Myanmar, China discuss peace and stability in border regions

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—President U Thein Sein received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan, who had completed his tour of duty, at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Thursday.

They discussed promotion of economic cooperation between Myanmar and China, peace and stability in border regions and further cementing friendly relations between the two countries.

Also present at the call were union ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Than and U Ye Htut and officials.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.

Myanmar Investment Commission gives nods to 15 local, foreign firms in June

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 11 June — Fifteen domestic and overseas firms received approval in June to operate in Myanmar as joint venture, locally owned or wholly foreign enterprises, said Myanmar Investment Commission Thursday.

The approved businesses comprise manufacturing, construction, real estate, services and hospitality.

Among the 15 enterprises approved at the commission’s meeting this month, Grand Andaman Co., Ltd received a permit to start a locally owned hotel business on a 1,800-acre plot on Thuhtay Island in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region.

Heritage Property Development Company was also granted a permit as a locally-owned enterprise to lease office and commercial buildings on a 0.584-acre plot in Mayangon Township, the secondary central business district of Yangon.

In a sign of further expansion of the country’s garment industry, five wholly-foreign enterprises —Zhongrun (Myanmar), J-Land Myanmar, JOC Myanmar, Jia Mei and Heshan Myanmar—will establish clothing manufacturing businesses in industrial zones in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

Other factories operated by the approved enterprises will produce goods including beverages, packaging, plastic products, (See page 9)

MRTV channels to broadcast live Myanmar-Thai Sepak Takraw final

By Ye Myint

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—MRTV News channel and MRTV Entertainment channel will broadcast live the final match between Myanmar and Thai teams in the men’s double regular event of Sepak Takraw Contest in the 28th SEA Games at 7.20 am on 12 June.—MNA

Vietnam conference seeks sustainable tourism strategies for Mekong nations

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—Travel industry stakeholders will gather in Da Nam, Vietnam next week to discuss the promotion of sustainable tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Asian Development Bank said Wednesday.

The ADB defines the GMS as six countries—Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam—which share the Mekong River. Collectively, the area is the fastest-growing tourist destination in the Asia-Pacific region.

(See page 3)

Fishermen use traditional fishing techniques on Inlay Lake. The large mountain lake located in Shan State was inscribed as the first biosphere reserve of Myanmar during meetings at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on Tuesday.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears report on disputed mine project

**Pyithu Hluttaw**

Nav Pyi Taw, 11 June — A progress report concerning a disputed copper mine project was read out at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday. According to the profit-sharing ratio of the modified contract, the government will receive 51 percent while Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and the Myanmar Wanbao Company will take 19 percent and 30 percent respectively, the deputy minister said. The new contract requires the project to annually contribute US $1 million for regional development activities at its construction period, 2 percent of its annual profits at its production period, and $2 million for reclamation activities at its shutdown. The copper mine project has employed 1,678 local people and 336 from other areas. According to the progress report, 37 of 42 suggestions made in the investigative report have been implemented.

**Amyotha Hluttaw**

Nav Pyi Taw, 11 June — The Amyotha Hluttaw approved bills Thursday to hold a referendum on constitutional reform and amend the Myanmar Town and Village Lands Act. MPs continued Wednesday’s debate on construction of a diversion dam on Thanlwin River. U Myo Myint, MP of Mandalay region constituency 6, suggested central and southeastern parts of Myanmar need the dam to address annual drought and floods. Regarding the proposal, Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon region constituency remarked the mega projects should have social and environmental benefits without putting a burden on the state and the people. U Sai San Min, MP of Shan state constituency 3, opposed the project saying that locals are worried about floods if the dam or reservoir collapses due to earthquake. He also remarked that a ceasefire agreement is a prerequisite to developing these infrastructures, so as not to fuel conflicts among the government military and ethnic armed groups. U Kywe Khan, MP of Chin state constituency 1, suggested suspension of the diversion dam, saying reforestation plans should be implemented to conserve water resources in the central region and northern and western areas of the country.

**Zo National Regional Development Party applies for registration as political party**

Nav Pyi Taw, 11 June — The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registration as a political party. Zo National Regional Development Party-Z.N.R.D. applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on Wednesday.—MNA

**8 companies vie to run state-owned fertilizer factory**

By Aye Min Soe

Yangon, 12 June — Eight companies have expressed interest in running the state-owned No. 3 Fertilizer Factory in Aunglan Township through the joint venture system, the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy announced Tuesday.

The ministry did not disclose when it will select the winning bidder from among the firms to have applied by the 4 May deadline.

The ministry invited local and foreign companies experienced in urea production, storage and marketing in mid-March to apply to run one of its fertilizer factories. The foreign companies which submitted expression of interests to the ministry are Chiyoza Corporation, ITOCHU Corporation and Sofit Corp from Japan and Haldor Topsoe from Denmark, while local companies are Capital Diamond Star Group, Parami Energy Services Co Ltd and UMG Co Ltd.

Another local fertilizer firm, Myanmar Awba Group, has issued a joint bid for the project with Eurochem Agro GmbH of Germany.

Also known as the Kyawza Fertilizer Factory, the plant is located on 902 acres in Aunglan Township. It was in operation from 1987 to 2010 and manufactured up to 450 tons of urea per day.
President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Russian Federation, the Philippines

Myanmar, China to further strengthen friendly ties

Myanmar prepares 7th CLMV Summit, 6th ACMECS Summit

Union FM sends messages of felicitations to Russian, Philippine counterparts

Union H&T Minister receives Vice President of ASEAN & India, Advertising Sales of BBC

Vietnam conference seeks...
Farmers receive Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds as poppy substitute

Muse, 11 June — A ceremony to distribute Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds was held in Mantaung Village in Muse Township, northern Shan State, on 10 June.

The District Agriculture Department is distributing the seeds to farmers in the hope that they will plant them as an alternative to opium poppies.

Department head Daw Nang Lwin Lwin Sein spoke about good agricultural practices and use of pesticide. Departmental officials presented paddy seeds for 50 acres of farmlands to local growers.

Also present were district’s deputy commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, commander of Muse District Police Force Police Lt-Col Min Min Oo, township administrator U Ko Ko Zaw, local authorities and residents.—Mong Soe (IPRD)

School leaders discuss private education law

Mandalay, 11 June — Representatives from 40 private schools in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and surrounding regions recently met to discuss the drafting of the private education law at ILBC-IGCE School in Mahtaungmye Township, Mandalay.

They exchanged ideas on matters including the aims of the law and the role of teachers in private schools.

They also discussed the establishment of a private schools association.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Nyaungtay Bridge in Myanaung Tsp ready for use

Myanaung, 11 June — Township Department of Rural Development spent surplus funds at tender on construction of the Nyaungtay Bridge on Thabyegon-Daungkya Road in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region.

The 47-foot-long and 12-foot-wide bridge has an iron and wood structure.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Local authorities upgrade Lahagyi-Theingon-Wayonchaung road

Laymyethna, 11 June — Township Department of Rural Development in Laymyethna Township spent its capital fund from tender ceremony on upgrading of rural earthen road to a gravel road in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Head of Hinthada District Department of Rural Development U Aung Thet Shay and Head of the township department U Than Zaw Soe inspected progress of upgrading the road recently.

The township department assigned Phyo Htet and Associates Company to place gravel on the 3.5-mile-long Lahagyi-Theingon-Wayonchaung Road in Laymyethna Township.

Local residents apply for sitting the driving tests at Pobbathiri Township Directorate of Road Administration in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Shwe Yee Yint

District and township officials of Department of Rural Development look into progress of placing gravel on rural road.

Laymyethna, 11 June — Township Department of Rural Development in Laymyethna Township spent its capital fund from tender ceremony on upgrading of rural earthen road to a gravel road in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Head of Hinthada District Department of Rural Development U Aung Thet Shay and Head of the township department U Than Zaw Soe inspected progress of upgrading the road recently.

The township department assigned Phyo Htet and Associates Company to place gravel on the 3.5-mile-long Lahagyi-Theingon-Wayonchaung Road in Laymyethna Township.

Township DRD
Mandalay, 11 June—The Korea Expo, showcasing South Korean-made products including cars, agricultural machinery and construction materials, was held at the city hall in Mandalay from 9 to 12 June. Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung opened the expo, held in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and South Korea.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Mandalay, 11 June—Local authorities in Satpyakyin Village, situated in Ayeyawady Region’s Myanaung Township, on 10 June distributed to farmers 14.79 acres of land seized June by the local regiment.

The Village and Township Land Utilization Management Committee and Township Department of Settlement and Land Records presented the land to local farmers at the hall of Township General Administration Department. The Defence Services confiscated farmlands for the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Training School in Myanaung. The local regiment then released the farmlands the school did not use to eight farmland owners.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Mandywa, 11 June—Under the supervision of the Sagaing Region government, the Irrigation Department is building the Htanzalok water supporting dam on Bukha Creek in Myaungwa Township.

Htanzalok Dam was built in 1996 and began storing water in 1998. Its storage capacity is 2,800-acre feet.

“Water flowing out from the spillway of the dam causes flood in villages and along the entrance road to Monywa yearly.” an official of Irrigation Department said. “So, the region government gave guidance for construction of a supporting dam, five miles upstream of Htanzalok Dam. The supporting dam will have a 1,890-foot long earthen embankment.” The supporting dam is being built with the aim of helping local farmers.

“We are trying hard to inaugurate the dam in coming September. Construction is 69 percent complete,” Engineer U Zaw Min Tun of Irrigation Department said.

Htanzalok Dam irrigates 1,468 acres of farmlands in the region. Upon completion of the supporting dam, Htanzalok Dam can extend its irrigation area year-round.

Po Chan (Monywa)

Mandalay, 11 June—A ceremony to pay respect to teachers was held in conjunction with the donation of a vehicle to the social welfare association at Aung Thamadi Goldsmith School in Aungmyethazan Township recently.

Owner of Aung Thamadi gold refinery U Aung Hsan Win paid respects and presented K200,000 each to the teachers. He also donated a Toyota Surf to Aung Myitta Health and Social Welfare Association from Wanbewin Village in Pinlebu Township.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 11 June—The International Labour Organization and the Mandalay Labour Department recently conducted a workshop on international migration at Nadi Myanmar Hotel in Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay.

Technical Officer Ms Jaequeline Pollock of ILO and National Consultant Daw Wai Hnin Moe led the discussions at the workshop.

A total of 25 departmental officials participated in the discussions.

Migrant worker centres have been opened in Mandalay, Kyaukse, Meiktila and Myintyan in Mandalay Region. Trained staff have been assigned to the centres to assist migrant workers.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)
South Korea cuts rates as MERS clouds outlook; 14 new cases

Seoul, 11 June — A deadly outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) forced South Korea’s central bank to cut interest rates on Thursday as authorities reported 14 new cases.

Wary in South Korea about the outbreak has been reflected across the region with dozens of suspected cases being tested in Hong Kong, though none confirmed, and many thousands of trips to South Korea cancelled.

South Korea’s outbreak, with 122 cases and nine deaths, is the largest outside Saudi Arabia and began last month when a 68-year-old South Korean businessman brought the disease back from a trip to the Middle East.

All subsequent infections have been traced to the original patient and happened in health facilities. President Park Geun-hye has put off a trip to the United States to deal with the disease as the total number of cases rises daily.

The central bank of Asia’s fourth biggest economy said it had to act and cut its policy rate by 25 basis points to a record-low 1.50 percent.

“We decided to cut rates today in a pre-emptive move to contain the economic fallout from MERS,” Bank of Korea Governor Lee Ju-yeol told a media briefing.

Economic policymakers were already under pressure to stimulate the economy as weak global demand and a strong won have dented exports and discouraged spending by consumers and companies.

One positive sign was a fall in the number of South Korea’s schools and universities that have closed. The total dipped to 2,431 on Thursday from about 2,700 the previous day after a joint team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and South Korea recommended that schools be reopened as they were unlikely to spread the disease.

“We all need to put behind us excessive fear and psychological withdrawal over MERS and try to go back to normal daily lives next week so we can minimise the impact on the economy,” Kim Moo-sung, who heads the ruling Saenuri party, said at a party meeting.—Reuters

Indonesian president looks to open up neglected Papua region

Jakarta, 11 June — Indonesian President Joko Widodo wants to open up the remote and impoverished region of Papua after decades of conflict and neglect, but will first need the backing of the military, parliament and separatists.

Palace officials said the president plans to free dozens of political prisoners, launch a slew of infrastructure projects, and confront the serious unemployment problem in the easternmost province of the Indonesian archipelago.

“The new approach will be more humane, with the aim of developing Papua more fairly,” Ma'ruf Amin, director of human rights for the justice ministry, told Reuters.

A separatist movement has kept Papua under the close supervision of the military, more than 50 years after Indonesia seized control of the resource-rich area following the end of Dutch colonial rule.

Despite an abundance of forests and minerals, ordinary Papuans have seen little benefit with their schools, hospitals and infrastructure in dire straits due to rampant corruption.

Widodo has made developing Papua one of his top priorities and has already visited the region twice as president, announcing plans for a region-wide road network, fiber optic cable system, sport facilities and a major deep sea port.

Widodo’s predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, only visited Papua three times during his 10-year tenure.

Heralding a new era for peace and development, Widodo last month released five political prisoners and lifted travel restrictions for foreign journalists in Papua.

But in a clear indication of the difficult road ahead for Widodo, military chief Moeldoko quickly revised the president’s statement saying foreign journalists would still need special permits to travel there because of security concerns.

“Opening up to the media and what we are doing with the political prisoners are all aimed at eventually resolving the role of the military in Papua,” Eko Sulistyow, a member of the presidential office, told Reuters.

“It has to be done gradually.”

The president wants to free more political prisoners and plans to ask for approval from parliament, where Widodo’s party only controls a minority coalition.

Army spokesman Wuryanto said “there has to be considerations before freeing the prisoners,” but did not elaborate.

The president is also considering halting transmigration policies and introducing affirmative action for hiring indigenous Papuans in local government, which is currently dominated by migrants from Java and Sulawesi islands.

“If the approach is wrong, it’s a fine line between wanting to be part of Indonesia and becoming a freedom fighter,” Sulistyow said.

Reuters

Singapore must get prepared for MERS: PM

Singapore, 11 June — It is “just a matter of time” before the first case of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is detected in Singapore, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Thursday.

“For us it’s a matter of time, and for us, I wanted to be quite sure that our medical facilities, our medical staff, the hospitals, the whole team are ready and they know how to deal with it. They don’t fumble and we can contain it, and then put a stop to the disease in Singapore as quickly as we can,” said the prime minister in a visit to Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH).

TTSH has been designated by Singapore’s Health Ministry to be the isolation center for suspected and confirmed MERS patients once the virus was identified by Singapore’s National Oxigen Hospital (TTSH).

Lee added the public also needs to know how to respond. If one has travelled and feels unwell, or displays flu symptoms, these individuals should take it seriously and visit the hospital.

If there were to be MERS cases in the country, Singaporeans should not get into a panic, but know that the country is prepared and what can be done, Lee said.

TTSH said the hospital has prepared to handle global pandemic threats, along with dedicated facilities.

Singapore has also started temperature screening at air checkpoints for travelers arriving from South Korea since Tuesday.

No case of MERS cases has been reported in Singapore up to now. But the country’s Health Ministry to be the designated by Singapore’s National Oxigen Hospital (TTSH).

One positive sign happened in health facilities in the hospital.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo

Jakarta, 11 June — Indonesian President Joko Widodo wants to open up the remote and impoverished region of Papua after decades of conflict and neglect, but will first need the backing of the military, parliament and separatists.

Palace officials said the president plans to free dozens of political prisoners, launch a slew of infrastructure projects, and confront the serious unemployment problem in the easternmost province of the Indonesian archipelago.

“The new approach will be more humane, with the aim of developing Papua more fairly,” Ma’ruf Amin, director of human rights for the justice ministry, told Reuters.

A separatist movement has kept Papua under the close supervision of the military, more than 50 years after Indonesia seized control of the resource-rich area following the end of Dutch colonial rule.

Despite an abundance of forests and minerals, ordinary Papuans have seen little benefit with their schools, hospitals and infrastructure in dire straits due to rampant corruption.

Widodo has made developing Papua one of his top priorities and has already visited the region twice as president, announcing plans for a region-wide road network, fiber optic cable system, sport facilities and a major deep sea port.

Widodo’s predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, only visited Papua three times during his 10-year tenure.

Heralding a new era for peace and development, Widodo last month released five political prisoners and lifted travel restrictions for foreign journalists in Papua.

But in a clear indication of the difficult road ahead for Widodo, military chief Moeldoko quickly revised the president’s statement saying foreign journalists would still need special permits to travel there because of security concerns.

“Opening up to the media and what we are doing with the political prisoners are all aimed at eventually reducing the role of the military in Papua,” Eko Sulistyow, a member of the presidential office, told Reuters.

“It has to be done gradually.”

The president wants to free more political prisoners and plans to ask for approval from parliament, where Widodo’s party only controls a minority coalition.

Army spokesman Wuryanto said “there has to be considerations before freeing the prisoners,” but did not elaborate.

The president is also considering halting transmigration policies and introducing affirmative action for hiring indigenous Papuans in local government, which is currently dominated by migrants from Java and Sulawesi islands.

“If the approach is wrong, it’s a fine line between wanting to be part of Indonesia and becoming a freedom fighter,” Sulistyow said.

Reuters

Indonesian president looks to open up neglected Papua region

Jakarta, 11 June — Indonesian President Joko Widodo wants to open up the remote and impoverished region of Papua after decades of conflict and neglect, but will first need the backing of the military, parliament and separatists.

Palace officials said the president plans to free dozens of political prisoners, launch a slew of infrastructure projects, and confront the serious unemployment problem in the easternmost province of the Indonesian archipelago.

“The new approach will be more humane, with the aim of developing Papua more fairly,” Ma’ruf Amin, director of human rights for the justice ministry, told Reuters.

A separatist movement has kept Papua under the close supervision of the military, more than 50 years after Indonesia seized control of the resource-rich area following the end of Dutch colonial rule.

Despite an abundance of forests and minerals, ordinary Papuans have seen little benefit with their schools, hospitals and infrastructure in dire straits due to rampant corruption.

Widodo has made developing Papua one of his top priorities and has already visited the region twice as president, announcing plans for a region-wide road network, fiber optic cable system, sport facilities and a major deep sea port.

Widodo’s predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, only visited Papua three times during his 10-year tenure.

Heralding a new era for peace and development, Widodo last month released five political prisoners and lifted travel restrictions for foreign journalists in Papua.

But in a clear indication of the difficult road ahead for Widodo, military chief Moeldoko quickly revised the president’s statement saying foreign journalists would still need special permits to travel there because of security concerns.

“Opening up to the media and what we are doing with the political prisoners are all aimed at eventually reducing the role of the military in Papua,” Eko Sulistyow, a member of the presidential office, told Reuters.

“It has to be done gradually.”

The president wants to free more political prisoners and plans to ask for approval from parliament, where Widodo’s party only controls a minority coalition.

Army spokesman Wuryanto said “there has to be considerations before freeing the prisoners,” but did not elaborate.

The president is also considering halting transmigration policies and introducing affirmative action for hiring indigenous Papuans in local government, which is currently dominated by migrants from Java and Sulawesi islands.

“If the approach is wrong, it’s a fine line between wanting to be part of Indonesia and becoming a freedom fighter,” Sulistyow said.

Reuters

Indonesian president looks to open up neglected Papua region

Indonesian President Joko Widodo

Indonesian President Joko Widodo
WASHINGTON, 11 June — Differences between the United States and China over the South China Sea and cybersecurity should not be addressed by "microphone diplomacy" but in "a proper way," to allow for a successful US visit by President Xi Jinping this year, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Wednesday.

Wu Xi, deputy chief of mission at the Chinese embassy in Washington, said individual issues should not be allowed to overshadow the overall US-China relationship and that common interests, including bilateral trade volume of $550 billion ($354.63 billion) last year, “far outweigh” differences between the countries.

“Resorting to micro-phone diplomacy, or pointing fingers at each other, will not solve any problems,” Wu told a meeting on Capitol Hill to mark the 10th anniversary of the US Congress’s US-China Working Group.

“The right choice is to recognize our differences, respect each other and engage in real dialogue,” she said. “The choice we make today will decide the future of our two great nations, as well as the entire world.”

Wu was referring to disagreements between Washington and Beijing over China’s increasingly assertive pursuit of territorial claims in the South China Sea, which have raised fears of military confrontation, and a massive cyber attack on the US government that US officials have blamed on Chinese hackers.

China has called the hacking allegations irresponsible and says it has the right to build artificial islands in contested territory. Wu said the sides should use the annual meeting of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue from 22-24 June, and a US visit this week of a top Chinese military official, "to articulate the outcome and deliverables" for Xi’s September visit to Washington.

“We need to address our differences in a proper way,” she told reporters.

Wu said she did not see any US-China “tensions,” as the countries shared a common interest in peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and always discussed differences.

“We have no alternative but to succeed in the interests of our two nations and the world,” she said.

US Representative Rick Larson, a co-founder of the bi-partisan Working Group, said that as the world’s two largest economies, the United States and China “cannot afford not to engage.”

Reuters

China urges end to ‘microphone diplomacy’ over US differences

SEUL, 11 June — The number of South Koreans diagnosed with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) increased to 122 since the first case was reported on 20 May, while the first case of Chinese infection was reported, the health ministry said on Thursday.

Fourteen new cases were added on Thursday, including a 39-year-old pregnant woman, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare. She has been in stable conditions, but if she develops symptoms, she will have a cesarean section. Among the new cases were eight people contracting the virus at the Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul. The total number infected at the Samsung hospital surged to 55 with the eight new infections.

The 115th patient was the first case contracting the virus outside of the emergency room of the Samsung hospital, raising fears for a human-to-human transmission in the community. The 77-year-old woman visited the hospital as an outpatient on 27 May, but it was not sure whether she was infected from the 14th patient as others were.

One contagion was reported at the Hallym University Medical Centre in Hwasong, Gyeonggi Province, increasing the total case at the hospital to four. The ministry failed to figure out where the five others caught the virus as they were confirmed positive overnight. The health authorities were conducting an epidemiological study of the five patients.

China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) said that a Chinese woman, 64, living in South Korea tested positive for the MERS. It was the first Chinese case of MERS infection. The woman had close with another confirmed patient at a South Korean hospital, for which she had worked, and has since been placed under quarantine.

According to the Korea Tourism Organization, a total of 67,700 foreigners had canceled their travel plan to South Korea for the first nine days of May due to fears for the MERS epidemic.

The number of South Koreans put under quarantine increased to 3,805 on Thursday from 3,439 the previous day. Among them were 3,591 people quarantined at home and 214 staying at the government-designated hospitals.

The number of those freed from the quarantine list totaled 955. Still, the test of 225 potential carriers was underway.

No death was added on Thursday, leaving the death toll at nine. Thirteen patients were in serious condition. —Xinhua

MERS infections rise to 122, one Chinese infected in S Korea

Shinzo Abe

Tokyo, 11 June — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering attending an event in Tokyo to mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and South Korea, a Japanese government source said on Thursday.

Abe’s final decision on attending the 22 June event organized by the South Korean embassy in Tokyo will hinge on whether South Korean President Park Geun-hye will attend a similar commemorative nothing has been heard by the Japanese Embassy in Seoul on the same day, the source said.

The two countries will be holding the events amid strained bilateral ties due to a territorial row and conflicting views on Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The issue of the so-called Korean “comfort women” for the Japanese Imperial Army also remains a thorny issue between the Asian neighbours.

These issues have kept Abe and Park from holding a formal one-on-one meeting since they took office in 2012 and in 2013 respectively.

As the two countries are preparing for the events, senior Japanese and South Korean diplomats held talks in Tokyo on Thursday. They discussed who should attend the anniversary events in Tokyo and Seoul among other issues.

Abe’s final decision on attending the event to mark 50th anniversary of Japan-S Korea ties
Self-Reliance

Kyi Mun

Self-reliance means: Ability to do or decide things by yourself, rather than depending on other people for help. Now, let’s explore some wider meanings of self-reliance as follows:

F for Struggle
E for Earnestness
L for Living, Moving & Having Our Being in Self-reliance
F for Faith, Focus and Fight
R for Resilience
E for Endurance
L for Loyal Mind
I for Indomitable Spirit
A for Audacious Spirit
N for Never Giving Up
C for Commitment
E for Endeavour
S for STRUGGLE

Struggle means: (1) To try very hard to do something when it is difficult or when there are a lot of problems: A country struggling for independence; She struggled for breath; He is a struggling artist. (2) To move somewhere or do something with difficulty: I struggled up the hill with the heavy bags; Paul struggled out of his wheelchair. (3) To fight against somebody/something in order to prevent a bad situation or result: He struggled against cancer for two years; Lisa struggled with her conscience before talking to the police. (4) To fight somebody or try to get away from them. I struggled and screamed for help. (5) To compete or argue with somebody, especially in order to get something. Rival leaders struggling for power.

A self-reliant person cannot but struggle for success with all his/her heart, with all his/her mind and with all his/her strength. Struggling people for success should passionately practice: PLAIN LIVING & HARD STRUGGLE; SIMPLE LIVING & HIGH THINKING: DILIGENCE & FRUGALITY. They should dare to struggle and dare to win; and they also should dare to scale the heights.

Earnest means: Very Serious and Sincere. In earnest means: (1) More seriously and with more force or effort than before. e.g. The work on the house will begin in earnest on Monday. (2) Very serious and sincere about what you are saying and about your intentions; in a way that show that you are serious: e.g. You may laugh but I’m in deadly earnest; I could tell she spoke in earnest.

A self-reliant person is usually very earnest in his/her resolution to determine to succeed in life.

Faith means: (1) Trust in somebody’s ability or knowledge; trust that somebody/something will do what has been promised: e.g. I have great faith in you—I know you will do well. (2) Strong religious belief: e.g. FAITH is stronger than reason. (3) The intention to do something right: e.g. they handed over the weapons as a gesture of good faith. It is said in the Bible that if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can remove the mountain. Focus means: the thing or person that people are most interested in; the act of paying special attention to something and make people interested in it.

Fight, here, means: To try very hard to get something or to achieve something: e.g. he is still fighting for compensation after the accident. Fight your way: She gradually fought her way to the top of the company. Fight to do something: Doctors fought for more than six hours to save his life. Self-reliant people usually have faith, focus and the fighting spirit in their life-journeys. They are unbeatable fighters.

Resilience means: The ability of people or things to feel better quickly after something unpleasant such as shock, injury etc. A self-reliant person has the strength and courage to surmount the vicissitudes of life. He/ she can withstand and cope with the eight winds of life. People with the spirit of resilience are never fainthearted, cowardly or whimpering in habit.

ENDURANCE

Endurance means: The ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without complaining: e.g. He shows remarkable endurance throughout his illness; They were humiliated beyond endurance; This event tests both physical and mental endurance.

People with self-reliance are people of great endurance. It is said that the wisdom of life is to endure what we must, and to change what we can.

LOFTY MIND

Lofty means: Deserving praise because of the high moral quality. So, lofty mind means a mind endowed with the quality of high moral standard. A self-reliant person has a high moral character. He or she usually has a BIG SKY-MIND and the habit of PATIENCE, FORBEARINGNESS and FORGIVENESS.

INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

Audacious means: Having the quality of being willing to take risks or to do something shocking. People with the spirit of self-reliance are rare people with audacious spirit. People with audacious spirit are relentless fighters with tremendous courage and persistence.

NEVER GIVING UP

Giving up means: To stop trying to do something. Giving in means: To admit that you have been defeated. Self-reliant people are, indeed, people who: “Never give up” Never give in Stand up to it, and Fight it through to victory.”

COMMITTED

Committed means: Willing to work hard and give your time and energy to something; believing strongly in something: e.g. A committed member of the team: They are committed democrats. People with the spirit of self-reliance are in fact, committed people, with a great sense of dedication and purpose.

ENDEAVOUR

Endeavour means: To try very hard to do something: synonym is strive. People with the spirit of self-reliance are, indeed, people who always:

• Drive
• Strive
• Thrive
• Arrive
• Revive

CONCLUSION

Ants and bees are the exemplary creatures of the spirit of self-reliance. Have a great spirit of self-reliance!
Meeting of High level Task Force (HLTF) on ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June — The fifth meeting of the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision was held at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, here from 8 to 11 June.

The meeting discussed the draft ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Political and Security Community Attendant Document and the draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN Community Vision 2025 which will be submitted to the 27th ASEAN Summit.

HLTF meetings will be held in other ASEAN Member States to finalize the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its attendant documents from the three pillars as well as the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

Myanmar delegation attends Meeting of Economic and Social Council

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June — Myanmar delegation led by U Aung Lynn, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended Coordination and Management Meeting of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 8th to 10th June 2015 in New York, the US and made a statement on Myanmar’s efforts for the graduation from LDC status at 10:40 local standard time on 10th June 2015.

He said that Myanmar had made substantial progress in all three LDC criteria mentioned in the report of the 17th session of the plenary meeting of Committee for Development Policy (CDP) adopted at the ECOSOC meeting, the leader of Myanmar delegation mentioned mainly about the implementation and efforts of Myanmar to graduate from LDC status and the cooperation between Myanmar and UN including international organizations.

The paper says supporting committees will be formed to ensure more national revenues

No mention of raising taxes, right?

No, it’s just about countering tax evasion.

Myanmar Investment Commission…

(from page 1)

fishing hooks, foodstuffs and cement in the industrial zones of Yangon and Bago regions and Shan State. The factories are to be operated as joint ventures or wholly foreign investments.

In the service sector, two businesses—PECI (Myanmar) Limited and Two Elephant Asia Group Co., Ltd—will engage in mechanical fabrication and related services, as well as rental services of heavy cranes, as joint ventures. In May, the Myanmar Investment Commission allowed seven foreign and local enterprises to engage in manufacturing and constructing businesses.

According to MIC figures, Myanmar last fiscal year approved $8 billion worth of foreign investment from 38 countries and 211 companies. The commission expects to approve $6 billion worth of foreign investment in the current fiscal year.

Tower cranes are seen on the riverside in Yangon. A heavy crane rental service is among the enterprises approved in June by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

PHOTO: YE MYINT
Russia, Serbia tied by common civilizational roots

Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin

BELGRADE, 11 June — Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin said on Wednesday that the presence of Serbia and Russia have been linked together by common civilizational roots, victories and successes.

Serbia was growing stronger when Russia stood strong, Chepurin said at the reception at the Embassy of the Russian Federation, which was attended by Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic.

Our two countries typically follow each other’s ups and downs, noted Chepurin, adding that the prosperity and success of Serbia is also in the interest of Russia.

The friendship between our nations is a strong foundation for the future of our countries, the Russian ambassador said.

I am certain that we are strategic allies when key issues are concerned — the issue of Kosovo, economic growth, interests of today’s and future Europe, the Slavic and the Christian Orthodox world, said Chepurin.

Specifying that Russia is marking the 1153 years of statehood this year, Chepurin noted that no other country in the world has maintained its sovereignty for such a long time. — Tanjug

Clinton was too busy to do favours for foundation donors, husband says

DENVER, 11 June — Bill Clinton gave one of his lengthiest rebuttals yet on Wednesday of allegations that his wife Hillary Clinton, now running for president, gave favourable treatment to donors to her family’s charities while she was US secretary of state.

The former US president also used the interviews at a conference organized by the Clinton Foundation to speak with emotional candour about their marriage and the role he might play should the couple return to the White House in 2017.

“No one has ever asked me for anything,” he said of the foundation’s donors in an interview with CNN’s Jake Tapper during the conference in Denver, Colorado.

Clinton said he did not know whether foreign governments, companies and other foundation donors were seeking anything in return beyond supporting philanthropy.

“And I don’t think Hillary would know, either,” he said. “She was pretty busy those years. I never saw her study a list of my contributors, and I had no idea who was doing business before the State Department.”

Journalists and political opponents have failed to turn up any proof that Clinton’s State Department sold favours. The Clintons dismiss the allegations as politically motivated.

Hillary Clinton, 67, is the front-runner for the Democratic Party’s presidential nominee. Still, an increasing number of Americans have said they find her untrustworthy in polls.

“Yeah, but I mean we’re used to it,” Clinton said.

He went on to warmly describe Hillary Clinton as “the rock” of his family and said he believes that Americans will come to learn more about that side of her.

“I trust her with my life and have on more than one occasion,” he said. “And I don’t mean I was facing physical death,” he added in the interview, which CNN said it will broadcast on Sunday.

“By all means, she was light-hearted. “Tim Hunt has apologized on Wednesday saying he was being honest and had meant his comments to be light-hearted. “Tim Hunt has today resigned from his position as Honorary Professor with the UCL Faculty of Life Sciences, following comments he made about women in science at the World Conference of Science Journalists on 9 June,” University College London said in a statement on Wednesday. “UCL was the first university in England to admit women students on equal terms to men, and the university believes that this outcome is compatible with our commitment to gender equality.” — Reuters

Greece agreed to work intensively with creditors — Merkel

BRUSSELS, 11 June — Greece told its European partners that it was committed to intense discussions with its creditors to solve all open issues and avoid a looming default at the end of the month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday.

“At the end of the talks there was absolute unanimity that Greece will work intensively and with high pressure with the three institutions in the coming days to solve all open issues,” Merkel told reporters after arriving for a meeting between EU and Latin American leaders.

In a separate interview, Clinton was asked if he would continue to give paid speeches if his wife won the election in November.

“No, I don’t think so,” he told Bloomberg TV’s Betty Liu.

“I will give speeches, though, on subjects I’m interested in,” he added.

British Nobel laureate quits job after “trouble with girls” remark

LONDON, 11 June — A British Nobel laureate has resigned as a professor at a London university after saying women scientists should work in segregated laboratories. Tim Hunt, 72, was reported to have told a delegates at a conference in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday: “Let me tell you about my trouble with girls. Three things happen when they are in the lab: you fall in love with them, they fall in love with you and when you criticise them, they cry.”

Hunt, who won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2001, also told the conference he had a reputation for being a chauvinist. He apologized on Wednesday saying he was being honest and had meant his comments to be light-hearted. “Tim Hunt has today resigned from his position as Honorary Professor with the UCL Faculty of Life Sciences, following comments he made about women in science at the World Conference of Science Journalists on 9 June,” University College London said in a statement on Wednesday. “UCL was the first university in England to admit women students on equal terms to men, and the university believes that this outcome is compatible with our commitment to gender equality.” — Reuters

Israel denies any link to reported cyberattack on Iran talks

JERUSALEM, 11 June — An Israeli deputy minister dismissed as baseless on Thursday reports Israel may have had a connection to a computer virus that a security company said was used to hack into venues linked to international talks on Iran’s nuclear programme.

Russia-based Kaspersky Lab said on Wednesday it found the malware in three European hotels that hosted negotiations involving Iran and six world powers and also on the company’s own computers.

Both Kaspersky and US security company Symantec said the virus shared some programmes that espionage software called Duqu, which security experts believe to have been developed by Israelis.

Israeli government officials had declined to comment, but on Thursday Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely denied Israel was involved.

“The international reports of Israeli involvement in the matter are baseless,” she told Army Radio.

“What is much more important is that we prevent a bad agreement where at the end of the day we find ourselves with a Iranian nuclear umbrella,” she said.

Israel, widely believed to be the Middle East’s only nuclear power, has denounced the diplomatic opening to Iran, saying it doubts any agreement arising from the talks will sufficiently restrain the atomic programme of its arch-enemy.

The West suspects Iran wants to develop a nuclear weapons capability from its enrichment of uranium. Iran says it is seeking nuclear energy for electricity and medical isotopes.
Syrian army dislodges IS militants from key oil fields in Homs

DAMASCUS, 11 June — The Syrian military forces on Wednesday recaptured key oil fields in central Syria, following battles with the Islamic State (IS) militants, the pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV reported.

The government forces fully captured the al-Jisal oil fields and the town with the same name in the eastern countryside of the central province of Homs, near the ancient city of Palmyra, which was over-

At least 78,000 people newly displaced by conflict in Darfur: senior UN official

UNITED NATIONS, 11 June — It is estimated that at least 78,000 people have been newly displaced by conflict in Darfur this year due to Sudanese government–military offensive against rebels, a senior UN official told the Security Council on Wednesday.

“The second phase of the government’s military offensive, ‘Operation Decisive Summer’ has re-

Suicide blast leaves two policemen killed, six injured in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 11 June — At least two policemen were killed and six others injured in a suicide attack at a police convoy in Paki-

Tunisia rescues 350 migrants heading by boat to Italy from Libya

TUNIS, 11 June — Tunisia’s navy rescued more than 350 illegal migrants off its coast and was search-

UN envoy quits role as mediator in Burundian crisis talks

BURJUMBURA, 11 June — The UN special envoy to the Great Lakes region has quit his role facilitating talks between rival factions in Burundi’s political crisis but is staying on in his broader regional position, a UN official said on Thursday.

Said Djinnit has hosted dialogue between the gov-

Illegal migrants are seen on a boat after being rescued by the Tunisian navy off the coast near Ben Guerdane, Tunisia, on 10 June, 2015.—Reuters

Protesters shout during a protest against Burundi’s President Pierre Nkurunziza and condemn his bid for a third term in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 22 May, 2015. REUTERS

EUROPEAN LEADERS NOW ON THE虛

European leaders are increasingly concerned that Libya will become a failed state if the rival factions fail to accept a UN-sponsored peace deal.—Reuters
12 dead, dozens missing in landslides in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 11 June — At least 12 people have died and dozens more are missing after rain-triggered landslides swept away scores of houses in eastern Nepal on Wednesday night, police said on Thursday.

Rescuers, including soldiers, police and locals, are digging through landslide debris in the Taplejung district located about 300 kilometres northeast of Kathmandu.

Rain that was whipping the district until Thursday morning has stopped but the affected areas are shrouded in dense fog, making search efforts challenging.

“Landslides hit many places in six villages, development committees in the district around Wednesday midnight,” Deputy Superintendent of Police Shanti Raj Koirala told Kyodo News by phone from the district. “We have recovered 12 dead bodies so far. The search for dozens of missing people is going on.”

Australia’s Abbott calls for global effort against terrorism

SYDNEY, 11 June — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Thursday called on delegates from over 20 countries including Japan to work together in the fight against terrorism, which he called “the biggest security challenge of our time.”

In his address on the opening day of the Regional Summit to Counter Violent Extremism, Abbott said that in the past year Islamic State and other militant groups have carried out attacks in Melbourne and in countries across the Middle East, Europe and North America.

“Our task is to share our challenges and our strategies, to discuss where we have failed and where we think we might have succeeded so that all of us can learn to be more effective in going after those who are the equivalent of the biggest security challenge of our time,” he said.

During his speech he outlined the Australian government’s strategy in dealing with Islamic State, including plans to strip dual-national jihadists of their Australian citizenship.

“The end, though, the only really effective defence against terrorism is persuading people that it’s pointless,” Abbott said.

Gov’t ordered to pay damages to residents over Okinawa base noise

NAHA, 11 June — The Okinawa branch of the Naha District Court on Thursday ordered the government to pay some 754 million yen in damages to residents around a US air base in Okinawa Prefecture over aircraft noise. Some 2,200 plaintiffs who live around the Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in Ginowan complained of mental distress, saying aircraft noise from the base had disrupted their sleep and daily lives. In seeking about 1 billion yen in damages from the state, they also said they feared aircraft crashes, according to lawyers representing the plaintiffs and their lawsuit.

“The noise damage suffered by the plaintiffs is serious and widespread,” Presiding Judge Satoshi Hikage said in the ruling, adding that the court had found the damage reached an unacceptable level. The ruling comes as Japan and the United States are seeking to move the Futenma base to a less densely populated area on the same Okinawa island and return the land used for the base to Japanese control. The Okinawa governor opposes relocating the base within the island prefecture.

“I’m relieved that the damages are rewarded,” said Sogi Ganaha, one of the plaintiffs who lives some 300 metres from the base, after the ruling. “Whenever I hear the roaring of a helicopter circling above my head, I remember the war 70 years ago. I’ve wanted to get compensated for my daily sufferings.”

In a statement, the government’s strategy outlined the Australian government’s strategy against terrorism, which they think we might have succeeded so that all of us can learn to be more effective in going after those who are the equivalent of the biggest security challenge of our time.”

In his address on the opening day of the Regional Summit to Counter Violent Extremism, Abbott said that in the past year Islamic State and other militant groups have carried out attacks in Melbourne and in countries across the Middle East, Europe and North America.

“Our task is to share our challenges and our strategies, to discuss where we have failed and where we think we might have succeeded so that all of us can learn to be more effective in going after those who are the equivalent of the biggest security challenge of our time,” he said.

During his speech he outlined the Australian government’s strategy in dealing with Islamic State, including plans to strip dual-national jihadists of their Australian citizenship.

“The end, though, the only really effective defence against terrorism is persuading people that it’s pointless,” Abbott said.

Groups discuss discrimination against leprosy sufferers at UN

NEW YORK, 11 June — Participants in the first panel discussion on people with leprosy and disabilities at the United Nations on Wednesday pressed for solidarity and greater inclusion in society to highlight issues they face.

Those with the disease, which is now curable, have been ostracized, shunned and marginalized, with many even facing discrimination from other members of the disabled community, according to organizers of the side event called Voices of People Affected by Leprosy. Javed Abidi, chairperson of Disabled People’s International, said, “We have to bridge the gap between the two communities of people affected by leprosy and people otherwise disabled.”

“Other people like me are trying … to bridge that gap and to ensure that at least among the disabled people, there should not be any discrimination and these two groups have to be brought together so we can inspire each other and give each other encouragement.”

Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of the philanthropic Nippon Foundation, said, “I truly hope that this event will offer new opportunities for people with disabilities and people affected by leprosy to form cooperative relationships and new possibilities where together we may shorten the long road ahead to realizing an inclusive society.”

Sasakawa, who serves as goodwill ambassador of the Japanese government for the human rights for people affected by leprosy, said gradual improvements have been observed in countries’ policies following a General Assembly resolution adopted in 2010 with efforts led by Japan calling for elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

Lowenstein, president of the International Federation of either leprosy group, for example, faces a “physical barrier” but does not face possible abandonment by their families or their communities.

“Because of the fear of leprosy, the other disabled groups so far do not want to accommodate the leprosy-affected people in their group,” he noted, adding that he aims to help change that mindset. “We just are beginning. Still we have to go a long way to remove the stigma and discrimination and make people to accept us like any other normal people.”

The panel discussion was held as part of the annual conference of states parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. — Kyodo News

Photo taken on 10 June, 2015, at the UN headquarters in New York shows the first panel discussion on people with leprosy and disabilities at the United Nations.

FARMERS pick eatable roses at a rose farm in Mile, southwest Yunnan Province, on 9 June, 2015. — XINHUA

 Farmers pick eatable roses at a rose farm in Mile, southwest Yunnan Province, on 9 June, 2015. — XinHua
Traffic law revised to bar elderly drivers with dementia

Photo shows a plenary session of Japan’s House of Representatives, which enacted a legal revision on 11 June, 2015, to prevent elderly people with dementia from driving in an effort to reduce accidents in fast-graying Japan.—Kyodo News

Tokyo, 11 June — A law revision to prevent elderly people with dementia from driving was enacted on Thursday to reduce accidents in a fast-graying Japan.

Under the revised Road Traffic Law, which will take effect within two years after it is made public, elderly drivers aged over 75 who have developed symptoms of dementia will have their licenses suspended or cancelled.

The current system requires drivers aged 75 and over to take a cognitive function test every three years. Even if they are suspected of having dementia, elderly drivers are allowed to keep their license if they have not violated any traffic rules in the past year.

Under the new rules, however, someone suspected of having dementia will need to provide a medical certificate that he is capable of driving.

Among the country’s population of about 130 million, 4.62 million elderly people had dementia in 2012, with the number forecast to grow to be one in five people aged over 65 in 2025, according to the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry. The National Police Agency said that of 471 fatal accidents caused by elderly aged 75 and over in 2014, drivers in 181 cases, or 38 percent, had some form of cognitive impairment.

A separate study shows that 61 percent of elderly males suspected with dementia continued to drive, according to a 2011-2013 survey on about 10,000 people aged over 65 in Nagoya and Osaka by the National Centre for Geriatrics and Gerontology.

The law revision passed the House of Representatives in a plenary session on Thursday after clearing the House of Councillors in April.

Kyodo News

Torrential rain hits Kumamoto, Nagasaki in southwestern Japan

FUKUOKA, 11 June — Torrential rain hit Kumamoto and Nagasaki prefectures in southwestern Japan on Thursday morning, triggering landslides and leading local authorities to issue evacuation orders to around 4,700 people and evacuation recommendations to about 348,000 others.

The rain caused mudslides in the city of Uki in Kumamoto, with one hitting a car, though the driver was unhurt, local officials said.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned that further heavy rain brought by an active rainy season front could trigger mudslides or flooding in the prefectures until Thursday night.

Kyodo News

Photo taken on 11 June, 2015, in the southwestern Japan city of Uto shows a flooded field. Japan’s southern main island Kyushu, where Uto is located, was hit by torrential rain.—Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12th June, 2015:

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Tanintharyi Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagain and Bago Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likely to be isolated heavy falls in Sagain Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Katniss leads rebellion in “Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2” trailer

London, 11 June — Fans of “The Hunger Games” fantasy films got a glimpse of the last installment of the blockbuster franchise with the release of a trailer showing heroine Katniss Everdeen take a final stand in the rebellion against dictator President Snow.

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2” is the fourth film in the series of movies which have grossed more than $2 billion at box offices worldwide and are based on the books by Suzanne Collins.

Academy Award winner Jennifer Lawrence reprises her role as the defiant Everdeen, now on the face of a mass rebellion planning all-out war against Snow who runs the autocratic Capitol and forces the young people to compete in gladiatorial-like contests each year.

“Snow has to pay for what he’s done,” she says in the trailer, which was released on Tuesday.

The film also stars Donald Sutherland as Snow, Julianne Moore as Alma Coin, president of the rebellious District 13, and the late Philip Seymour Hoffman as Head Gamemaker turned rebel Plutarch Heavensbee.

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2” is scheduled for release in November.—Reuters

Carrie Underwood sweeps CMT Music Awards

Nashville, 11 June — Singer Carrie Underwood came out on top at the 2015 CMT Music Awards after winning three trophies.

The country star made her first public appearance at the US TV network’s annual prize-giving since giving birth to her first child, son Isaiah, in February, and her return proved triumphant, as she earned three awards, including Video of the Year for Something in the Water, reported E! online.

Upon winning her second honour for Female Video of the Year for the same video, Underwood said, “This is my first show since little Isaiah has been in the world. He’s probably napping on the bus right now, but I should definitely say that he has already inspired me so much, as well as my husband, Mike (Fishier). Thank you guys!”

Underwood, who took the stage to perform her song “Little Toy Guns” for the first time on TV, also earned the Collaborative Video of the Year prize for her duet, “Something Bad”, with Miranda Lambert.

Meanwhile, Luke Bryan claimed Male Video of the Year for “Play It Again”, Lady Antebellum earned Group Video of the Year for “Bartender”, and Florida Georgia Line scored the Duo Video of the Year accolade for “Dirt Road”.

Newcomer Sam Hunt won Breakthrough Video of the Year for his track “Leave the Night On”, while CMT Performance of the Year went to Bob Seger and Jason Aldean for “Turn the Page from CMT Crossroads: Bob Seger and Jason Aldean.”

The ceremony also included a number of star-studded performances, with Lady Antebellum kicking off the prize-giving with an unexpected duet with dance DJ Zedd, while other artists including Reba McEntire, Bryan, Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean, and Keith Urban also hit the stage.

The event was co-hosted by “Pitch Perfect” actress Britany Snow and US TV personality Erin Andrews and held at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.—PTI

Katy Perry’s ‘Dark Horse’ reaches huge milestone

Los Angeles, 11 June — Pop sensation Katy Perry’s song “Dark Horse” has crossed a major milestone of reaching one billion mark on Youtube.—PTI

The 30-year-old singer crashed the 18-year-old boys club when her song became the third video ever, and first by a female artist, to notch more than one billion views, reported MT online.

The star took to Twitter to share the news. “Guys. What. Dark Horse has reached 1 BILLION views! I seriously love your eye balls & your fingers for dem clicks,” she wrote.

“Dark Horse” featuring rapper Juicy J was released on September 2013, by Capitol Records.

One Direction invite Alton Towers victim

London, 11 June — Boyband One Direction have invited the teenage girl who had her leg amputated after last week’s rollercoaster crash at Alton Towers to meet them.

The group made the sweet gesture following a social media campaign, after it was revealed that 17-year-old Leah Washington was a big fan and had missed their gig in Cardiff as a result of the accident, reported Digital Spy.

The #Get1DtoLeah campaign has been successful, with the four members recording a video message solely for Washington. While the band’s schedule won’t allow them to visit the Royal Stoke Hospital, they have invited the teenager to attend another show, where she will have the opportunity to meet them.

“Unfortunately because of their schedule they can’t visit her in hospital, but they have offered Leah tickets to a forthcoming concert of her choice when she has recovered, and will be delighted to meet her backstage then,” an agent for One Direction said.

Washington’s friend Sara Stuart, who helped kickstart the campaign, said that the news and message would “make Leah’s day and aid her recovery.”

Singer Louis Tomlinson also tweeted a get-well message, writing: “Thinking about you Leah and hoping you are home in South Yorkshire soon.”—PTI

Carrie Underwood performs at the CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena on Wednesday, on 10 June, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.—PTI

Author EL James (L) signs autographs at the “Fifty Shades of Grey” UK film premiere in London, on 12 Feb, 2015.—Reuters
Tokyo, 11 June — The Tokyo University of the Arts is planning to enable its most talented music students to complete their studies at age 20, two years earlier than normal, so they can meet the age limit for joining the world’s top conservatories, a source at the national university said on Wednesday.

Starting in the 2016 school year, the programme will be available to a limited number of talented applicants studying the piano, violin and cello who seek admission to the university after two years of senior high school in place of the regular three years, the source said.

The programme will be determined by a jury including top overseas artists, with applicants undergoing interviews and giving performances as well as submitting relevant documents, according to the source.

The university, known as Geidai in Japanese, said premier institutions such as the Conservatoire de Paris and Moscow Conservatory offer courses limited to certain ages such as less than 22, and some Geidai students quit halfway to join those overseas courses. Once admitted to Geidai’s new programme, students will be offered double the amount of individual lessons given to students in regular programmes, the source said.

They will also be given priority access to lessons offered by artists from top overseas music schools and orchestras. Entrance fees and initial-year tuition will be waived for those accepted for the new programme, the source said.

Scholarships will also be offered to financially help them take part in international competitions, while those completing the program will get recommendations for overseas institutions.

According to the education ministry, as of the 2012 school year, only six universities in Japan had admitted students after only the first two years of senior high school due to outstanding talent in mathematics, physics, sports and arts. Early university graduation programs were offered at 143 universities.

Geidai is attempting to combine these two systems. The ministry said it is rare that both are offered by the same institution.

**Kyodo News**

Crews clean up El Capitan State Beach after a massive oil spill on the Californian coast in Goleta, California on 22 May, 2015. — Reuters

**Reuters**

**Reuters**

**Reuters**

Los Angeles, 11 June — Clean-up costs associated with a Californian oil pipeline rupture that dumped as much as 2,400 barrels of crude onto a pristine stretch of coastline and into the Pacific Ocean have exceeded $60 million, the Latin American Pipeline spokesman Meredith Mathews told the newspaper that expenses for restoring the affected area near Santa Barbara ran as high as $3 million a day.

Mathews added that the total, which did not include financial damage claims from people or businesses that may have been affected by the spill, were likely to increase as clean-up efforts continued.

Representatives for the pipeline did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The 19 May pipeline rupture prompted the closure of two popular beaches and a ban on fishing and shellfish harvesting. Officials said on Tuesday that about 75 percent of the 96.5 miles (155 km) of shoreline surveyed had met clean-up goals.

On Tuesday Santa Barbara County rejected Exxon Mobil Corp’s emergency permit application to temporarily haul oil crude using tanker trucks following the spill. — Reuters

Women’s World Cup opens with brilliance and blowouts

**Toronto, 11 June** — The Women’s World Cup stopped to take a breath on Wednesday following an opening round of games that produced a little bit of everything, from tight matches to blowouts played in front of packed stands and near empty stadiums.

The month-long tournament which began on Saturday in Edmonton under the dark cloud of a FIFA bribery and corruption scandal got off to a brilliant start when Christine Sinclair scored in injury time to give the hosts a heart-stopping 1-0 win over China.

A record crowd for a Canadian international match of 53,058 was on hand to celebrate the victory and was joined by a record television audience of 1.8 million, but not everyone was feeling the joy of the World Cup party.

The Canadian Soccer Association announced on Monday that it had surpassed one million in ticket sales for the six venues across Canada but apparently not many were sold for the Group E opener between defending Spain and Costa Rica that was played in a nearly vacant Montreal Olympic stadium.

FIFA put the official attendance at 10,175 while local reports had the number at no more than 2,000 in a cavernous stadium built for the 1976 Montreal Olympics that provided a dreary backdrop for an occasion-­ally entertaining 1-1 draw.

Overall, however, organizers had big smiles as World Cup fever began to catch on with the crowd in Edmonton, particularly in Winnipeg where thousands of American supporters flooded across the Manitoba/ North Dakota border for the US opener, which ended in a 3-1 win over Australia.

The arrival of the Americans in the Manitoba capital brought a genuine World Cup buzz that had been largely lacking outside the cities as packs of face-painted fans dressed in outlandish red, white and blue costumes waved flags and chanted as they filled bars and restaurants in the days and hours before the match.

The second-ranked US women have also command-­ed the sporting spotlight back home where fans have gathered in bars to watch the game on TV.

Broadcaster Fox Sports 1 attracted 3.3 million view-­ers to the game between the US and Australia, more than 1 million or more than three times higher than Team USA’s first group stage match in 2011. “The place erupts when they score goals,” said Brian Mullin, bartender at the Cock ‘n’ Bull British pub in Santa Monica near Los Angeles, where 100 people convened on Monday to watch the game. Not all the opening games produced edge-of-your-seat excitement. — Reuters
Khamdamov brace sends Uzbeks into quarters

Whangarei, 11 June — A brace by Dostonbek Khamdamov saw Uzbekistan defeat Austria 2-0 and progress into the quarter-finals of the FIFA U-20 World Cup. Uzbekistan matched the benchmark they set at Turkey 2013 by booking their spot in the last eight, with two goals shortly after the break catching the Europeans cold and seeing Rasvhan Khaydaryo’s side upset the odds.

The first half would not have exhausted any one’s vocabulary of superlatives as neither side brought a great deal of quality to the party. The closest either side came to unsettling the netting was when a curling free-kick from Austria captain Lukas Gugganig was punched clear by Dilshod Khamraev. Zabikhillo Urinboev saw his goal-bound volley deflected wide just before the break but, besides that, the highlight reel was left wanting. When the sides returned, though, the Central Asian side seemed to have discovered a formula for unlocking the Austrian backline.

Two minutes hadn’t even passed when Khamdamov latched on to Javokhir Sokhibov’s through-ball to slot effortlessly beyond Timo Casali. Ten minutes later he had doubled his tally for the night and Austria, who hadn’t been troubled by much more than an awkward corner in the first 45 minutes, looked shell-shocked.

A hopeful up-and-under from Mirjamol Kossimov kept the ball alive following a corner, with superb strength from Rustamjon Ashurmatov seeing him hold off the defence and work space to volley onto the post. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back the ball that Casali had only parried. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back the ball that Casali had only parried. The former sportsman and Asian side seemed to be a change of rules in order to make his run via- 

ter the break catching the Europeans cold and seeing Rasvhan Khaydaryo’s side upset the odds.

The first half would not have exhausted any one’s vocabulary of superlatives as neither side brought a great deal of quality to the party. The closest either side came to unsettling the netting was when a curling free-kick from Austria captain Lukas Gugganig was punched clear by Dilshod Khamraev. Zabikhillo Urinboev saw his goal-bound volley deflected wide just before the break but, besides that, the highlight reel was left wanting. When the sides returned, though, the Central Asian side seemed to have discovered a formula for unlocking the Austrian backline.

Two minutes hadn’t even passed when Khamdamov latched on to Javokhir Sokhibov’s through-ball to slot effortlessly beyond Timo Casali. Ten minutes later he had doubled his tally for the night and Austria, who hadn’t been troubled by much more than an awkward corner in the first 45 minutes, looked shell-shocked.

A hopeful up-and-under from Mirjamol Kossimov kept the ball alive following a corner, with superb strength from Rustamjon Ashurmatov seeing him hold off the defence and work space to volley onto the post. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back the ball that Casali had only parried. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back the ball that Casali had only parried. The former sportsman and Asian side seemed to be a change of rules in order to make his run via- 

ter the break catching the Europeans cold and seeing Rasvhan Khaydaryo’s side upset the odds.

The first half would not have exhausted any one’s vocabulary of superlatives as neither side brought a great deal of quality to the party. The closest either side came to unsettling the netting was when a curling free-kick from Austria captain Lukas Gugganig was punched clear by Dilshod Khamraev. Zabikhillo Urinboev saw his goal-bound volley deflected wide just before the break but, besides that, the highlight reel was left wanting. When the sides returned, though, the Central Asian side seemed to have discovered a formula for unlocking the Austrian backline.

Two minutes hadn’t even passed when Khamdamov latched on to Javokhir Sokhibov’s through-ball to slot effortlessly beyond Timo Casali. Ten minutes later he had doubled his tally for the night and Austria, who hadn’t been troubled by much more than an awkward corner in the first 45 minutes, looked shell-shocked.

A hopeful up-and-under from Mirjamol Kossimov kept the ball alive following a corner, with superb strength from Rustamjon Ashurmatov seeing him hold off the defence and work space to volley onto the post. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back the ball that Casali had only parried. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back the ball that Casali had only parried. The former sportsman and Asian side seemed to be a change of rules in order to make his run via-

Zico launches FIFA presidency bid without federation backing

Rio de Janeiro, 11 June — Brazilian soccer great Zico formally declared his candidacy for the FIFA presidency on Wednesday but admitted there would probably need to be a change of rules in order to make his run viable.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter announced last week he was standing down after the body was hit by a wave of corruption allegations that are still sending shockwaves around the footballing world.

Under FIFA’s current statutes, however, candidates to succeed the Swiss in a ballot likely to take place later this year must have the support of federations from five countries affiliated to soccer’s world governing body.

Zico said he does not yet have that backing.

The 62-year-old said UEFA boss Michel Platini had advised him to run for head of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) first but Zico said that was almost impossible as he did not have the required support of the eight state federations and five clubs.

“The ideal thing would be here in Brazil but unfortunately the rules of the game do not favour outsiders.”

Zico, one of the best players to have graced the game, has managed in Brazil, Japan, Turkey, Russia and Greece and was a former Sports Minister in his homeland.

Reuters

Victorious Myanmar athletes back from 28th SEA Games

Yangon, 11 June — Victorious billiards and snooker team and boxing team arrived back Yangon International Airport Thursday.

Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Team bagged one gold, four silver and three bronze medals while Myanmar Boxing Team won five bronze medals.

The sports team comprised two athletes from track and field event, seven from gymnastics and one from international rowing event. Of them, Hsan Naing secured one bronze in the men’s 10000-m race.

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Myanmar athletes participate in 28th SEA Games

Singapore, 11 June — Woman cyclist Thura Zaw participated in the 29-km and 40-km cycling contests at Marina Bay (South) in Singapore Thursday. Aung Ko Lin secured the second prize in men’s 500-m doubles rowing, Nilar Win and Shwe Sin Latt, one silver in the women’s 100-m doubles event, Myint Hsan and Saw Wai Lyan, one bronze medal in men’s 500-m doubles event and Thet Naing Soe, one bronze medal in the 500-m singles event. Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan enjoyed participation of Myanmar athletes in the sports events namely cycling, rowing, squash, and Sepak Takraw events.

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Zico said he does not yet have that backing.

The 62-year-old said UEFA boss Michel Platini had advised him to run for head of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) first but Zico said that was almost impossible as he did not have the required support of the eight state federations and five clubs.

“The ideal thing would be here in Brazil but unfortunately the rules of the game do not favour outsiders.”

Zico, one of the best players to have graced the game, has managed in Brazil, Japan, Turkey, Russia and Greece and was a former Sports Minister in his homeland.

Reuters

Victorious Myanmar athletes back from 28th SEA Games

Yangon, 11 June — Victorious billiards and snooker team and boxing team arrived back Yangon International Airport Thursday.

Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Team bagged one gold, four silver and three bronze medals while Myanmar Boxing Team won five bronze medals.

The sports team comprised two athletes from track and field event, seven from gymnastics and one from international rowing event. Of them, Hsan Naing secured one bronze in the men’s 10000-m race.