially dismissed the footage as fabricated, then broadcast its own version of the video, and said the killers were rebels in army uniform. Channel 4 rejected the claim, saying its work had been meticulously checked.

Millions of YouTube viewers were fooled in November last year by the video of the “Syrian hero boy”, who appeared to brave gunfire to rescue a young girl hiding under a car.

The video was in fact produced in Malta by Norwegian filmmakers who used actors and presented the footage as real in order to highlight the plight of children in conflict zones.

“Until now, it has been extremely difficult to verify the authenticity of these images and to protect the safety of those brave enough to record them,” Ellis said.

The app, which was designed based on the rules of evidence in international, regional and national courts, allows the user to decide whether or not to be anonymous when uploading footage.

Once a video is submitted, it is stored in a virtual evidence locker, where it can only be accessed by legal experts who analyse the footage and identify the appropriate authorities to pursue criminal charges, according to the IBA.

The IBA, an international organization of lawyers and law firms, said it was working with rights groups to ensure the app could be used in some of the world’s most severe conflict zones, including Syria, Iraq and Ukraine.

Apple expected to focus on watch, music at developer conference

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 June — Apple is expected to unveil a new music service and better tools to build apps for its smartwatch at its annual gathering of developers in San Francisco on Monday.

The tech giant’s legion of independent developers will get a preview of a new software kit for the two-month-old Apple Watch at the Worldwide Developers Conference, Jeff Williams, Apple’s senior vice president of operations, said at a recent tech event.

Like other Apple products, the watch’s commercial success will likely hinge on a compelling collection of apps. But early apps for the timepiece have been tethered to the iPhone, placing some limits on what developers could do.

The expanded software kit should lead to better and faster watch apps, said Bob O’Donnell, an analyst at TECHnalysis Research.

Apps built with the new toolkit will likely start arriving in the fall, Williams said.

Many analysts expect that Apple will use Monday’s event to debut a new music streaming service. The company behind the iPod and iTunes has long been a leader in digital music, but it has lost ground in recent years as subscription services such as Spotify have caught on with consumers.

Analyst Van Baker of Gartner said he expects Apple to release a new service to win a bigger share of the streaming business. “This is catch-up for Apple,” he said.

An Apple spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
**Website of national pension service partially reopened**

Tokyo, 8 June — The state-run Japan Pension Service partially reopened its website on Monday after two days of suspension to deal with security problems.

The pension body said last week that the names and ID numbers of about 1.25 million people in the nation’s public pension program had been leaked after its personal computers were compromised by cyberattacks.

The JPS said it would continue making efforts to fully resume its website service.

On the resumed website, the pension body mainly provides information on the data leak incident.

The JPS has said the website disruption will not affect its core computer system containing sensitive personal information, such as records of pension contributions, because the website is not maintained on its own server.

**Quake of 5.9 magnitude strikes off Japan — USGS**

Tokyo, 8 June — An earthquake measuring 5.9 magnitude struck off Japan’s northeast coast on Monday. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The quake was 80 km (50 miles) deep and centred 132 km (82 miles) north northeast of Hachinohe, Honshu, the US Geological Survey said.—Reuters

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**Iran resumes trial of Washington Post reporter**

TEHERAN, 8 June — An Iranian court on Monday resumed the trial of a Washington Post reporter over spying and propaganda charges, official IRNA news agency reported. Jason Rezaian, a 39-year-old Iranian-American, was first tried on 26 May at the same court —Branch 15 of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Court.

Rezaian faces charges of "espionage, collaboration with hostile governments, gathering classified information and disseminating propaganda against the Islamic Republic,” Rezaian’s lawyer, Leila Ahsan, said earlier.

Rezaian assumed his job as Washington Post correspondent in Tehran in 2012. He was arrested on 22 July, 2014, along with his wife, Yeganeh Salehi, a reporter for The National newspaper based in Abu Dhabi, and a female freelance photographer.

Salehi and the photographer, who were released on bail in October 2014, also appeared in court on Monday.—Xinhua

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**US, Japan say first test of Raytheon’s new SM-3 missile a success**

WASHINGTON, Japan, 8 June — The United States and Japan announced on Sunday the first live-fire test of Raytheon Co’s new Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missile that is being jointly developed by the two countries for several billion dollars.

Rick Lehner, spokesman for the US Missile Defence Agency, said the test conducted on Saturday from the Point Mugu Sea Range off the coast of California was a success.

Lehner said the United States spent just over $2 billion on the weapons programme, while Japan contributed about $1 billion.

The SM-3 IIA is a 21-inch variant of an earlier SM-3 missile, which works with the US Aegis combat system built by Lockheed Martin Corp to destroy incoming ballistic missile threats in space.

Riki Ellison, who heads the non-profit Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance, said: “It is the US Department of Defence’s best case of equal funding and engineering shared with an allied country to develop and field a new weapon system to better enhance the national security of both nations.”

Raytheon said the new SM-3 IIA missile had bigger rocket motors and a more capable kill vehicle that would allow the missile to engage threats sooner and protect larger regions from short- to intermediate-range ballistic missile threats.

Saturday’s test evaluated the performance of the missile’s nosecone, steering control, and the separation of its booster, and second and third stages.

No intercept was planned, and no target missile was launched, said US and company officials.

“The success of this test keeps the programme on track for a 2018 deployment at sea and ashore,” said Taylor Lawrence, president of Raytheon’s missile systems business.

Ellison said three more years of testing were planned for the new missile before it was put to use on US Navy Aegis ships, Japan’s Kongo ships, and at land-based Aegis Ashore sites in Poland and Romania.—Reuters

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**Obama uses G7 to press UK’s Cameron on defence spending**

KRUEN, Germany, 8 June — US President Barack Obama told Prime Minister David Cameron he hoped Britain would keep military spending at 2 percent of national output, despite London’s need to cut a sizeable budget deficit, a British source said on Sunday.

Obama pressed Cameron on the sensitive subject in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Germany amid concern in the United States that defence spending in its closest ally could be poised to fall below the NATO target.

The exchange will add to domestic pressure on Cameron to maintain defense outlays. Many of his Conservative lawmakers have already urged him to promise not to cut the military budget, something he has so far refused to rule out.

“They touched on 2 percent,” the British source said. “The president underlined the importance of the UK and the US — we are the two pillars of NATO — and said he accepted the fiscal challenges but hoped that the UK would find a way to meet it.”

Cameron told Obama Britain was meeting the 2 percent target for now and reeled off a list of how Britain was using its army around the world, in places like Iraq, to help Washington, the source said.

The British government is due to hold a spending review in the autumn and Cameron, whose government has pledged to erase the deficit as fast as it can, has repeatedly declined to confirm he will maintain spending at the NATO target level.—Reuters

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**Workers unload sacks of imported rice from Vietnam at a port area in Navotas City, the Philippines, on 8 June. The Philippines agreed to import an initial 150,000 tons of rice from Vietnam to prevent a sudden price hike of rice due to the dry spell from the El Nino phenomenon.—Xinhua**

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**Photo taken on 8 June, 2015, at Nagoya Airport in the central Japan town of Toyoyama shows the Mitsubishi Regional Jet, developed by Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. The first-ever Japanese-built small passenger jet started trial taxiing there the same day prior to its maiden flight expected between September and October. KYODO NEWS**
New Zealand confirms role in major Australian-US military drill

Wellington, 8 June — New Zealand troops are to take part for the first time in Australia’s largest military exercise next month, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) confirmed on Monday. The NZDF was deploying 22 light armoured vehicles and two NH90 helicopters as well as two ships, two other aircraft and 620 personnel to Exercise Talisman Sabre, said Major General Tim Gall, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand.

Talismen Sabre was the largest exercise that the Australian Defence Force conducted with the US armed forces in a combined and joint environment, covering training in land, air and maritime warfare, including amphibious operations.

“In Talisman Sabre, our personnel will be working as part of a large force led by the Australian Defence Force and our military assets will be integrated with those of the Australians and the US armed forces,” Gall said in a statement.

The NZDF had been invited to participate in this year’s bilateral exercise being held from 5 to 21 July in multiple training areas in Australia and the United States. It would involve around 30,000 Australian and US troops, 21 ships including the US navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington, more than 200 aircraft and three submarines. A small contingent of Japanese troops are reportedly also joining the biennial exercise for the first time this year. —Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mawgaw Region and Kayah State, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Regions, Shan and Chins States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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People take a bus with paintings on the theme of the ocean in Qingdao City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 8 June, 2015.—Xinhua
Helen Mirren, musical ‘Fun Home’ win top Tony Awards

**“King and I” musical starring Ken Watanabe bags 4 Tony Awards**

Ken Watanabe and Kelli O’Hara perform a scene from the musical ‘The King and I’ during the 69th Annual Tony Awards in New York on 5 June, 2015. —Reuters

**Alchemy acquires distribution rights for Nicolas Cage’s ‘The Runner’**

Nicolas Cage

**Florence and the Machine land third UK No 1 album**

Singer Florence Welch of Florence + the Machine performs on ABC TV’s “Good Morning America” in Central Park in the Manhattan borough of New York on 5 June, 2015. —Reuters

**Broadway’s 2015 Tony Awards winners**

New York, 8 June — The following is a list of winners in major categories at the Tony Awards, American theatre’s highest honors which were handed out on Sunday at Radio City Music Hall.

- Best musical: “Fun Home”
- Best play: “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”
- Best performance by a leading actor in a musical: Michael Cerveris, “Fun Home”
- Best performance by a leading actress in a musical: Ruthie Ann Miles, “The King and I”

**Tom Hanks’ son wanted by police**

Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks

Michael Cerveris, “Fun Home”

Best performance by a leading actor in a play:

Alex Sharp, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”

Best performance by a leading actress in a play:

Helen Mirren, “The Audience”

Best direction of a musical:

Sam Gold, “Fun Home”

Best direction of a play:

Marianne Elliott, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”

Best book of a musical:

“Fun Home”, Lisa Kron

Best original score:

“Fun Home”, Jeanine Tesori, Lisa Kron

Best choreography:

“An American in Paris”—Reuters
US woman sets out to become first to row across Pacific alone

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 June — An American began a 6,000-mile (9,656-km) voyage on Sunday in Japan, attempting to be the third person and the first woman to cross the Pacific Ocean by herself in a rowboat.

Sonya Baumstein, 30, set out in her carbon and kevlar boat from Choshi Marina, Japan, beginning the four to six-month odyssey to San Francisco, according to expeditionpacific.com, her support team’s website. “And she’s off!!” her team said in a Tweet after she launched.

Despite 16 attempted solo rows across the Pacific, no women and only two men have successfully completed the journey — Frenchmen Gerard d’Aboville in 1991 and Emmanuel Coindre in 2005, according to Ocean Rowing Society records. Baumstein is travelling in a custom-made 23-foot (7-meter), 660-pound (300-kg) boat without a motor or sail.

“Sonya’s not crazy,” Andrew Cull, the journey’s operation manager, in a May interview with Reuters. “She’s driven. Maybe a little bit bullheaded. She gets an idea in her head and will do anything necessary to get it done.”

On board, she has 1,200 pounds (544 kg) of freeze-dried food, 180 high-carbohydrate drink supplements and a cache of olive oil that she will consume in hopes of retaining as much weight as possible.

Baumstein’s boat has an electric water maker that desalinates seawater for drinking. Her bathroom on board will be a bucket.

Baumstein, who was recruited as a rower by the University of Wisconsin-Madison before a car accident derailed her collegiate athletic career, expects to burn up to 10,000 calories a day and has gained 40 pounds (18 kg) for the trip. Her team will aid her from land via satellite phone, she will be tracked by GPS, and will have an emergency beacon in case of trouble, but there will be no support vessel.

The only other woman to attempt to row from Japan to San Francisco was Briton Sarah Outen. But she was blown northward and after 149 days ended her 2013 journey in the Aleutian Islands.

Reuters

Europeans make World Cup arrivals with thrashings

OTTAWA, 8 June — Top-ranked Germany announced their arrival at the Women’s World Cup on Sunday by handing out a near-record 11-0 thrashing to Ivory Coast that underlined the gulf between the heavyweights and emerging teams.

For the first time, the World Cup has been expanded to 24 sides from 16, which opens up the tournament to newcomers like Thailand and Ivory Coast.

Governing body FIFA says this reflects the increasing strength of women’s football but the debutants learnt on Sunday just how far behind they still are.

Germany’s victory in their Group B opener, which featured hat-tricks from Celicia Sasic and Anja Mittag, was the second biggest win in tournament history.

Norway earlier overwhelmed Thailand 4-0 in a one-sided triumph that should have been much bigger.

Ivy Coast coach Clementine Toure said her team had been somewhat taken aback by just how good the Germans were.

“We want to be a competitive side and playing the finest team in the world is the best way for us to learn,” she said.

A few hours before her players were humiliated, Norway had outmuscled Thailand, and only wasteful finishing prevented them from scoring many more.

“We’ll play differently the next game ... we’ve learned quite a bit,” said rueful Norwegian coach Sondre Aaberg.

Germany and Norway next play each other on June 11 in a game that will decide who wins the group.

“If you score 10 times I think you can be quite confident going into the next match,” said Neid.

The World Cup is being played on artificial turf, which some players said was very dry despite being watered immediately before the game.

“It’s not what we’re used to, but we have to accept it,” said German striker Mittag.

Other teams that could reach the 5 July final include the second-ranked United States, who start in Winnipeg on Monday against Australia, the number 10 side.

“If we can bring our ‘A’ game that day, I’m sure we’re going to be a big rival to the US,” said Australian coach Alen Stajcic.

The teams are in Group D, the so-called ‘Group of Death’, which also features fifth-ranked Sweden and Nigeria.

There were only two games on Saturday and Sunday but starting on Monday, that will double. Japan, ranked fourth, open their Group C campaign against Switzerland in Vancouver while Ecuador meet Cameroon.

Hosts Canada kicked off the event on Saturday with a laboured 1-0 win over China, courtesy of a late penalty call. The team looked particularly blunt in attack.

“They will need to find something more than what they showed here ... if they have larger ambitions,” Globe and Mail football commentator Cathal Kennedy wrote.

Reuters

Michigan boy, 15, completes 57-mile walk with brother on his back

DETROIT, 8 June — A 15-year-old Michigan boy on Sunday completed a three-day, 57-mile walk across the state, carrying his younger brother on his back, as part of a campaign to raise awareness for Cerebral Palsy.

Hunter Gandee started the long trek with little brother Braden, who suffers from Cerebral Palsy, on Friday morning in Lambertville, Michigan, an unincorporated community near the Ohio border.

The brothers reached the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor at about 4 p.m. on Sunday, joined for the final leg by friends and family.

The walk, which made national headlines, marks the second long-distance march for the brothers.

Last year, they walked to Ann Arbor from their home in Temperance, Mich.

Hunter Gandee said the walk was not intended as a fundraiser, but rather an awareness campaign about the debilitating condition. During the hike, though, he rallied support to raise $200,000 toward the construction of a handicap accessible playground at Branden’s school.

The play place would include rubber flooring, ramps instead of stairs and other accommodations to make it easier for kids like his brother to enjoy recess.

The boys’ mother, Danielle Gandee, said all four of her children have taken part in the effort. "Extremely proud of them as well as their sister Kerrigan and little brother Kellen and even more so of their group of friends who have walked this entire journey to show support," Gandee said in a message to Reuters. "Love these kids!" — Reuters
Triumphant Wawrinka dashes Djokovic’s Paris dream

Switzerland’s Stanislas Wawrinka celebrates with the trophy after winning the final with Former Brazilian tennis player Gustavo Kuerten (R) and French Tennis Federation President Jean Gachassin as Serbia’s Novak Djokovic looks on with his runners up trophy.—Reuters

Paris, 8 June — As his blazing backhand skidded off from inside the baseline, Stanislas Wawrinka sent his racket rocketing skywards after dashing Novak Djokovic’s French Open dreams with a victory barely anyone destined to join the all-time greats by completing a career grand slam.

But destiny and reality were not on the same wavelength on Sunday as Djokovic, who had conquered nine-times champion Rafa Nadal in the quarter-finals and third seed Andy Murray in the semis, fell two sets short of the one title he so desperately desires.

“I played the match of my life, it’s hard to believe. Playing against Novak was one of the biggest challenges. I know how much he wanted this Roland Garros,” a gracious Wawrinka told the crowd.

“My son and his teammates for making footballing history at the U-20 World Cup in New Zealand,” U Htay Oo told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Among the supporters was well-known event presenter Ko Mg Mg Aye, who also etched his name in the history books by becoming Myanmar’s first World Cup goal scorer in the team’s 2-1 loss to the United States.

“I got a lot of experience in the Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand,” Yan Naing Oo said.

“The good thing for us is to take lessons from the games we lost,” Forward Aung Thu, who provided one of the highlights of the tournament, said.

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Family members and football fans packed the arrivals hall at Yangon International Airport to greet the team, who made history by becoming the first Myanmar side to play at any World Cup finals.

U Htay Oo, father of defender Kyaw Min Oo, was among the admirers waiting for the players.

“I am incredibly proud of my son and his teammates for making footballing history at the U-20 World Cup in New Zealand,” U Htay Oo told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

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“Barcelona, 8 June — Sevilla midfielder Aleix Vidal will join treble winners Barcelona pending a medical for a reported 23 million euros ($25.5 million), the Catalan club said on Sunday.

Vidal has stood out for the Europa League winners this season and has been rewarded by his first call up to the latest Spain squad by coach Vicente del Bosque.

“Barcelona and Sevila have reached an agreement for the transfer of Aleix Vidal,” Barcelona said in a statement.

Vidal will have a medical on Monday and then sign a five-year contract for Barcelona, who won the Champions League on Saturday following their La Liga triumph and King’s Cup victory.

However, Barca will be unable to play Vidal until January 2016 due to new transfer rules after breaking rules over foreignunder-18 players.

Reuters

Medal Standings for Monday 8 June, 2015

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Match Schedules for 9 June 2015

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