Nay Pyi Taw, 6 July — President U Thein Sein concluded his trip to Japan on Monday, arriving at Nay Pyi Taw airport in the early evening.

Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and officials welcomed the president home.

The president was accompanied on the tour by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Maung Soe, U Kyaw Lwin, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Than Aung and U Ye Hlut, deputy ministers U Ohn Than and U Han Sein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing of the Ministry of Defence and officials.

The Myanmar delegation led by the president attended the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit together with leaders from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The summit started in 2009 and is held every year, with Myanmar having hosted the 6th summit in Nay Pyi Taw last year.

The summit aims to promote development of countries in the Mekong region, including the east-west economic corridor and southern economic corridor through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.

With a population of 240 million and total GDP of US $664 billion, the region is an increasingly important market.

The summit adopted the Tokyo Strategy 2015, (See page 3)

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with officials at Hoju collective farm outside Kyoto, Japan. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 July — The National Minimum Wage Committee on Monday invited feedback from organizations and individuals on its recently announced minimum wage proposal.

Feedback forms must be submitted to minimum wage committees in states and regions, as well as to the National Minimum Wage Committee and the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

The committee, which is comprised of ministerial representatives, employers and labour organizations, proposed a minimum wage of K 3,600 per day, although the figure has not yet been officially announced.

The proposal will be submitted to parliament.

MNA

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By Aye Min Soe
YANGON, 6 July — The central bank of Myanmar and Singapore agreed at a meeting Monday in Yangon to cooperate in banking oversight and capacity building.

At the 5th Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee meeting, high-ranking officials from the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Monetary Authority of Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding and exchanged views on developing an inter-bank funding market, as well as deepening technical cooperation in banking and capital market supervision.

The JMWC meeting also discussed the business environment for foreign investors, urban development strategies, transportation and logistics, food and agriculture, expansion of air connectivity, development of small- and medium-sized enterprises and the legal sector in Myanmar.

The two sides also agreed to jointly organize legal workshops and (See page 3)

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Amyotha Hluttaw speaker meets Australian delegation

Union Election Commission clarifies its voters’ list functions to the public

Myanmar, UNODC focus on narcotic drug elimination

Penny-pinching reflects outdated management

THEMES FOR LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN

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President U Thein Sein concludes Japan tour

Minimum wage committee invites feedback

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Deputy Minister for Health fields queries at Pyithu Hluttaw

**Pyithu Hluttaw**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 6 July** — The Union Election Commission also denied the media accusation that data in voters’ lists were wrong from 30 percent to 80 percent and expressed its belief that public cooperation will lead to correct data in voters’ lists.

In response to a query about the compilation of voters’ lists, the UEC explained its belief that public cooperation will lead to correct data in voters’ lists. The commission during the process.

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Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance, following surveys of land for new buildings.

The ministry had no plan to upgrade the rural healthcare centre into a station hospital during the current fiscal year, the deputy minister said.

Afterwards, the session heard findings of the bill committee on the motor vehicle bill, the bill repealing the pension act and the bill amending the penal code.—**MNA**

Univ. for Development of Nat’l Races set for entrance criteria change

**Nav Pyi Taw, 6 July** — Entrance criteria for the Bachelor of Education at the University for Development of National Races will be amended, Major-General Tin Aung Chit, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs, told the Amyotha Hluttaw on Monday.

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Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin. The deputy minister also said the plan to double the patient capacity of the 50-bed hospital in Gyoobgaun would be submitted to the Union Government with the approval of the Government.

The ministry had no plan to upgrade the rural healthcare centre into a station hospital during the current fiscal year, the deputy minister said.

Afterwards, the session heard findings of the bill committee on the motor vehicle bill, the bill repealing the pension act and the bill amending the penal code.—**MNA**

Gems emporium concludes with 949 million euro worth of gems and jade sales

**Nav Pyi Taw, 6 July** — The 52nd Myanmar Gems Emporium concluded here on Monday with a total sales of 949 million euro worth of gems and jade sales.

The emporium held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall could attract 4,596 merchants as gems and jades are sold in open tender and competitive bidding systems.

Some 1,005 jade lots were sold at 261.4 million euro through open tender and 35 lots were through competitive bidding for 54.95 million euro.—**MNA**

MDR-TB patients gain easier access to cash assistance

**Yangon, 6 July** — The Three Millennium Development Goal Fund on Sunday introduced electronic fund transfers for patients receiving treatment for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Yangon and Mandalay regions, giving them easier access to monthly cash assistance.

In partnership with Kanbawza Bank, the new arrangement lets patients withdraw their assistance payments from ATMs, according to a press release issued on Sunday.

With the aim of fighting MDR-TB in the country, the 3MDG Fund and the Ministry of Health signed a US$11.5 million agreement to treat 2,200 patients with MDR-TB in 2014. The agreement also covers the strengthening of data management and improvement of MDR-TB infrastructure.

According to a WHO report, 300,000 people have been diagnosed with MDR-TB worldwide. Myanmar is one of 27 high MDR-TB burden countries. Around 5 percent of new TB cases are found to be multi-drug resistant.—**GNLM**

**By Khaing Thanda Lwin**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 6 July** — As the Traditional Medicine Department covers a wide range of duties other than treatment, its director general must be multi-skilled, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint told the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Monday.

The deputy minister also said the plan to double the patient capacity of the 50-bed hospital in Gyoobgaun would be submitted to the Union Government with the approval of the current fiscal year, the deputy minister said.

Afterwards, the session heard findings of the bill committee on the motor vehicle bill, the bill repealing the pension act and the bill amending the penal code.—**MNA**

Union Election Commission clarifies its voters’ list functions to the public

**Nav Pyi Taw, 6 July** — The Union Election Commission explained its functions concerning the compilation of voters’ lists, saying that current voters’ lists were compiled by village, ward/village-tract or township levels and mistakes can be corrected within 14 days of the announcement of voters’ list. After such corrections have been made, the approved voters’ lists will be announced, according to the UEC. It urged the public to cooperate with the commission during the process.

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President U Thein Sein concludes...

(from page 1) Pledging cooperation in the development of industrial infrastructure, human resources and green initiatives, as well as coordination between Mekong countries and other countries.

The president also attended the Japan-Myanmar Summit, where he discussed development of the Dawei Special Economic Zone, construction of a coal-fired power station, upgrading of railway lines, and measures to combat traffic congestion in Yangon with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Japanese government also approved assistance loans of 100 billion yen for the Yangon Circular Rail Line, National Power Supply Phase-2 and development of the East-West Economic Corridor, and signed a memorandum of intent related to the Dawei Special Economic Zone.

The trip was the third by the president to Japan, starting with his inaugural visit in April 2012. Earlier in the morning, the president visited a collective farm outside Kyoto before visiting Osaka to study the city’s gas smart energy network and attend a luncheon hosted by businessmen at the Rihga Royal Hotel.

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker meets Australian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint held a talk with a delegation led by Professor Andrew Walker of Southeast Asian Studies from Australian National University (ANU) at the hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw, here, on Monday.

They also discussed alternative development tasks and other cooperation matters.

Also present at the meeting were chairman of Hluttaw committees and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Myanmar, UNODC focus on narcotic drug elimination

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—A delegation led by Mr Jeremy Douglas, UNODC’s SEA and Pacific Region Resident Representative, called on Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko at the ministry, here, on Monday to hold talks on narcotic drug elimination.

They also discussed alternative development tasks and other cooperation matters.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials of Myanmar Police Force and General Administration Department.—MNA

Group of Thai tourists concludes visits to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—A group of Thai tourists on Monday returned from their 5-day travelling around Myanmar through the Yangon International Airport and Myawady border town, a source reported.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the 16-member group riding motorbikes arrived on 1 July in Myanmar via Myawady border town.

During the visit, they paid homage to several pagodas including Kyakhtio Pagoda in Kyakhtio of Mon State, as well as Shwemawdaw Pagoda and Shwethalyuang Pagoda in Bago Region where they visited Kanbawzathadi Palace. On the third day, the group visited Bogyoke Aung San Market after paying homage to the country’s prominent Shwedagon and Botataung pagodas in Yangon. On 4 July, they returned to Mawlamyine and visited the significant places in Hpa-an on 5 July.—MNA

Singapore, Myanmar agree to cooperate in banking...

(from page 1) Of the Ministry of Industry, said before the meeting. Myanmar allocated 20 billion kyats worth of loans to SMEs this year. The country’s Small and Medium-sized Industrial Development Bank has already disbursed 9 billion kyats to SMEs in 15 regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, she added.—GNLM

Sectoral cooperation between Myanmar and Singapore are discussed at 5th Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee meeting. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE
**Statue of General Aung San to be erected in Sakhantha Park**

KYAUKPADAUNG, 6 July — Local residents including teachers and students have started laying the foundations for a bronze statue of General Aung San at Sakhantha Park in Luttalay Ward, Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Region.

Teachers and students of Pan Pyo Lett private school have been helping build the foundations. The 9.5-foot-high statue will be unveiled with a grand ceremony.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

**Health officials gather for MERS symposium**

MANDALAY, 6 July — A symposium on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome took place at the Myanmar Medical Association office in Mandalay on 4 July.

On the occasion, Director-General Prof Dr Myint Han of the Department of Medical Care said health officials in Mandalay Region gained experiences in surveillance and prevention of Ebola, MERS and SARS, as well as H1N1 and H5N1 flu strains as part of preparations for the 2013 SEA Games. The director-general pledged to upgrade Kandaw Nadi Hospital as a specialty hospital for infectious diseases in Mandalay.

He stressed the need to systematically raise health awareness at entry points to the country.

Head of Mandalay Region Public Health Department Dr Win Naing spoke about supervision and surveillance of diseases at TadaU International Airport and NyaungU Airport in addition to railway stations, ports and bus terminals.

Dr Win Naing invited medical personnel from private clinics to join hands with the government in preparation of MERS.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

**Pumpkin harvest season begins in Lewe Tsp**

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July — Pumpkin harvesting season is under way for farmers from Mwayyoelay and Yondaw villages in Lewe Township.

Planting in the villages, situated by the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, began in the last week of April, with the harvest kicking off in the first week of July. Prices per pumpkin range from K100 to K500 depending on size.

“Farmers invest K80,000 per acre for cultivation of pumpkin during the period from sowing to harvesting,” said a local farmer.

“Some farmers in Zigon and Yayohsin villages faced losses in cultivation of pumpkin due to heavy rains when the saplings were young,” a local farmer said.

The farmers send their fruits to Nay Pyi Taw Thabyegon Market and Kinmontan market in addition to merchants from Kyaukdaga, Pyawbwe, Taungdwingyi and Kyaukpadaung townships.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)
**Monywa University opens painting courses for students**

**Monywa, 6 July —** Monywa University recently opened beginner and advanced painting courses at the Literary and Fine Arts Association’s hall in Monywa, Sagaing Region.

The chairman of the Monywa University Literary and Fine Arts Association remarked, “The painting courses help the students pursue geography, zoology and botany subjects.” More than 100 students are attending the courses until 31 July.

Artists from Chindwin Yay Kyi arts group U Ye Myint, U Zaw Win Tin, U Nyo Thein and U Maung Maung San provide the students with theoretical lectures and practical training.

Po Chan
(Monywa)

**Breeders, producers discuss consumer safety policies**

**Mandalay, 6 July —** Poultry breeders and producers met in Mandalay on 4 July to discuss strategies for development of the industry.

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than invited departmental officials, officials of Livestock Breeding Federation and breeding farm owners to take part in developing policies to ensure the safety of poultry products for consumers.

Speakers discussed losses incurred by local poultry farms due to importation of chicken, necessary factors for adopting the policies, and the danger of imported frozen chicken to consumers.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

**Resettled villagers receive livestock for breeding**

**Pinlaung, 6 July —** A ceremony to hand over K30 million as capital investment for the meat sector as part of the Emerald Green Project was held at the monastery in Talaima village, Pinlaung Township, on 4 July.

Assistant Director Dr Ni Ni Win of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department handed over K30 million to Meat Committee Chairman U Tun Wai for breeding tasks. Officials distributed 21 buffaloes, two cows, 338 pigs and 500 ducks to 196 breeders from 14 villages.

Residents from 23 villages have been resettled to make way for the Upper Paunglaung hydropower project.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

**Inter-village road under construction in Tatkon Tsp**

**Tatkon, 6 July —** Officials of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Township Administrator U Kan Saw Hlaing and departmental officials recently inspected progress of a 10-mile-long, 10-foot-wide gravel road linking Dahatgon, Alekyun and Kyeein villages in Tatkon Township.

During their visits to Dahatgon, Myaukmyaik and Alekyun villages, they explained progress of the road and regional development to local residents.

Nay Pyi Taw Council allocated K522.9 million from its budget to construct the inter-village road with the aim of improving transport for local people.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

**Businesses join roundtable discussion in Mandalay**

**Mandalay, 6 July —** Hub Myanmar Company Ltd held a business talk entitled “Better Future, Better Myanmar 2015” at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 5 July.

Representatives from local and overseas firms including Samsung participated in a roundtable discussion.

In the afternoon session, U Tin Zan Kyaw, principal of Device Business Management Academy, gave talks on social collaboration for business benefit.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)
Nago mayor expresses opposition to security bills

NAHA, Japan, 6 July — The mayor of Okinawa Prefecture’s Nago city expressed his opposition on Monday to the government’s national security bills to expand operations of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, branding the bills as unconstitutional.

“The bills are extremely dangerous as they could increase people’s anxiety and change Japan’s way of being,” Susumu Inamine said at a House of Representatives panel meeting held in Naha to hear opinions on the bills from people in Okinawa. “They violate Article 9 of the Constitution,” Inamine said.

The bills would enable Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, or the use of force to defend an ally even if Japan is not directly attacked, after the government changed the interpretation of the Constitution to this effect last year.

The government previously interpreted the war-renouncing article of the Constitution as prohibiting Japan’s exercise of the right to collective self-defense. Inamine is a firm opponent to the government’s plan to relocate the US Marine Corps Futenma Air Station to Nago city’s Henoko area from Ginowan, south of Nago.

At the panel meeting, opposition to the bills was also expressed by former Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota and Tomokazu Takamine, former president of the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper in Okinawa, who were recommended to give their opinions by the opposition camp.

Ota particularly called for suspending the government plan to move to the US base in Henoko.

Two others, Ishigaki Mayor Yoshitaka Nakayama and Nanjo Mayor Kishin Koja, recommended by the ruling coalition, supported the security bills, but also called for in-depth Diet deliberations, saying people still lacked a full understanding of the bills.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito are seeking to pass the bills through the House of Representatives in Okinawa and other prefectures.

The Okinawa hearing came after some LDP lawmakers criticized media organizations’ negative coverage of the national security bills at their gathering last month.

The anti-media criticism has drawn opposition particularly in Okinawa where the prefectural assembly adopted a resolution protesting against writer Naoki Hiyakata’s remark at the LDP gathering that two major Okinawa newspapers, including the Ryukyu Shimpo, should be ‘destroyed.’

Kyodo News

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Wu Chunatt (2*R) hands over a document to the Academic Administrative officer of Kathmandu School of Law Sudha KC (2*L) during the handover ceremony of computers donated by Chinese embassy for the earthquake-hit Kathmandu School of Law in Bhaktapur, Nepal, on 5 July, 2015.

Xinhua

Philippines confirms second MERS case

MANILA, 6 July — The Philippines confirmed a second case of the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus on Monday in a man who showed symptoms after arriving in Manila last month from Dubai.

The 36-year-old was admitted to hospital on Saturday and was under observation, Health Ministry spokesman Lyndon Lee-say said, adding contact tracing was now under way to prevent the spread of the disease.

The man had also traveled to Saudi Arabia, the spokesman said. His condition was improving and there was no known transmission so far.

The first case discovered in the Philippines was in January, a Filipino nurse working in Saudi Arabia who survived.

MERS was first identified in humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and the majority of cases have been in the Middle East. Scientists are not sure of the origin of the virus, but several studies have linked it to camels.

Isolated cases cropped up in Asia before South Korea recorded the biggest number in an outbreak that started in May.

Nearly 180 people have been infected and 27 people have died in South Korea, the largest outbreak outside Saudi Arabia. In the Thai capital Bangkok, more than a hundred people were believed to have been in contact with an Omani man, the only MERS case in Thailand who eventually recovered.

The World Health Organization described South Korea’s outbreak as a “wake-up call” but said it did not constitute a global emergency.

Reuters

Singaporean teenager blogger given four-week imprisonment for online offensive remarks

SINGAPORE, 6 July — Singaporean teenager blogger Amos Yee Pang Sang was sentenced to four weeks in jail on Monday for making offensive remarks online.

As Amos Yee has spent more than 50 days in remand and his sentence was backdated, it meant he could walk free from the court.

Amos Yee’s lawyer Alfred Dodwell said Yee would appeal against the conviction. It still remained as a question whether Yee’s behavior was a crime or not, and Yee wanted to appeal to the High Court, the lawyer added.

The 16-year-old teenager, who was arrested in March, repeatedly breached bail conditions and refused to speak to a probation officer.

Yee was found guilty of two charges, one for making offensive remarks against Christianity and another for circulating an obscene image online. His third charge for his insulting statements on founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in a YouTube video was dropped.

Yee has been remanded at the Institute of Mental Health for the past two weeks to assess his suitability for a mandatory treatment after a doctor said the teenager might have autism-spectrum disorder.

Anyone who is found guilty of making remarks hurting the feelings of a religious group can be jailed for up to three years, or fined or both under the law. Anyone convicted of electronically transmitting an obscene image can be jailed up to three months or fined, or both.

Xinhua

Thai army chief says won’t release 14 student critics of coup

BANGKOK, 6 July — Fourteen Thai students who were arrested after staging anti-coup rallies must face military court and will not be released beforehand, Thailand’s army chief said on Monday, despite growing calls for charges to be dropped.

The students were arrested last month after holding peaceful demonstrations in Bangkok calling for an end to military rule. Thailand’s junta, which calls itself the National Council for Peace and Order, has banned all political gatherings.

Sympathy towards the students’ plight is growing in Thailand and among the Thai diaspora. On Friday, scores of people stopped by a makeshift wall in downtown Bangkok to write messages of support for the students on Post-it notes. Some read: “Free the 14.”

Army chief General Udomdej Sitabutr acknowledged public support for the students but dismissed calls to free them.

“Security officials do not view the students as enemies, they are like our nieces and nephews. Authorities caught them because they did not behave correctly,” Udomdej told reporters. “We have to let the law decide and the next step is to send the case to the military court.”

Last week the United Nations and European Union urged Thailand to release the students but Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha, the general who led the coup against an elected government last May, said he would not bow to international pressure.

Since taking power, the junta has imposed curbs on freedom of expression and intimidated its critics.

The 2014 coup ousted the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Thailand has been divided for a decade between Thailand’s traditional establishment in the capital and the south and supporters of Yingluck and her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was himself ousted by the army in 2006.

The 14 students are due to appear at a military court on Tuesday.

Reuters

A monitor connected to a body temperature scanner shows flight passengers arriving from South Korea, at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, on 9 June, 2015.—REUTERS
Kerry urges Iran to make ‘hard choices’, says US ready to walk

VIENNA, 6 July — An Iranian nuclear agreement is possible this week if Iran makes the “hard choices” necessary, but if not, the United States stands ready to walk away from the negotiations, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday.

Speaking during a break from one of his four meetings with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Sunday, Kerry said they had made “genuine progress” in talks over the last few days, “several of the most difficult issues” remain.

“If hard choices get made in the next couple of days, made quickly, we could get an agreement this week, but if they are not made we will not,” he said in Vienna, where talks between Iran, the United States and five other powers are being held.

Foreign ministers from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia began arriving on Sunday evening as the major powers make a push to meet Tuesday’s deadline for a final agreement to end the 12-year-old dispute.

Kerry said negotiators were still aiming for that deadline, but other diplomats have said the talks could slip to 9 July, the date by which the Obama administration must submit a deal to Congress in order to get an expedited, 30-day review.

The agreement under discussion would require Iran to curb its most sensitive nuclear work for a decade or more in exchange for relief from sanctions that have slashed its oil exports and crippled its economy.

US President Barack Obama’s administration, which has been accused of making too many concessions by Republican members of Congress and by Israel, remains ready to abandon the talks, Kerry said.

“If we don’t have a deal and there is absolute intransigence and unwillingness to move on the things that are important for us, President Obama has always said we’re prepared to walk away,” he said.

European officials also said the onus was on Iran to cut a deal. After arriving in Vienna, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told reporters the main question was whether Iran would make “clear commitments” on unresolved issues.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said it would take courage and compromise to reach a deal. “I hope that this courage exists above all … in Teheran,” he told reporters.

The major powers suspect Iran of trying to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Iran says its nuclear programme is solely for peaceful purposes such as producing medical isotopes and generating electricity.

Reuters

Tokyo, 6 July — The Japanese government is considering emphasizing measures to help spread basic health and medical care in developing countries as one of its foreign policy priorities when it hosts the Group of Seven summit next year, a draft document showed on Sunday.

The draft of the government’s 2016-2020 strategy in the health and medical field, to be adopted shortly, highlights promoting universal health coverage, a goal defined by the World Health Organization as ensuring all people have access to essential healthcare services at affordable prices.

Former senior Xinjiang lawmaker expelled from CPC

BEIJING, 6 July — Li Zha, a senior lawmaker of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, has been expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC’s anti-corruption watchdog said on Monday.

Li, former deputy head of the standing committee of the Regional People’s Congress of Xinjiang, was found “seriously violating discipline, faking personal record and cheating the organization with a wrong age,” according to a statement from the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

He was also caught accepting monetary gifts, seeking benefits for others by taking advantage of his posts in fields such as official selection and enterprise management, and “asking for and accepting huge amounts of bribes,” the statement said. Li also “seriously violated socialist morality and committed adultery,” it said, adding he had tried to interfere with and hamper the investigation, and transfer and hide illicit funds and property.

Kerry urges Iran to make ‘hard choices’, says US ready to walk

Security cameras to be installed in shinkansen cars following suicide

OSAKA, 6 July — Two Japanese railway companies said on Monday they will introduce more security cameras inside the cars of their shinkansen bullet trains in the wake of a suicide last week that left two dead and 26 others injured.

Central Japan Railway Co and West Japan Railway Co said in addition to cameras already set up at the end section of each car, they will install more cameras to cover the interiors of cars and the aisles at the car ends.

The modifications will be made on existing shinkansen with in two years from fiscal 2016 starting next April as well as on new shinkansen to be manufactured, they said.

The move came after Haruo Hayashizaki, 71, set fire to himself last Tuesday inside a shinkansen bound for Shin-Osaka in Osaka from Tokyo, filling the train’s cars with smoke and also killing a female passenger as well as injuring 26 others on board.

Central Japan Railway operates shinkansen trains between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka stations, while West Japan Railway provides shinkansen services between Shin-Osaka and Hakata stations as well as Jooetsu-Miyoko and Kanazawa stations.—Kyodo News

Japan to emphasize its healthcare aid at next G-7

Tokyo, 6 July — The Japanese government is considering emphasizing measures to help spread basic health and medical care in developing countries as one of its foreign policy priorities when it hosts the Group of Seven summit next year, a draft document showed on Sunday.

The draft of the government’s 2016-2020 strategy in the health and medical field, to be adopted shortly, highlights promoting universal health coverage, a goal defined by the World Health Organization as ensuring all people have access to essential healthcare services at affordable prices.

Former S Korean first lady to visit N Korea from 5 August

SEOUL, 6 July — Lee Hee-ho, the widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, is scheduled to make a four-day visit to North Korea from 5 August, travelling by air, according to an organization set up in honor of the deceased president.

The itinerary for the 93-year-old Lee includes a visit to a children’s hospital, a maternity hospital and a nursery, suggested by the Kim Dae-jung Peace Foundation.

The arrangement was made at talks held between officials from the centre and North Korean officials on the North’s border city of Kaesong earlier Monday.

Attention is turned to whether Lee will be able to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during her visit at a time when inter-Korean relations remain tense.

The centre said whether Lee could meet Kim Jong Un has not been decided yet.

Specifics, including the size of an entourage, will be discussed at talks that will be held later.

North Korea has further heightened tensions by threatening retaliation against South Korea for the opening on 23 June in Seoul of a UN office set up to monitor human rights violations in the North.

Lee met Kim Jong Il in December 2011 when she travelled to Pyongyang to express condolences over the death of then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, father of the current young leader.

She had sought to travel to North Korea at the end of last year, but the plan was canceled mainly due to her declining health.

Kim Dae-jung, who served as South Korea’s president from 1998 to 2003, held a landmark summit with Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang in 2000, in which they agreed to promote national reconciliation and economic cooperation. He died in 2009.

As a prelude to the strategy, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered Kenya 4 billion yen in loans for health projects when he met with visiting Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta in March.

While poverty and insufficient facilities and materials often prevent people in developing countries from accessing essential healthcare, diabetes and dementia are also growing into serious problems due partly to malnutrition and aging populations.

Japan aims to strengthen health and medical systems through the developing world so they can deal with those problems, the sources said.

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Photo taken in May 2015 in Seoul shows Lee Hee-ho, the widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Lee is scheduled to make a four-day visit to North Korea from 5 August, where she will visit a children’s hospital, a maternity hospital and a nursery.

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Kyodo News
Penny-pinching reflects outdated management

By Aung Khin

T
do produce goods of sufficient quality and quantity for the market, sound financial management is a must. As the global market converges and international competition intensifies, human resource issues take on even greater importance.

In any organization, sufficient staffing is necessary to get the job done. If a staff member leaves or is absent, company managers must ensure that their colleagues are not overloaded with work.

An insufficiently staffed company is like a vehicle with parts missing. Driving a car with missing wheel nuts is almost sure to guarantee an accident. Insufficient staffing can cause employees stress and make them lose confidence in their work.

Penny-pinching can strain the growth of a business. Management needs to understand the working environment at a basic level. Only then can they properly take care of their human resources. If the top manager is incapable, the entire organization is sure to topple.

Even in developed countries where advanced technologies are used, employers give significant consideration to the contentedness of staff. In less technologically advanced countries, companies rely even more heavily on their human resources. They should therefore be recognized for their important role and treated properly.

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THEMES FOR LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN

Maung Hlaing

A few days ago, I ran into U Myint Kyaw (Retired Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Culture) at Shwe Wae Tun Café, a popular rendezvous for writers, artists, publishers and so on. He told me that as the first paper reading session on literature for children was held in 1965, a Golden Jubilee should be celebrated this year. And he also urged me to write articles on children’s literature.

If memory serves me right, after 1965, there were another two paper reading sessions—one was on “Literature for Children” (in 1973) and another one was on “Folk Tales” (in 1987). Scholars read their interesting papers at the sessions. Whatever it may be, what he said reminded me of my own experiences of childhood.

According to the World Book Encyclopedia (C-ch), the definition is that a child is a person between about 18 months and 13 years of age. Childhood is the period between infancy and adolescence. Childhood can be divided into four stages based on periods of major psychological change. These stages are: the toddler stage, the preschool years, the early school years, and the pre-teenage years.

Of the four stages, developing language skills is a major challenge for children during the toddler stage. That is why, many parents use stories and pictures to help toddlers increase their vocabulary and build sentences. As for the preschool years which extend three to five years of age, children should become accustomed to the books without texts before they go to school. In most of the countries, whether they be developing or developed, people pay much attention to production of preschool books which can be called the source of the literature for children.

The early school years, which last from about age five to eight, mark a major turning point in a child’s development. As for this age-group, books and reading habit come to play an important role. The motto “Interest is the soil in which knowledge can grow” was vividly seen on the first page of the readers (text books) we read in our early school years. Students could enjoy interesting stories such as “The king and the Gooseherd”, “Androcles and the Lion” and so on. The pre-teenage years which extend from about age eight to thirteen can be said to be very important periods for a child because a wrong action may be permitted under some circumstances unless they are attracted by interesting reading materials. It is for this reason that scholars suggest to produce picture books of folk tales and creative stories and books for knowledge.

Today, thousands of books and illustrated stories for children are published all over the world. Unfortunately, we cannot say that almost every book is suitable for our children. As for children, they enjoy folk tales, fairy tales, stories about animals, and stories of the gods of earth and sky that ancient people believed in. And, they appreciate other books, songs and tales that traveling musician and story-tellers told about brave heroes.

Besides, some famous books, such as “Robinson Crusoe” and Jonathan Swift’s “Gulliver’s Travels” were not written for children at all. Yet children have claimed them for their own.

A change has now started to take place. Andrenaissance has come about in the realm of children’s literature. Most of the devoted writers and publishers have now started to write for special age-groups.

The writers for children produce their work in accordance with the age groups, and types of their work for the children have become varied and many. They can be classified into picture books, comic journals, picture books, short stories, science stories, tales and creative stories, children’s novels, drama scripts, humour and translation of literary works. Our duty is to introduce them to our children.

These tender age-groups are periods when their experiences start differentiating between right and wrong. If we want to introduce good books to our children, we must try to create ‘good themes’ which mould the children’s character from the start. We cannot deny the fact that it is the ‘theme’ that is the main factor in producing a good book for children.

How then should we choose the themes for children’s books? Publishers are urged to consider the suggested themes which were laid down in the International Year of the Child.

These are: International Understanding; Getting to know one’s own and others’ cultures; Concern for the environment; Peace; Promoting concern for the disadvantaged and the handicapped; Human rights; and, Books designed specifically for minorities or for the handicapped. These themes are good and acceptable but some experts say that these are hard to put into practice as a whole.

In this connection, modern writers for children try to create the themes that can attract a wide age range of readers. As for children’s literature, some experts consider the most important three themes—how to live, how to die and how to love. Others, however, like to create themes which give too much moral lessons.

It cannot be denied that children’s literature which can be enjoyed at a young age has some educational purpose. However, since children can see the essence of matters better than adults, the book cannot be accepted by children if it attempts to lecture the children or to impose morals on them.

Children like to read stories with happy or funny endings but not tragedies. In the past, literature for children depicted only the safe, funny and happy world “for children”. But the present writers are now trying to deal with themes such as death, old age, poverty, war, discrimination, which can be shared by both adults and children, most fundamentally in the form of children’s literature. It is true that children’s literature has been gaining adult readers in many countries including Myanmar, as adults come to realize that children do live, love, worry, suffer, and are troubled, as much as adults or even more.

As a matter of fact, children are the best critics of children’s books. It is because they have the ability to distinguish something good from something bad. This, however, does not mean that they make judgments on the spot; rather, something good which remains in the child’s mind will be revived again in his or her mind in ten years time or in twenty years time. On the other hand, children immediately forget what they think is boring and never look at it again.

In brief, children love funny stories or humour. They don’t like to accept boring or preaching style which gives them too much lessons. We must therefore, create themes that can support their desire for reading, paving the way for their interest in good books.

There is nothing like interest to get children to read well, to read widely, and to understand what they read. We should not ignore the fact that interest is the soil in which intelligence and knowledge grow.
Images of President U Thein Sein’s visit to Japan

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

President U Thein Sein visits natural gas power plant in Iwasaki, Osaka City.—MNA

President U Thein Sein delivers speech at luncheon by private entrepreneurs at Rihga Royal Hotel.—MNA

President U Thein Sein views agricultural machinery at Hoju agricultural farm outside Kyoto.—MNA
Greek finance minister quits to smooth talks after ‘No’ vote

ATHENS / FRANKFURT, 6 July — Greece’s outspoken finance minister resigned on Monday, removing a major obstacle to any deal to keep Athens in the euro zone after Greeks voted resoundingly to back the government in rejecting the austerity terms of a bailout.

Yanis Varoufakis, a self-proclaimed “erratic Marxist” economist who infuriated euro zone partners with his unconventional style and hectoring lectures, had campaigned for a “No” vote for Athens among EU governments close to exhaust- ed Greece’s fate is largely in the hands of the Euro- pean Central Bank and of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The ECB’s policymak- ing governing council was holding a conference call on Monday to decide how long to go on keeping Greek banks afloat after the over- whelming rejection of bailout terms the central bank had helped to shape.

“Merkel, under mount- ing pressure in Germany to cut Greece loose from the euro zone, meets French President Francois Hol- lande in Paris later in the day to seek a joint response ahead of an emergency summit of euro zone leaders in Brussels on Tuesday. Public opinion in Eu- rope’s biggest economy is fast turning against any further aid to Greece, and Merkel’s vice-chancellor, Social Democrat Sigmar Gabriel, said on Sunday that Tsipras had torn down the last bridges of compromise with the euro area. After five years of eco- nomic crisis and mass un- employment, Greek electors voted 61.3 percent ‘No’ to the bailout conditions re- jected this month by their radical leftfist government, casting Greece into the un- known. “You made a very brave choice,” Tsipras said in a televised address as ju- bilant demonstrators thronged Athens’ central Syntagma Square to celebrate the act of defiance of Europe’s polit- ical and financial establish- ment. “The mandate you gave me is not the mandate of a rupture with Europe, but a mandate to strengthen our negotiating position to seek a viable solution.”

The ECB’s policymak- ing governing council meeting to decide whether maintain, increase or reduce a lifeline for Greek banks, which have been shuttered for a week with cash with- drawnals rationed and money fast running out. Several people familiar with ECB policy said the central bank would reject a Greek government request to raise the cap on emer- gency liquidity assistance provided by the Greek cen- tral bank and leave the limit unchanged, slowly tightening the noose on the banks but giving them a few more days’ air.

The euro tumbled against the dollar on Asian markets after the setback for Europe’s monetary union and and European shares and bonds were expected to take a hit when markets opened after the weekend. In early bond trad- ing, investors rushed into safe-haven German bonds while yields on Italian govern- ment debt rose sharply. Asian stocks suffered the biggest daily fall in two years, partly because of fears over China’s econo- my, but Varoufakis’ depar- ture may soothen the impact in Europe, maintaining a slender prospect of a deal to keep Greece in the euro and avoid a catastrophic bank- ruptcy. “The first message to Athens is that no one ever wants to see Varoufakis again after he called us ter- rorists,” an official who at- tends Eurogroup meetings said. It was not clear wheth- er Hollande or top EU pol- icymakers had conveyed that message to Tsipras in telephone calls on Sunday evening after the referen- dum result became clear. In a parting blog post celebrating the Greek ‘Oxi’ (‘No’) vote, Varoufakis said Greeks had taught Europe a lesson in democracy and should now demand better financial rescue terms.

“Is, therefore, essen- tial that the great capital bestowed upon our gov- ernment by the splendid European monetary union im- mediately into a ‘Yes’ to a proper resolution — to an agreement that involves debt restructuring, less austerity, redistribution in fa- vor of the needy, and real reforms.”

EU officials said it would be hard to give Greece easier terms, not least because its economy has plunged back into reces- sion since Tsipras’ Syriza party won power in Janu- ary, leaving public financ- es in a worse position than when the rejected bailout deal was put together. Analysts with several major banks including Citi, Barclays’ and JP Morgan said a “Grexit” from the euro zone was now their base case, or most likely scenario. But on the streets of Athens, citizens were un- recentant at their defiant vote. “I voted ‘No’ to aus- terity; I want this torture to end,” said 42-year-old Kat- erina Sarri, a mother of two manning a Kiosk in Athens. “I’m aware that we will suffer for years but I’m still hopeful. I need to know that there is light at the end of tunnel, that the lives of my children will be better,” she said.

Reuters

Argentine’s Fernandez celebrates Greece’s ‘No’ to creditors

BUENOS AIRES, 6 July — World markets may tremble at Sunday’s deci- sion by Greek voters to re- ject conditions of a rescue deal from creditors, but the leader of Argentina, which suffered a similar crisis more than a decade ago, boldly welcomed the refer- endum result.

President Cristina Fer- nandez, known for com- batively defending her un- orthodox policies, tweeted that Greece’s vote marked “a resounding victory for democracy and dignity.”

There are similarities be- tween Argentina’s 2002 financial meltdown and the turmoil in Greece: rigid monetary regimes, creditors battling domestic politics to fix the problem and banking systems at breaking point. In Greece, 61 percent of voters rejected a deal that would have imposed more austerity on their already ravaged economy.

“The Greek people have said ‘NO’ … to the impossible and humiliating conditions that would be imposed for the restruc- turing of their debt," she tweeted. “We Argentines know what this is about. We have lived through Europe and its leaders understand the message … that you can’t force anyone to sign their own death warrant.”

The South American grains behemoth defaulted on $100 billion in bonds in a 2002 crisis that thrust millions of middle-class Argentines into poverty. By the next year, helped by a massive soy crop, Argenti- na started growing again. But the 2002 crisis continues to plague its fi- nances.

Fernandez regularly blasts bondholders who have sued the country over the debt it failed to pay 13 years ago.

Most holders agreed to restructurings that paid about 30 cents on the dol- lar, while a group of hedge funds sued for full repay- ment. The country defaulted again last year when a US judge barred it from hon- ouring its restructured debt without reaching a deal with the funds, which Fer- nandez denounces as “vul- tures.”

Argentina became one of the world’s fastest exp- anding economies after its default, growing at an aver- age above 8.5 percent be- tween 2003 and 2007, when Fernandez was first elected. Since then she has or- dered trade and currency controls that have slowed investment while govern- ment fiscal accounts de- teriorate due to high state spending. —Reuters

Argentina’s Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner waves to supporters from a balcony after a ceremony the Casa Rosada Presidential Palace in Buenos Aires on 4 May, 2015.—Reuters

Peru declares emergency in 14 regions on El Nino worries

LIMA, 6 July — Peru has declared a 60- day state of emergency in towns in 14 regions to brace for possible dam- age from the climate pattern El Nino in the rainy season, state me- dia reported on Sunday.

Peru has forecast a “moderate to strong” El Nino in the winter sea- son and has not ruled out an extraordinary event in the summer, which begins in December in the southern hem- isphere. The phenomenon, a warming of Pacific sea-surface tempera- tures, has wreaked hav- oc on local fishing in Peru and triggered land-slides in years past. The emergency declaration orders au- thorities to take action for the “im- minent danger” of El Nino and unusual cli- mate conditions, state news agency Andina said.

The regions placed under the state of emer- gency include several key fishing and mining areas.

Unusually warm waters linked to El Nino led catches of cold-wa- ter anchovy to plummet last year and a major exporter of copper, gold and silver. —Reuters
Saudia-led strikes on Yemen hit party headquarters of Houthis' Saleh

Sanaa, 6 July — Saudi-led air raids pounded the Sananah headquarters of Yemen’s former president Ali Abdullah Saleh’s General People’s Congress party late on Sunday, killing and wounding several people, witnesses and a party official said.

The strikes coincided with a visit to the capital by the UN special envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, who is seeking to arrange a pause in fighting until the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on about 17 July to allow for deliveries of humanitarian aid.

Saleh is an ally of the country’s dominant Houthi movement. A Saudi-led coalition has orchestrated a more than three-month bombing campaign against the Houthis and army units loyal to Saleh to try to re-store President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who is in exile in Riyadh.

The General People’s Congress party’s assistant secretary general, Faqaa al-Sayed, said the party headquarters had been destroyed.

The raids were an attempt to make the talks with the UN fail, she said, adding that several employees and others were killed.

“This will not make us back down on our efforts ... to create the suitable environment to cooperate with the United Nations,” she said in a statement on the party’s website.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed arrived in Sanaa on Sunday for talks with the Houthis, after discussions in Muscat, Oman to push for a pause in fighting that has killed nearly 3,000 since March.

Both sides largely observed a five-day truce brokered by the United Nations in May to allow in fuel and medicine to civil-tilans trapped in conflict zones.

Saleh, the strongman who resigned following 2011 “Arab Spring” protests after more than three decades in power, has emerged as the main military ally of the Houthis’ Shi’ite fighters. The strikes late on Sunday also struck the home of former president Saleh’s nephew and several houses belonging to Houthis supporters in the south and west of the capi-tal Sanana. — Reuters

Two attacks in central Nigerian city of Jos

Jos, (Nigeria), 6 July — Two blasts hit the cen-tral Nigerian city of Jos on Sunday evening, one at a restaurant and another tar-geting a Muslim cleric who has disowned Islam-ite militant group Boko Haram, several witnesses said.

Plateau State police spokesman Emmanuel Abubakar confirmed there had been two attacks in Jos but had no further details im mediately.

“I saw people run ning out crying, some with bloodstains,” said resident Bashir Abdullahi, describ ing the scene after he said a suicide bomber ran into the crowded restaurant. “I believe many lives were lost.”

The second attack tar geted cleric Sani Yahaya Jingir as he was preaching, witnesses said. Gunmen started shooting sporadi cally and then there was a loud blast, they said.

“We saw two or three vehicles coming from dif ferent directions and we started hearing gun shots from all angles and then there was a very loud bang, like a bomb was thrown into the mosque,” said witness Abubakar Shelu.

There was no official word on casualties from the two attacks. A Reuters witness at a hospital in Jos said 16 bodies had been brought in.

A suicide bomber killed six people at a church in northeast Nigeria earlier on Sunday after a week in which suspected Boko Har am insurgents killed more than 200 people. — Reuters

Heavy fighting as Iraqi forces try to surround Falluja

Baghdad, 6 July — Iraq’s Shi’ite fighters and army troops made gains north of Falluja on Sunday but their efforts to seal off Islamic State militants in the city met heavy resistance, including suicide bomb at-acks, army sources and mi litia fighters said.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi’s government is trying to reverse recent gains by Islamic State hard-liners in the western prov-ince of Anbar after they seized the provincial capi-tal Ramadi in May. Falluja, just 40 km (25 miles) west of Baghdad, was a centre of Sunni Muslim armed op position to the Shi’ite-led government even before Is- lamic State took control of most of Iraq’s Sunni regions in June last year.

Sunday’s offensive was led by fighters from Kata’ib Hezbollah, part of the mainly Shi’ite Hashd Shaabi force fighting with the army against Islamic State. Spokesman Jaafar Hussaini said the group managed to cut off a supply line to Islamic State-held territory north of the city. Authorities say they already control the eastern, southern and western approaches.

“Today’s advance is a key achievement to isolate Daesh terrorists inside the city and cut all their supply lines,” Hussaini said, refer ring to Islamic State. “To-day’s advance will determine how and when will Falluja liberation operations start.”

Two army sources said Islamic State fighters deployed at least two sui-cide car bombs to break the advance, killing 21 members of the Hashd Shaabi and army force, but failed to stop them capturing a bridge at al-Sheeha, north of the city. They said Islam ic State forces pulled back to the nearby area of Albu Shijil, where they came under heavy bombardment from army artillery. Iraqi forces are being supported in Anbar by a US-led coali-tion which has been carry ing out air strikes for nearly a year against Islamic State in its self-declared caliphate across parts of Iraq and Syri-a. In Iraq, the Islamist mil itants have been pushed out of the city of Tikrit and east ern province of Diyala, but are still fighting in the town of Baiji, home to Iraq’s larg est oil refinery. In Syria they have lost ground to Kurdish fighters, but captured the central town of Palmyra in May. In the Iraqi capital Baghdad at least 12 people were killed in four separate bombings. Two bombs struck on Sunday morning, and the second pair exploded after dusk as people were breaking their daily Ramadan fasts. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but incidents issued in the name of Islamic State on Sunday said it was behind two bombs which killed 10 people the day before.

Egyptian army kills 63 militants in North Sinai

Cairo, 6 July — Egypt’s military launched air strikes and ground operations that killed 63 Islamist fighters, the war ministry said on Sunday. Security sources said, as the country graph- es with an increasingly ambitious insurgency based in the region. The Sinai has recently witnessed some of the heaviest fighting between security forces and Islamist militants since the army toppled President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013. Security sources said on Sunday troops killed the 63 in vil-lages between the towns of Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah. The army found four mili-tant hideouts and attacked them with Apache helic-opters and ground troops. It also attacked vehicles belonging to the militants, the security sources added. Islamic State’s Egypt affiliate, recently renamed Sinai Province, has killed hun-dreds of soldiers and police since Mursi’s removal.

Though the vast penin-sula has long been a securi-ty headache for Egypt and its neighbours, the removal of Mursi brought new vio-lence that has grown into an Islamist insurgency that has spread out of the region.

On Monday, a car bomb in Cairo killed Egypt’s top prosecutor, the highest-profile official to die since the insurgency began. Egyptian govern-ment officials have accused Mursi’s Muslim Broth-erhood of links to Sinai attacks. The Brotherhood says it is a peaceful move ment that wants to reverse what it calls a military coup through street pro- tests. Egypt’s interior mini-stry said on Sunday it had arrested 12 Brotherhood members who had formed three cells with the inten tion of carrying out attacks on policemen, soldiers and military and police bases. Also on Sunday, the pros ecutors referred to trial 22 people charged with plant ing bombs near targets in cluding the high court and cabinet buildings, state news agency MENA report-ed. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has also expressed concern about militants based in neighbouring Libya, where Egypt has launched air strikes on Is- lamic State targets.
Tokyo, 6 July — Japanese public and politicians rejoiced Monday after the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to add the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” to the World Cultural Heritage list. “I am extremely happy that the roots of Japanese manufacturing have been listed as World Heritage,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters, thanking companies and locals who have worked to preserve the sites.

Japan has successfully pushed for the listing of 23 facilities in eight prefectures, such as in Nagasaki and Iwate, saying they represent its rapid industrialization from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. The sites will be added to the list on Wednesday.

The city of Izunokuni in Shizuoka Prefecture, home to the Nirayama reverberatory furnace, one of the 23 facilities, celebrated the UNESCO committee’s decision with a ceremony attended by some 50 people at the municipal building.

“We now have a great responsibility to pass down the Nirayama reverberatory furnace to the next generation,” Mayor Toshikazu Oono said. Also at other facilities, tourists and locals expressed delight at the news.

People had talked about coal mining labour in negative terms, but the world has recognized it,” said 75-year-old Eiko Seki before starting a tour of the Hashima Coin Mine on Nagasaki Island, known as “Battleship Island” because of its shape. “It’s a source of pride for the Japanese."

In Kamishi, Iwate Prefecture, some 200 children cheered as the city celebrated the decision to add its Hashino iron mining and smelting site to the heritage list. “I want more people to come and see the history of steelmaking in Kamashi,” said Tatsuya Ito, an 89-year-old resident.

On Sunday, the UNESCO committee decided to add the 23 Japanese sites to the World Cultural Heritage list after South Korea withdrew its opposition on condition that Japan publicly acknowledge that Koreans had been coerced to work at some of the sites during World War II.——Kyodo News

No MERS infection reported in S Korea, no death for 6 days

SEOUL, 6 July — No case of infection with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) was reported in South Korea on Monday, while no death was added for six straight days, the health ministry said. The total MERS contagion cases were unchanged at 186, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The spread of the deadly viral disease showed signs of abating because only one case was added in the past four days through Sunday. No case was reported for four days through 1 July.

The South Korean government planned to declare an end to the MERS spread if 28 days, or twice the 14 days of incubation period, pass by without any case of MERS infection reported.

No death was reported for six days in a row, leaving the death toll at 33 and the fatality rate at 17.7 percent.

One more patient was discharged from a hospital as he completely recovered after being infected. The discharge number increased to 117. Excluding the dead and those discharged, 36 patients are under treatment. Among them, 12 are still in unstable conditions. The number of those quarantined reduced from 982 on Sunday to 907 on Monday.

Hungary passes law to tighten asylum rules

BUDAPEST, 6 July — Hungary’s parliament passed legislation on Monday that tightens its asylum rules, providing the legal framework for the erection of a fence along the country’s southern border with Serbia to stem the flow of illegal migrants.

The legislation shortens the time frame for screening asylum claims and will allow Budapest to reject claims from migrants who on their journey from the Middle East have passed through safe countries. The United Nations and the Council of Europe have criticized the bill, saying it would weaken refugee protection in Hungary.——Reuters

Tropical storm shuts Manila schools, floods northern Philippine towns

MANILA, 6 July — All schooling was ordered to remain in harbour and some flights were cancelled in the northern Philippines, while schools were closed in the capital, Manila, on Monday due to flooding and landslides from a tropical storm, disaster officials said.

Storm warnings were issued in at least 14 areas of the main Philippine island of Luzon as tropical storm Linfa moved slowly across the north of the Southeast Asian archipelago. It was carrying maximum wind gusts of 100 km per hour (60 mph).

Alexander Pama, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said the storm would bring heavy rain within a 400-km (250 miles) radius. The storm was named Egay in the Philippines.

“We are grounding all sea travel and fishing operations in the north because we expect sea waves to go as high as 4 metres (13 feet), Pama said.

“We don’t want any lose of life or any accidents,” he said. Army units had been placed on standby to evacuate people to temporary shelters if needed, Pama said.

The government was expecting some crop damage in rice-producing areas in northern Luzon. Linfa made landfall in the northeast of the island on Saturday and was about 155 km (85 miles) southwest of Laaog City in Luzon’s far north on Monday. An average of 20 typhoons pass through the Philippines every year. Hanna, the strongest typhoon ever to make landfall in the Philippines, left more than 6,300 people and left 1,000 missing in 2013.——Reuters

US Pacific Commander in New Zealand for defence talks

WELLINGTON, 6 July — The Commander of the United States Pacific Command, Admiral Harry Harris, is in New Zealand this week for defence and security talks, the government announced on Monday.

Harris was arriving in Wellington Monday and would hold talks with Prime Minister John Key, Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee and Foreign Minister Murray McCully the same day.

“Admiral Harris has a long relationship with this country, having trained on a Royal New Zealand Navy patrol vessel early in his career, and I look forward to our discussion this afternoon,” Brownlee said in a statement.

“The defence relationship between New Zealand and the United States is a hugely important one, and it is in excellent shape,” he said. “New Zealand and US military forces regularly take part in joint operations and training activities, and that is set to continue. We work collaboratively in a number of areas, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the Pacific.”

Harris has been hosted in New Zealand by the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating. He would hold talks with Keating and Secretary of Defence Helene Quilter on Tuesday and would depart New Zealand on Thursday.——Xinhua

Rivals Pakistan, India to start process of joining China security bloc

BEIJING, 6 July — Nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India will start the process of joining a security bloc led by China and Russia at a summit in Russia later this week, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Monday, the first time the grouping has expanded since it was set up in 2001.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) groups China, Russia and the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, while India, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Mongolia are observers. “As the influence of the SCO’s development has expanded, more and more countries in the region have brought up joining the SCO,” Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guopeng told a news briefing. “India and Pakistan’s admission to the SCO will play an important role in the SCO’s development, it will play a constructive role in pushing for the improvement of their bilateral relations.”

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947, two of them over the divided Muslim-majority region of Kashmir which they both claim in full but rule in part. Pakistan also believes India is supporting separatists in resource-rich Baluchistan province, as well as militants fighting the state.

The SCO was originally formed to fight threats posed by radical Islam and drug trafficking from neighbouring Afghanistan. Cheng said that the summit, to be attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, would also discuss security in Afghanistan.

Beijing says separatist groups in the far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur minority, are seeking to form their own state called East Turkestan and have links with militants in Central Asia as well as Pakistan and Afghanistan. China says that Uighur militants, operating at the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), has also been working with Islamic State.

“Etim certainly has links with the Islamic State, and has participated in relevant terrorist activities. China is paying close attention to this, and will have security cooperation with relevant countries,” Cheng said.——Reuters

Workers clean and overhaul a lamp during the annual maintenance of city lamps near Tian’anmen Square, Beijing, capital of China, on 6 July, 2015.——Xinhua

Japan celebrates addition of industrial sites to UNESCO listing

Tokyo, 6 July — Japan celebrated the addition of industrial sites to UNESCO listing.

The city of Izunokuni in Shizuoka Prefecture, home to the Nirayama reverberatory furnace, one of the 23 facilities, celebrated the UNESCO committee’s decision after South Korea withdrew its opposition on condition that Japan publicly acknowledge that Koreans had been coerced to work at some of the sites during World War II.——Kyodo News
Claims Day Notice
MV GSS Yangon VOY No (1035W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS Yangon VOY No (1035W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S China Shipping Lines
Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice
MV UBC Cyprus VOY No (58)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC Cyprus VOY No (58) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S Thalamar Shipping AG
Phone No: 2301186

Weather Report
Bay Inference: Monsun is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast Valid Until Evening of the 7th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Ayeeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Policeman killed by rebels in Colombia

BOGOTA, 6 July — A policeman was killed and three other people were wounded on Sunday after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels attacked a town in southern Colombia.

The policeman was killed when the rebels attacked a group of policemen who were in a local festivity at the main square at Solita town in the southern Caqueta department, authorities said. “Unfortunately a policeman was killed and three others were seriously wounded,” said Merly Sarma Pena, mayor of the town.

A reward of around 19,200 US dollars is offered to anyone who provides information leading to the capture of the attackers.

The FARC has claimed responsibility for its terrorist actions during the last months, and the main targets were the government forces, as well as oil and electricity infrastructure.—Xinhua

Claims Day Notice
MV EVER Able VOY No (408N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER Able VOY No (408N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S Evergreen Shipping Lines
Phone No: 2301185

Four children die in house fire in southwestern Japan, father arrested

OTT, Japan, 6 July — Four bodies believed to be of children were found in a house gutted by a fire early Monday in southwestern Japan’s Oita Prefecture and their father was arrested later on suspicion of arson, police and firefighters said.

The police are trying to identify the bodies, as four aged between 5 and 14 out of the eight children of Maritime Self-Defence Force member Kenichiro Suemune, 40, are missing.

Suemune has admitted to setting his house on fire, according to investigators.

The fire broke out shortly before midnight Sunday at the two-story wooden house in the city of Kitsuki and was put out about 100 minutes later, the police said.

Suemune’s wife, 42, and eight children lived in the house. The missing four are the eldest daughter Yukari, 14, the fourth son Masahiro, 9, the second daughter Mayumi, 7, and the 5-year-old fifth son Shigeru.

The police said Suemune, who is currently stationed in Hiroshima Prefecture, was visiting his family from Sunday.

The couple and their 3-year-old third daughter suffered burns and were sent to a hospital but their injuries are not life-threatening. The eldest son, 18, was at a relative’s home when the fire started, the police said.

Authorities said the bodies of the four were found near the living room on the first floor. They believe that most of the family members were upstairs in the house when the fire broke out and fell downstairs after the flames burned through the floor.—Kyodo News

Thai customs seize 250 kg of Laos-bound elephant ivory

BANGKOK, 6 July — Thai customs officers said on Monday they have seized another 250 kilograms of elephant ivory.

The 102 pieces of ivory, worth $300,000 on the black market, were detected by X-ray machines at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport, hidden in the parcels, the officers told a press conference.

The parcels were sent from Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of the Congo, and were destined for Laos, where an illegal trade in ivory flourishes.—Kyodo News
**Well-wishers swoon as Britain’s Princess Charlotte christened**

The princess’s full name, Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, is a nod to her late grandmother Princess Diana and her great-grandmother Queen Elizabeth.

Charlotte left the church in a black pram pushed by Kate, while the one-year-old George, dressed in bright red shorts and a white embroidered shirt, walked hand-in-hand with his father.

William’s office said the couple had chosen five friends and family members to be Charlotte’s godparents.

The christening was conducted by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the spiritual head of the Anglican Church, who also oversaw the christening of Prince George.

The princess wore the same christening robe that George had worn. The lace and satin gown, made by Queen Elizabeth’s dressmaker, is a replica of one first used by the royal family in 1841.

After the ceremony, the duke and duchess planned to serve their guests slices of cake from a tier of the couple’s wedding cake, the statement from William’s office said. — Reuters

**Tears flow as Grateful Dead say farewell in Chicago**

The Grateful Dead emerged from the San Francisco Bay area to become one of the longest lasting and most influential bands of the era.

Inspired by blues, bluegrass, country and jazz, the band became the model for groups such as Phish, Blues Traveler and others in the “jam band” movement. The band’s colorfully-dressed followers, known as “Deadheads,” often attended multiple concerts on a tour.

Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio filled in for Garcia at the Chicago shows, joined by original members Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann who have toured, along with other musicians and under various names, for years.

Jeff Chimenti and Bruce Hornsby played keyboards for the Chicago shows.

The seven musicians started and ended the show with group hugs. They started the show with one of the group’s most psychedelic early songs — “China Cat Sunflower,” paired with the folk blues standard, “I Know You Rider.”

The second half included extended jams on crowd favorites “Truckin’” and “Cassidy,” and ended with Teddy Holly’s “Not Fade Away,” the Dead’s biggest popular hit, “Touch of Grey,” and the elegiac “Attics of My Life.”

Those who couldn’t get tickets to the sold-out concerts followed simulcasts on cable television around the country. At a “Watch Party” on Chicago’s northwest side Chris Wainscott, 42, of Milwaukee, said the time was right for the band to end its run. After 50 years, you’ve had your chance to take what you wanted to take from it,” said Wainscott, who had seen dozens of concerts since 1994. — Reuters

**Box Office: ‘Inside Out’ Provides Fourth of July Fireworks Over ‘Terminator,’ ‘Magic Mike XXL’**

Los Angeles, 6 July— “Inside Out” delivered the firepower at the five-day holiday weekend box office as it finished in first ahead of “Jurassic World” and new entries “Terminator: Genisys” and “Magic Mike XXL.”

In a tight race, Disney-Pixar’s animated comedy pulled in as estimated $45.3 million in the US over the five days — giving it $246.2 million stateside in its third week at 4,158 locations. “Inside Out,” with Amy Poehler, Mindy Kaling and Bill Hader voicing the emotions of an 11-year-old girl, is showing impressive staying power at multiplexes. Universal’s fourth weekend of “Jurassic World” remained a solid draw, three weeks after its record-setting opening. The dino thriller, starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, stormed it way to $43.8 million at 3,737 screens and ranks as the fourth highest domestic grosser of all time with $686.2 million.

For the three days covering Friday through Sunday, “Jurassic World” had the edge on “Inside Out” with $30.9 million to $30.1 million, according to Sunday estimates. “Terminator: Genisys” followed with $28.7 million for the three days and $44.2 million for the five.

The Paramount-Skydance reboot actioner is in the fifth installment in the series with this iteration starring Emilia Clarke and Arnold Schwarzenegger. With a hefty $155 million price tag, overseas performance will be crucial. That component provided an upside for Paramount, which saw $74 million from international markets for the weekend — led by Russia at $12.5 million, South Korea at $11.5 million and Mexico at $6.6 million.

Werner’s stripper sequel “Magic Mike XXL” wound up the five days with $27 million at 3,535 sites with a 96% female audience with Channing Tatum, Joe Manganiello and Matt Bomer reprising their roles from the 2012 sleeper hit. Performance was front-loaded with $15 million in its first two days but with a budget of just $14.8 million, “Magic Mike XXL” is already in the black for the studio. — Reuters

**Bobby Brown struggles with emotions during Atlanta gig**

Los Angeles, 6 July — Singer Bobby Brown struggled through a concert in Atlanta, Georgia, just miles from where his daughter Bobbi Kristina is clinging to life in a hospice.

The R&B star forgot lyrics and seemed understandably emotionally detached from the concert, frequently walking offstage to hug friends and brother Tomjoy, reported TMZ.

The gig came just days after Bobbi Kristina, who has been in a coma since a near-drowning incident at her home in January, was moved from a hospital to the hospice once doctors informed Bobby and other family members that they had done all they could for the 22-year-old.

But, despite the dire situation, Brown refused to cancel his concert at Wolf Creek Amphitheater, during which he joined the likes of Mint Condition and JaVale on the bill. — PTI
Clouds already hanging over Nibali after stormy day

**Alamo, Spanish missions in San Antonio named World Heritage Site**

**San Antonio, 6 July — A UN agency named the Alamo and the four Spanish colonial Catholic missions in San Antonio as a World Heritage Site on Sunday, the first place in Texas deemed to be of “outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humanity.”**

**The decision caps a nine-year campaign by San Antonio and Texas to have the early 18th Century missions listed alongside world treasures such as Britain’s Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal in India, and Cambodia’s Angkor Wat. The missions are the 23rd World Heritage Site in the United States.**

“The City of San Antonio is delighted with UNESCO’s decision today and the recognition that our Spanish colonial missions are of outstanding value to the people of the world,” Mayor Ivy Taylor said from Bonn, Germany, where the announcement was made.

**Visitors walk at the entrance to the Alamo, the most visited tourist site in the state, in San Antonio, Texas, 5 May 2015.**

Sarah Gould, archivist at the Institute of Texan Cultures, said there are many reasons for the listing of the four missions, which are still used as Catholic churches and the Alamo, a fortified church, barracks and other buildings that were the scene of the 1836 battle for Texas Independence.

“Other than the Alamo, which has had a bit of a change to it, the other four are in really wonderful condition,” Gould said, “almost as good as condition as they were when they were built.”

As well as creating the basis for European settlement of what is now the US Southwest, she said the missions were also important in the formation of its early economy, for instance by introducing cattle raising.

Casandra Matej, director of San Antonio’s Convention and Visitors Bureau, said Sunday’s listing will prompt a full scale, international tourism campaign.

She estimated it will mean more than 1,000 new jobs for the city’s already robust tourism industry, and a $100 million annual boost for the region.

But the designation has not been entirely embraced in Texas, where the phrase “United Nations” provokes suspicion among some. The Texas Republican Party’s official platform includes opposition “to granting jurisdiction and sovereignty over Texas’ cultural sites to any international body.”

Matej said there was no way that would happen, and noted that the United Nations exercises no “sovereignty” over other US World Heritage Sites, such as Philadelphia’s Independence Hall, or Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello home in Virginia.

“The current management, how everything is managed, will stay the same,” she said. “This is a designation that will draw visitors to our destination, and allow us to share our splendid missions with the world.”—Reuters

**Japanese Fuji TV starts delivery of 4K programmes online**

**Tokyo, 6 July — Japan’s high-definition online pro-grammes, becoming the first commercial broadcaster in the country to commence such a service.**

The company kicked off its service with a documenta-ry based on the Hashima coal complex, a site representing Japan’s industrialization from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries, in south-western Japan’s Nagasaki Prefecture, and a program introducing illuminated spots in Tokyo.

The broadcaster also said it will soon provide a drama it jointly produced with China.

The programmes can be seen on Fuji Television’s official paid video streaming service “Fuji TV on De-mand” on computers with 4K displays but not on smartphones.

**Firefighters tackle a wildfire near the town of La Ronge, Saskatchewan on 4 July, 2015 in a picture provided by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations. —REUTERS**

**Saskatchewanian evacuating thousands more as wildfires spread**

**Toronto, 6 July — The Western Canadian province of Saskatchewan said on Sunday it was evacuating an additional 8,000 people from the far north of the province, as wildfires continue to spread and threaten homes.**

The provincial government said that as of Saturday there were 114 active fires in the province. More than 5,000 residents have already been moved out of the area in the past week.

The latest evacuations are around the town of La Ronge, roughly 600 km (370 miles) north of the provincial capital, Regina. A spokesman for the Saskatchewan government said the province had faced 569 wildfires so far this season, compared with 193 in 2014.

**Japanese Fuji TV starts delivery of 4K programmes online**

**Tokyo, 6 July — Japan’s broad-caster Fuji Television Network Inc on Monday started delivering 4K ultra-high-definition online programmes, becoming the first commercial broadcaster in the country to commence such a service.**

The company kicked off its service with a documenta-ry based on the Hashima coal complex, a site representing Japan’s industrialization from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries, in south-western Japan’s Nagasaki Prefecture, and a program introducing illuminated spots in Tokyo.

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**Kyodo News**
Japan miss 2nd straight Women's World Cup title with US defeat

VANCOUVER, 6 July — Japan's hopes of retaining their Women's World Cup title were shattered with a 5-2 hammering by the United States on Sunday.

Four goals in the first 16 minutes, including a hat-trick from US captain Carli Lloyd — the first in a Women's World Cup final — left Japan with a mountain to climb and although Nadeshiko replied through Yuki Ogimi and an own goal from Julie Johnston, there was to be no way back.

Lauren Holiday and Tobin Heath also scored for the Americans, who avenged their penalty shoot-out defeat to the Japanese in the 2011 final, and secured a record third title and their first since 1999.

"If we had been a bit tighter at the start (the result could have been different)," said Tobin Heath. "But it's always tough when you never stopped running until the end and I am proud of them," said Japan coach Norio Sasaki.

"We have had the pressure of being champions these past four years but to get to this stage the players have done really well," Captain Aya Miyama said. "I have no regrets. I gave everything I had and everyone on the team made an effort to win this World Cup"

"We really tried hard. But winning the final and finishing runners-up are two different things so I feel really sorry about that." Japan had not conceded first in six wins en route to the final but they got off to the worst possible start and fell behind with just three minutes gone.

Lloyd was allowed to run unchecked into the box and the midfielder swept home an easy tap-in from the corner grabbing her second from another set-piece two minutes later.

The Americans won a free kick on the right side of the box after Aya Sameshima had brought down Tobin Heath. Julie Johnston latched on Horizon's kick and the ball hit two defenders before falling for Lloyd to steer in from close range.

Worse was to follow as Azusa Iwashimizu failed to properly head clear a cross from Heath and Holiday burried the loose ball before Lloyd completed her hat-trick, underlining the goal of the tournament.

Lloyd, the tournament MVP, picked up the ball in her own half and the captain spotted Ayumi Kaihori way off her line before unleashing a superb strike from the halfway line beyond the backpedaling Japan goalkeeper and into the net.

Japan failed to manage a single shot until the 23rd minute but American goalkeeper Hope Solo comfortably dealt with an effort from Mizuho Sakaguchi.

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