President U Thein Sein returns from Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — President U Thein Sein on Tuesday returned from a three-day state visit to Mongolia.

The president visited the country from 28 to 30 June at the invitation of Mongolian President Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj.

A special Myanmar International Airways flight carrying the president and Myanmar delegation landed at Nay Pyi Taw at 11:30 a.m. and was welcomed by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and deputy ministers.

Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj visited Myanmar from 18 to 21 November 2013 as the first state from 18 to 21 November 2013 as the first state

During U Thein Sein’s three-day visit to Mongolia, the heads of state discussed potential bilateral cooperation on trade, mining, tourism, culture and economy, with Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj saying his country will support democratic and socio-economic reforms in Myanmar, and shared knowledge on market economy transition. Representative from the two countries also signed intergovernmental agreements on tourism cooperation, cooperation between Nay Pyi Taw Council and Ulaanbaatar City, and between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.—MNA

13 more local, foreign firms get investment green light in June

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 30 June — Thirteen domestic and overseas firms received the green light to do business in the country as joint venture, locally owned or wholly foreign enterprises in late June, the Myanmar Investment Commission said Tuesday.

Having already given the nod to 15 local and foreign companies earlier in the month, the number of firms granted approval by the MIC in June came to 28. The newly approved businesses include wood finishing and timber processing, manufacturing of garments, paint, plastic products, sports equipment and building materials, as well as bus assembly and maintenance services.

Among the 13 enterprises approved at the commission’s meeting on 19 June, Saung Hnin Cherry Company Limited and Mother Trading Company Limited will set up facilities for wood finishing while Myanmar Brightex Veneer Company Limited will establish a timber-processing facility as a foreign-citizen investment.

In a sign of further expansion of the country’s garment industry, four firms—Musung Garment Company Limited, Myanmar Knitting Factory Limited, Smooth World International (Myanmar) Limited and Myanmar High Choice Company Limited will establish clothing manufacturing facilities in the country as joint venture and shared knowledge on market economy transition. Representative from the two countries also signed intergovernmental agreements on tourism cooperation, cooperation between Nay Pyi Taw Council and Ulaanbaatar City, and between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.—MNA

Myanmar to host conference on reproductive, sexual health, rights

YANGON, 30 June—Myanmar will host the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights next year in Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association has announced.

The MMCWA, a national non-government organization, is coordinating the 23-26 February conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in cooperation with its partner agencies.

The event’s theme is ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as a means of promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, MMCWA official Dr Daw May Malar said Monday.

The biennial conference brings together young people, civil society groups, the government and the private sector, as well as development partners from around the region.

The four-day event will focus on reviewing scientific and qualitative evidence, refining advocacy strategies, and generating concrete plans of action across the region, Dr Daw May Malar said.

“About 2,000 delegates from within the region and from other countries are expected to come to the event,” she said. “Currently, necessary preparations for successfully holding the event are being made.”

(See page 2)
Workshop aims to strengthen SME policy in Myanmar

YANGON, 30 June — A workshop on strengthening policy development for small and medium-sized enterprise through data enhancement took place here Tuesday at the Myanmar-Japan Center.

The workshop aimed to develop policy to encourage small SMEs, as well as promoting women and youth entrepreneurs.

It was organized by the SME Development Centre, under the Ministry of Industry, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

At the meeting, officials from Myanmar and overseas discussed improving data collection programmes to support SME development in the country. MNA

13 more local, foreign firms …

(from page 1) businesses in industrial zones in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions.

Statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration showed that Myanmar last fiscal year approved U.S. $8 billion worth of foreign investment from 38 countries and 211 companies. For the current financial year, the country expects to approve $6 billion worth of FDI. GNLM

Kachin State government helps send Rakhine migrant workers home

MOHNIN, 30 June — Kachin State government had to help send 508 migrant workers from Rakhine State back home at Mohnyin railway station on 29 June.

Thousands of migrant workers from Rakhine State worked in Kachin and they have lost their jobs. Mohnyin District Administrator U Aung Soe Moe, Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Aung, members of the township development affairs committee and the township supporting committee warmly greeted the returning Rakhine nationals and provided them with lunch boxes for 600 people, drinking water bottles and snacks.

“They arrived here three years ago to work in banana, rubber and dragon fruit plantations owned by the Chinese but a lot of Chinese workers came to Myanmar in recent years and the Rakhine workers were laid off,” said a 40-year old Rakhine national from Mibnya on the train.—GNLM-001

Parliament approves signing of UN treaty


The session also recorded expenditure from the separate budget of the Union Budget Bill 2015, with the Joint Bill Committee reading the findings on the Union Budget Bill and Special Marriage Bill for Myanmar Buddhist Women.

MP U Thein Swe also urged the union government to provide effective and urgent aid to flood victims in Rakhine State, Kayin State and Bago Region, where torrential rains have fallen in recent days. MNA

MPs discuss signing of UN treaty at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Bone Swe explained humanitarian work being carried out by the government to help flood victims.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe clarified the formation of Yangon and Mandalay Electricity Supply Boards as state-owned corporations. Deputy ministers then discussed the law on farmer’s rights.

MPs and representatives from Defence Services also discussed bills amending and revoking some paragraphs in the Constitution, including adjustment on the terms of Union judges and the balance of the judicial, legislative and executive branches of power.—MNA

Myanmar to host conference…

(from page1) conference are being made by the MMCWA.”

Myanmar is the eight host country after the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, India, China and Indonesia. The first conference was held in 2001 in Manila. Further information is available online at www.mnlsbcphr.org.—GNLM

Daw Maw Maw accredited as Ambassador to Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Maw Maw, Director General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification No. 21/2015 14th Waxing Day of First Waso, 1377 ME (30 June, 2015) Modern Union Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced on 30 June 2015 that Modern Union Party headquartered at No 647, Merchant Street, Ward 3, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 30 June 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party’s registration number is 90. By order,

(Tin Tun) Secretary Union Election Commission

High-rise buildings and tower cranes are seen from Hlinethayar Township, where a number of Yangon’s industrial zones are based. PHOTO: YE MYINT

Rakhine migrant workers prepare to return home. PHOTO: GNLM-001

Thousands of migrant workers from Rakhine State worked in Kachin State and they have difficulty going back home as they have lost their jobs. Mohnyin District Administrator U Aung Soe Moe, Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Aung, members of the township development affairs committee and the township supporting committee warmly greeted the returning Rakhine nationals and provided them with lunch boxes for 600 people, drinking water bottles and snacks.

“They arrived here three years ago to work in banana, rubber and dragon fruit plantations owned by the Chinese but a lot of Chinese workers came to Myanmar in recent years and the Rakhine workers were laid off,” said a 40-year old Rakhine national from Mibnya on the train.—GNLM-001
President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Canada

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada, and the Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of Canada, which falls on 1 July 2015.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham hosts Singapore Deputy Prime Minister

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 June—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Tuesday received a Singaporean delegation led by Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean, at the Chindwin Hall of the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present were union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko and U Tint Hsan, deputy ministers U Aung Thein, Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt, U Tin Oo Lwin, Daw Lei Lei Thein and U Myo Aung, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and Singapore’s ambassador to Myanmar. Discussions focused on promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The vice president also attended the signing ceremony of Japan lamps worth US$895,000 to provide 25,000 solar lamps.

At the ceremony, Permanent Secretary U Aung Lynn of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Singapore’s Ambassador to Myanmar Robert Chua signed the MoU. The vice president and wife hosted a dinner for the Singaporean deputy prime minister and wife at the same hotel in the evening.—MNA

UNDP, Japan plan assistance for elections

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 June—UNDP, Japan plan assistance for elections.

MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union holds meeting on Hluttaw’s activities

Vice Chairman U Khin Aung Myint will review its works to be able to set better plans for next parliaments. U Nanda Kyaw Swa then explained resolutions of and activities of the first parliamentarian meeting in 2015.

Parliamentarians from regions and states presented their activities and suggested collaborative measures in the future.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Canadian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable Robert D. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of Canada, which falls on 1 July 2015.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan sign agreements for ODA loans

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 June—A ceremony to sign exchange notes and loan agreements for Yen 25,888 billion of official development assistance loan of Japan was held at the Ministry of Finance, here, on Tuesday.

The loans will be spent on Yangon electricity project phase-1, infrastructure development project phase 1 (part-II) in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and small- and medium-scale enterprise development project.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi, JICA Myanmar Chief Mr Keichiro Nakazawa and Director-General of Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance U Maung Maung Win signed the agreements.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung shakes hands with Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi after exchanging notes.—MNA
Basic education primary upgraded to middle school

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 June** — A ceremony to inaugurate the upgraded basic education middle school branch was held in Mathein village, Ottarathiri Township, on 29 June.

An official of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area spoke about undertakings of education promotion tasks and region development tasks in the township.

District Education Officer U Ba Tun explained the purpose of upgrading the school.

Local authorities cut the ribbon to unveil the signboard of the upgraded school.—Shwe Ye Tint

Region minister inspects rural development

**Mandalay, 30 June** — Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than provided 213 notebooks to 71 students at the basic education primary school in Zeebingway village, TadaU Township on 28 June after giving instructions on regional development to local residents and teachers.

The minister also donated cardboard worth K130,000 to the school.

He inspected progress of an earthen road at the entrance to the village.

In Uti village, the minister viewed a 5-acre plot where coal will be stockpiled.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Sanitation work marks Myanmar Women’s Day

**Mingaladon, 30 June** — To mark Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2015, sanitation work was carried out at the School for Girls (Htaukkyant) under the Social Welfare Department in Mingaladon Township on 29 June.

Students of the non-formal primary education school led by Principal Daw Thein Thein Htwe, trainees from the vocational course, teachers and staff participated in sanitation tasks inside and outside the school.

Local residents led by ward administrator U Ye Tint and officials joined the sanitation tasks of the school.

Khin Zaw (Mingalar)

Development Minister emphasizes efficient use of funds

**Mandalay, 30 June** — Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs and Mayor U Aung Moung held discussions on development tasks with officials of Wundwin, Thazi and Meiktila townships on 28 June. The minister made trips to the three townships the whole day to meet with chairmen of Township Development Affairs Committees.

He stressed the need to efficiently spend the funds on development tasks in respective townships, urging the staff to relate with people politely and give better services to them while striving for development of the townships.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)
School, students lauded for exam results

YAMETHIN, 30 June — A ceremony to recognise outstanding performers in the 2015 matriculation examination was held at the basic education high school in Ywadan village, Yamethin Township, on 28 June.

Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint presented a certificate of honour to the headmaster of the school that secured the highest pass rate in the township while officials gave prizes to distinction winners in the examination.

All 29 of the Ywadan BEHS students who passed the examination received distinctions. The minister presented a digital radio to each distinction winner, uniforms to teachers and notebooks and pens to basic education schools.

At Ywadan Station Hospital, the minister instructed officials to repair a water tank that was damaged in a recent natural disaster.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Agriculture dept ready to assist farmers, businessmen

Taungtha Tsp residents attend talk on dengue fever danger

TAUNTHA, 30 June — An educative talk on the dangers of dengue haemorrhagic fever was held at the basic education post-primary school in Aungtha village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region on 28 June.

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Myat Kalyar Aung gave talks on public activities for prevention of DHF and symptoms of dengue fever while senior nurse Daw Khin Mar Than spoke about infection of dengue, TB and malaria diseases, maternal health and the importance of nutrition.

Members of the MWCA distributed pamphlets on health knowledge to local people.—Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

New bridge stretches over Gyowah-Kyangin Creek in Pyapon Township

PYAPON, 30 June — The Gyowah-Kyangin Creek Bridge was recently commissioned into service in Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Local authorities formally opened the bridge, with more than 1,400 local residents in attendance.

Pyapon Township Rural Development Department assigned Moe Htaung Company Ltd to build the 200-foot-long, 12-foot-wide concrete bridge at a cost of K123.5 million.

Gyowah-Kyangin Creek is 8 miles west of Pyapon. Prior to its construction residents of 41 villages in Pyapon and Bogale townships had to cross the creek by boat.

Thanks to the bridge, local residents will easily overcome transport difficulties along their routes.—Thuzar Nwe (Pyapon)

Vets assist livestock breeding programs in rural area

TIDDIM, 30 June — Chin State Head of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Myat San and officials made field trips to Twilant village in Tiddim Township recently to inspect the progress of livestock breeding programs.

As part of implementing the Emerald Green Project, authorities provided K30 million to the village in the 2014-15 fiscal year for agriculture, livestock breeding and small-scale industries, so as to increase family incomes of local residents.

Departmental officials held a meeting with village committee members to discuss the project. They urged local residents to try hard to increase livestock breeding to a commercial scale in order to alleviate poverty.—Zo Hai Hsar
Quality growth, economic zone to top agenda at Japan-Mekong summit

TOKYO, 30 June — The leaders of Japan and five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River will meet on Saturday in Tokyo and adopt a new three-year development strategy for the Mekong region, a move Japan hopes will boost intraregional connectivity and promote sustained quality growth.

The strategy is likely to involve fresh Japanese aid to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, part of which will be covered by a five-year, $110 billion “high-quality and innovative” infrastructure investment initiative for Asia that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe advocated in May, according to Japanese government officials.

With China’s rising economic clout in fast-growing Asia, Japan aims to highlight differences with China over infrastructure development by utilizing its advanced technology and environmentally friendly know-how, as well as training local workers.

“The Mekong region is a major priority area for the Abe initiative,” one official said on condition of anonymity. “Japan will continue to build infrastructure of high quality for sustainable growth of the region with the spirit of ‘developing together’ based on a win-win relationship.”

One such example concerns Japan’s planned assistance to a Thai-Myanmar project to develop the Dawei Special Economic Zone in southeastern Myanmar. When completed, the zone will have a total area of 200 square kilometres, making it one of the largest SEZs in Southeast Asia.

Abe will announce Japan’s participation in the project in an agreement he plans to sign on Saturday with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Myanmar President U Thein Sein, according to the Japanese officials.

The project includes improvement of an unpaved road linking Dawei on the Andaman Sea coast to the Myanmar-Thailand border checkpoint in Phu Nam Ron, giving Bangkok a full-fledged land access to the Indian Ocean that would eventually make Dawei a gateway of the region’s trade with India, the Middle East and Africa.

Development of the road and the economic zone, about 300 kilometres west of Bangkok, would allow businesses in Thailand — including Japanese investors such as automakers, auto-parts manufacturers and consumer electronics makers — to reduce time and costs in shipping products without passing the Strait of Malacca.

As of June 2014, the number of Japanese investors in Thailand totalled 1,552, about half for the five Mekong states and one-fourth for the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

Development of the road would also mean that the Southern Economic Corridor, a transportation route linking Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok via Phnom Penh, Japan’s planned assistance for improvement of an unpaved road linking the Dawei Special Economic Zone in southeastern Myanmar to the Myanmar-Thailand border will extend the corridor to the Indian Ocean coast.—KYODO NEWS

More than 100 feared dead after Indonesian military plane crashes

MEDAN, (Indonesia), 30 June — More than 100 people were feared dead after a military transport plane plunged into a residential area shortly after take-off in northern Indonesia on Tuesday, in what may be the deadliest accident yet for an air force with a long history of crashes.

“For the moment we know there were 113 people on board. It looks like there are no survivors,” Air Marshal Agus Supriatna told Metro TV in the Sumatra city of Medan, adding that some of the passengers were air force families.

The crash of the C-130B Hercules aircraft, which went into service half a century ago, is bound to put a fresh spotlight on Indonesia’s woeful air safety record and its aging planes.

Officials said the plane plunged into a built-up area of the Sumatra city of Medan, adding that some of the passengers were air force families.

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The Hercules plane had been on its way from an air force base in Medan to Tanjung Pinang in Riau Islands off Sumatra. Media said the pilot had asked to return to the base because of technical problems.

“Passed overhead a few times, really low,” said Elfrida Eli, a receptionist at the nearby Golden Eleven Hotel.

“There was fire and black smoke. The third time it came by it crashed into the roof of the hotel and exploded straight away,” she told Reuters by telephone.

According to the Aviation Safety Network, there have been 10 fatal crashes involving Indonesian military or police aircraft over the last decade. The accidents put under a spotlight the safety record of Indonesia’s aviation and its aging aircraft.

AirAsia flight QZ8501 crashed less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya in Indonesia to Singapore last December. All 162 people on board the Airbus A320 were killed.

“It’s too early to say what caused today’s disaster, but it will again raise concerns about air safety in Indonesia, especially since it comes just half a year after the crash of QZ8501,” said Greg Waldron, Asia Managing Editor at Flightglobal, an aviation industry data and news service.

The Indonesian air force has now lost four C-130s, reducing its transport reach in an archipelago that stretches more than 5,000 km from its western to eastern tips.

Aircraft of the 11th Air Force, Dwi Badarmanto said it was due to the Hercules’ age of the plane. “It’s too early to say what caused today’s disaster,” he said.

Citing the Dawei project as a prime example, Chuttimoon Gomkasiso, director general of the International Economic Affairs Department at the Thai Foreign Ministry, told Kyodo News that Tokyo’s assistance in narrowing development gaps among Mekong states, a prerequisite for greater ASEAN integration.

As of 2014, per-capita gross domestic product totaled $5,390 in Thailand, compared with $2,073 in Vietnam, $1,628 in Laos, $1,578 in Myanmar and $1,018 in Cambodia, according to Japanese government data.

The summit also called for Japanese investment in sustainable areas such as environmentally friendly technology and human resources development to help the region pursue high-quality growth.

Sok Siphana shared a similar view, saying, “How Japan can play a good role in building the industrial capacity in the region, how Japanese technology can benefit.”

“Japan can play a good role in stimulating the region’s economic groupings that can play a role in stimulating the regional economy. This is what we expect,” he said.

And we see a role of Japan quite a bit in terms of developing human resources, engineering infrastructure, soft infrastructure and hard infrastructure for connectivity,” he said. “The issue is how to link the Mekong region into ASEAN and ASEAN into a larger Asia.”—KYODO NEWS

Firemen attempt to extinguish the fire surrounding the wreckage of an Indonesian military transport plane after it crashed in the North Sumatra city of Medan, Indonesia on 30 June, 2015.—REUTERS
Iran and powers set to miss deadline as nuclear deal remains elusive

VIENNA, 30 June — Iran and six world powers ramped up negotiations on Tuesday after accepting they would miss a 30 June deadline for a nuclear deal, with both sides cautioning that major obstacles to a lasting agreement remained.

Diplomats said the Vienna talks would run on for as long as necessary to reach a deal intended to promise an end to sanctions in exchange for at least a decade of limits on Iran’s most sensitive nuclear activities.

The West and its allies suspect Iran may be developing technology that would allow it to build nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian atomic energy program, but Tehran says its ambitions are strictly peaceful.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who is on crutches due to a broken leg, has remained in Vienna to await the return of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif from consultations with the leadership in Tehran, and the arrival of the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China.

“There are real and tough issues that remain which have to be resolved in order to get the comprehensive agreement, and we still do not know yet whether we will be able to get there,” a senior US administration official told reporters.

Zarif flew in on Tuesday to discuss with Kerry, the US nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, still recovering from major surgery in May, and immediately went into almost two hours of private discussions with Kerry.

“I am here to get a final deal, and I think we can,” he told reporters. Zarif was also due to meet his German and Russian counterparts later.

For more than a week, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China have been working into the night with Iran trying to break an impasse in talks that they feel have never been closer to concluding positively.

Diplomats have said the real deadline is not 30 June but 9 July, the latest that the deal can be presented to the US Congress if a mandatory review period before President Barack Obama can begin suspending sanctions is to be limited to 30 days. After that, the review will last 60 days, with growing risks that the deal could unravel.

The main differences are on the pace and timing of sanctions relief for Iran and on the nature of monitoring mechanisms to ensure it complies with the deal.

A big sticking point is Western demands that UN inspectors have access to Iranian nuclear sites and nuclear scientists.

Western diplomats say they are nearing a resolution, although Iranian officials maintain that access to military sites is a red line set by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The US official said the six powers had come up with a system to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would have the necessary access, though there was no suggestion the Iranians had agreed to this.

S Korea says too early to talk about timing of summit with Japan

SEUL, 30 June — South Korea said on Tuesday that discussion over when to hold a bilateral summit meeting with Japan is premature.

“It’s too early to talk about the timing as to when a summit with Japan could be held,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said during a press briefing.

He was responding to a question from the media regarding reports that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will meet in S Korea, which has remained estranged from Japan since the latter’s military servicemen during World War II and the so-called “comfort women” issue involving Korean and other women procured for brothels for Japanese

Liberia records new death from Ebola

HANOI, 30 June — A freighter carrying the fourth Kilo-class submarine made by Russia for Vietnam has arrived in Hanoi on Tuesday at Cam Ranh Gulf in Vietnam’s south central coastal Khanh Hoa province, some 1,040 km south of capital Hanoi.

After one and a half months voyage from Russia’s Saint Petersburg, the submarine, which was made under the contract between Vietnam and Russia to build six of its kind, will be relaying into the sea after several days, reported Vietnam’s state-run news agency VNA.

The submarine is near 74 metres in length with displacement of 3,000-3,950 tons. It is able to operate at a maximum depth of 300 metres and at a speed of 20 nautical miles per hour with 52 crew members on board, reported VNA.

The Kilo-submarines will be called under the names of major cities and provinces of Vietnam. Earlier, the country received three of the submarines, namely HQ-182 Hanoi, HQ-183 Ho Chi Minh City, and HQ-184 H-Phoang.

The fourth submarine is set to be named Da Nang, a centrally controlled city in central Vietnam.—Xinhua

4th Russian-made Kilo submarine arrives in Vietnam

4th Russian-made Kilo submarine arrives in Vietnam

MOMONIA, 30 June — A Liberian has died of Ebola in the first recorded case since the country at the heart of an epidemic was declared free of the virus on 9 May. Deputy Health Minister Tolibert Nyenswah said on Tuesday.

The body of a 17-year-old tested positive for Ebola in Margibi County, the deputy minister said. Margibi is a rural area close to the capital Monrovia, and is home to the country’s main international airport.

“There is no need to panic. The corpse has been buried and our contact tracing has started,” Nyenswah said.

The case represents a setback for Liberia, which was declared Ebola free on 9 May after going 42 days without a new case. Authorities will now have to trace and potentially isolate every person the victim came into contact with while sick.

A total of 11,207 people died from Ebola in Liberia, neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone since the outbreak began in December 2013, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) report on 24 June.

Around 43 percent of those deaths were in Liberia, where the outbreak peaked between last August and October with hundreds of cases a week. Health workers say vigilance is needed if the outbreak is to be eliminated.

A total of 12 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and eight in Sierra Leone in the seven days to 21 June, according to WHO figures.

4th Russian-made Kilo submarine arrives in Vietnam
Children need a supportive classroom

By Aung Khin

There are certain differences between classrooms in cities and those in rural areas. While teachers in villages do not have modern school facilities and must manage classrooms of crowded children, their city counterparts are gaining additional opportunities. While the urban lifestyle is too rushed and hard, parents have to use a considerable amount of money for their children. Some parents cannot take their children to schools themselves and must arrange privately owned school buses. Those who cannot check school lessons of their children may send them to after-school tuition.

In order to supplement their incomes, some classroom teachers turn to illegally providing tuition. Their income from this tuition often exceeds their teaching salary. Seeing the opportunity to get better income in cities, teachers from other areas seek appointment at city schools by approaching education authorities.

As a result, rural areas often have fresh teachers and residential teachers. This situation is a good opportunity for rural children. They can learn from new and active teachers who recently completed education courses. The residential teachers who are quite content with the existing lifestyle can focus on both children and lessons.

Children need supportive classrooms where teachers concentrate on education, not on money from tuition fees. Children who do not receive tuition may feel disadvantaged compared to their friends who are tutored by their classroom teachers. Ethics and codes of conduct are important for teachers as they should be icons for the future generation.

Write for us
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
The word “dialogue” is firstly considered as a rational conversation among persons but the concept of “dialogue” has expanded to “method”, “process” and accepted as “social attitude” as well. For a conversation that aims at mutual confrontation, understanding of views, and as cooperation it is meant for the true protection of general human values and for justice and peace. Furthermore, it distinguishes for justice and peace for the true protection of intellectual and take part in process and understanding of views, and is cooperate it is meant for the true protection of general human values and for justice and peace. Furthermore, it distinguishes for justice and peace for the true protection of general human values and for justice and peace.

It is learnt that government has placed their hope in intercultural education as the way to avoid the worst effect of globalization, especially exclusion and marginalization, and the problems of xenophobia and racism that afflict European societies. It is obvious that Interculturalism, Education and Dialogue is an international collection by renowned scholars who examine the ideological underpinnings of the Euro- pean social and historical contexts. In the 21st century, to address questions related to cultural sustainability and the role of culture in sustainable futures, what is role of culture play: in the three-legged eco-centric model – with environmental, economic and politico-social dimensions – of sustainability, towards sustainable development. The four-legged model: environ- ment, economy, social and cultural sustainability; is highly practised. Refusing to give up the struggle, and understanding that great contribution of infor- mation technology in the globalisation of a culture of peace and non-violence will finally have a universal means of communication.

During the twentieth century, humankind has begun taking a new road to peace and social justice – the road of non-violence. In the past, the struggle for human rights and justice has often been violent. But violence reproduces the culture of war — authoritarian, paternalistic, male-dominated, secretive, and, above all, mobilized to destroy “the enemy”. We have paid a high price for the lives of millions and millions of people for this culture of war. To confront the loss of human lives, the millions of children and women turned into orphans and widows. We are a particular society from generation to generation through symbolic learning and language.

A culture of peace is linked intrinsically to non-violent struggle. World peace is possible only if the concept of Kir- dhil and Martin Luther King named it as “active non-vi- olence”, and they showed how the power of nonviolent walk to freedom is long, it is a sure way to peace. In the struggle for a culture of peace there are no enemies. Every- one must be considered a potential partner. The task is to constantly argue and nego- tiate with those engaged in the culture of violence, refusing to give up the struggle, until they are convinced to join in working for a cul- ture of peace.

Fifty-nine years after the founding of UNESCO, the culture of peace high- lights and helps people all over the world to become aware of the importance of their cultures and to keep believing in the world. The efforts of each of it is needed to be joined together because it is the foundation to move forward. It is essen- tial to be together to pro- mote team cohesion and the importance of working in unity. Creating a culture of dialogue is therefore important for groups to share their common con- cerns and find ways to transform them together. It is advisable not to gen- eralize or judge people and groups, nor characterize them as “good” or “bad” but approach and treat all people as humans and think them in the common in- terests and values that we share.

Myanmar which is highly populated with a mixed breed of ethnic groups and all kinds of cultural heri- tage with its long history, is trying to find its utmost capacity for the extensive presence of challenges. The activities which can be helped with identity and engage known experts in preservation practice and policy planning that addresses urban challenges also helps exchanging of information particularly on the preservation activities of the collections of the sites, dis- semination of information on the collections among the people, and visions and needs related to their respective museums and libraries are among the important to promote. cultural connectivity and extend cultural understand- ing.

To share Myanmar experience, the Ministry of Culture which has been established since 1952, is the main focal ministry to take the responsibility of excavations and restorations of historic sites. The Ministry whose Vision and Mission is to be “Hub of National prestige and Na- tional Identity with cultural heritage and national heritage and national character, and dynamism of patriotic spirit.”

(To be continued)
US spy agency wiretapped two French finance ministers

Paris, 30 June — The US National Security Agency wiretapped the communications of two successive French finance ministers and collected information on French export contracts, trade and budget talks, according to a report by WikiLeaks.

The transparency website said the ministers targeted were Francois Baroin and Pierre Moscovici, who between them headed the finance ministry from 2011 to 2014.

The allegations, published jointly with newspapers Liberation and online outlet Mediapart, came a week after WikiLeaks reported that the NSA had spied on three French presidents from at least 2006 to May 2012, prompting the government to protest to Washington that such behaviour between allies was unacceptable.

WikiLeaks said that in one document dating from 2002 and renewed in 2012, the NSA asked intelligence services from Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand to collect information on proposed French export contracts worth more than $200 million in sectors including telecoms, electricity, nuclear energy, transport, and health.

No specific French companies were named in the WikiLeaks documents.

Another leaked document showed a summary of a phone call between Moscovici, who now serves as Economics Commissioner for the European Union, and a Socialist senator, in which they discussed the poor state of the French economy and ongoing budget negotiations.

In a tweet on 24 June, which appeared on French president’s account, Moscovici was revealed, Moscovici said he would be shocked if he had been subject to such surveillance and would demand an explanation from the American authorities.

“Unacceptable between allies and friends,” he tweeted. A spokesman for France’s foreign ministry declined to comment on Monday.

In Washington, the NSA and Office of the Director of National Intelligence would not comment on the specifics of the latest WikiLeaks documents.

US intelligence officials have repeatedly asserted that the United States does not carry out electronic surveillance for commercial gain.

While the United States collects intelligence about economic and financial matters, “What we do not do, as we have said many times, is use our foreign intelligence capabilities to steal the trade secrets of foreign companies on behalf of — or give intelligence we collect to — US companies to enhance their international competitiveness or increase their bottom line,” Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in September 2013.

Some US and European security sources have expressed concern that the latest sensitive documents may have been supplied to WikiLeaks by a previously unknown source, and not by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. Snowden took refuge in Russia after releasing tens of thousands of classified US intelligence documents in 2013.—Reuters

Mogherini: Text of two agreements finalized

Brussels, 30 June — EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini said early Tuesday after another round of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue that the text of two agreements has been finalized.

An illustration picture shows the logo of the US National Security Agency on the display of an iPhone in Berlin on 7 June, 2013.—Reuters

AeroMexico Dreamliner makes emergency landing in Ireland

Dublin, 30 June — A Boeing 787 Dreamliner en route from Mexico City to Paris made an emergency landing at Ireland’s Shannon Airport on Monday and all 193 people on board disembarked safely, a spokesman for the airport said on Monday.

Mexico’s Aeromexico said in a statement that an alert in the cargo hold of the flight caused it to divert, and a spokesperson later added there was no fire on the plane.

The Shannon Airport spokesman said crews on the ground were planning to inspect the Aeromexico plane. He declined to comment on what caused the plane to make the emergency landing.

A Boeing spokesperson declined to answer questions about the incident and directed questions to Aeromexico.

While Aeromexico said there was no fire in this case, the Dreamliner has a history of electrical system overheating. Regulators grounded the worldwide 787 fleet in January 2013 after lithium-based batteries overheated on two jets in two separate incidents in less than two weeks, prompting a full-scale US investigation.

Boeing modified the battery system and installed steel boxes around the batteries to contain fire and allow smoke and fumes to vent outside the aircraft.

In April 2013, the US Federal Aviation Administration allowed the 787 to resume service and other regulators followed. The root cause of battery overheating was never determined.

France announces terrorism charge against gas plant attacker

Paris, 30 June — France’s chief public prosecutor said on Tuesday a man arrested last week on suspicion of beheading his boss was found guilty of murder and attempted murder.

Prosecutor Francois Molins announced the news at the end of an initial 96-hour custody following the arrest of Yassin Salhi, 35, who was arrested on the scene of the crime near the southern city of Lyon on Friday.

The severed head of his boss was found hanging on the fence of a site belonging to US-based gas and chemicals company Air Products, next to flags bearing professions of the Muslim faith.

Molins said investigations in the four days since Salhi’s arrest — notably evidence of contact with an Islamist militant in Syria — justified an inquiry on charges of suspected terrorism and not simply, as Salhi argued, an assassination that was provoked by personal problems with his boss and wife.

Greece to re-open bank branches for pensioners

Athens, 30 June — Greece will re-open 1,000 bank branches from Wednesday until the end of the week to cater for pensioners who do not use debit or credit cards and are unable to collect their pensions.

Bank branches are expected to remain closed for other purposes until 6 July, as part of capital controls imposed this week to prevent a collapse of the banking system after the European Central Bank froze financial support needed to keep the banks afloat.

Although ATMs were reopened on Monday afternoon, many older people who do not use debit or credit cards were unable to collect their pensions.

Pensioners will each be able to withdraw up to 120 euros a week. The finance ministry reiterated assurances that bank deposits would remain safe after Sunday’s referendum on the terms of a bailout agreement with foreign lenders which the government has rejected.

Reuters
Four Israelis wounded in suspected Palestinian West Bank shooting

JERUSALEM, 30 June — A gunman opened fire at a group of Israelis near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Monday, the Israeli military said, in a suspected Palestinian drive-by attack.

A spokesman for Israel’s ambulance service Magen David Adom said medics were treating four people in their twenties, one of them badly wounded. A military spokesman said forces were searching the area for suspected Palestinian assailants.

There has been an up-tick of violence in the area in recent weeks.

Earlier on Monday, police said a Palestinian woman stabbed and wounded an Israeli soldier at a crossing between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. On Friday Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank after he opened fire on them at a checkpoint.

Earlier this month a Palestinian stabbing and wounded an Israeli para-military policeman outside the walled Old City of Jerusalem. The policeman shot back and wounded him and in the West Bank a suspect-ed Palestinian gunman shot at two Israeli hikers and killed one. The assailant escaped.

Palestinian militants this month have fired rockets into Israel from Gaza, drawing Israeli return fire. That frontier has been largely quiet since the Gaza war last year in which more than 2,100 Palestinians and 73 on the Israeli side were killed. Palestinians seek a state in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The last round of peace talks between the sides broke down in April 2014.—Reuters

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**Tunisia arrests suspects associated with beach hotel attacker**

SOUSSE, (Tunisia), 30 June — Tunisian authorities have arrested a group of suspects associated with the gunman who killed 38 people, mainly British tourists, in a beach hotel attack claimed by Islamic State, the interior minister said on Monday.

British interior minister Theresa May, and her French and German counterparts, visited the site of the attack near the Imperial Marhaba hotel in the resort town of Sousse, laying flowers on the beach. They promised Tunisia help in security, intelligence, police training and to help keep tourism alive.

Tourism Police, armed with handguns and rifles, patrolled the waterfront where some European tourists remained amid the paraskis and bouquets scattered in the sand.

Interior Minister Najem Ghasalii gave no de tails of those arrested and said officials were check ing whether gunman Saif Rezgu had been trained in neighbouring Libya in jihadi camps.

Forensic evidence shows Rezgui, a student who gave few clues to family and friends that he had been radicalized, was probably the only gun man, though others may have been involved in plan ning and organizing the attack.

“Will find all those involved, whether it was just logistical support or not,” the Tunisian minister said, flanked by ministers from Britain, France and Germany.

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**Islamic State beheads female civilians for first time in Syria**

BEIRUT, 30 June — The hardline Islamic State group has beheaded two women in Syria, the first time it has decapitated female civilians, the founder of a group monitoring the war said on Tuesday.

The beheadings took place in the eastern Deir al-Zor province this week said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks the conflict using sources on the ground.

One of the women was beheaded along with her husband in Deir al-Zor city. In al-Mayadeen city to the south east, the group be headed another woman and her husband. All of them were accused of sorcery, the monitor said.

Islamic State has be headed local and foreign men in Syria, including en emy combatants, aid work ers and journalists as well as people it has deemed as violating its hardline inter pretation of Islamic law.

Several of the group’s female captives have been stoned to death previously after being accused of adul tery and other offences. This is the first time it was reported to have beheaded female civilians.

Islamic State also “crucified” five men in al-Mayadeen for eating dur ing daylight hours of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the Observatory said.

They were hung up by their limbs on the city wall and children were encour aged to mock them as they suffered, it added.

Activists say Islamic State uses such public punishments in areas where it is present to control the local population through cor rection and fear.

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**Car bomb in Yemeni capital hits mourners, dozens wounded**

SANAA, 30 June — A car bomb claimed by Islamic State exploded in the Yemeni capital Sanaa overnight, medics said, wounding at least 28 people gathered to mourn another attack earlier this month.

In a new sign that three months of war in Yemen was ratcheting up, the country’s military spokesman said its forces had launched a Scud missile at a Saudi military base on Tuesday.

A Saudi-led military alliance has been bombing Yemen’s dominant Houthi group and its allies in the army to dislodge them from the capital and restore the exiled president.

A sectarian-tinged conflict has raged throughout Yemen’s south and centre, pitting the Shi’ite Muslim Houthis against mostly Sunni Muslim militiamen who support the Arab intervention.

The political vacuum has given hardline Sunni militiamen greater room to operate. They regard the Houthis as apostates worthy of death, and the overnight blast was the latest in a series of attacks on the group and their supporters.

“The explosion was caused by a car bomb which exploded behind the military hospital in the Sha’oub district in Sanaa, which injured 28 people including 12 women in a building where victims of a previous attack were being mourned,” a medical source said.

In a statement posted online, Islamic State claimed responsibility for the blast, saying it had targeted the area “out of revenge for the Muslims against the Houthi apostates.”

Despite the months of Arab air strikes backing up the Houthis’ armed opponents in Yemen, the Houthis have not lost ground on the battlefield and have stepped up their exchanges of artillery and rocket fire with Saudi forces along their border.

Yemeni forces launched a Scud missile at a missile base in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, Yemeni state news agency Saba quoted the military’s spokesman as saying.

“The rocket units in our heroic armed forces today launched a Scud missile at the Al Sulayyid missile base in Riyadh Province ... it comes as a response to the crimes of the brutal Saudi aggression,” Brigadier General Shafar Luqmam said.

Luqmam said the attack hit the base, which is about 450 km (280 miles) south of the Saudi capital Riyadh, but a previous Scud launched by Yemen’s forces earlier this month was shot down by Saudi patriot missiles despite Yemeni claims it struck its target.

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**People stand next to wreckage at the site of a car bomb attack in Yemen’s capital Sanaa on 29 June, 2015.—Reuters**

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Ku Klux Klan gets green light for pro-Confederate flag rally in South Carolina

Brandon, (Hillsborough County) 30 June — The white supremacist Ku Klux Klan has received approval from South Carolina officials to hold a pro-Confederate flag rally at the state capitol, a newspaper reported on Monday, less than two weeks after a white man shot dead nine people in a black church.

The suspect in the church shooting, 21-year-old Dylann Roof, has confessed to the killing. He had previously posted a racist manifesto online as well as photos of him posing with a Confederate flag, a Civil-War era banner associated with slavery and seen by many as a symbol of racism.

The shootings on 17 June, in which all nine victims were black, unleashed shockwaves across the United States and triggered calls for South Carolina to stop displaying the Confederate flag on the statehouse grounds.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has called for the flag’s removal, and neither Nikki Haley has called for the flag’s removal, and no African-American, in-cluding cross burnings and killings.

An answering machine for the South Carolina chapter referred to Roof as a “warrior,” according to the Post and Courier.

Federal authorities said on Monday they are investigating a spate of fires at predominantly black churches across the southern United States, though so far no link between the incidents has been established.

In past years, race relations have been increasingly under the spotlight in the United States amid growing anger over frequent deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of law enforcement, leading to demonstrations and occasional unrest.—Reuters

China issues emergency alert for flood-hit Sichuan

Beijing, 30 June — Chinese authorities initiated a grade IV emergency response to torrential rain and floods in Sichuan Province on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction sent work teams to assist relief efforts in the southwest China province, where storms have brought floods and landslides since last week.

In Sichuan, two people were killed by landslides in Nanjiang County, which reported its worst floods since 1949. Another woman was killed by a landslide in Sichuan’s Pengxi County. Official figures show that the disaster has forced the relocation of 132,300 people across 44 towns-hips with 23,000 homes being completely destroyed as of 9 am on Tuesday.

A grade IV response, the lowest in the country’s emergency response system, means a 24-hour alert, daily damage reports, and dispatching money and relief materials within 48 hours. The provincial government plans to allocate 15 million yuan (2.45 million US dollars) to provide daily living assistance for residents from disaster-hit areas.—Xinhua

Lightning, storms kill 56 Cambodians in 1st half of 2015

Phnom Penh, 30 June — Lightning and storms killed 56 people, injured 166 others and destroyed or damaged about 7,000 homes in Cambodia during the first half of this year, according to a government report made available on Tuesday. The report of the National Committee for Disaster Management showed that 44 Cambodians were killed by lightning and 12 by storms over the past six months. The number of deaths by lightning decreased by about 20 percent compared with the same period last year when the total was 57.

Lightning and storms normally strike parts of the country during the rainy season from May to October.—Kyodo News

Elderly population surging in New Zealand

Wellington, 30 June — New Zealand’s elderly aged 65 and over is projected to make up almost a quarter of the total population in another three decades, the government statistics agency said on Tuesday.

The age group was up from 9.9 percent of the population in 1981 to 14.3 percent in 2012, and was projected to grow to 23.8 percent in another 30 years, according to Statistics New Zealand.

People aged 85 and over were making up a growing proportion of the 65-plus age group, born overseas, and one in three of these has been in New Zealand for 50 years or more.

“People aged 65 and over are working for longer. In 2013, 22.1 percent of the age group were employed, which is up from 19.7 percent by 2043. We’ve seen a very noticeable shift since the 1981 Census. The proportion of over-65s is steadily increasing, and is expected to continue growing, especially in the over-85s bracket,” census custom-er focus manager Gareth Meech said in a statement.

More than a quarter — 27.5 percent — of the 65-plus age group were born overseas, and one in three of these has been in New Zealand for 50 years or more.

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Call for Ideas

Important information starting from 15th of June 2015, Project Ideas may be presented to the Facility for Partnerships any given time (rolling submission).

Are you a Myanmar company, association, NGO/CSO or any other local initiative, informal network or institution? Do you have a Project idea together with at least one other organization? Do your joint Project idea contribute to sustainable economic development in the private sector (tourism, fruits & vegetables, tea), banking and financial sector or technical and vocational education and training sector in Shan State?

If yes, and if you and your partner organization(s) need support to bring your Project idea to implementation, please contact us for further information and the necessary application format. Project ideas can be submitted any time (rolling submission).

If your Project idea gets short-listed, GIZ will support you to develop a sound Project Concept, which then enters into a second evaluation round. Finalists have the chance to receive the necessary financial, organisational and technical support to realise their project.

Contact us at:
092 6321 9852
info@giz.de

Sustainable Economic Development

Foreigners allowed owning houses in Vietnam from 1 July

HANOI, 30 June — Foreigners are allowed to own houses in Vietnam from 1 July, 2015, states the country’s housing law, which was adopted by the National Assembly in November 2014 and will take effects from the beginning of this July, regulates foreigners’ permission to own houses in Vietnam.

Specifically, foreign organizations, individuals, foreign-invested companies, branches of foreign companies, foreign investment funds, as well as branches of foreign banks are allowed to buy, rent, receive donation and inheritance as well as own less than 30 percent of apartments in apartment buildings in Vietnam.

The government has allowed ownership among foreigners in Vietnam is 50 years, reported local VNEconomy online newspaper on Tuesday, adding that if a foreign get married with a Vietnamese national, he or she will have long-term ownership to the house.

Xinhua

S Korea’s MERS death toll rises to 33, no new infection for 3rd day

SEOUL, 30 June — South Korean health authorities reported on Tuesday an additional death linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus, raising the toll to 33. But no new cases of those diagnosed with the potentially fatal virus have been reported for the third consecutive day, with the number of infected standing at 182, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The latest deceased was an 81-year-old female patient who had been suffering from underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure and heart disease.

Out of the total 33 deaths, 30 MERS cases involved people of old age or those with existing health conditions. Of the 54 patients still being treated, 13 are in an unstable condition. Ninety-five have been discharged from hospitals after recovering.

From 7 a.m Tuesday, 2,638 have been quarantined — 2,098 at their homes and 540 at medical facilities.

The government has vowed all efforts to eradicate the outbreak of the disease since the nation’s first case was confirmed on 20 May.—Kyodo News

Denmark tells Germany will impose border controls

COPENHAGEN, 30 June — Denmark’s new foreign minister, Kristian Jensen, told his German counterpart that the country intends to impose border controls but within the rules governing the passport-free Schengen area, the foreign ministry said, confirming an earlier report.

The imposition of border controls, to restrict illegal immigration and smuggling, had been a key demand of the rightwing Danish People’s Party during coalition talks. The party ended up not joining the Liberal government. —Reuters

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagain and Taninthayi Regions, Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

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Justin Bieber heads Down Under for Hillsong Church worship

SYDNEY, 30 June — Justin Bieber arrived in Sydney on Monday to attend a week-long gathering at a Hillsong pentecostal church, after the pop star this year vowed to discard his hard-partying image.

“Justin is here, like tens of thousands of others, as a delegate who is seeking to build stronger foundations into his life,” Hillsong Church said in a statement.

Music is central to Hillsong’s form of worship but the Canadian singer is unlikely to perform any of Hillsong’s faith-based songs, according to the church.

Bieber has made headlines for his hard partying lifestyle and run-ins with the law in several countries, including a January 2014 arrest for allegedly racing a Lamborghini through Miami. He announced in January on his Facebook page that he wanted to leave behind his “arrogant” and “conceited” behaviour. Last year, Hillsong’s conference in Sydney attracted around 20,000 followers from more than 60 countries.—Reuters

Men bring the moves, but ladies take charge in ‘Magic Mike XXL’

LOS ANGELES, 30 June — Mike may have the magic, but it’s the ladies that have the control in ‘Magic Mike XXL’, as five buff men cater to the female gaze in the supercharged raunchy male stripper movie sequel.

“The film, out in US theaters on 1 July, follows 2012’s surprise hit “Magic Mike,” with Mike (Channing Tatum) rejoining the Kings of Tampa, his rogue band of male entertainers (Joe Manganiello, Matt Bomer, Adam Rodriguez and Adam DeVine) for one last ride to an annual stripping convention.

“XXL” serves up elements of a road trip, but the introduction of new female players like Rome (Jada Pinkett Smith) make the film all about what women really want from the men in their lives.

“The first one, we just wanted to make a weird movie about a weird subculture that we hadn’t seen on film and that was it,” said Tatum, who serves as a producer on the film, the first of which was loosely based on his own experiences as a male dancer.

“This is getting to hang out with the buddies again and hopefully try to push the conversation.”

Pinkett Smith, who plays the proprietress of an exotic female-only club where women are entertained by male dancers, said she appreciated being cast on the female point of view.

“Any time you’re dealing with sex, it’s really important to have an authentic female perspective included because men can’t really know how we live in this space and how we relate to this space and what we really need,” she said.

Andie MacDowell, who plays fun-loving southern woman Nancy in the film, said “XXL” slily tapped into women being able to enjoy male entertainment without feeling shame.

“I love the fact that it’s a feminist movie in that we are out there enjoying our sexuality,” she said. “People are surprised (‘Magic Mike’) was a success and that just shows how little people understand about women.”

Time Warner Inc-owed Warner Bros’ “Magic Mike XXL” is projected to open with $29 million over the US Independence Day holiday weekend.

But “XXL” is not just for ladies, said Bomer, who returns as the chiselled Ken. Rather the film is “giving everybody their voice,” he said.

A lot of the themes of this are very much about expression and communication and taking stigmas and perceived gender roles and pushing those off of sexuality and what turns you on,” he said.—Reuters

Robin Williams’ final film to open Ischia Global Festival

LOS ANGELES, 30 June — Hollywood funnyman Robin Williams’ last film “Boulevard” will have its European premiere opening at the 13th Ischia Global Film and Music Festival on 12 July.

In the film, Robin Williams plays a married bank employee whose encounter with a young hustler forces him to face his repressed homosexuality, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

“We are proud to inaugurate the festival with a long awaited work. The first trailer of this movie — recently launched on the web — has touched the hearts of millions of fans who will soon commemorate the first anniversary of Williams’ passing on 11 August,” said festival’s director Pascal Vicedomini.

“Boulevard” was directed by Alex Kingston to feature in new ‘Doctor Who’ audio plays

London, 30 June — Actor Alex Kingston’s River Song will cross paths with the Eighth Doctor (Paul McGann) in a new series of “Doctor Who” audio plays.

Kingston will reprise her role as the time-traveling archaeologist in “Doctor Who: Doom Coalition 2” from Big Finish Productions, reported Digital Spy.

“Any time you’re dealing with sex, it’s really important to have an authentic female perspective included because men can’t really know how we live in this space and how we relate to this space and what we really need,” she said.

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“Any time you’re dealing with sex, it’s really important to have an authentic female perspective included because men can’t really know how we live in this space and how we relate to this space and what we really need,” she said.

Andie MacDowell, who plays fun-loving southern woman Nancy in the film, said “XXL” slily tapped into women being able to enjoy male entertainment without feeling shame.

“I love the fact that it’s a feminist movie in that we are out there enjoying our sexuality,” she said. “People are surprised (‘Magic Mike’) was a success and that just shows how little people understand about women.”

Time Warner Inc-owned Warner Bros’ “Magic Mike XXL” is projected to open with $29 million over the US Independence Day holiday weekend.

But “XXL” is not just for ladies, said Bomer, who returns as the chiselled Ken. Rather the film is “giving everybody their voice,” he said.

A lot of the themes of this are very much about expression and communication and taking stigmas and perceived gender roles and pushing those off of sexuality and what turns you on,” he said.—Reuters
Boxers Mayweather, Pacquiao top Forbes best paid celebrity list

New York, 30 June — Boxers Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao topped Forbes list of the world’s 100 highest-paid celebrities on Monday, on the heels of their lucrative clash in Las Vegas last month.

With an estimated $300 million in earnings over the past 12 months, Mayweather more than lived up to his nickname “Money” and was the undisputed champion. Pacquiao was second, making $160 million over the past 12 months.

Their final earnings from the 2 May bout, which Mayweather won by unanimous decision, have not yet been deducted. But Forbes’ estimates were based on what experts have described as the richest fight in boxing history.

“This (Mayweather’s) $300 million shattered the record for athlete earnings, which was previously held by Tiger Woods who managed to bank $115 million in 2008,” Natalie Robehmed, of Forbes, said in an interview. “It is above and beyond anything anyone has ever done.”

Forbes compiled its annual list of the most powerful celebrities from the worlds of sports, television, music and books by estimating pre-tax earnings from January 1, 2014 to 1 June, 2015. Management, agent and attorney fees were not deducted.

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who earned $28 million in the previous list, nearly doubled her earnings to an estimated $52.5 million, according to Forbes.

“I personally think she has been able to monetize fame better than anybody else,” said Robehmed. “A large percentage of her earnings come from her iPhone game.”

Kardashian placed just above Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence who was No 34 with $52 million. Lawrence and Scarlett Johansson, No 65 with $35.5 million, are the only two film actresses to make the 100 list, compared to 14 male movie stars.

“The movie made more than $700 million at worldwide box offices and won an Oscar for the best animated movie in 2010.” —Reuters

Seattle home linked to Disney’s “Up” movie could be demolished

A century-old Seattle house formerly owned by Edith Macefield and featured in a marketing stunt to publicize Walt Disney Co’s balloon adventure movie “Up”, is pictured in Seattle, Washington on 13 March, 2015. —Reuters

WASHINGTON, 30 June — A century-old Seattle house resembling the home in Walt Disney Co’s animated film “Up” is facing possible demolition, local media reported on Monday.

In 2006, Edith Macefield drew national media coverage when she refused a $1 million offer for her 1,000-square-foot house. The investment company that made the offer eventually developed a 131,000-square-foot retail and office centre around the home.

Macefield died in 2008 and willed her house to a construction superintendent she had befriended. The house was sold the following year.

Newspaper website Seatlepi.com reported on Monday Paul Thomas, the house’s broker and agent who purchased the home and planned to open a coffee-and- pie store with her teenage daughter there had backed out. Thomas told local media that bringing the house to code would be too expensive.

“It has become apparent that age and condition of the house make it cost-prohibitive for anyone to use the house in its current location,” Thomas said, according to Seatlepi.com.

He said the home would either be donated, preferably to a non-profit, or destroyed and the land would be sold.

If a recipient able to move the house within 90 days is not found, the website said, it could face demolition.

In 2009, publicists for the “Up” movie tied a cluster of balloons to the two-story bungalow to market the Disney-Pixar film about a curmudgeonly old man who refuses to sell his home and flies off in the house tied to balloons.

The movie made more than $700 million at world-wide box offices and won an Oscar for the best animated movie in 2010. —Reuters

IOC asks Tokyo to finalize 2020 Olympic stadium plan by end of July

Tokyo, 30 June — International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has called on Tokyo to finalize a plan to build the main stadium for the 2020 Summer Olympics before an IOC meeting in late July, Japan’s Olympic minister said on Tuesday.

Toshiaki Endo, newly appointed minister in charge of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympics Games, said at a Press conference that the IOC head made the request to former prime minister and 2020 president Yoshiro Mori, as Japan struggles with how to fund the project, which will be more costly than previously estimated.

The government said on Monday it expects the overall costs of building the new National Stadium to soar by 90 billion yen from the initial projection to 252 billion yen ($2 billion). Sports minister Hakubun Shimomura has asked the Tokyo metropolitan government to shoulder 50 billion yen of the bill. But no agreement has been reached yet. Endo said the funding plan cannot be fixed without good coordination with the Tokyo government.

“We want to settle the issue as early as possible,” he said. The government is considering various ways to generate funding, including the idea of selling the naming rights to the new stadium, as well as the introduction of baseball lottery in addition to the existing soccer lottery to enable the nation’s sports lottery operator to contribute to the fund for the new stadium.

But regarding the sports lottery, it would be difficult to revise relevant laws during the current Diet session unless a deal is struck with the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association by mid-July, Endo added.

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**Vargas double takes hosts Chile into Copa final**

**SANTIAGO, 30 June**— Chile took another step towards their dream of winning a first Copa America on home soil with a 2-1 win over Peru on Monday but Eduardo Vargas’ match-winning double was overshadowed by an early refereeing decision that tarnished the game the hosts’ way.

Carlos Zambrano’s harsh sending off for a high tackle after four minutes was the second game in a row that Chile’s rivals have been hit with controversial red cards.

The decision was a hard one to swallow for Peru, who in spite of being underdogs had started well in front of a capacity crowd at Santiago’s National Stadium.

“I think Zambrano’s expulsion was a bit tough,” Peru striker Paolo Guerrero told television cameras.

“I don’t want to complain about the refereeing but there were a lot of unexpected decisions. If it had been 11 against 11 it would have been a different story.”

Chile’s opponents in last week’s quarter-final, Uruguay, were reduced to nine men in controversial fashion with Edinson Cavani and Jorge Fucile being sent off in Santiago.

Cavani’s red card came after Chile defender Gonzalo Jara stuck his finger up the striker’s backside and when he responded with the slightest of touches Jara fell to the ground theatrically, prompting the referee to send the Uruguayan off.

Chile got the decisive goal shortly after.

Jara later had a three-game ban for provoking Cavani cut to two by the governing body of South American football.

Peru refused to cave in after Zambrano’s dismissal and matched their hosts in a pulsating first half.

But just when it looked like the teams would go in all square at half time Chile took the lead when striker Vargas poled the ball home from three yards after an Alexis Sanchez cross had come back off the post.

Television replays showed Vargas was marginally offside but, justice seemed to be done seconds into the second half when he had what looked like a legitimate goal chalked off for offside.

Peru came back into the game and equalized on the hour mark when Guerrero split the Chilean defence with a pass for Luis Advincula. He whipped in a cross from the right that Gary Medel turned into his own net.

Peru’s lead lasted just four minutes, however, and again it was Vargas who did the damage as he picked up the ball in midfield and lashed home an unstoppable strike from 30 yards.

Chile, who have never won the Copa America in its 99-year existence, will play the winners of Tuesday’s semi-final between Argentina and Paraguay.—**Reuters**

**Serena and Djokovic up and running at Wimbledon**

LONDON, 30 June — Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams made strong cases for the less is more approach to Wimbledon build-ups with resounding victories at a sunny All England Club on Monday.

Defending men’s champion Djokovic, who has been training in the south of France rather than fine-tuning the grasscourt arts since his French Open title quest turned to dust, swept past Germany’s Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

American 20 times grand slam champion Williams, who like the Serb rarely schedules in any grasscourt tournaments before Wimbledon, also proved impressive after a slow start, beating Russian debutant Margarita Gasparyan 6-4, 6-1 on Court One.

The reigning US Open, Australian Open and French Open champion is now half way towards a rare “calendar” grand slam last achieved by Steffi Graf in 1988 and only six wins away from holding all four majors at the same time.

“Honestly, I don’t think about it. But every time I come into press, you guys talk about it.” Williams, like her sister Venus bidding for a sixth Wimbledon title, told a news conference which saw all about a possible repetition of the “Serena Slam” she completed in 2003.

“Naturally it’s definitely getting on my mind than I want it to be. But it’s also six matches away.”

The only blot on her copybook was a code violation for an audible obscenity early in the first set.

World number one Djokovic’s hopes of completing his own “career slam” were scuppered by Stanislas Wawrinka in the Roland Garros final earlier this month, but the Serb showed no lasting effects as he dispatched Kohlschreiber in clinical fashion.

Knowing exactly when to squeeze the throttle, Djokovic broke serve in the 10th game of each set to safely negotiate what he described as a dangerous opening obstacle.

“That’s where maybe you can have a mental edge over him. He missed a couple shots.” Djokovic broke serve in the 10th game of each set to safely negotiate what he described as a dangerous opening obstacle.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after winning his match against Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, 30 June, 2015. — **Reuters**

Serenia Williams of USA. reacts during her match against Margarita Gasparayan of Russia at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, 30 June, 2015. — **Reuters**

Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts against Johanna Konta of Britain at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, 29 June, 2015. — **Reuters**

“Overall a great performance against a quality opponent.”

Djokovic might have expected to be playing 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt in round two but the gritty Australian’s Wimbledon career was ended by Jarkko Nieminen.

Not that 34-year-old Hewitt went down timidity, rather scraping tooth and nail as he has done throughout a career that took him to the summit of the sport.

Nieminen, one of 37 men aged 30 or over in the singles draw — a Wimbledon record — won 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 11-9.

“I was always going to leave it all out there, everything I had in the tank. I certainly did that,” Hewitt, who will retire after the French Open grand slam 33 on Centre Court.

It was a good day for seeds. Fourth seed Wawrinka, looking to emulate the likes of Bjorn Borg and Rafa Nadal by claiming a French Open/Wimbledon double, crashed past Portugal’s Joao Sousa 6-2, 7-5, 7-6(3).

Japan’s Kei Nishikori, seeded five, scraped past Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 while big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic, the number seven, ousted Spain’s Daniel Gimeno-Traver in four sets.

Croatia’s Marin Cilic, who joined the elite by winning the US Open last year, beat Hiroki Moriya of Japan 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(4).

Russian Maria Sharapova screamed back to full volume after she coughed and spluttered out of the French Open a few weeks ago, the fourth seed looking revitalised in a 6-2, 6-2 defeat of British wildcard Johanna Konta on Centre Court.

“The first match of Wimbledon is never the easiest and especially against an opponent who has had a good few weeks and is a crowd favourite,” Sharapova said.

Serbia’s Ana Ivanovic, the 2008 French Open champion, powered past China’s Xu Yifan 6-1, 6-1 while Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, another of the nine women’s grand slam champions in the women’s draw, beat Anett Kontaveit of Estonia 6-2, 6-1.

Spain’s Carla Suarez Navarro became the biggest name to fall, the ninth seed thrashed 6-2, 6-0 by Latvian Jelena Ostapenko.—**Reuters**