President U Thein Sein’s radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 9 and 10 July, 2015.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyay Radio, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamy FM, FM Bagan, Thazin Radio and Yangon City FM will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—MNA

Co-op ministry provides rural development loans in Shan State

(News on page 3)

UEC allows election candidates to begin campaigning

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that cabinet members and deputy ministers could begin campaigning for the 8 November general election.

The UEC also granted electioneering permission to the Chief Justice of the Union, the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union’s chairman and members, the Attorney General of the Union, the Deputy Attorney General, the Auditor General of the Union and the Deputy Auditor General, as well as the Union Civil Service Board’s chairman and members.

The UEC said it will issue announcement regarding campaign rallies after approving the Hlutaw candidates.

The UEC announced the same day that the election would be held on 8 November. —MNA

UEC instructs parties to submit election candidate lists

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The Union Election Commission called on political parties Wednesday to submit their lists of parliamentary candidates for the upcoming general election.

In an announcement dated 8 July, the UEC said the lists of candidates are to be submitted from 20 July to 8 August, and can be withdrawn until 11 August. —MNA

President U Thein Sein’s radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 9 and 10 July, 2015.

The wharf supporting the Thilawa Special Zone is scheduled for completion in 2017, an MPA official said.

Meanwhile, Sein Kaung Yadanar Trading, which won a tender to upgrade Sule Jetty Nos. 1-4 through the joint venture system, is seeking permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission to sign an agreement with the Port Authority.

New Downtown Development Public Ltd is also waiting for MIC approval on a deal with the MPA after winning a build-operate-transfer tender to upgrade the Nanthida pier and docks for the Panodan-Dala ferry.

The MPA said an electronic data interchange project to modernize the port is also in the pipeline, with grant aid of US $14.27 million from Japan. Currently, a total of 32 berths — 23 in the Yangon Port area and nine in the Thilawa Port area — handle more than 80 percent of Myanmar’s shipping freight.

Eighty percent of the berths are privately owned, while the remaining 20 percent are owned by the state, according to the MPA.

A cargo vessel in the Yangon River on its way to the Yangon Port. —PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

UEC announces Nov. 8 general election date

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The 2015 Myanmar general election will take place on November 8, the Union Election Commission announced Wednesday.

The announcement signed by the UEC chairman and members, the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Auditor General of the Union and the Deputy Auditor General, as well as the Union Civil Service Board’s chairman and members, the UEC said it will issue announcement regarding campaign rallies after approving the Hlutaw candidates.

The UEC announced the same day that the election would be held on 8 November. —MNA

Surge in private tuition reveals system’s shortcomings

PAGE-9

Japanese, Myanmar experts discuss development of agriculture, forestry, fishery and food sectors

PAGE-3

Commander-in-Chief honours outstanding students

PAGE-3

INSIDE

Six-storey main building under construction at MIIT

PAGE-9

Make PEACE a Priority

PAGE-8

Thilawa SEZ wharf project targets 2017 completion

A cargo vessel in the Yangon River on its way to the Yangon Port. —PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

UEC allows election candidates to begin campaigning

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that cabinet members and deputy ministers could begin campaigning for the 8 November general election.

The UEC also granted electioneering permission to the Chief Justice of the Union, the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union’s chairman and members, the Attorney General of the Union, the Deputy Attorney General, the Auditor General of the Union and the Deputy Auditor General, as well as the Union Civil Service Board’s chairman and members.

The UEC said it will issue announcement regarding campaign rallies after approving the Hlutaw candidates.

The UEC announced the same day that the election would be held on 8 November. —MNA

UEC instructs parties to submit election candidate lists

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The Union Election Commission called on political parties Wednesday to submit their lists of parliamentary candidates for the upcoming general election.

In an announcement dated 8 July, the UEC said the lists of candidates are to be submitted from 20 July to 8 August, and can be withdrawn until 11 August. —MNA

The electoral body will scrutinize the lists from 12 to 21 August. The 2015 general election is scheduled to be held on 8 November. —MNA

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 8 July — A US $200 million wharf construction project is underway at the Thilawa port area, the Myanmar Port Authority said Wednesday.

Work on the project, backed by a $209 million Official Development Assistance loan from Japan, began last month, the official said.

Meanwhile, Sein Kaung Yadanar Trading, which won a tender to upgrade Sule Jetty Nos. 1-4 through the joint venture system, is seeking permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission to sign an agreement with the Port Authority.

New Downtown Development Public Ltd is also waiting for MIC approval on a deal with the MPA after winning a build-operate-transfer tender to upgrade the Nanthida pier and docks for the Panodan-Dala ferry.

The MPA said an electronic data interchange project to modernize the port is also in the pipeline, with grant aid of US $14.27 million from Japan. Currently, a total of 32 berths — 23 in the Yangon Port area and nine in the Thilawa Port area — handle more than 80 percent of Myanmar’s shipping freight.

Eighty percent of the berths are privately owned, while the remaining 20 percent are owned by the state, according to the MPA.

A cargo vessel in the Yangon River on its way to the Yangon Port. —PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

UEC allows election candidates to begin campaigning

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that cabinet members and deputy ministers could begin campaigning for the 8 November general election.

The UEC also granted electioneering permission to the Chief Justice of the Union, the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union’s chairman and members, the Attorney General of the Union, the Deputy Attorney General, the Auditor General of the Union and the Deputy Auditor General, as well as the Union Civil Service Board’s chairman and members.

The UEC said it will issue announcement regarding campaign rallies after approving the Hlutaw candidates.

The UEC announced the same day that the election would be held on 8 November. —MNA

UEC instructs parties to submit election candidate lists

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—The Union Election Commission called on political parties Wednesday to submit their lists of parliamentary candidates for the upcoming general election.

In an announcement dated 8 July, the UEC said the lists of candidates are to be submitted from 20 July to 8 August, and can be withdrawn until 11 August. —MNA

The electoral body will scrutinize the lists from 12 to 21 August. The 2015 general election is scheduled to be held on 8 November. —MNA
Parliament approves amendment to Schedules 2 and 5 of Section 436(b)

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Parliamentary approval was sought by secret ballot at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday in connection with the constitution amendment bill of Section 436(b), of which amendment to chapters, sections and sub-sections did not win the support of over 75 percent of the vote of the representatives but Schedules 2 and 5 were approved with over 75 percent of the vote.

U Khin Maung Nyo of Loinaw constituency urged the parliament and the central government to continue to use the existing retirement system, which allows civil servants to retire on the day they turn 60. He added that changes to the retirement system are against the will of the people and that the plan to extend the retirement age will involve taking into consideration the population growth, the life expectancy of the people, literacy rate, the population of able workers, unemployment rate, economic aspects, GDP rate and healthcare. According to him, eight of 10 ASEAN countries regard the age of 60 years as retirement age.

Myanmar has a life expectancy of 66 years in average, with 64 years for men and 68 for women, he added.—MNA

NGOs seek support for needy monastic school students

By Khaiing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 8 July — The Myanmar Child Rights Development Network is holding a donation drive on 18 July in support of students from non-formal education schools, the NGO coalition’s project director said Wednesday.

“Irrespective of whether students are able to access education or not, the main aims of the donation drive are to fulfill basic needs of those students, as well as to promote public participation in philanthropic activities,” U Arkar Soe Naung told The Global New Light of Myanmar in an interview.

With contributions of cash and supplies from well-wishers, the donation drive is expected to aid around 3,500 students who cannot go to government schools, he added.

This is the second time the MCRDN has run a donation drive for such students. Last year, the network donated over K6 million, hundreds of exercise books and 250 bags of rice. The network hopes to increase its annual donations each year.

Despite increased financial support from the government this year, monastic education schools need support from donors, Sayadaw U Neminda, of Magadhi Thazi Monastic Primary School, said.

According to government figures, more than 65,000 students are attending Yangon’s 216 monastic education schools in the current academic year.

The MCRDN was formed in 2012 by 12 non-government organizations. It campaigns for children’s rights and organizes programmes aimed at helping young people achieve their potential.

The network invites both local and foreign well-wishers to pledge support and can be contacted on 09 4500 58 300, 09 5059162. —GNLM

KOTRA to implement MYANTRA Project

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation led by Professor Mr. Sungpil Um of KOTRA Global Academy of the Republic of Korea at the ministry, here, on Tuesday. They discussed Myanmar project to be implemented by KOTRA to promote Myanmar and Korean bilateral trade, and national export strategy.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and officials.—MNA

Construction of Yangon metrological radar station one-third complete

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 8 July — Construction of a metrological radar station in Yangon is now one-third complete, an official involved with the project said Wednesday.

The octagonal station, which will eventually stand over 75 metres tall, is located on Kaba Aye Pagoda road. Senior project engineer U San Hlaing said, “Construction has been completed up to the sixth floor and the steel structures are being installed at the seventh floor.”

The station is one of three under construction with US $38.7 million in funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The other two stations, in Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State, and in Mandalay are expected to be completed in 2016 and 2017, respectively.—GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. (30/2015)

7th Waning Day of First Waso, 1377 ME

(8 July 2015)

Arkha National Development Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced that Arkha National Development Party headquartered at No 3/10 on 3rd street in Mekhong Ward, Tachilek Township, Shan State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 8 July 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party’s registration number is 93.

By order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Metrological radar station is under construction on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon.—PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW
Co-op ministry provides rural development loans in Shan State

LASHIO, 8 July— The Ministry of Cooperatives disbursed loans to its members Wednesday in Shan State under the rural development programme.

At the Lashio Central Hall in the state’s north, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan, and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat met representatives of the cooperatives from the districts of Taunggyi, Loilem, Langkho, Kengtung, Tachilek, Lashio, Hopang, Muse, Kyaukme and Monghbat.

The ministry disbursed rural and community development loans worth K13,238,861 million and K7,238,3003 million worth of agricultural machinery to 1,708 cooperatives in 40 townships of Shan State.

At the event, Dr Sai Mauk Kham urged the cooperative members to use the loans effectively for community development and poverty reduction schemes.

Commander-in-Chief honours outstanding students

Commander-in-Chief honours outstanding students in matriculation exams of 2014-2015 academic year and those who won prizes in local and inter-national educational contests.

The honouring ceremony was held at Zeyathiri Beikman here, and senior military officers gave awards to the students.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said Tatmadaw is taking part in education development programmes of the country, with military members are allowed to complete their basic education at the schools of Defence Services.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Naing Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, senior military personnel and their wives.—MNA

Six-storey main building under construction at MIIT

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July— Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo inspected progress of a six-storey main building of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology-MIIT on 73rd Street in Chammyathazi Township, Mandalay, recently.

During the inspection tour, the union minister said that the government builds the university with machinery assistance from Indian government.

The institute will admit 200 trainees per year for the five-year course. In the first-five year period, faculty members from India will teach Myanmar students, he said.

The union minister urged officials to admit students as of this academic year.

He also inspected construction of two lecture halls at Technological University (Yadanabon Cyber City) and visited lecture halls, research rooms and workshops.—MNA

Low pressure persists over Bay of Bengal

YANGON, 8 July— A low-pressure zone is persisting over the Northwest Bay of Bengal, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said Wednesday.

The observation at 6.30 pm MST also predicted occasional squalls with rough seas offshore and along Myanmar’s coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 miles per hour due to the low pressure.

The forecast of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department also stated that strong monsoon conditions are present in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Regionally heavy rain is expected Thursday over Rakhine State, while isolated heavy rain is forecast over Magway Region, as well as Chin and Mon states, due to the low pressure, with 100 percent degree of certainty.

The government weather bureau forecast for Thursday predicts rain will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah states, and widespread in the remaining regions and states.

The weather bureau has warned fishing boats to stay alert to strong monsoon conditions and strong winds.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo together with outstanding students.—MYAWADY

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views sewing machines purchased by cooperative members.—MNA

The forecast of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department also stated that strong monsoon conditions are present in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Regionally heavy rain is expected Thursday over Rakhine State, while isolated heavy rain is forecast over Magway Region, as well as Chin and Mon states, due to the low pressure, with 100 percent degree of certainty.

The government weather bureau forecast for Thursday predicts rain will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah states, and widespread in the remaining regions and states.

The weather bureau has warned fishing boats to stay alert to strong monsoon conditions and strong winds.

GNLM
Temple excavation unearths ancient tablets

Thaton, 8 July — Nearly 200 ancient votive tablets were unearthed recently at the temple of Abbot Shweminwun, founder of the Hngettwin Sangha sect, in Thaton Township of southern Myanmar’s Mon State. The temple, which is more than a century old, is in the precinct of the Satubonmika Maha Thapatipahtan monastery. Abbot Ashin Tikkhañana of the monastery said, “On 15 June, we found 93 ancient votive tablets and 83 pieces of tablets which may have been made before the Bagan Era between the 5th and 11th centuries.” Mon State Minister for Planning and Economy Dr Min Nwe Soe said expert help would be sought to analyze and decipher the tablets. Abbot Ashin Tikkhañana said the votive tablets, which demonstrate a variety of hand postures, would be kept at the temple as museum pieces.

MRCCI talks business ties with China’s Guangxi Province

Mandalay, 8 July — The Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry recently received a delegation from China’s Guangxi Province for talks on economic cooperation and investment opportunities. Deputy Director-General Mr Chen Xufeng and party of the Guangxi Province International Relations Department called on MRCCI Chairman U Aung Than, Vice Chairman U Kyaw Soe Thein, Deputy Director-General U Htay Win of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and officials recently held a meeting to implement the plan and inspected buildings to be used for accommodation. Saw Min Thar (IPRD) of the Shan State government.

Mandalay, 8 July — The Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department recently presented K1 million each to three villages in Wundwin Township at a ceremony at the office of the Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department recently.

Thandaunggyi hill station to undergo B&B makeover

Thandaunggyi, 8 July — Visitors may soon be able to stay in bed and breakfast accommodation at Thandaunggyi hill station in southern Myanmar’s Kayin State, under a plan by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and the state government. By turning the former British hill station into a B&B, the tourism authorities hope to boost visitor numbers to the area and create local jobs. Kayin State Minister for Planning and Economy U Naing Min Soe Thein, Deputy Director-General U Htay Win of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and officials recently held a meeting to implement the plan and inspected buildings to be used for accommodation.

Mongyawng Township DAC receives garbage van

Mongyawng, 8 July — The Shan State government recently presented a garbage van to Mongyawng Township Development Affairs Committee in front of Township General Administration Department. Township Management Committee Chairman U Min Naing Aung explained the aim of providing a garbage van to the committee and handed over documents related to the vehicle to Township DAC U Tun Nyo and officials.

The ceremony was also attended by departmental officials and village and ward administrators.

3 Wundwin Tsp villages get cash assistance for libraries

Mandalay, 8 July — The Myanmar Libraries Foundation presented K1 million each to three villages in Wundwin Township at a ceremony at the office of the Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department recently.

The head of Wundwin Township IPRD and libraries submitted reports on plans to build the libraries in Kyaunggon, Hsinthaykwe and Pulawa villages. So far this fiscal year, the foundation has given K1 million each to Hsedarw village in Patheingyi Township, Buyon village in Thazi Township, Nanti village in Taungtha Township, Hsintaingkan village in Kyaukpaung Township and Kyetseint village in Singaing Township.

Tha Ton, 8 July — Nearl
DNA queried as Myanmar men go on trial for murder of UK tourists

KOH SAMUI, (Thaiiland), 8 July — Two Myanmar men accused of murdering two British holidaymakers in Thailand went on trial on Wednesday in a case that caused outrage in Britain and raised questions about the competence of the Thai police and the treatment of migrant labourers.

British tourists David Miller, 24, and Hannah Witheridge, 23, were murdered last year on Koh Tao, a tourist destination in southern Thailand. Thai police said in October that Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Htun, two 22-year-old migrant workers from Myanmar, had initially confessed to the killings. The confessions followed weeks of speculation and pressure on police to solve the murders.

The pair, who deny charges of murder, rape and robbery, could face the death penalty if found guilty. Police said DNA found on the victims matched the suspects but the two men later retracted their confessions, saying they had made them while being tortured.

Defence lawyers said there appeared to be discrepancies between DNA held by Thai police and DNA tested by British police. A judge will decide on Thursday whether the defence can independently test the evidence, one lawyer told Reuters.

British police joined the investigation after Prime Minister David Cameron raised concerns with Thai counterpart Prayuth Chan-ocha. Rights groups say the trial is a test case for Thailand’s treatment of the 2.5 million migrant labourers, many from poor neighbouring countries, on which it relies.

Others fear the pair are being used as scapegoats and will not receive a fair trial in a country where the poor and disenfranchised are rarely afforded justice. Witheridge was found raped and beaten to death on a beach in early hours of 15 September, while Miller was beaten about the head and left to drown, post-mortem examinations showed.

The first witness called by the prosecution was Police Lieutenant Jakkapan Kaewko, who said Miller and Witheridge were found 12 metres apart on the beach and described injuries on their bodies. Cross-examination is expected on why police on Koh Tao knew how to test DNA. Jakkapan said he moved Miller’s body away from the water so it wouldn’t be washed away.

The victims' families have travelled to Koh Samui, a nearby island where the trial is being held, and said they hoped to gain a better understanding of how the pair died “in such idyllic surroundings in such a horrible way”.

The killings hurt Thailand’s image as a tourist haven when the sector was struggling to recover after months of political unrest in 2013 kept some tourists away.

Many migrants take jobs Thais don’t want in labour-intensive industries like agriculture, construction, and fishing. Others work as domestic helpers or cleaners in restaurants and hotels.

A verdict is expected in October.—Reuters

Cambodian parliament consults with stakeholders on NGO draft bill

PHNOM PENH, 8 July — The National Assembly of Cambodia on Wednesday held a public consultation on NGO development partners, National Assembly’s President Heng Samrin said the draft legislation would enhance the freedoms of NGOs and heighten the cooperation between NGOs and the government in the framework of the rule of law.

“So far, there are more than 5,000 NGOs and associations operating in Cambodia and actively assisting the government in social development, but the country has not yet had a law governing NGOs and associations,” he said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the forum, which joined by some 700 NGO representatives, foreign diplomats and development partners, National Assembly’s President Heng Samrin said the draft legislation would enhance the freedoms of NGOs and heighten the cooperation between NGOs and the government in the framework of the rule of law.

“Due to the bank client confidentiality, we are not allowed to make any comments on this case,” bank spokesman Giammarco Tuminaro in an email. On Tuesday a task force investigating Malaysia’s troubled state investment fund 1MDB said it had frozen half a dozen bank accounts following the WSJ’s report. MAS said on Wednesday that it will provide assistance to Malaysia and share information where it is legally able to. “In this connection, MAS has been in close contact with the relevant financial institutions,” a MAS spokeswoman wrote in an email. MAS did not name any banks, but its statement suggested its enquiries have expanded beyond the previous assistance it has provided for Malaysia’s probe into 1MDB. 1MDB, a property-to-energy group whose advisory board is chaired by Najib, is facing criticism over its debt of nearly 42 billion ringgit ($11.04 billion) and alleged financial mismanagement.—Reuters

DNA queried as Myanmar men go on trial for murder of UK tourists

DNA queried as Myanmar men go on trial for murder of UK tourists

DNA queried as Myanmar men go on trial for murder of UK tourists

Malaysia A-G says documents in 1MDB scandal were already subject to probe

Kuala Lumpur, 8 July — Malaysia’s attorney-general said on Wednesday that the documents disclosed in a Wall Street Journal story that said investigators had traced nearly $700 million into the bank account of Prime Minister Najib Razak were already the subject matter of an investigation.

Abdul Gani Patail also said in a statement that a freeze order issued on bank accounts on 6 July did not involve any bank accounts allegedly held by Prime Minister Najib Razak. “A further concern was that the documents featured in the investigation itself,” he said, adding that he won’t hesitate to prosecute anyone persons found to have leaked the documents.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that investigators probing 1MDB had traced money from the debt-laden fund to Najib’s personal account.

On Tuesday, the Journal released what it said were government documents from the probe of the prime minister, detailing a money trail that it said led to his personal bank account. Reuters could not independently verify these documents. Najib has denied taking any money from 1MDB or any other entity for personal gain and is considering legal action. Falcon Private Bank, a Swiss private bank owned by Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund International Petroleum Investment Company, said it is already in contact with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and will be fully transparent with the authorities. “Due to the bank client confidentiality, we are not allowed to make any comments on this case,” bank spokesman Giammarco Tuminaro in an email. On Tuesday a task force investigating Malaysia’s troubled state investment fund 1MDB said it had frozen half a dozen bank accounts following the WSJ’s report. MAS said on Wednesday that it will provide assistance to Malaysia and share information where it is legally able to. “In this connection, MAS has been in close contact with the relevant financial institutions,” a MAS spokeswoman wrote in an email. MAS did not name any banks, but its statement suggested its enquiries have expanded beyond the previous assistance it has provided for Malaysia’s probe into 1MDB. 1MDB, a property-to-energy group whose advisory board is chaired by Najib, is facing criticism over its debt of nearly 42 billion ringgit ($11.04 billion) and alleged financial mismanagement.—Reuters

Court begins hearing Philippines, China dispute over South China Sea

AMSTERDAM, 8 July — The Philippines argued at a closed hearing on Tuesday that an international court should intervene in its dispute with China over the right to exploit natural resources and fish in the South China Sea.

Although China has declined to participate, the case at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is being closely watched by Asian governments and Washington, given rising regional tensions as China naval power grows. A panel of five judges will hear arguments this week and decide whether the treaty-based court has jurisdiction.

Manila filed suit at the court in 2013, seeking to enforce its right to exploit waters in a 200-nautical mile “exclusive economic zone” off its coast, as defined under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Philippines argues that the arbitration court is the correct venue for resolving disputes covered by the treaty, which both countries have signed.

“The Philippines believes the court has jurisdiction over all the claims it has made,” said lawyer Paul Reichler, representing the Philippines.

He said he was confident the court would ultimately rule in the Philippines’ favour. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China did not accept the court’s jurisdiction and would not participate.

“China opposes any form of arbitration process proposed and promoted by the Philippines,” Hua told a daily news briefing in Beijing on Tuesday.

In a position paper in December, China argued that the dispute was not covered by the treaty because it was ultimately a matter of sovereignty, not exploitation. China is also involved in a bitter dispute with China over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

Manila says China is unfairly preventing it from accessing reefs and shoals that are under its dominion in the South China Sea.

Reichler said the case could continue even if China declined to participate. The court’s rulings being, although it has no power to enforce them and both countries have ignored them in the past. Reichler declined to discuss the details of the Philippines’ arguments on Tuesday. Court legal counsel Judith Levine said the court would not comment on the proceedings.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that investigators probing 1MDB had traced money from the debt-laden fund to Najib’s personal account. It said investigators had traced nearly $700 million into the bank account of Prime Minister Najib Razak.

“I do not want to comment on the investigation itself,” he said, adding that he won’t hesitate to prosecute anyone persons found to have leaked the documents.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that investigators probing 1MDB had traced money from the debt-laden fund to Najib’s personal account. On Tuesday, the Journal released what it said were government documents from the probe of the prime minister, detailing a money trail that it said led to his personal bank account. Reuters could not independently verify these documents. Najib has denied taking any money from 1MDB or any other entity for personal gain and is considering legal action.—Reuters

Singapore central bank in touch with banks on Malaysia’s 1MDB deal probe

SINGAPORE, 8 July — Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.

Singapore’s central bank says it is in contact with financial institutions in relation to Malaysia’s 1MDB probe.
Iran nuclear talks extended, source says 48 hours left for deal

VIENNA, 8 July — Iran and major powers gave themselves at least until Friday to negotiate an agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme, but a source from one of the powers said on Tuesday they had to wrap up in the next 48 hours.

“We are continuing to negotiate for the next couple of days,” EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said outside the hotel where the marathon talks between Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States are taking place. The spokeswoman for the US delegation, Marie Harf, said the terms of an interim deal between Iran and the six would be extended through Friday to give negotiators a few more days to finish their work.

The negotiators had set Tuesday as a deadline when it became clear last week that a 30 June deadline would not be met. But despite a push in the past few days they made clear again that they still needed more time.

“We’re frankly more concerned about the quality of the deal than we are about the clock, though we also know that difficult decisions won’t get any easier with time,” Harf said.

There was disagreement about whether the talks were in effect open-ended. US officials hoped to wrap them up in time for a 4 am EDT (EET) Thursday deadline to secure an expedited review by the US Congress, but it was unclear if that was possible. “No deadline is sacrosanct for us,” senior Iranian negotiator Abbas Araghchi told reporters. “We are ready to stay in Vienna and continue talks as long as it is necessary.”

Western diplomats said they had not yet given up hope of making the deadline for the US congressional review. The source from one power, however, said there would be a time limit.

“We’ve come to the end,” said the source, on condition of anonymity. “We have just made one, final extension. It is hard to see how or why we would go beyond this. Either it happens in the next 48 hours, or not.”

Diplomats said a discussion on Monday night between Iran and the US powers became testy over the issue of UN sanctions, which Iran wants scrapped as part of a deal to curb its nuclear programme.

There was no slamming of doors but it was a very heated exchange of views,” a senior Western diplomat told reporters.

The comprehensive deal under discussion, aimed at curbing Tehran’s most sensitive nuclear work for a decade or more, in exchange for relief from economic sanctions that have slashed Iran’s oil exports and crippled its economy.

The United States and its allies fear Iran is using its civilian nuclear programme as a cover to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Iran says its programme is peaceful. An agreement would be the most important milestone in decades towards easing hostility between the United States and Iran, enemies since Iran revolutionaries captured 52 hostages in the US embassy in Tehran in 1979.

It would be an important achievement for US President Barack Obama and Iran’s pragmatist president, Hassan Rouhani, but both sides face scepticism from hardliners at home.

It is the fourth time the parties have extended the interim deal struck in November 2013 that gave Iran limited sanctions relief in return for its restricting its nuclear programme, including halting production of 20 percent enriched uranium.

The latest extension to Friday left open the possibility that they still needed more time.

“There is no deadline,” the source said on Tuesday they had to wrap up in the next 48 hours.

The negotiators are in a race to reach an agreement before the US congressional review deadline to allow an expedited, 30-day review of a deal by the US Congress.

If a deal is sent to Congress between 10 July and 7 September, Congress will have up to 60 days to review it. US officials fear that could provide more time for any deal to unravel or for pressure groups to influence US lawmakers to oppose any pact.

In Washington, several members of Congress said they did not want negotiators to rush. “I again urge negotiators to hold firm, take their time and be prepared to step back from the table,” said Republican US Senator Bob Corker, author of the law requiring the congressional review.

Among the sticking points, officials said, are Iranian demands for a UN arms embargo and ballistic missiles sanctions to be lifted, the timing of US and EU sanctions relief, and future Iranian nuclear research and development.

A senior US official said UN restrictions would remain on Iran’s trade in arms and its access to missile technology, but left open the possibility that these might be less onerous than they are at present.

UN restrictions on the development of Iran’s missile programme date to 2006. They call for Iran to abandon its ballistic missile programme and to permit it to develop “nuclear weapon delivery systems,” which diplomats say covers any missile capable of delivering an atomic warhead. No US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif presented a unified front in the Austrian capital to continue negotiating, the majority of the other foreign ministers planned to leave, some for only 24 hours.

US officials are loath to ease the conventional arms embargo against Iran, fearing it would allow Teheran to provide greater military assistance to militants in Yemen, Syria or elsewhere in the Middle East.

Top N Korea official’s relative arrested in S Korea for telephone fraud

SEOUL, 8 July — A relative of a former top North Korean official has been arrested in South Korea on charges of telephone fraud, a Seoul daily reported on Wednesday.

Oh Ki Bom, 45, the grandson of an aunt of Choe Ryong Hae, entered South Korea last month and was arrested while trying to withdraw 37 million won ($32,740) obtained through telephone fraud, the Chosun Ilbo report, cited a source in Beijing.

Choe Ryong Hae was the former National Defence Commission vice chairman, rose to power in North Korea under the current ruler Kim Jong Un.

But he was sacked from his Politburo position in the Worker’s Party of Korea in April last year and was admonished from a standing committee member to a secretary, the report said, while citing romours that he had barely escaped execution in Kim’s efforts to bring the military more firmly under his control.

The report said Oh was born in China’s Heilongjiang Province and ran a trading company in Yanbian, an ethnic Korean autonomous prefecture on the Chinese side of the border, in Jilin Province.

But he turned to telephone fraud, or voice phishing, when his business went sour due to strained diplomatic relations between China and North Korea, it said.—Kyodo News

Pakistan to start ball rolling on full SCO membership

ISLAMABAD, 8 July — The two-day summit of the six-member Shanghai Co-operation Organization begins on Thursday in the scenic Russian city of Ufa, at which Pakistan and India will kick off the process of becoming full members of the grouping.

However, their accession to full membership of the international organization could be long drawn out, according to a SCO diplomat.

“How soon the two countries could become members would depend on their eagerness to join,” the diplomat said.

The summit will authorize the SCO Secretariat to start dialogues with Pakistan and India, which will be required to ratify a host of treaties involved under the SCO charter. Moreover, the financial obligations of the new states and their clout in the SCO Secretariat would have to be worked out.

The diplomat from a SCO member country who sought anonymity and is a professor of international relations at Islamabad’s prestigious Quaid-e-Azam University concurred separately that the common desire to secure the SCO region against terrorism and extremism rather than seeking integration of the two countries into the region was the primary goal behind the invitation to the two countries to join the security bloc as full members.

Both pointed out that terrorism and extremism are common concerns of all the SCO members, and that the situation in Afghanistan has spilled its destabilizing effects into the SCO countries in one form or another.

Economic integration and development might be long-term goals by the SCO. Afghanistan has spilled its destabilizing influence on the northern region of North Waziristan. Once dislodged they would flee to other areas.

The diplomat also echoed the same view when he observed that if “we manage to bring the SCO and stabilize the country, it would be a breakthrough.”

Both Pakistan and India are viewed to be competing for influence in Afghanistan and there is a growing realization that without their hearty cooperation, Afghanistan could not be stable.

The report said this meeting extended that the SCO has created a Regional Anti-Terrorism System (RATS) and that both Pakistan and India would be sharing intelligence and information relating to terrorism and the narcotics trade, laundering which would be a great help.

Both Pakistan and India accuse each other of interfering in each other’s internal matters through their intelligence agencies and by encouraging non-state actors. Both Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are scheduled to attend the summit.

The two men could have a practical bilateral meeting on the sidelines of this week’s conference, the diplomat said.

Koody News
Greece given 5 more days for deal with creditors

A summit of all 28 EU leaders will be held in Brussels, Tusk said, after leaders of 19 eurozone members were called to Brussels for an emergency summit that day in the wake of Greece rejecting belt-tightening reforms proposed by its creditors in a referendum.

**Kyodo News**

BRUSSELS, 8 July — Greece has five days left to strike a deal with its international creditors to stave off bankruptcy, as Europe’s leaders will convene for a special summit Sunday, European Council President Donald Tusk said on Tuesday.

A summit of all 28 EU leaders will be held in Brussels, Tusk said, after leaders of 19 eurozone members were called to Brussels for an emergency summit that day in the wake of Greece rejecting belt-tightening reforms proposed by its creditors in a referendum.

The stark reality is that we have only five days left to find the ultimate agreement,” Tusk said, adding that Sunday is “the final deadline” for “all of us.” Greece should present a detailed reform plan by Thursday, he said, after it gave only vague proposals on Tuesday.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said he is confident the issue will be resolved by the weekend. On 20 July, Greece will have to pay 3.6 billion euros ($4.0 billion) to the European Central Bank. With the expiration of the aid programme for the country at the end of June, it imposed a capital controls on its banks on 29 June.

Out from the three-hour meeting of the eurozone leaders, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the “necessary conditions” to open the negotiations for a new bailout programme, valid until 2018, to be assessed by the European Commission and other creditors before a new meeting on Saturday of the 19 finance ministers, a European source said.

Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos, the successor of Yanis Varoufakis, said that he saw some “progress” during discussions with colleagues prior to the eurozone summit.

Facing Tsipras’ request for a restructuring of the Greek debt, which amounts to 177 percent of the country’s gross domestic product in 2014, eurozone leaders decided not to act immediately before an agreement was put on the table.

“They will speak of the debt in October if there is an agreement,” Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, said.

EU leaders will have a choice between two options on the table for Sunday: the launch of a new bailout programme until 2018 or the exit of Greece from the eurozone with “a programme of accompanying measures,” indicated French President Francois Hollande.

Debt-crippled Greece became the first developed country to fall into arrears on payments to the International Monetary Fund as it missed the deadline for repaying 1.6 billion euros in debts to the Washington-based lender on 30 June.

Greece has received nearly 240 billion euros in aid from the European Union and the IMF since 2010. But with the reforms-for-rescue talks between Greece and its creditors failing to achieve a breakthrough, the eurozone bailout expired at the end of June.

**Kyodo News**

Italy police seize 1.6 billion euros of assets in mafia bust

ROME, 8 July — Italian police said on Wednesday they had seized assets worth more than 1.6 billion euros (1.15 billion pounds) from five Sicilian siblings suspected of links to the island’s Cosa Nostra mafia.

The criminal group allegedly helped the three brothers and two sisters, described as “businesspeople” from the area around the Sicilian capital, Palermo, to receive construction contracts related to public works.

Palermo police said in a statement they had sequenced real said was one of the biggest of its kind they had ever carried out.

Cosa Nostra, along with the Calabrian ‘Ndrangheta and the Camorra around Naples, has long plagued Italy, and in recent years their activity has spread to northern cities from their southern heartland. Three years of recession have helped deep-rooted corruption to flourish.

Italy ranking 69th of 177 countries in global anti-corruption group Transparency International’s 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index, joint last in the European Union. Police are due to give further details of the investigation at a Press conference in Palermo later on Wednesday.—Reuters

**Reuters**

Gunmen kill three, wound one near Baltimore university

BELGRADE, 8 July — The government of Serbia, with its active measures to reduce the budget deficit, clearly demonstrates that it aims to ensure that all citizens of Serbia, be they members of the majority people or a national minority, are able to exercise their constitutional rights,” said Vucic at the second meeting of the National Minority Council.

He underlined that the government supports the drafting of an action plan that will define the measures aimed to improve the position of national minorities, the Serbian Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government said in a release.

Vucic noted that he urged the state bodies to immediately address the key issues related to education and information, and pledged to engage in this matter personally.

The officials agreed to organize meetings with the Foreign Ministry, with the participation of the Serbian government’s Office for Human and Minority Rights, in order to improve bilateral relations with the national minorities’ countries of origin.

Members of the national councils commended the efforts of the Serbian government directed towards promoting all national minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the law, the release states.

**Tanjug**

Serbian Prime Minister and President of National Minority Council Aleksandar Vucic

**Serbian Prime Minister and President of National Minority Council Aleksandar Vucic**

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel**

**Angela Merkel in Belgrade**

BERLIN, 8 July — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will arrive in Belgrade on Wednesday and meet with Serbia’s most senior officials.

A greeting ceremony for Merkel will be held outside the Palace of Serbia, where she will be welcomed by Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic.

The prime minister and the chancellor will hold a joint Press conference after the meeting. According to an earlier press release from Berlin, Merkel should also have a working dinner with Vucic.

On Thursday, Merkel will confer with Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and meet with representatives of Serbia’s civil society organizations.

Besides Belgrade, Merkel will also visit Tiranica and Sarajevo.

**Tanjug**

**Tanjug**

**Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch finance minister who leads the Eurogroup, speaks with reporters in Brussels on 7 July, 2015. Leaders of the 19 eurozone members were called to Brussels for an emergency summit that day in the wake of Greece rejecting belt-tightening reforms proposed by its creditors in a referendum.**

**Kyodo News**
Make PEACE a Priority

By Kyaw Thura

It is important to make clear from the outset that changes in education will be impossible without the active participation of teachers. Favourable conditions for professional enhancement will induce teachers to play their part in transforming the education system. It is therefore necessary to foster their involvement in changes that can promise quality and equity of education and meet student learning needs.

With private tuition becoming a fashion from kindergarten to advanced learning, most parents have to be thrifty so as to pay tuition fees for their children. Inevitably, it is a discouraging sign because students start to feel that they won’t be able to pass exams without private tuition.

Careful consideration will reveal that a surge in demand for private tuition corrupts teachers and students alike. Three or four decades ago, private tuition was regarded as necessary only for students who fell behind in class. In other words, schools could provide sound education to cope with life after graduation.

If schools could continue to do so, parents would not need to spend extra on the education, and children would not need to lose their playtime.

It is undoubtedly imperative that teachers should regard student learning, rather than economic assets, as their central focus. In education, the quality of teacher performance is of paramount importance. This includes mastery of subject matter and possession of excellent pedagogic skills.

I

Thursday, 9 July, 2015

Surge in private tuition reveals system’s shortcomings

By Kyaw Thura

May all beings be free from suffering, from danger, from worry. May all beings be free from cares, anxiety and grief. May all beings be HAPPY! As the right eye of Kamma there exist many types of living beings; human and non-human, weak or strong, high or low, stout or thin, brave or timid, long or short, great or small, seen or unseen, from the hugest to the tiny creatures too small to be seen with the naked eye, from those dwelling with us to those in other world-systems. May all be blessed with PEACE! Each and every individual is the sum total of all his/her actions of the infinite past and since each one of us performs different actions every minute, we cannot be the same. There are no two individuals alike because no two individuals have made the same actions in the infinite past. We all act differently, our actions make us what we are and therefore different actions have made us different individuals.

The scientific law declares that action and reaction are equal and opposite. The result is therefore different actions differently, our actions differ from worry. May all beings be HAPPY! As the right eye of Kamma there exist many types of living beings; human and non-human, weak or strong, high or low, stout or thin, brave or timid, long or short, great or small, seen or unseen, from the hugest to the tiny creatures too small to be seen with the naked eye, from those dwelling with us to those in other world-systems. May all be blessed with PEACE! Each and every individual is the sum total of all his/her actions of the infinite past and since each one of us performs different actions every minute, we cannot be the same. There are no two individuals alike because no two individuals have made the same actions in the infinite past. We all act differently, our actions make us what we are and therefore different actions have made us different individuals.

The scientific law declares that action and reaction are equal and opposite. The result is therefore different actions differently, our actions differ
Make PEACE...

(from page 8) concerns of people all over the world. Development, human rights and peace and security are indivisible and interrelated. Each cannot be achieved without achieving the other. They should be viewed as interrelated dimensions of one goal whether called development, well-being or human security. They are interrelated conceptually as well as at the national level and the global level. Any deficit in one dimension will have an impact on the other. Any deficit in one country will also have an impact in other countries, whether this is through economic and financial linkages, migration, pollution, communicable diseases, climate change, terrorism, piracy, organized crime, narcotics, human trafficking or the arms trade. Progressive globalization keeps increasing the likelihood of these cross-border spoilers. One important aspect of the interrelation between development and peace and security is through the capacity and legitimacy of the state. A key feature of the social contact between the state and its citizens is that citizens pay taxes to get public services in return, which include social services and security. Violence often undermines or breaks that contract. After the end of a violent conflict, the provision of social services by the state could play an important role in rebuilding the trust and legitimacy of the government and reinforcing a commitment to a peace process, in particular if unequal access to these social services was a driving force of the violent conflict in the first place. This aspect is often underestimated. (Peace and Security Thematic Think Piece PBSD, UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, May 2012)

The noteworthy message of U Lokanatha. (An Italian Buddhist Monk) on Peace is as follows: "........."The sky is in flames, the earth is in flames, the water is in flames, the mind is in flames-all are in flames. So let us be at peace with ourselves and the whole world. War is the effect of a cause. We are not interested in its effects. But we are interested in the cause of War so that we may destroy the cause and attain world peace. What is the cause of War? Internal fire is the cause of external fire. War is fire. The Exalted Buddha said the six senses are burning. So to destroy War we must extinguish the fire of senses. Man is at war with himself. Then there is national war, international war, global war and all kinds of war. Only when we attain peace within can we enjoy peace without. So each man/woman must police himself/herself by himself/herself; no man/woman can police another. We must extinguish the fires of lust, hatred and delusion. The only way to produce real peace is to make every man/woman peaceful-to destroy violence in all its forms all over the world. We should teach the young how to be peaceful. We should not give them toy soldiers, toy cars beyond measure. All persons, male and female, residing either in hamlets or parishes, towns or cities or small countries or big countries should not entertain any feelings for hostility towards one another but should have kind thoughts both day and night for all beings wherever they may be. You should have boundless love for all beings for this can bring about the well-being of all. We offer merit to all the Devas, all the Sea Devas, all the humans, all the ghosts, to all the animals, to all the denizens of purgatory. We offer the merit to all our relatives, who are living, who have passed away, we offer our merit to the sentient beings throughout the whole universe. By offering merit we receive merit. By offering love and truth we receive the same. By offering
Deadly car bombs hit Yemen, day after almost 200 killed

SANAA, 8 July — Two deadly car bombs hit the capital Sanaa and a southern city in Yemen on Tuesday, state news agency Saba reported, a day after air strike and clashes killed almost 200 people nationwide.

Islamic State in Yemen claimed responsibility in a statement posted online for the Sanaa attack, latest in a string of recent actions by the hardline Sunni Muslim group against Shi’ite Houthis who run the capital.

One of the explosives-laden cars detonated near a hospital in downtown Sanaa, which the news agency controverted, its Yemeni-dominated Houthi group said killed and injured “numerous” people, while another killed around 10 people in al-Bayda, capital of a province in the country’s battle-weary south.

Saudi-led coalition air strikes and clashes killed at least 176 fighters and civilians in Yemen on Monday, residents and media run by the Houthi movement said, the highest daily toll since the Arab air offensive began more than three months ago.

The United Nations has been pushing for a halt to air raids and intensified fighting that began on 26 March. More than 3,000 people have been killed since then as the Arab coalition tries to stop the Houthis spreading across the country from the north.

The Iran-allied Shi’ite Houthis say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. Sunnis, who support Yemen’s president, is also revile the Houthis.

The Sanaa attack, latest in a series that began on 26 March, killed at least 176 fighters and civilians around the country, local fighters say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. The Houthis to protect the Yemeni people.

Saudi Arabia pledged $2.4 million to an appeal for Yemen by the UN’s OCHA but has not handed it over, the Houthis-controlled state media agency Saba said.

The Houthis say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. Sunnis, who support Yemen’s president, is also revile the Houthis.

The Sanaa attack, latest in a series that began on 26 March, killed at least 176 fighters and civilians around the country, local fighters say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. The Houthis to protect the Yemeni people.

Turkish army says detains almost 800 trying to cross illegally from Syria

ISTANBUL, 8 July — Turkey’s army said on Tuesday it had detained almost 800 people trying to cross illegally from Syria, including three suspected Islamic State militants, after bolstering security in border areas near where the radical Islamists hold ground.

The military said 768 people had been detained on Monday alone while trying to cross the border. The three suspected Islamic State members were sent to jail in the southern city of Sanliurfa after being detained separately on 2 July, it said. Wary of advances by both Syrian Kurdish forces and Islamic State in northern Syria, Turkey has sent extra troops and equipment to strengthen parts of its 900-km (560-mile) border as the risk of spillover rises.

Turkey has maintained an open border policy throughout Syria’s conflict, absorbing close to two million refugees, but requires legitimate refugees to pass through check points and be documented. The military did not say why the 768 people had been detained.

The Houthis say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. Sunnis, who support Yemen’s president, is also revile the Houthis.

The Sanaa attack, latest in a series that began on 26 March, killed at least 176 fighters and civilians around the country, local fighters say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. The Houthis to protect the Yemeni people.

Taliban, Afghan officials end peace talks agreeing to meet again

ISLAMABAD, 8 July — The first officially acknowledged peace talks between the Afghan Taliban and the government in Kabul ended with an agreement to meet again after the holy fasting month of Ramadan, Pakistan said on Wednesday.

Pakistan hosted the meeting in a tentative step towards ending more than 13 years of war in neighbouring Afghanistan, in which the Taliban have been fighting the government in hopes of re-establishing their hard-line Islamist regime that was toppled by US-sponsored military had not materialized, and there had been serious human rights violations, including attacks on places of worship and United Nations offices.

Air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition, and other clashes around the country, killed at least 176 fighters and civilians on Monday, according to residents and media run by the Shi’ite Houthi movement.

Iran-backed Houthi forces are trying to reverse a gains President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Saudi Arabia sees the Houthis as proxies for arch-rival Iran. The Houthis to protect the Yemeni people.

Almost 15 million Yemenis need food aid, said Abeer Efete, a spokeswomen for the World Food Programme. “People are not resilient enough to absorb any more shocks,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Five mosques of the Zaidi sect of Shi’ite Islam to which the Houthis ascribe have been bombed, said Cecile Pouilly, the UN spokesperson.

There has been no disbursement so far,” Jens Laercke said in Geneva, adding “the humanitarian operation does not stand or fall with that. It is a $1.6 billion operation and there are other donors.”

Almost 15 million Yemenis need food aid, said Abeer Efete, a spokeswomen for the World Food Programme. “People are not resilient enough to absorb any more shocks,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foun-dation.

Turkish army says detains almost 800 trying to cross illegally from Syria

ISTANBUL, 8 July — Turkey’s army said on Tuesday it had detained almost 800 people trying to cross illegally from Syria, including three suspected Islamic State militants, after bolstering security in border areas near where the radical Islamists hold ground.

The military said 768 people had been detained on Monday alone while trying to cross the border. The three suspected Islamic State members were sent to jail in the southern city of Sanliurfa after being detained separately on 2 July, it said. Wary of advances by both Syrian Kurdish forces and Islamic State in northern Syria, Turkey has sent extra troops and equipment to strengthen parts of its 900-km (560-mile) border as the risk of spillover rises.

Turkey has maintained an open border policy throughout Syria’s conflict, absorbing close to two million refugees, but requires legitimate refugees to pass through checkpoints and be documented. The military did not say why the 768 people had been detained.

The Houthis say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. Sunnis, who support Yemen’s president, is also revile the Houthis.

The Sanaa attack, latest in a series that began on 26 March, killed at least 176 fighters and civilians around the country, local fighters say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthis incursions. The Houthis to protect the Yemeni people.

Taliban, Afghan officials end peace talks agreeing to meet again

ISLAMABAD, 8 July — The first officially acknowledged peace talks between the Afghan Taliban and the government in Kabul ended with an agreement to meet again after the holy fasting month of Ramadan, Pakistan said on Wednesday.

Pakistan hosted the meeting in a tentative step towards ending more than 13 years of war in neighbouring Afghanistan, in which the Taliban have been fighting the government in hopes of re-establishing their hard-line Islamist regime that was toppled by US-sponsored military had not materialized, and there had been serious human rights violations, including attacks on places of worship and United Nations offices.

Air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition, and other clashes around the country, killed at least 176 fighters and civilians on Monday, according to residents and media run by the Shi’ite Houthi movement.

Iran-backed Houthi forces are trying to reverse a gains President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Saudi Arabia sees the Houthis as proxies for arch-rival Iran. The Houthis to protect the Yemeni people.

Almost 15 million Yemenis need food aid, said Abeer Efete, a spokeswomen for the World Food Programme. “People are not resilient enough to absorb any more shocks,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Five mosques of the Zaidi sect of Shi’ite Islam to which the Houthis ascribe have been bombed, said Cecile Pouilly, the UN spokesperson.

There has been no disbursement so far,” Jens Laercke said in Geneva, adding “the humanitarian operation does not stand or fall with that. It is a $1.6 billion operation and there are other donors.”

Almost 15 million Yemenis need food aid, said Abeer Efete, a spokeswomen for the World Food Programme. “People are not resilient enough to absorb any more shocks,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Turkish army says detains almost 800 trying to cross illegally from Syria

ISTANBUL, 8 July — Turkey’s army said on Tuesday it had detained almost 800 people trying to cross illegally from Syria, including three suspected Islamic State militants, after bolstering security in border areas near where the radical Islamists hold ground.

The military said 768 people had been detained on Monday alone while trying to cross the border. The three suspected Islamic State members were sent to jail in the southern city of Sanliurfa after being detained separately on 2 July, it said. Wary of advances by both Syrian Kurdish forces and Islamic State in northern Syria, Turkey has sent extra troops and equipment to strengthen parts of its 900-km (560-mile) border as the risk of spillover rises.

Turkey has maintained an open border policy throughout Syria’s conflict, absorbing close to two million refugees, but requires legitimate refugees to pass through checkpoints and be documented. The military did not say why the 768 people had been detained.
Indoor tanning rates dropping

One more MERS patient dies in S Korea, no infection added

Australia’s health minister urges citizens to get flu vaccine as near-epidemic strikes
China’s parliament publishes cybersecurity law

BEIJING, 8 July — China’s parliament has published a draft cybersecurity law that consolidates Beijing’s control over data, with potentially significant consequences for internet service providers and multinational firms doing business in the country.

The document, dated on Monday but picked up by state media on Wednesday, strengthens user privacy protection from hackers and data resellers but simultaneously elevates the government’s control over access, obtain records and block dissemination of private information deemed illegal under Chinese law.

The law has been under discussion in China for months.

Citing the need “to safeguard national cyber-space sovereignty, security and development,” the proposed legislation is a milestone in China’s effort to bolster its network against the country’s stability.

It will also enable the government to better regulate the flow of information in China.

Earlier in July, China’s largely rubber stamp parliament passed a sweeping national security law that tightened government control in politics, culture, the military, the economy, technology and the environment.

But cybersecurity has been a particularly irksome area in relations with economic partners like the United States, which sees many recently proposed rules as burdensome or unfair to Silicon Valley firms.

Under the draft law, internet service providers must store data collected within China in Chinese territory; data stored overseas for business purposes must be government-approved. Network equipment must also be approved under testing standards issued by China’s cabinet.

The government also reiterated its longstanding objective of requiring internet users to log in with their real names to services like messaging apps — though such drives have failed in the past.

The parliament said government agencies would issue additional guidance on network security in “critical industries” such as telecommunications, energy, transport, finance, national defence and military matters, government administration and other sensitive fields.

Parliament will take feedback on the proposed legislation until 5 August.—Reuters

China builds multiple unit train for Europe

CHANGSHA, 8 July — The Chinese government has approved the construction of China’s first unit train for Europe rolled off the assembly line at Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co Ltd in Changsha.

The train will run on the 215-km-long railway between Tabanovce in northern Macedonia and Gevgelija at its southern border with Greece. The train passes the Macedonian capital Skopje.

Chinese company has adopted technology for speed at 160 km per hour to ensure its operational safety and leave room for future speed hikes, said Chen.

The train has three cars which can carry 280 passengers in total. Its design is in line with the most strict safety standards in Europe.

The train will run on the 215-km-long railway between Tabanovce in northern Macedonia and Gevgelija at its southern border with Greece. The train passes the Macedonian capital Skopje.

China’s parliament publishes draft cybersecurity law

Advocated technology for speed at 160 km per hour to ensure its operational safety and leave room for future speed hikes, said Chen.

The train has three cars which can carry 280 passengers in total. Its design is in line with the most strict safety standards in Europe.

The train will run on the 215-km-long railway between Tabanovce in northern Macedonia and Gevgelija at its southern border with Greece. The train passes the Macedonian capital Skopje.

Ex-Toyota exec Hamp released as prosecutors forgo indictment

TOKYO, 8 July — Former Toyota Motor Corp executive Julie Hamp was released from detention on Wednesday after Tokyo prosecutors decided not to indict her for illegally importing a narcotic painkiller into Japan.

Prosecutors judged that the 55-year-old American, who was arrested last month, had no malicious intent given she had her family send the drugs to relieve her knee pain, according to investigative sources.

Hamp was arrested by Japanese police on 18 June on suspicion of importing 57 oxycodeone pills, which are illegal without a prescription in Japan, through the mail. They were sent from Kentucky to a Tokyo hotel where she was staying.

Japanese customs officials at Narita airport on 11 June found the pills in the bottom of a box listed as containing a necklace, with some of the pills inside an accessory case.

Former Toyota Motor Corp executive Julie Hamp is released from detention in Tokyo on 8 July, 2015, after prosecutors decided not to indict her for illegally importing a narcotic painkiller into Japan. Prosecutors judged that the American, who was arrested in mid-June, had no malicious intent given she had her family send the drugs to relieve her knee pain, according to investigative sources.

Kyodo News

Toyota appointed Hamp as its first female managing officer on 1 April as part of its efforts to diversify its leadership, but she resigned as of 30 June following her arrest.—Kyodo News

Alaska plane crashed amid ‘marginal’ visual conditions, killing nine — NTSB

JUNEAU, (Alaska), 8 July — A sightseeing plane that crashed last month in Alaska killing all nine on board was flying in “marginal” visual conditions marked by rain and patches of low clouds before hitting a mountain, federal investigators said on Tuesday.

The plane struck a tree nose up and rested upright on top of the separated floats, the report and investigator photographs of the crash showed. All eight passengers and the pilot were killed.

The report, citing weather data from the nearest reporting facility about 24 miles (39 km) from the crash site, said the wind was gusting to 26 miles per hour (42 kph), with broken clouds at 1,200 feet (370 metres) and overcast conditions at 2,700 feet (820 metres).

The crash site’s remote location, low visibility from clouds and fog, and the plane’s precarious position on the side of the steep rock face delayed the recovery of the bodies until the following day.

The flight, an excursion booked via a cruise ship, was sold through Holland America Line, a unit of Carnival Corp, which has since stopped selling the flights.—Reuters

China builds multiple unit train for Europe

Changsha, 8 July — The first advanced multiple unit train to be exported to Europe rolled off the assembly line of China’s Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co Ltd on Tuesday.

The company, located in central China’s Hunan Province, is a subsidiary of China’s high-speed rail maker CRRC Corp Ltd.

The train, coloured red and yellow after the national flag of Macedonia, is the first of six such trains purchased by the country, said Chen Xiong, deputy chief engineer of Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive. The first one will be delivered soon.

Vlado Misajlovski, minister of transport and communications of Macedonia, witnessed the finished train rolling off the assembly line in a ceremony held at Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive, said the minister.

Macedonia requires the trains have a speed of 140 km per hour. When designing the train, the Chinese company has adopted technology for speed at 160 km per hour to ensure its operational safety and leave room for future speed hikes, said Chen.

The train has three cars which can carry 280 passengers in total. Its design is in line with the most strict safety standards in Europe.

The train will run on the 215-km-long railway between tabanovce in northern Macedonia and Gevgelija at its southern border with Greece. The train passes the Macedonian capital Skopje.

China builds multiple unit train for Europe

Changsha, 8 July — The first advanced multiple unit train to be exported to Europe rolled off the assembly line of China’s Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co Ltd on Tuesday.

The company, located in central China’s Hunan Province, is a subsidiary of China’s high-speed rail maker CRRC Corp Ltd.

The train, coloured red and yellow after the national flag of Macedonia, is the first of six such trains purchased by the country, said Chen Xiong, deputy chief engineer of Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive. The first one will be delivered soon.

Vlado Misajlovski, minister of transport and communications of Macedonia, witnessed the finished train rolling off the assembly line in a ceremony held at Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive, said the minister.

Macedonia requires the trains have a speed of 140 km per hour. When designing the train, the Chinese company has adopted technology for speed at 160 km per hour to ensure its operational safety and leave room for future speed hikes, said Chen.

The train has three cars which can carry 280 passengers in total. Its design is in line with the most strict safety standards in Europe.

The train will run on the 215-km-long railway between Tabanovce in northern Macedonia and Gevgelija at its southern border with Greece. The train passes the Macedonian capital Skopje.
WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (14:00) hrs MST on 8 July, a low pressure area has formed over Northwest Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th July, 2015: Rain will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagain and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Magway Region, Chin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th July, 2015: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th July, 2015: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th July, 2015: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).
Han Solo blasts into Disney’s ‘Star Wars’ universe with own film

LOS ANGELES, 8 July — Han Solo, the “Star Wars” space hero who always has a fast ship and a good blaster, will get his own stand-alone film, the Walt Disney Co said on Tuesday, directed by the “Lego Movie” film makers.

The untitled Han Solo project, slated for release on 25 May, 2018, will be the second stand-alone “Star Wars” anthology film, following the release of “Rogue One” next year.

The film will explore a separate part of George Lucas’ intricate intergalactic universe and will intermingle the new trilogy of “Star Wars” films with Han’s adventures before Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

The new Han Solo film will focus on the origin story of the character made famous in the “Star Wars” films by actor Harrison Ford, who will reprise that role in “The Force Awakens.”

Solo was introduced in the original “Star Wars” film as a former smuggler who takes Luke Skywalker aboard his ship, the Millennium Falcon, and helps him escape Darth Vader.

Solo becomes the lovable scoundrel of the Rebel Alliance, fighting against the oppressor Galactic Empire along with his friend and co-pilot Chewbacca, a bear-like “wookiee.”

The story focuses on how young Han Solo became the smuggler, thief and scoundrel whom Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi first encountered in the cantina at Mos Eisley, Disney said in a statement.

Filmmakers Chris Miller and Phil Lord, best known for “Lego Movie,” the reboots of “21 Jump Street” and also Fox TV’s hit comedy series “The Last Man on Earth,” will direct the movie, which has yet to announce a cast. “We promise to take risks, to give the audience a fresh experience, and we pledge ourselves to be faithful stewards of these characters who mean so much to us,” Miller and Lord said in a statement.

Writer-director Lawrence Kasdan, best known for co-writing “The Empire Strikes Back,” “Return of the Jedi” and “The Force Awakens,” will pen the screenplay with his son Jon Kasdan. “The Force Awakens” is the first of three new “Star Wars” films being produced by Walt Disney Co since it purchased the franchise from Lucasfilm in 2012 for $4.05 billion.

The six previously released “Star Wars” films have grossed more than $4.4 billion at the worldwide box office since 1977 and spawned a legion of devoted fans.—Reuters

Lady Gaga falls onstage

LOS ANGELES, 8 July — Pop sensation Lady Gaga tripped over the train of her long dress and fell while she was performing with Tony Bennett in Monaco.

The 29-year-old singer was performing a duet with her collaborator Bennett when she took a tumble in front of the crowd at Salle des Etoiles, reported Ace Showbiz.

In a video taken during the show, Gaga’s seen rocking a long gown while singing “Anything Goes” alongside Bennett. She was walking on the stage when she tripped over the train of her dress and fell on her knees.

Fortunately, she did not seem to be badly injured. She quickly got straight back up and continued the song as if nothing had happened.

The Monaco show was part of the European leg of Gaga and Bennett’s “Cheek to Cheek” tour, which was launched to support their 2014 joint album of the same name.

The tour will be brought back to North America later this month before being wrapped up in early August.—PTI

Sam Smith makes smooth debut at Montreux jazz festival

MONTREUX, (Switzerland), 8 July — British soul singer Sam Smith, freshly recovered from surgery on his vocal cords, delivered a smooth yet punchy concert to jazz fans on Tuesday night in his first appearance on the famed Montreux stage.

Smith opened with “I’m not the Only One”, followed by other chart-topping hits from his 2014 debut studio album “In the Lonely Hour”, including “Leave Your Lover”, “Restart” and “Not in that Way.”

“Wow, this is amazing to me for many reasons. I get to play a jazz festival which is historic. I saw Claude Nobs’ house yesterday and got to see all the history that has happened over more than 40 years, all of my idols,” the 23-year-old said.

The late Nobs, a Swiss, founded the festival in 1966, bringing legends from Miles Davis, Aretha Franklin and Prince over the decades to the shores of Lake Geneva.

Heartbreak paid off handsomely for Smith, a newcomer who won four Grammy awards in February including record and song of the year for his anthem “Stay With Me.” He was anointed best new artist.

“The most painful kind of love is unrequited love, it only felt natural to write about it,” he said on Tuesday, performing “Lay Me Down” and “My Funny Valentine”.

In late April, Smith canceled the remainder of his Australian tour due to a hemorrhage on his vocal cords, apologizing to fans but saying the decision was taken on doctor’s orders.

“Three months ago I had surgery on my vocal cords. To be able to do a gig in a tiny venue is incredible. I prefer this to anything,” he told the crowd at the Montreux Jazz Lab where fans paid 92 Swiss francs ($97) to stand for the sold-out concert.

“I’ll be back next year,” he added.

Smith, accompanied by five musicians and three vocalists, confidently hit the high notes in songs including “Nirvana” and “Make it To Me.”

Introducing “Money on My Mind”, he said: “This is the only song not on the album about love. A lot of people are making music for the wrong reason. Believe me there people out there who only make music for money. This one person pissed me off so much I wrote the song.”

For the encore to the 70-minute show, he sang “Latch”, “Make it to Me” and finally “Stay with Me”.—Reuters

Japanese film director Masayuki Suo

TORONTO, 8 July Masayuki Suo, best known for his original Japanese version of the Hollywood hit “Shall We Dance?”, has directed a new movie musical that might best be described as “My Fair Lady” in a kimono.

Suo’s “Lady Maiko” tells the story of a simple country girl, Haruko, who travels to Japan’s ancient capital Kyoto with the ambition of becoming a polished “maiko”, or apprentice geisha, before the end of her most familiar yet mysterious figures in Japanese culture.

“I wanted to portray how young Japanese girls feel and live with the traditions of Japan,” Suo said at the film’s North American premiere during the recent Toronto Japanese Film Festival.

“Lady Maiko” will be shown again next month at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto.

Haruko is unusual for a modern Japanese teenager. She dreams of learning the age-old but declining traditions of the maiko. But she soon finds out that her rustic speech stands in the way of her dream. To be an appren- tice geisha, or “geiko,” as they are called in Kyoto, she must speak the city’s special dialect.

But the same challenge faced by Eliza Doolittle, the Cockney flower girl in “My Fair Lady.”

“Haruko gets a lucky break when she catches the ear of a linguistics professor Kyoko, who bets he can teach her to speak like a proper Kyoto lady in six months,” Suo said.

Suo hoped to capture the charm of the ancient capital along with its famous geiko and maiko traditions.

“I always find the people of Kyoto to be the prototype of the Japanese,” he said. “I see Japanese culture in its polished form in Kyoto.”

Suo came up with the idea for the movie 20 years ago but put it on hold while working on other projects, including “Shall We Dance?”, his 1996 film about ballroom dancing that inspired a 2004 Hollywood version starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez.

Suo eventually embarked on the project when he discovered lead actress Mone Kamishiraishi, with her girl-next-door look and unforgettable voice.

Suo, speaking in Japanese, said it was inevitable but acceptable that foreign audiences would miss the nuances of language integral to “Lady Maiko.”—Reuters

‘Lady Maiko,’ or how to say ‘the rain in Spain’ in Japanese

Japanese film director Masayuki Suo

Lady Maiko, or how to say the rain in Spain in Japanese

For the encore to the 70-minute show, he sang “Latch”, “Make it to Me” and finally “Stay with Me”.—Reuters

Alessandra Ruggiero, a 26-year-old Swiss, said: “I one person pissed me off so much I wrote the song.”

Suo, speaking in Japanese, said it was inevitable but acceptable that foreign audiences would miss the nuances of language integral to “Lady Maiko.”—Reuters

For the encore to the 70-minute show, he sang “Latch”, “Make it to Me” and finally “Stay with Me”.—Reuters
Gerrard says he is not in Los Angeles for a holiday

LOS ANGELES, 5 July — New Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Steven Gerrard says he did not want to play out his days as a “squad” member at Liverpool and had little hesitation signing for the Major League Soccer team.

Gerrard, 35, has joined the Galaxy after spending his entire professional career, 17 seasons, with Liverpool and vowed that he was in Los Angeles for the long haul.

“I had options to stay in the Premier League, options around Europe, but I didn’t want to compete against Liverpool,” Gerrard told a news conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday as he was introduced to the American media.

“I love Liverpool Football Club and I always will be... but I didn’t want to become a squad player or a sub at the club,” he said.

“If there’s anyone out there that thinks I’m coming here for a holiday and a last pay cheque, they’ll be proved wrong very soon. I’m looking forward to staying here as long as possible. I love Liverpool, the city, and I will miss it at times.”

“I’m a Scouser and I’m proud to be a Scouser but I didn’t want to become a squad player or a sub at the club.” — Reuters

As strong El Nino looms, cloud seeding gets tailwind

SYDNEY, 8 July — Circling thousands of feet above Tasmania’s farmland in a light aircraft, Christina Nebel prepares to release tiny chemical particles as part of a cloud-seeding scheme established to help boost rainfall on the Australian island by at least 5 percent.

The programme is one of a handful globally riding a wave of renewed interest in the decades-old technology as drought hits places from the United States to the Philippines, with the specter of a strong El Nino weather pattern threatening worse to come.

“We are looking for fronts crossing Tasmania,” said Nebel, cloud seeding officer at renewable energy producer Hydro Tasmania. “If the conditions are right, she releases a small amount of silver iodide, which attracts water particles, encouraging clouds to grow and rain to fall.

But Tasmania is blessed with near-perfect conditions for the process, with clouds containing a large amount of cold water vapour whipping in off the Southern Ocean, meaning the scale of success of its program, which has its roots in the 1960s, could be difficult to replicate elsewhere.

Nonetheless atmospheric experts say the technology is enjoying a renewed emphasis as governments fret over scorching weather and as populations grow, while falling costs could increase its use in future.

“What is driving the attention is that winter cloud seeding holds some promise and in many places, including the western US, water shortages are becoming severe,” said Professor Terry Deshler from the University of Wisconsin’s atmospheric science department.

Research suggests cloud seeding in winter produces better results than in other periods.

While many of the world’s cloud-seeding programs are small and unlikely to have more than a limited impact, China has a large-scale scheme in place. The nation launched its “human affected weather” program in 1958, and has recently started testing drones that could be used in cloud seeding that it says could cut costs substantial.

Drones would also be able to fly closer to mountains, where clouds offer the best potential for seeding.

“Back in Tasmania, Nebel is busy with 10 seeding operations so far in the season that runs from May to October, more than double the number at the same point in 2014,” said Deshler.

Hydro Tasmania uses water to generate electricity via turbines, before it passes through irrigation systems that support feed crops and pasture. That has boosted the state’s dairy sector, where milk production is up about a tenth so far this season. — Reuters

Scientists work in a field of maize plants at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in El Batan on the outskirts of Mexico City on 31 Aug, 2010. Reuters

Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Steven Gerrard poses for photos following his introduction to media at Stubhub Centre. — Reuters

Gerrard said Keane, a former Liverpool team mate, had “lent me some factor-50 (sunscreen) as well so I don’t burn on day one”.

Gerrard and wife Alex arrived in Los Angeles a week ago, while their three daughters were due to arrive later on Tuesday after staying in England to complete school exams.

“The last seven days has been a bit of a whirlwind,” he said. “I’ve had a bit of a lag (and we have) been moving into a new house.”

Gerrard will make his MLS debut for the Galaxy against San Jose on 17 July.

“The game can’t come quick enough. We’ve got a fantastic team there and if I can add a bit to that I think the future can be very bright.” — Reuters

Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Steven Gerrard poses for photos following his introduction to media at Stubhub Centre. — Reuters

Myanmar International

(9-7-2015 07:00 am–10-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

• News
• Hanlin, A Treasure
• Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
• Distinguished Myanmar Ladies
• “I’m a Scouser”
• News
• Shwe Bo Township
• Bearing Five Names
• News
• Products of Myanmar
• — Pottery Business
• We Love U-20
• Kay Tu Mar Lar
• The Decision
• News
• Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan
• Part (1)
• Myanmar Street Food
• News
• To The Land of Countless Temples — Bagam Trip (Ep-2)
• Sightseeing
• In Yangon: Inya Lake

Myanmar Video

• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
• Documentary

• Beautiful ASEAN
• 4:35 pm
• Documentary

• Science and Technology Programme
12:00 noon
• News / International News / Weather Report
12:35 pm
• Hlutaw Image
12:50 pm
• Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance
1:40 pm
• Dhamma Puja Song

Myanmar Sculpture — Work of Art
• Shop Shop Shop — Bogyoke Market
• Traffic Police
• News
• Jeyyani Andi (A Day in the Life of a Nun)
• Kambawzathardi
• Golden Palace — A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days
• News
• Laturive Myanmar Rattan Industry
• Gardener: Rose Plantation
• Wet Markets in Yangon: Thirimilangar Market
• News
• Diary of a Fisherman
• SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
• News
• Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Aloe Vera)
• Culture Shows: Theatrical Art

Myanmar Entertainment Channel

(9-7-2015, Thursday)

• News
• Mono Classical Songs
• 6:20 am
• Pu Thi Nu Ti
• 6:40 am
• Fashion Show
• 6:50 am
• Musical Programme
• 7:05 am
• TV Drama Series
• 7:50 am
• TV Drama Series
Serena Williams beats Azarenka to set up Sharapova clash at Wimbledon semifinals

London, 8 July — Five-time champion Serena Williams fought back from one set down to defeat former world No. 3 Victoria Azarenka to set up a mouth-watering semifinal clash against old rival Maria Sharapova at the Wimbledon Championships here on Tuesday.

Azarenka, a twice Australian Open champion, brought the very best out of herself but still could not stop Williams from entering the last four 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in front of a crowd of 15,000 on Centre Court.

The 33-year-old Williams, who has collected 20 Grand Slam titles, has not been beaten at a major championship since she was ousted by Alize Cornet in the third round here last year.

She will become the first player since Steffi Graf in 1988 to win all four Grand Slam events in one year if she can pull off the Wimbledon title this year.

Williams has enjoyed a 17-2 record against Sharapova including 16 victories in a row. The American beat Sharapova four times in the semifinals at the All England Club. Their last meeting took place in the last 16 of 2011.

“I look forward to it. I don’t have anything to lose, I’m just going in there trying to win a match,” Williams said of Thursday’s match.

No 4 seed Sharapova, who won the title in 2004, dropped the second set but managed to dominate the final one on route to a 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-2 victory over CoCo Vandeweghe, an unseeded American, in two hours 46 minutes.

Vandeweghe had never before progressed beyond the third round of any Grand Slam.

“Serving for the second set I could have made it easier for myself,” said Sharapova. “But I still got the job done and I have to be pleased with that, and that I’m in a semifinal here again. There’s no easy road to victory. You’re going to have your bumps. Today could have been a two-set match. I made it more difficult for myself, but I’m still here.”

The other semifinal will be played between 13th seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland and Spain’s Garbine Muguruza.

Radwanska defeated American 21st seed Madison Keys 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-3 on Court One and reached her fourth Grand Slam semifinals. Muguruza eliminated Swiss 15th seed Timea Babos of 7-5, 6-3 to become the first Spanish woman to make the Wimbledon last four since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 1997.

“I always like to take little parts of every player and try to do the same things,” Muguruza said. “You just take a few things and make a perfect player.”

Muguruza, 21, is the youngest player left in the women’s draw. —Xinhua

Beware a motivated Park In-bee at US Women’s Open

LANCASTER, (Pennsylvania), 8 July — World number one Park In-bee is usually seen as the player to beat in women’s golf majors these days, and now the Korean has extra motivation at this week’s US Women’s Open.

Park, who has won five of the last dozen majors with no other rival notching more than one in that span, is coming off a missed cut and a poor putting week — two rarities for the 26-year-old South Korean.

She gets a chance to make amends starting on Thursday at Lancaster Country Club in the year’s third major.

“I putted really bad two weeks ago, and that definitely gave me somewhat like a wake-up call,” Park told reporters on Tuesday. “I had a bad week and that definitely made me practice harder and gave me a lot more motivation coming into this week.”

Not exactly comforting to the rest of the 156-player field that includes defending champi-

on Michelle Wie and other former winners such as Choi Na-yeon (2012), Ryu So-yeon (2011), Paula Creamer (2010) and Cristie Kerr (2007).

Motivation combined with skill and confidence has been a winning formula for Park, who this season reclaimed the number one ranking from 18-year-old Lydia Ko of New Zealand.

“When I come to major championships, I work extra hard,” said Park, who has six majors among her 15 LPGA titles.

“I like the atmosphere. I like the little bit extra pressure when we start the game. Obviously having good results helps. That gives me a lot of confidence.”

Known as one of the tour’s top putters, Park said the sloping greens at Lancaster could well decide the championship.

“I played here five weeks ago, it was really dry then and now it’s wet,” she said about the long, hilly layout. “I feel like I’m playing two different golf courses.”

Andy Murray plays with pups in sniffer-dog video

LONDON, 8 July— Andy Murray goes to the dogs, or more precisely the puppies, in a video released on Tuesday which shows him playing at Wimbledon with five cocker spaniels being trained to become sniffer dogs.

The six-week-old puppies are being raised by the Metropolitan Police Service and Murray, a self-professed dog lover and a World Wildlife Fund global ambassador, supports the use of sniffer dogs to crack down on wildlife poaching in Nepal.

“I think this one’s ready,” he says. “It thinks this one’s ready.”

“I’d be pleased with that, and that I’m in a semifinal here again. There’s no easy road to victory. You’re going to have your bumps. Today could have been a two-set match. I made it more difficult for myself, but I’m still here.”

The other semifinal will be played between 13th seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland and Spain’s Garbine Muguruza.

Radwanska defeated American 21st seed Madison Keys 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-3 on Court One and reached her fourth Grand Slam semifinals. Muguruza eliminated Swiss 15th seed Timea Babos of 7-5, 6-3 to become the first Spanish woman to make the Wimbledon last four since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 1997.

“I always like to take little parts of every player and try to do the same things,” Muguruza said. “You just take a few things and make a perfect player.”

Muguruza, 21, is the youngest player left in the women’s draw. —Xinhua

Reuters