Gov’t, ethnic armed groups optimistic of ceasefire deal after Day 2

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 23 July — Negotiators representing the government and ethnic armed group reached agreement on 10 of 13 amendments to a prospective national ceasefire deal Thursday, on the second day of talks aimed at finalizing the draft pact.

With only three amendments outstanding after the two days of talks, the Union Peace-Making Committee and a senior delegation of ethnic armed organizations are confident of finalizing the draft pact during the current round, negotiators said.

Pu Zing Cung, a deputy leader of the ethnic delegation, said all proposed amendments have been discussed during the two days, but some points need approval from the command centre of the ethnic side.

Among the amendments approved on Day 2 was the stipulation that women should comprise around 30 percent of participants in political dialogue after the ceasefire deal, he added. U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre, said the government side was hopeful of reaching agreement on the pending three points within three or four days.

“Amendment of the draft nationwide ceasefire accord is expected to be finalized within a few days,” he said.

(See page 2)

Park visitors raise concerns over rowdy behaviour

Yangon, 23 July — Visitors to parks in the former capital of Yangon have raised concern about rowdy behaviour and a lack of safety in recreation and amusement areas, demanding better management of these public spaces.

“People’s Park and People’s Square have become a disgrace to the beautiful culture of the Myanmar people, especially due to young revelers losing themselves to the music playing in the swimming pool,” a park security worker said. “Sometimes their revelry turns to brawls.”

The park is located at the bottom of the Sin-guttara Hill, on which the world-famous Shwedagon Pagoda stands.

Shwe Taing Shwe Pyi Company leased a 3.13-acre plot to operate a recreation centre with swimming pools, water slides, joy rides and water fountains.

“The lease will expire in March 2038, but the contract is renewed every five years, which includes setting new rents and changes to terms of conditions as well. The current yearly rent is over K15.4 million,” said U Ko Ko Lin, an official of the Yangon City Development Council.

The recreation centre currently receives 1,000 to 5,000 visitors every day, earning at least K1 million. The admission fee is K1,000 per head. Some businesspeople have calculated that the company’s total annual earning will hit K3.6 billion.

Officials said plans are under way to stop sales of alcohol in restaurants in parks to ensure visitors can relax and enjoy themselves.

Adolescents and young people lose themselves to the temptation of over-indulgence in a swimming pool.

Laotian delegation pays homage at Shwedagon Pagoda

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets French Ambassador to Myanmar

PAGE-2

Fluctuations, manipulation have serious consequences

PAGE-8
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets French Ambassador to Myanmar

Mr. Thierry MATHOU, who has completed his tour of duty in the country, at his office here. Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker warns recall bill could have unwanted consequences

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday sought approval from members of parliament in connection with the recall bill, over which the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were divided.

Thura U Shwe Mann said the recall bill might have negative effects on measures for national consolidation, national reconciliation and democratic reforms, provoking confrontation and misunderstanding among political parties and ethnic groups.

The speaker stressed the possibility of taking legal action against unprincipled MPs in accordance with the constitution, the parliamentary law and existing laws, warning that the issue had the potential to obstruct the upcoming general election.

He urged the Bill Committee to negotiate with political parties and MPs for the recall bill and inform the parliament of the outcomes.

The parliament observed two minutes’ silence to remember U Aung Thaung, late representative of Taungthu constituency.

MNA

Farmers in Oaktwin Tsp to receive compensation over land acquisition

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — The Ministry of Construction plans to compensate farmers in Oaktwin Township over the resumption of more than 1,000 acres of farmland for construction of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the deputy minister said Thursday in the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The ministry will disburse more than K1.5 billion to farmers on 29 and 30 July, setting compensation at K1.5 million per acre, said Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint told the Upper House.

The deputy minister explained the programme in answering a question raised by a MP from Bago Region over delays in compensating farmers.

The Yangon-Mandalay Expressway was opened in 2010. Regarding the national races and ethnicities in the 2014 national census, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint said that the ministry would release the draft of the list of ethnicities in the future after discussing the issue with organizations concerned.

Currently, Myanmar has eight national races and more than 135 ethnicities.

During the meeting, the Upper House bill committee put forward its recommendations on the Bill Amending the Election for the President and Vice Presidents Law and the marriage bill.

The Amyotha Hluttaw also agreed to discuss the Basic Education Bill and the Technical and Vocational Educational Bill.

GNLM

Gov’t, ethnic armed groups optimistic of …

Although Day 2 was concluded around 4.30 pm, the press conference started late as ethnic negotiators held informal talks with their government counterparts on ongoing fighting in some parts of the country.

On the issue, representatives from the Tatmadaw said at the talks that the military does not wish to see fighting while peace talks are under way, according to Pu Zing Cung.—GNLM

(from page 1)

Negotiations on who the NCA signatories and international witnesses should be and the number of ethnic armed groups to ink the ceasefire deal are set to take place on the third day of the talks, added the MPC senior adviser.

At the press conference following Day 2, spokespersons for both sides described the atmosphere of the latest talks as “a win-win situation.”
Laotian delegation pays homage at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 23 July—A Laotian delegation led by Vice President Bounhhang Vorachith paid homage Thursday at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon after departing Nay Pyi Taw earlier in the day.

The vice president and his wife were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw airport by Yangon Region Minister for Border Affairs and Security Col Tin Win and his wife, the military attaché of Laos to Myanmar and his wife, and officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

At the pagoda, the vice president and spouse offered flowers, water and lights to the pagoda as well as funds to the pagoda board of trustees.

After their visit, the delegation attended a lunch hosted by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife at Chatrium Hotel.

The Laotian guests left Yangon on Thursday evening.

Japan Grants US$110,587 for Water Supply System in Kawhmu Township, Yangon Region


The handover and opening ceremony of the project took place in Kawhmu Township, Yangon Region on 20th July 2015.

Mr. Yuhei MURAKAMI, Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Committee Chairman, committee members of the construction project, and local residents attended the ceremony.

The villagers in Kyunghale Village had to walk 20 minutes to another village to fetch water in the dry season. Under such circumstance, the Japanese Government, under its GGP scheme, provided funding for construction of a water pond with water supply pipelines and brick tanks, solar centrifugal pump, fence and signboards. The project will benefit 400 villagers of 74 households of the village.

The Government of Japan has assisted 727 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993; the number consisting of 328 education projects, 192 healthcare projects, 138 public welfare and environment projects, 34 infrastructure projects and 35 other projects. It is anticipated that these assistance will further strengthen the existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

Over 100 pearl lots sold on second day of auction

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—Over 300 pearl lots remain on sale following the second day of the Myanmar Pearl Auction at the Maniyadanah Jade hall here.

A total of 114 pearl lots—105 from Myanmar Pearl Enterprise, eight from Myanmar Atlantic Co and one from Aungza-Bu Co—were sold to tender winners for the second day.

Merchants from Japan, Norway, China, Singapore, Thailand and India are visiting the pearl sale, along with local merchants.

The auction runs until 24 July.

Gems merchants evaluate pearls at the Myanmar Pearl Auction. —MNA

Handover Ceremony for the Project on Establishing the Master Plan for Arterial Road Network Development in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—The Handover Ceremony for the Project on Establishing the Master Plan for Arterial Road Network Development in Myanmar was held by KOICA on July 24 in 2015 at Ministry of Construction (MOC) Building, Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar.

KOICA has contributed to the transportation infrastructure development, especially the road network, of Myanmar through the Master plan which has been completed by the close cooperation between KOICA and MOC from 2013 to 2015 as part of KOICA’s grant program.

The Master Plan contains developing 7x5 Expressway Network (9.470km), Main Arterial Road Network (Union Highway: 13,224km), and Sub-Arterial Road Network (State/Region Road: 11,684 km) with the total length of 34,378km and, performing a Feasibility Study for Road Improvement from Monywa to Gangaw (180km).

Chief Resident Representative of KOICA, Mr. Nam Kwon-Hyong remarked “We sincerely hope that the Arterial Road Development Master Plan will serve as cornerstone not only for the road infrastructure development, but also for the sustainable socio-economic development in Myanmar.”

At the ceremony, KOICA also handed over the vehicle and various office equipments as well as the final reports of the Master Plan to the Ministry of Construction in this occasion.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction U Kyaw Linn, Korea Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Baek-Soon, Chief Representative of KOICA, Mr. Nam Kwon-Hyong, and a number of officials attended the ceremony.

Handover Ceremony for the Project on Establishing the Master Plan for Arterial Road Network Development in Myanmar. —GNLM

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Handover Ceremony for the Project on Establishing the Master Plan for Arterial Road Network Development in Myanmar. —GNLM
Volunteers remove dead fish from Nawntung Lake in Kengtung

KENGUT, 23 July — Volunteers have been working to remove a large number of dead fish found floating in Nawntung Lake in Kengtung, eastern Shan State.

The mass death of fish was discovered Tuesday, with a foul odour spreading throughout the local area and forcing the temporary closure of a nearby restaurant.

Kengtung District’s Deputy Commissioner U Nay Oo and Township Evacuees return home as floodwaters recede

KYUNHLA, 23 July—With floodwaters receding, evacuees in Sagaing Region’s Kyunhla Township have begun returning home from emergency relief camps.

Homes in urban wards and villages of the township were flooded after Minmyin Creek burst its banks amid heavy rainfall from 16 to 18 July. Transportation in the town was suspended along the inundated Kyunhla-Thaphan-seik road and local roads. Bus services have resumed as of 19 July. Soldiers are continuing to repair local roads damaged in the flooding.
Thai PM says Vietnam a friend, not competitor

Thai officials have expressed concern that Vietnam is attracting more foreign manufacturing investment, an additional worry for a government seeking to spur private investment to quicken slow growth. A decade of intermitting political turbulence in Thailand, including outbreaks of violence on the streets, has added to questions about the country’s suitability as a regional manufacturing base for some foreign investors.

Prayuth is a former army chief who staged a coup in 2014 to end the most recent bout of political tension. Dung told the news conference Thailand and Vietnam agreed to increase two-way trade to $5 billion by 2020.

Two-way trade between Thailand and Vietnam was $11.8 billion in 2014, according to Thailand’s Commerce Ministry.

Since the 2014 coup Thailand has sought to improve its ties with China, whose relations with neighbour Vietnam have been strained by a territorial dispute in the South China Sea. China has overlapping claims with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei in the South China Sea through which $5 trillion in sea-borne trade passes every year.

Japanese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (C) and Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha (L) review the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 July, 2015. — Reuters

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Thursday brushed aside concern that Vietnam is eclipsing Thailand as a regional manufacturing base, saying Vietnam is a friend not a competitor.

The comments came during a visit to Bangkok by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, and at a time when a number of foreign companies are shifting manufacturing operations from Thailand to Vietnam, partly for logistical reasons.

“Today, we use the word friend and not competitor,” Prayuth told a news conference with Dung, adding that Thailand was Vietnam’s biggest trade partner in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

Japanese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Thursday called for a constructive way,” the call and solve this issue in a bilateral accord on joint gas development in the East China Sea in line with a 2008 pan on Thursday called for a constructive way,” the call and solve this issue in a bilateral accord on joint gas development in the East China Sea in line with a 2008

Vietnam’s Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (C) and Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha (L) review the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 July, 2015. — Reuters

“Today, we use the word friend and not competitor,” Prayuth told a news conference with Dung, adding that Thailand was Vietnam’s biggest trade partner in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

Japan seeks “constructive” Chinese action to fix E China Sea gas row

“Most recently, we have seen the need for full investigation into imports of a grade of electrical steel from China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States. The European Union’s provisional decision was made following a complaint lodged in June 2014 by the European Steel Association. Under the decision, Chinese companies, including Baoshan Iron & Steel Co and Wuhan Iron & Steel Co, have been slapped with antidumping duties of 28.7 percent, while two Japanese firms, JFE Steel Corp and Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corp, have faced duties of 34.2 percent and 35.9 percent, respectively.

Tokyo, 23 July — Japan on Thursday called for “constructive” action by China to address a dispute over its unilateral gas development in the East China Sea in line with a 2008 bilateral accord on joint gas development there.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga dismissed Beijing’s claim on Wednesday that Japan’s “hyping up” of China’s oil and gas development in the East China Sea through the release of photographs of 12 newly confirmed Chinese offshore structures “will do nothing good to carry out dialogue and cooperation” between the two countries.

“The Chinese claim is totally pointless. Our country has been demanding that China stop such unilateral action,” Suga said.

“We have been demanding on various occasions that (China) immediately implement a June 2008 agreement on Japan-China cooperation for resource development in the East China Sea.”

“If we would like to continue to strongly urge China to respond so as to make (the East China Sea) a sea of peace, cooperation and friendship.”

Following the release Wednesday on the Japanese Foreign Ministry’s website of 14 photos and a map showing locations of the 12 newly confirmed Chinese offshore structures and four existing ones, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said later in the day Japan’s action “pro- vokes (a) confrontation” and “is not constructive at all to the management of the East China Sea situation and the improvement of bilateral relations.”

Of the 16 structures, 14 are platforms and two are just foundations. The photos show most of the platforms equipped with heliports and some of the platforms emitting flames apparently from burning gas. The 16 are on the Chinese side of the median line between the shorelines of the two countries. Japan is concerned that China may siphon off resources from beneath the Japanese side of the line.

While the two countries have yet to agree on a boundary between their overlapping exclusive economic zones in the East China Sea, China does not recognize the line and claims its EEZ stretches further to the edge of the continental shelf, closer to Japan’s Okinawa Prefecture.

Some Japanese officials have warned China may use some of the platforms for military purposes, for example by installing a radar system to strengthen monitoring of activities of Japan’s Self-Defence Forces and US forces in the East China Sea.

Repeating China’s position, Lu said, “China’s oil and gas exploitation in the East China Sea is in undisputable waters under China’s jurisdiction, and falls within China’s sovereign rights and jurisdiction.”

 Asked why Japan disclosed information with the photos at this point, Suga told reporters on Wednesday that Japan has shown no sign of suspending unilateral resource development and that there has been growing attention in Japan and abroad toward Beijing’s attempts to force changes in the status quo, particularly in the East and South China seas.

Indonesia to host regional peacekeeping meeting

Jakarta, 23 July — Indonesia is to host the Asia Pacific Regional Peacekeeping Meeting, to be attended by representatives of countries who contributed to peacekeeping forces, regional organizations and the United Nations, officials said on Thursday.

The meeting themed Complex Peacekeeping Challenges: Enhancing Capabilities and Responses of the UN Peacekeeping Operations would run from 22 to 24 July.

Its agenda may include a joint press release on Thursday territorial disputes in the South China Sea, which has affected trust and confidence and peace and stability as well as safety and freedom of navigation.”

Both countries emphasized the need for full and effective implementation of a declaration on the positioning of the parties in the South China Sea.

Both Vietnam and Thailand have been accused by rights groups of serious human rights violations. Last month, Thai police forced the New York-based Human Rights Watch to cancel an event it wanted to hold at a Bangkok media club to launch a report alleging Vietnam’s persecution of an ethnic minority.

Indian Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Thursday called for a constructive way,” the call and solve this issue in a bilateral accord on joint gas development in the East China Sea in line with a 2008

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Kyodo News

China opens antidumping probe into Japan-made electrical steel

Beijing, 23 July — China on Thursday opened an antidumping investigation into imports of a grade of electrical steel from Japan, South Korea and the European Union.

The Commerce Ministry said the probe is aimed at determining if the imports of grain-oriented flat-rolled electrical steel have damaged the Chinese steel industry. The steel is used in manufacturing such products as motors and transformers. The start of the Chinese investigation follows the European Union’s decision in May to impose provisional antidumping duties on imports of the steel from China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States. The European Union’s provisional decision was made following a complaint lodged by the European Steel Association. Under the decision, Chinese companies, including Baoshan Iron & Steel Co and Wuhan Iron & Steel Co, have been slapped with antidumping duties of 28.7 percent, while two Japanese firms, JFE Steel Corp and Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corp, have faced duties of 34.2 percent and 35.9 percent, respectively.

Kyodo News

State Department made a determination approving US Military Sales to Pakistan of AH-1Z Viper Attack Helicopters and AGM-114R Hellfire II Missiles and associated equipment, training and logistical support for an estimated cost of $952 million US dollars,” said the minister.

Xinhua

India expresses concerns over US military sale to Pakistan

New Delhi, 23 July — India has conveyed to the US its concerns over the sale of missiles and military choppers to Pakistan, saying it is keeping a close tab on the developments in the region which are of this country’s national interest.

“Government has sensitised the US of our concerns on US military sales to Pakistan.”

Government has consistently conveyed to the US that it must take into account India-US relations and the impact on India’s security in deciding its military assistance to Pakistan,” External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj informed the parliament on Wednesday.

“Most recently, we have noted that the US

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“Most recently, we have noted that the US
WASHINGTON, 23 July — US lawmakers skeptical about the nuclear deal with Iran promised to press senior Obama administration officials to make more information about it public at a Senate hearing on Thursday as Congress begins its two-month review of the agreement.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the first such public appearance by the cabinet officials since the deal was announced on 14 July.

They briefed the entire Senate and House of Representatives in separate closed-door sessions on Wednesday, and administration officials have held a series of private telephone conversations and meetings with lawmakers.

Among other issues, lawmakers said they wanted more information about the timing of sanctions relief and ability to “snap back” remedial if Iran cheats, clarity on the timing of inspections and more answers about how much money would go to Iran.

“We have leverage, but in nine months, they’ll have their cash and all the sanctions will be relieved. People will be in there signing contracts, and then the leverage sort of shifts to them,” said Senator Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Corker has said he is skeptical about the agreement, but would wait until he knows more before deciding whether to vote against the deal.

Ben Cardin, the top Democrat on the panel, said the closed-door briefing had been useful but questions remained.

“There are many areas of concern that we want to get clarified,” he said.

Cardin is one of many Democrats who have not yet decided how they would vote on the deal.

Under a bill President Barack Obama signed into law in May, Congress has until 17 September to approve or reject the agreement, in which Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

With many Republicans lining up to oppose it, Obama needs to convince as many of his fellow Democrats as possible to back the deal. If a disagreement resolution passes, Congress and survives a veto, Obama would be unable to waive most of the US sanctions imposed on Iran, which could cripple the nuclear pact. —Reuters

Obama administration takes Iran nuclear deal fight public

New N Korean missile might be capable of reaching US: report

SEOUL, 23 July — North Korea is preparing to launch an upgraded missile possibly capable of reaching the US mainland amid speculation the launch might take place before October, a Seoul daily reported on Thursday, citing a high-ranking South Korean government official.

“The North is working hard to test the rocket engine,” the official told the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper.

“I am not at liberty to discuss the timing and number of attempts, but the North conducted at least two engine combustion tests during the first half of this year,” the official said.

South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman Nah Seung Yong said South Korea is closely monitoring all missile-related movements in the North.

“We are tracking down with special attention all developments that are happening around the western launch site of Dongchang-ri, including the construction work,” Nah said during a press briefing, without providing further details.

South Korean intelligence authorities said the rocket engine tests took place at an arms research institute in Sanum-dong of Ryongsong District in northern Pyongyang and the Tongchang-ri Missile and Space Launch Facility near the Chinese border.

“Taking into account the scope of the tests, the new rocket will be larger than Unha-3 and it will have a range of about 10,000 kilometres,” the official said, referring to the North’s existing long-range rocket.

A construction project is under way to extend a launch tower at a missile facility, and there has been intelligence that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered the launch of a satellite.

“So, we believe the launch will take place before October,” the official said.

North Korea celebrates the founding of its ruling Workers’ Party on 10 October as an important political event, and this year marks the 70th anniversary, fueling speculation of a series of provocations in October.

—Reuters

Rouhani defends Iran nuclear deal as ‘new page in history’

DUHAI, 23 July — President Hassan Rouhani, stepping up his defence of a nuclear deal under attack by Iran’s conservatives, said on Thursday the historic agreement with world powers was “more valuable” than a domestic debate about its fine details.

“The Revolutionary Guards, a powerful political and military force, has started to attack the deal as endangering Iran’s security and have also hit out at a UN Security Council resolution passed on Monday endorsing it.

In remarks that will be seen as admonishing critics of the accord, Rouhani said in a televised speech: “Now they are scrutinising one by one the terms of the deal reached in Vienna and the UN Security Council’s resolution 2231.”

“That’s good but what has happened is more valuable and more significant than that,” he told a medical conference in Tehran.

“How can one be an Iranian and not cheer for our negotiating team?” Rouhani added referring to Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif and the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi, both of whom were present for Rouhani’s speech.

Rouhani argued that the deal reflected the nation’s will and suggested that blocking the accord would ignore what the people had asked for when they elected him to office in 2013.

“This is a new page in history. It didn’t happen when we reached the deal in Vienna on 14 July, it happened on 4th of August 2013 when the Iranians elected me as their president,” Rouhani and US President Barack Obama both have to win support for the nuclear accord from hardliners at home.

In the case of Iran, the deal must get final acceptance from the National Security Council and ultimately from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country’s highest authority. He has withheld final judgement, thanking the negotiators while saying the text must still be scrutinised and approved.—Reuters

After 25 years together, study shows two Germanys still wide apart

BERLIN, 23 July — From the amount they earn to their religious convictions and cars they drive, gaping divides persist after almost 25 years of reunification, a study published on Wednesday showed.

Many don’t even like each other, with a third of East Germans viewing westeners as arrogant.

The authors of the study, the Berlin Institute for Population and Development, said it would take another generation for Germany to grow together.

“The results of the study surprised us,” Reiner Klingholz, director of the Berlin Institute, told report- ers.

“Now as then (in 1991) the two parts of Germany are astonishingly different.”

Helmut Kohl, chancellor at the time, pushed through political union, exchanged West Germany’s deutsche mark for the East German mark and promised flourishing landscapes for the former Communist states. But a mix of factors, including outdated economic structures and a way of life imposed on cit- izens by communist rule, have hampered real inte- gration.

“Unity is not a po- litical act of will but a long process,” said Klingholz.

Although economic differ- ences are narrowing and the flow of people moving westwards has largely dried up, the study showed East German workers earn on average a quarter less than their western counterparts, work longer and have lower pro- ductivity.

While a few cities in the east, such as Dresden and Leipzig, are booming, property there on average is worth only half as much as that in the west, said the study.

Ahead of celebrations to mark 25 years of unity on 3 October, perhaps the most striking rifts are in peoples’ attitudes.

 Roughly three quarters of East Germans do not belong to a religious community whereas the situation is virtually the reverse in western states.

In a country obsessed by cars, brand preferences also reflect differences: West Germans drive luxury BMWs almost twice as much as East Germans who, in turn, prefer Skodas, originally from the Czech Republic. Roughly 30 per- cent of West Germans believe that it is better for men to work full time and for women to stay at home, about double the proportion in East Germany where tra- ditionally women went out to work. Some 19 million Germans — just under a quarter of the population —have been born in the last 25 years and the report esti- mated that share would rise to more than half by 2040, when Germany celebrates 50 years of togetherness.

“By then, at the latest, we will have a new Germany,” said Klingholz.—Reuters

General view of the main railway station of Essen during a nationwide strike of Germany’s train drivers’ union GDL on 22 April, 2015.—Reuters

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani

DUBAI, 23 July — President Hassan Rouhani thanked the negotiators, saying on Thursday the historic agreement with world powers was “more valuable” than a domestic debate about its fine details.

“The Revolutionary Guards, a powerful political and military force, has started to attack the deal as endangering Iran’s security and have also hit out at a UN Security Council resolution passed on Monday endorsing it.

In remarks that will be seen as admonishing critics of the accord, Rouhani said in a televised speech: “Now they are scrutinising one by one the terms of the deal reached in Vienna and the UN Security Council’s resolution 2231.”

“That’s good but what has happened is more valuable and more significant than that,” he told a medical conference in Tehran.

“How can one be an Iranian and not cheer for our negotiating team?” Rouhani added referring to Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif and the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi, both of whom were present for Rouhani’s speech.

Rouhani argued that the deal reflected the nation’s will and suggested that blocking the accord would ignore what the people had asked for when they elected him to office in 2013.

“This is a new page in history. It didn’t happen when we reached the deal in Vienna on 14 July, it happened on 4th of August 2013 when the Iranians elected me as their president,” Rouhani and US President Barack Obama both have to win support for the nuclear accord from hardliners at home.

In the case of Iran, the deal must get final acceptance from the National Security Council and ultimately from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country’s highest authority. He has withheld final judgement, thanking the negotiators while saying the text must still be scrutinised and approved.—Reuters

World's top achievers in technology, business celebrate

HONG KONG, 23 July — From Google to Alibaba, the world’s top achievers in technology and business celebrated in Hong Kong on Thursday, revealing their own strategies to stay on top.

YouTube’s chief executive, Susan Wojcicki, said the company’s focus was on finding new ways to overcome competition and stay relevant.

“Google is about being able to share ideas and being able to listen to the feedback and adapt to the world,” she said.

Bill Gross, chairman of the world’s largest venture capital firm, said technology was the key to success.

“In 20 years, new technologies will have changed the world,” Gross said.

Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, said the company’s success came from its ability to adapt and evolve.

“Google is about being able to share ideas and being able to listen to the feedback and adapt to the world,” Brin said.

Marc Andreessen, investor in the start-up community, said the key to success was in understanding the market.

“People want new things,” Andreessen said.

Yuri Milner, founder of space-exploration company Calypso, said the company’s success came from its ability to adapt and evolve.

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“People want new things,” Andreessen said.

Yuri Milner, founder of space-exploration company Calypso, said the company’s success came from its ability to adapt and evolve.

“People want new things,” Milner said.
US Republicans, pro-Iranian groups step up campaign against Iran deal

WASHINGTON, 23 July — Top Republicans vowed on Wednesday to do their utmost to scrap President Barack Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran as the biggest pro-Iranian forces are engaged in an all-out campaign to pressure wary lawmakers into rejecting the agreement.

A bigger push against last week’s historic accord in Vienna was being met with a counteroffensive by senior Obama administration officials, who have already spent hours on in-person and telephone briefings with members of Congress.

Senator John Kerry, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew briefed the entire House of Representatives and Senate in separate closed-door sessions on Wednesday and will defend the deal at a public Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Thursday.

As Congress opened a 60-day window of the deal, Republican US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner told reporters: “Because a bad deal threatens the security of the American people, we’re going to do everything possible to stop it.”

Obama insists that the Iran deal is the only alternative to more war in the Middle East.

Israel pressed lawmakers on Wednesday to block the deal, with Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer meeting privately with a group of about 40 House conservatives.

The most influential pro-Iranian group, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), will deploy about 300 lobbyists on Capitol Hill next week to try to convince lawmakers, especially undecided Democrats, to vote against the deal, according to officials in the pro-Israel camp.

AIPAC’s plans are being coordinated with allied groups such as Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran that are sponsoring a national television advertising campaign, the pro-Iranian sources said. They are expected to spend upwards of $20 million, one source said.

Under a bill reluctantly signed into law by Obama in May, Congress has until 17 September to decide whether to approve or reject the agreement between Iran and world powers to rein in Iran’s nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

Republicans control majorities in both houses of Congress. Many have come out strongly against the pact, which they say will empower Iran and threaten US ally Israel.

Some said they wanted to know more.

Republican Representative Dennis Ross said he was predisposed against the agreement but, after the briefing, “I am probably inclined now to dig further and verify for myself.”

If Congress passes a resolution disapproving of the deal, dozens of Democrats would have to vote with them to override the Democratic president’s threatened veto, which is not likely in the fiercely partisan Congress.

“We’re not going to go through the toothbrushing of the pro-Iranian group official said of the coming campaign.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has come out strongly in favor of it. Among the senior Democrats whom pro-Iran lobbyists hope to win over is Senator Chuck Schumer, a strong advocate for Israel’s security who has yet to state his position.

Schumer told reporters as he left the hearing that he was still deciding. “It’s a serious issue and I’m studying it carefully, giving it what it deserves,” he said.

Several Republicans said the Cabinet secretaries had not eased their concerns about several issues, particularly the ability to “snap back” sanctions if Iran violates the accord, and the system for inspecting Iranian nuclear facilities.

Senator Ted Cruz, a 2016 Republican presidential candidate, said the agreement would provide Iran with billions of dollars that would be used to murder Americans and their allies.

“If this deal goes through, it will transform the Obama administration into the world’s biggest financier of radical Islamic terrorism,” he said.

Deal opponents in the pro-Israel camp believe more lawmakers can be swayed by detailed arguments about what they see as loopholes by which Iran could use to skirt the agreement.

Pressure from AIPAC, whose members’ support is widely coveted, could also worry lawmakers up for re-election. AIPAC boasts 100,000 members.

At the same time, J Street, a smaller liberal pro-Israel group, is urging supporters to lobby Congress to support the Iran deal.

Kerry told reporters before the House meeting that the deal “will make the region, our friends and allies, safer ... in the absence of any viable alternative.”

In Clinton vs Clinton fantasy run-off, Hillary wins: Reuters/Ipsos poll

WASHINGTON, 23 July — Hillary Clinton remains the clear favorite among Democrats facing a far smaller field — strongly favoring the former first lady and secretary of state, even when presented with a fantasy list of notable, according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll of 1,033 Democrats.

Hillary Clinton remains head and shoulders above former Secretary of State Kerry and would triumph in a head-to-head contest if the constitution allows her to allow him to run for a third term.

But potential “first gentleman” Bill Clinton in a head-to-head challenge the president's first lady and secretary of state, even when presented with a fantasy list of notable, according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll of 1,033 Democrats.

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Let’s try to control the greed for superlatives

By Myo Myint

As social animals that can only survive with the strength of numbers, humans are both altruistic and selfish. They are altruistic towards members of their group so that they can be part of the membership and they are selfish for their own individual survival and success. Humans have basic needs which are traditionally defined as food, clothing and shelter. But, they also have basic wants such as material possessions, affection, success, fairness, respect and freedom. In striving to fulfill their individual needs and wants, humans have been striving to be the best among the group.

This strong desire to excel has given rise to many of their wild traits. With the passing of time, and the influence of civilization and religious teachings, outwardly, they have made their acquisitive nature and greed less transparent. However, in their heart of hearts, these do not appear to have diminished very much. In fact, with the progress in all fields related to the physical and mental being of humans, the growth of commerce, and the need to make profit through increased sales, new production models, their greed has probably multiplied. The strong desire of someone to have uninterrupted access to more of something is not just limited to food and money, immovable things like real property (land) and moveable things like personal property (e.g. jewelry), but also extends to other tangible and intangible things as well as persons. Much lusted for is power which has many dimensions; it can be used to influence persons and events, exert control over resources and capabilities of humans as well as non-humans, and it can also serve as a status symbol. Equally desired by many is wealth which, rightly or wrongly, many feel as mattering most in the world, and many will spend their whole life slaving or enslaving others for it. Other things that people are greedy for are fame and attention, and some may go to great length to achieve them, even sacrificing health, wealth and reputation. Some people known as workaholics, who like alcoholics, suffer from an addiction. They are obsessed with their work and find it difficult to stay away from it. Some people covert knowledge so much that they may spend their lifetime attending one course after another and working for one degree after another, ignoring their responsibilities towards family and society. There are also those who are greedy, not for themselves, but for others who are less fortunate than themselves, or for religious causes. They will spend their time and fortune unwillingly to get the necessary funds to help others. The last group of greedy people consists of those who hunger for companionship, affection and sensual pleasure and enjoy spending a vast amount of their time and money being amused by a retinue of hangers-on, entertainers and so-called friends.

In Buddhism, loba (greed) is regarded as one of the three main roots of evil, the other two being dosa (anger) and moha (delusion). They lead to evil deeds, evil speech, and evil mind. Hence, greed of all kinds leads to actions and feelings such as anger, delusion, dissatisfaction, obsessions, envy, insanity, dishonesty, theft, robbery, murder, inhuman acts, etc. In brief, blinded by greed, some people lose their humanity and will resort to anything to satisfy their insatiable greed. They become worse than animals, as animals do not cause senseless destruction or death. Animals may kill or attack others due to necessity for food, security and self-preservation, but rarely out of greed or pleasure-seeking. As taught by Lord Buddha, greed causes suffering, and unfortunately, in most cases, a person’s greed not only enrages himself/herself, but also those who are connected to the object of his/her greed causing them untold suffering. No doubt, man’s life has improved because of the greed to improve his lot. But ambition based on greed alone will not always be realized and even if realized, it cannot guarantee peace of mind. Unbridled greed can also be self-destructing as well as causing destruction to others. Many realize only after their last breath that amounts and numbers of things that they have accumulated do not matter. What matters most, when we are about to depart this world, is not the amount of worldly possessions we leave behind for our offspring, but the possession of a tranquil mind which is based on the knowledge that one has not caused harm to others in satisfying one’s greed. It is true that as a human being one will have innate needs as well as wants, such as food, shelter, clothing, security, peace of mind, affection, respect, justice, freedom, and dignity. However, these can all be gained by balancing one’s needs with the needs of others. As Lord Buddha has expounded, treading the middle path will lead to liberation from suffering. The right dose of greed like the right dose of medicine can be beneficial for a person’s progress, but if it is a dose, much larger than necessary, it will either kill a person instantaneously, or cause a kind of cancer that will grow insidiously within him/her and bring about immeasurable suffering.
Is it possible to eradicate Nepotism?

By Tommy Pauk

There are many different systems of governments in the world e.g. autocracy, kleptocracy, plutocracy, monarchy and democracy etc. It is common that nepotism is practiced in the workplace in the world. Nepotism is derived from human attachment and ties. We are aware that the nepotism is being practiced in family business, companies, government offices and foreign agencies in the world. Giving jobs to the relatives or kindred by powerful authorities or boss or higher rank officials is always heard in most of the societies in the world. Whenever job vacancies arise in the organization, the boss usually selects his or her relatives to fill the vacant positions. Generally, this practice seems to have sense because humans do favor their family members or kinship or relatives in social life. Naturally, we, human beings incline to support our blood folks or kin-folks when we have power or authority. To some extent, the practice of nepotism is not a blameworthy human-behavior, but we need to emphasize whether it is beneficial to the whole organization or government agency or company or corporate body etc. Does it only benefit to those who are authorities and their relatives concerned? Absolutely, yes, it does. The authorities concerned or bosses and their relatives achieve mutual benefits. If the authorities concerned commit misappropriation and outright corruption, their relatives protect them from being punished. Subsequently, the evidence of malpractice or the inefficiency of relatives in a specific organ of government or an organization is effaced or obfuscated. Moreover, the unjust favoritism causes conflicts and disunity between the ordinary staff and the relatives of the authorities concerned. Mostly, the appointed relatives within a certain corporate body are unqualified to their positions or jobs. If seventy-five to one hundred percent of the appointees are the relatives of the high boss in a certain corporate body, the poor job performance will be prevalent. This happens because seventy-five percent of the said appointees do not cooperate with the rest thirty to one hundred percent qualified appointees in the workplace. As a consequence, the negative impact affects that corporate body due to undesirable circumstances. More or less, the practice of nepotism can be found in foreign agencies, corporate body, government organizations and companies etc., but sound judgment must be made on recruiting staff thoroughly and properly. Even then, all hierarchies must adhere to the disciplines and ethics stipulated for the respective organizations or corporate etc. Unfairness, bias and clique in the workplace jeopardize the progress and development of the corporate body, organization and government agencies etc. The high bosses manipulate the subordinates by using the assistance of their appointed relatives as a tool in the workplace.

Gradually, the authorities and their relatives at the workplace ignore the fundamental human decency such as honesty, uprightness, fairness and good reputation. Their colleagues feel disgruntled at the way they are treated in the workplace. There are no unity and harmony in dealing between two groups in the same workplace - the employees who practice nepotism and the simple employees. Nepotism stimulates the authorities to commit corruption. Thus the organization concerned is jeopardized. The persons involved in practicing nepotism degrade their characters or deceities, and the progress of a certain government agency or organization or corporate body is hampered. The simple and qualified candidates oppose the practice of nepotism so as to attain the golden opportunity of employment for the corporate or government agencies or organizations in their society smoothly. Undeniably, nepotism is a type of corruption or malpractice in the workplace. Moreover, sensible people around the world thumb up their noses at the authorities who practice extreme nepotism. Nevertheless, it is hard to eradicate nepotism in the workplace in the world. Naturally, man’s attachment to his relatives is so strong that he favors or helps them by any means. His top priority is the interest of his relatives whether it is just or unjust. When he has power or authority, he surely supports or creates chances to give jobs to his kin by using improper way. Likewise, kin who are awarded jobs will be loyal to their blood kin, the authorities. Up to this stage, the sentiments, tendency, and feelings are acceptable, but they should abstain from committing corruption, discrimination, bias and unfair judgment in the workplace. If they can abstain from committing all that bad stuff, the progress of the organization etc., will be stable and advanced. The stability, harmony and unity can reach a certain goal or vision planned by the organization concerned indeed. Equal rights and benefits must be given to all employees concerned by the management or administrator. Unless they pay attention to fundamental human decency, the corporate body or the organizations will be undermined significantly.

The ties between them are awesomely firm so other non-relatives working in the same workplace cannot enjoy sound or fair judgment by the management. Obviously, the authorities protect or defend the inefficiency and poor performances of their relatives in the workplace. Such inappropriate behaviors tarnish the image of a certain organization. However, the authorities who practice nepotism will face punishment or trouble one day in near future. If the degree of the practice of nepotism is greatest or highest in all the various governmental organizations in a certain country, that country will be in regression.

In order to protect jeopardize, punitive actions must be taken against the civil servants who cannot take advantage of power, especially handling of nepotism. Nepotism can destroy good governance and the entire operations of the organization as well. To be able to achieve success of the either government organization or others, the authorities should seriously consider the impact of nepotism on the management or administration in the workplace. As human beings, the higher rank officials might regard the practice of nepotism as a kindred culture. Apparently, they give the unfair support and make biased protection to their kindred. Nevertheless, as for non relatives in the workplace, they do not regard as an adorable culture because nepotism persuades misunderstanding acts and behaviors e.g. corruption or clique. Everyone knows the bad outcome, resulting from the practice of nepotism, which can even ruin the organization. The people from different societies in the world have come across with nepotism in their government agencies etc. The high bosses or government agencies through many eras. Therefore, they insist on demanding for eradicating the practice of nepotism, whereas the practice of nepotism still persists. It cannot be eradicated effectively. So, be honest and treat other employees like your relatives evenly!!!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A. (English) and (Registered Law) R.L, degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers’ college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Officials seize unauthorized jade stones

MUSI, 24 July – Authorities recently seized roughly K49 million worth of jade for which duties had not been paid in northern Shan State.

Officers found the jade during a search of an unaccompanied car at Asia World Toll Gate near 105th Mile. According to officials, the car is worth K16.5 million. They handed over the jade and car to the Myanmar Gems Brokerage and the Customs Department.

Ko Mine (IPRD)

Public Remonstration

1. All Myanmar Kaman National League for Democracy Party headquartered at No. 20 on 139th Street in Maung Gone Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 23 July, 2015 in accord with Section 5 of Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party’s name, flag and emblem.

2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of All Myanmar Kaman National League for Democracy Party

Emblem of All Myanmar Kaman National League for Democracy Party

Union Election Commission

Public Remonstration

1. Dynet National Race Development Party temporarily headquartered at No. 593 on Minsawmon Street in 4th Thabyaygone Ward, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 23 July, 2015 in accord with Section 5 of Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party’s name, flag and emblem.

2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of Dynet National Race Development Party

Emblem of Dynet National Race Development Party

Union Election Commission
Kurdish militants say kill two Turkish police to avenge Islamic State bombing

Aden, 23 July — A Saudi military plane load- ed with arms for fighters loyal to Yemen's deposed president landed at Aden airport on Wednesday, an airport official said, the first flight to reach the embattled port city in four months. Saudi-backed militiamen meanwhile exchanged heavy artillery fire with their Houthi foes in the north- ern approaches to Aden on Wednesday. The militants said they were advancing toward Adani air base, Yemen's largest, 60 km (40 miles) north of Aden, and were close to linking up with other anti-Houthi fighters nearing the facility from its north- ern end. The fighting and a near-blockade have pushed the humanitarian situation in Yemen to the brink of disas- ter but loyalist advances in Aden, scene of the heaviest combat, have opened it up to aid and guns. “A Saudi military plane landed at Aden airport this afternoon carrying weapons and military assistance to the population resistance forces, in the first flight there since 25 March,” the airport official said. Loyalist fighters backed by air strikes from a Sau- di-led Arab alliance wrested Aden, Yemen's main port, from the dominant Houthi group last week and Yemen's government in exile aims to turn Aden into its base to take back more ter- ritory from the Iran-aligned group. The foreign interven- tion and war raging across the country have killed over 3,600 people. Last week's loyalist gains were heavi- ly supported by Gulf Arab training, arms shipments and air strikes. Local fighters said 140 combat vehicles arrived from the Gulf on Wednes- day. A United Nations char- tered ship carrying 500,000 litres of fuel and other goods also berthed safely in Aden port on Wednesday, a World Food Programme spokes- woman said.—Reuters

Two car bombs explode in eastern Libyan city of Derna

Benghazi, (Libya)23 July — Two car bombs exploded on Wednesday in Libya's eastern city of Der- na, an Islamist hotspot, res- idents and a military source said. There was no immedi- ate word on casualties. The area around Derna, located east of Benghazi, has seen heavy fighting in recent weeks between Is- lamic State militants and a rival Islamist group. Islamic State fighters left the city last month but had taken up new positions outside Derna, residents said. Islamic State has thinned in the North African oil producer since two rival governments began fighting for control, leaving a securi- ty vacuum, four years after the civil war that ended the rule of Muammar Gaddafi. — Reuters

Saudi arms shipment arrives in Yemen's Aden airport

Ankara, 23 July — A Saudi military plane load- ed with arms for fighters loyal to Yemen's deposed president landed at Aden airport on Wednesday, an airport official said, the first flight to reach the embattled port city in four months. Saudi-backed militiamen meanwhile exchanged heavy artillery fire with their Houthi foes in the north- ern approaches to Aden on Wednesday. The militants said they were advancing toward Adani air base, Yemen's largest, 60 km (40 miles) north of Aden, and were close to linking up with other anti-Houthi fighters nearing the facility from its north- ern end. The fighting and a near-blockade have pushed the humanitarian situation in Yemen to the brink of disas- ter but loyalist advances in Aden, scene of the heaviest combat, have opened it up to aid and guns. “A Saudi military plane landed at Aden airport this afternoon carrying weapons and military assistance to the population resistance forces, in the first flight there since 25 March,” the airport official said. Loyalist fighters backed by air strikes from a Sau- di-led Arab alliance wrested Aden, Yemen's main port, from the dominant Houthi group last week and Yemen's government in exile aims to turn Aden into its base to take back more ter- ritory from the Iran-aligned group. The foreign interven- tion and war raging across the country have killed over 3,600 people. Last week's loyalist gains were heavi- ly supported by Gulf Arab training, arms shipments and air strikes. Local fighters said 140 combat vehicles arrived from the Gulf on Wednes- day. A United Nations char- tered ship carrying 500,000 litres of fuel and other goods also berthed safely in Aden port on Wednesday, a World Food Programme spokes- woman said.—Reuters

Nineteen people drown in shipwreck on Nile River

Egyptians gather at the site of a shipwreck on the Nile River in the Warrag district of Giza, southwest of Cairo, Egypt, on Wednesday, 23 July, 2015. At least 19 people died on Wednesday in a shipwreck on Nile River in Cairo, capital of Egypt, according to the statement from the Egyptian Interior Ministry.—Xinhua

Friday, 24 July, 2015

Injured people have been sent to four hospitals near- by. Eyewitnesses at the site of the accident told Xinhua that rescue boats and divers are working to search for the missing ones. However, the poor illumination and crowded river bank made the rescue work more diffi- cult.—Xinhua
New crew arrives at space station after two-month delay

The Soyuz TMA-17M spacecraft carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew of Kjell Lindgren of the US, Oleg Kononenko of Russia and Kimiya Yui of Japan blasts off from the launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan on 23 July, 2015.—Reuters

15th China Youth Robot Competition held in China’s Inner Mongolia

CAPE CANAVERAL, 23 July — A Russian Soyuz capsule carrying three new crew for the International Space Station arrived at the orbital outpost on Wednesday after a two-month launch delay, a NASA TV broadcast showed.

Venerable Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko and rookie astronauts Kjell Lindgren with NASA and Japan’s Kimiya Yui blasted off aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket at 5:02 pm from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

They arrived less than six hours later to begin a five-month mission aboard the station, a $100 billion laboratory that flies about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth.

The trio had been set to fly in May, but Russia delayed the mission after a botched launch of a similar Soyuz rocket on 28 April. That accident stranded a Progress cargo ship in an orbit too low to reach the station.

Nine days later, the capsule, loaded with three tons of equipment and supplies, fell back into Earth’s atmosphere and was incinerated.

Accident investigators determined that the Progress failed to separate properly from the Soyuz rocket’s third-stage engine. The Soyuz returned to flight on 3 July, successfully launching a replacement load of cargo to the station.

“We’re confident in the rocket … we’re all very excited to launch,” Lindgren, 42, told a pre-launch news conference.

Two US companies that fly cargo to the station under contract with the US space agency also lost capsules after recent failed launches. Privately owned SpaceX and Orbital ATK remain grounded following accidents last month and in October 2014, respectively.

A fourth station resupply line is operated by Japan, which is scheduled to fly again in August. It’s certainly no fun to see several of the cargo vehicles undergo mishaps,” Lindgren said. “It underscores the difficulty of this industry and … how unforgiving the space environment is.”

The arrival of Lindgren, Kononenko, 51, and Yui, 45, returns the space station to a full six-member crew for the first time in six weeks. “We look forward to seeing them,” US station flight engineer Scott Kelly said during an in-flight interview on Tuesday.

Kelly and Russia’s Mikhail Kornienko are participating in the station’s first year-long mission. Also aboard is veteran cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, the current station commander.

The Soyuz capsule arrived on Wednesday with just one pair of its power-producing solar arrays deployed. NASA mission commentator Kyle Herring said the glitch had no impact on the capsule’s flight and docking.—Reuters

A student examines a robot during the 15th China Youth Robot Competition in Ordos, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 22 July, 2015. Nearly 1,500 teenagers all over the country took part in the competition that kicked off on Wednesday.—Xinhua

LG Display to build OLED plant; second-quarter profit beats estimates

SEOUL, 23 July — LG Display Co Ltd (034220. KS) said on Thursday it will invest nearly $1 billion to build a fourth organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display factory, pinning its future firmly on the high-end next-generation technology.

The world’s biggest maker of liquid crystal displays (LCD) later said April-June operating profit rose more than tenfold from a year earlier, exceeding analyst estimates, to $9.5 million.

The specter of declining LCD demand for small and medium-sized devices as clients consume less power than OLED screens, which are physically more flexible and consume less power than current LCDs, had hounded LG Display.

LG Display and Samsun Electronics Co Ltd (005930. KS) used Samsung Display are the only firms in the industry capable of mass-producing OLED screens, which are physically more flexible and consume less power than current LCDs.

The firm said as early as last year that it aimed to add capacity for OLED screens for small and mid-sized devices as clients such as sister firm LG Electronics Inc (066570. KS) and Apple Inc (AAPL.O) increasingly use the screens on products like smartphones or smartwatches.

Its latest investment will begin in the third quarter, with the plant scheduled to start mass production of small and mid-sized OLED screens in the first half of 2017.

LG Display’s investment will help pioneer future display technologies such as foldable displays and large-size auto displays, the company said in a statement about its new plant, to be built in South Korea at a cost of $1.05 trillion won ($900.67 million).

LG Display and Samsun Electronics Co Ltd (005930. KS) used Samsung Display are the only firms in the industry capable of mass-producing OLED screens, which are physically more flexible and consume less power than current LCDs.

LG Display reported operating profit of $588 billion won for the second quarter, beating the 469 billion won average estimate of 31 analysts in a Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S survey. Profit was buoyed by sales of high-margin screens for large TVs and premium mobile devices, the firm said.

LG Display said monthly capital will be double that of its current small and mid-sized OLED display line. In its earnings statement later on Thursday, LG Display said it would improve cost competitiveness in OLED by converting some large-LCD production capacity for OLED in the second half, and increase advertising to grow the market.

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Monthly capacity will be double that of its current small and mid-sized OLED display line. In its earnings statement later on Thursday, LG Display said it would improve cost competitiveness in OLED by converting some large-LCD production capacity for OLED in the second half, and increase advertising to grow the market.

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The specter of declining panel prices left LG Display shares ending 1.5 percent lower after the earnings release, compared with a 0.02 percent rise in the broader market. KSS

A customer browses LG Electronics’ television sets, which are made with LG Display flat screens, at its store in Seoul, South Korea, on 23 July, 2015. —Reuters

Astronomers get clearest ever look inside earliest galaxies in Chile

SANTIAGO, 23 July — A team of international astronomers has observed for the first time how galaxies were formed in the early days of the universe in Chile, thanks to the ALMA telescope of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), ALMA, the largest telescope array in the world, had been focusing on detecting the earliest galaxies emerging after the Big Bang, of which little was known until now.

According to ESO, the astronomers led by Roberto Maiolino, from the University of Cambridge, changed their approach by not looking for the light from stars but focusing on the faint glow of ionized carbon, emitted from gas clouds within which stars form. This allowed the astronomers to study the relation between newly created stars and the clumps that would go on to become the first galaxies.

“This is the most distant detection ever of this kind of emission from a normal galaxy, seen less than 1 billion years after the Big Bang. It gives us the opportunity to watch the build-up of the first galaxies,” said Andrea Ferrara, co-author of an article about the discovery published in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

“For the first time, we are seeing early galaxies not merely as tiny blobs, but as objects with internal structure,” he added. The astronomers focused on finding galaxies that were inconspicuous and out of the ordinary, which would go on to “reionize the universe” and eventually gave rise to most of the galaxies we see today.

In this search, ALMA obtained a thin but clear signal of glowing carbon from a galaxy named BDF3299 that could be a typical example of galaxies responsible for reionization of the universe. However, the glow was not coming from the center of the galaxy, but from one of its sides.

According to the ESO team, this could be due to “central clouds being disrupted by the harsh environment created by the newly formed stars, both from their intense radiation and the effects of supernova explosions, while the carbon glow was tracing fresh cold gas being accreted from the intergalactic medium.” —Xinhua

The trio had been set to fly in May, but Russia delayed the mission after a botched launch of a similar Soyuz rocket on 28 April. That accident stranded a Progress cargo ship in an orbit too low to reach the station.

The arrival of Lindgren, Kononenko, 51, and Yui, 45, returns the space station to a full six-member crew for the first time in six weeks. “We look forward to seeing them,” US station flight engineer Scott Kelly said during an in-flight interview on Tuesday.

Kelly and Russia’s Mikhail Kornienko are participating in the station’s first year-long mission. Also aboard is veteran cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, the current station commander.

The Soyuz capsule arrived on Wednesday with just one pair of its power-producing solar arrays deployed. NASA mission commentator Kyle Herring said the glitch had no impact on the capsule’s flight and docking.—Reuters

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Call for media publishers to enter data in Register of Media

The Serbian Ministry of Culture and Information called on media publishers to fulfill their legal obligation and enter the missing data in the Register of Public Media in the next three weeks. Tanjug

Near-naked foreigners dispersed by Beijing police

BEIJING, 23 July — Beijing police dispersed a group of scantily-clad foreign men who were causing a stir in downtown Beijing on Wednesday.

The Beijing public security bureau said on Thursday that it had received reports at around noon on Wednesday that dozens of foreign men wearing only underpants had appeared in the upmarket shopping district of Sanlitun, attracting many onlookers. The bureau said their actions disturbed public order.

Hired by a snack store for a promotional activity, the muscular men wore underpants and cloaks like the warriors in the movie “300”. Photos of them have gone viral online. One of them showed two men being pressed onto the ground by police officers.—Xinhua

US presidential hopeful Trump rivals Clinton in speech fees

NEW YORK, 23 July — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump may not have as much political experience as Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, but he does rival her in one area: the amount he charges for a speech.

The flamboyant real estate mogul made an average $250,000 per speech in the past year, according to his personal financial statement released on Wednesday by the Federal Electoral Commission.

That number is on a par with Clinton, who charged an average of $235,000 per address, according to her own FEC financial statement filed several weeks ago.

NEW YORK, 23 July — A young Indonesian pianist who just turned 12 is gaining plaudits from jazz aficionados around the world, impressing them with his playing and arranging skills.

J oey Alexander, from Bali, has been hailed by US media outlets such as Downbeat magazine as “The New York Times as a “prodigy” and “sensational.” His debut CD “My Favourite Things” was just released in Japan on Wednesday.

He began tinkling the ivories at age 6, playing melodies he learned by ear. The first tune he learned by heart was Thelonius Monk’s complex composition “Well, You Needn’t.” Joey’s parents recognized his talent as a pianist and the family soon moved to Jakarta. When he was 8, Joey had a chance to play in front of jazz legend Herbie Hancock during his visit to Jakarta as a UNESCO goodwill ambassador.

Joey says Hancock’s strong words of encouragement and his performance, calling on him to believe in his talent, eventually led to his decision to turn professional.

In 2013, Joey won a piano improvisation contest in Indonesia. The following month, he moved to New York with his family and made his debut in the United States in May that year, appearing in a gala concert at the Lincoln Centre and playing Monk’s jazz standard “Round Midnight.” He also played the same tune at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. On both occasions, the young pianist was met with standing ovation.

His debut album consists of nine tunes including John Coltrane’s “Giants in the Garden” and the ‘Japanese version contains one bonus track.” For the recording, he was joined by top-notch musicians such as bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Ulysses Owens Jr. “I selected the tunes and did all the arrangements,” Joey said in an interview.

While he has only limited experiences of playing with a band, Joey seems to enjoy doing it. “It’s fun to share the thoughts and trust each other to play,” he said, adding that one of his dreams is playing with great musicians such as Christian McBride on bass and Jack DeJohnette on drums.

“I think jazz is a language with no border. I want to be a musician for ever,” he said. Kyodo News

Japan to detach critical info from Internet to counter cyberattacks

TOKYO, 23 July — The Japanese government plans to isolate its databases handling critical information from the Internet to protect data from cyberattacks, following a key organization’s loss of sensitive data that led to a massive personal data leak from the country’s pension service, government officials said on Thursday.

The latest measure will be included in a draft strategy to bolster Japan’s defenses against cyberattacks, which is set to be formulated when a meeting of the government headquarters for cybersecurity strategies is convened next month at the prime minister’s office.

The government is stepping up efforts to improve computer security following a rise in the number of reported cyberattacks on government organizations to 264 in fiscal 2014 from 104 in fiscal 2013. The 489-doubled the figure in the previous year, the sources said.

Reports of cases involving the opening of infected e-mail attachments tripled in fiscal 2014 from the year before, they said.

An e-mail attachment infected a computer at the Japan Pension Service, leading to the leaking of names and ID numbers of about 1.25 million people.

The government is seeking to drastically strengthen its cybersecurity policy so that the public will feel safe,” said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga at Thursday’s meeting of the headquarters for cybersecurity that he heads.

The draft of the updated cybersecurity strategy, which will be issued in the near future, related to cloud computing at government agencies that makes use of text-books compiled through joint efforts by industry, government and academia.

The government is also eyeing expanded monitoring by the National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity, a key organization to counter cyberattacks against Japan that was newly established in January.

The pension service said after the massive data leak that it had cut Internet access for all of its computing users, but an employee continued to receive and send e-mails for a week afterward. —Kyodo News
Koran fragments found in UK library are among world’s oldest, says university

LONDON, 23 July — Fragments of a Koran manuscript found in a British university library are from one of the world’s oldest surviving copies of the Islamic text, and may even have been written by someone who knew Prophet Mohammad, researchers said on Wednesday.

Radiocarbon dating indicated that the parchment folios held by the University of Birmingham in central England were at least 1,370 years old, which would make them among the earliest written forms of the Islamic holy book in existence.

“They could well take us back to within a few years of the actual founding of Islam,” said David Thomas, Professor of Christianity and Islam at the university.

Researchers said the manuscript consisted of two parchment leaves and contained parts of Suras (chapters) 18 to 20, and was written with ink in an early form of Arabic script known as Hijazi.

The university said for years it had been misbound with leaves of a similar Koran manuscript which dated from the late seventh century.

The radiocarbon dating, said to have a 95.4 percent accuracy, found the parchment dated from between 566 and 645. Mohammad is believed to have lived between 570 and 632.

“These fragments give us glimpses into potentially how something we now call the Koran might have been used in this early period and how it might have been recorded,” said Sajjad Rizvi, Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter.

Thomas said the tests carried out on the parchment of the folios strongly suggested the animal from which it was taken was alive during the lifetime of the Prophet Mohammad or shortly afterwards.

“The person who actually wrote it may well have known the Prophet Mohammad. He would have seen him probably, he would maybe have heard him preach. He may have known him personally,” Thomas told BBC TV.

The manuscript was part of the university’s collection of 3,000 Middle Eastern documents which was acquired in the 1920s by Alphonse Mingana, a Chaldean priest born near Mosul in Iraq.

His trips to acquire the manuscripts were funded by philanthropist Edward Cadbury, whose family made their fortune in chocolate, to raise the status of Birmingham as an intellectual centre for religious studies.

“The parts of the Koran that are contained in those fragments are very similar indeed to the Koran as we have it today,” Thomas said.

“So this tends to support the view that the Koran that we now have is more or less very close indeed to the Koran as it was brought together in the early years of Islam.”

Muslim scholars said the discovery, along with similar recent finds and studies in Europe, would help academics piece together the development of the manuscript into its modern form.

“The discovery of the written Koran dating back to the time of Mohammad may serve as an opportunity to make us reconsider the scholars’ paradigms that Islamic culture is more oral-aural rather than visual,” said Hatsuji Asahina, a lecturer in Modern Islam at the University of Manchester.

The University of Birmingham said it would put the manuscript on public display in October, and Mohammad Afzal, chairman of Birmingham Central Mosque, said he expected it to attract people from all over Britain.

“When I saw these pages I was very moved. There were tears of joy and emotion in my eyes,” he told the BBC.

Whilst some manuscript are major attractions elsewhere in the world, their appeal to visitors is determined more by the status of the person who is understood to have recorded them.

“The problem with this particular fragment is that we simply don’t actually know where it comes from,” Rizvi said.

However, he said that the fragments would be studied worldwide if, in line with the recent trend for such finds, digital images were put online and available on the internet, and that there was potential for other significant discoveries in Britain.

“The catalogues of which were in collections in Britain are not complete in most cases. It’s quite possible we might find some further things - even in the British Library itself.”
Entertainment

Friday, 24 July, 2015

Chases and explosions as Bond returns in ‘Spectre’ trailer

LONDON, 23 July — The first full trailer for the upcoming James Bond film “Spectre” was released on Wednesday, promising the usual action-packed explosions, fast-paced chases and dealings with sinister characters.

Daniel Craig reprises his role as secret agent 007 for the fourth time in the movie directed by Academy Award winner Sam Mendes and scheduled for release later this year.

Mendes also directed the last Bond film “Skyfall”, which grossed $1.1 billion at box offices worldwide.

The two and a half minute trailer starts with a cool and collected Bond being questioned by M, portrayed by Ralph Fiennes, over a connection mission to Mexico City.

In all the characteristics of a Bond film, action-packed scenes soon follow as the secret agent uncovers the shady Spectre organization and its dark link to villain Franz Oberhauser, played by Oscar winner Christoph Waltz.

“It was me, James, the author of all your pain,” Oberhauser can be seen teasing Bond in the clip.

British actress Naomie Harris plays Miss Mon- eyenny while Italian actress Monica Bellucci and French actress Lea Seydoux also have roles.

“Spectre”, the 24th James Bond film, is sched- uled for release in UK cin- emas on 26 October and in the United States on 6 No- vember.—Reuters

Schindler’s List producer presents his Oscar to Yad Vashem memorial

JERUSALEM, 23 July — Auschwitz survivor Branko Lustig, one of the producers of Schindler’s List, presented his Academy Award to Israel’s Yad Vashem Holo- caust memorial on Wednesday, saying it had found its rightful resting place.

Lustig, 83 from Croatia, worked with director Steven Spielberg on the 1993 film that won seven Oscars. It recounts the tale of German industrialist Oskar Schin- dler’s efforts to save Jews from Nazi death squads in World War Two.

“I am very honored, I feel this is a good (rest- ing place) for the Oscar,” Lustig told Reuters before the ceremony in Jeru- salem, also attended by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic.

Lustig said he did not feel he was separat- ing one of the two memorial site was “a very meaningful,” Shalev said.—Reuters

Croatian Auschwitz survivor Branko Lustig and his wife Mirjana stand next to his Academy Award during a cer- emony at Yad Vashem Holo- caust memorial in Jerusalem on 22 July, 2015.—Reuters

South Korean films boom in Chinese market

BRUSSELS, 23 July — Amid the rising boom of South Korean filmmakers tapping the Chinese market, the two countries’ co- production list has added a new blockbuster.

Honeymoon Enemy, overseen by South Korean veteran director Kwak Jae-young (My Sassy Girl), will hit the Chinese mainland theaters in September, it was announced on Monday. The 40-million-yuan ($6.4 mil- lion) flick stars Chinese A-list actress Zhang Yuqi and Taiwan actor Wallace Huo, a heartthrob for his die-for- love roles in several hit fantasy TV series.

Another highlight of the cast is South Korean supermodel-turned-actor Kwon Sang-woo, who shot to fame thanks to the 2003 hit rom-com My Tutor Friend. The tale features a blind dating site’s senior con- sultant relying on her professional knowledge to win her true love from a competitive, rich rival. Long known for picturesque scenes and touching details, South Korean romance movies and TV series have a wide market in China. Kwon, who has focused on the mainland market since 2012, says that Chinese viewers’ swelling demand is very “inspiring” and praises Chinese movies.

“Compared to Hollywood blockbusters, South Korean movies seem more like Chinese titles as our two countries have close connections in culture,” he told domestic media in an earlier interview.—Xinhua

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Model Cara Delevingne debuts first major role in ‘Paper Towns’

NEW YORK, 23 July — British model Cara Delevingne takes up her first major movie role in “Paper Towns”, stepping off the catwalk and onto the silver screen in the film adaptation of American author John Green’s novel about young love and adventure.

The 22-year-old, who made her acting de- but in the 2012 film adaptation of “Anna Karenina”, plays Margo in the movie, her neighbor Quentin’s (Nat Wolff) longtime crush.

The pair embark on a night escape before Margo disappears and Quentin goes on a mission to track her down.

“I’ve wanted to act ever since I was a child. It’s one of my biggest dreams,” Delev- ingne said at the film’s premiere in New York on Tuesday night. “Living your dream is very emotional. I’m very happy.”

The Burberry and Chanel model has turned her attention to acting with several films in the works including the much-anticipated “Batman” spin-off “Suicide Squad”, set for release next year.

“I work really hard, I don’t want anyone to ever think that this is a fluke or I got this because I have 15.8 million followers on Instagram, said of her upcoming film roles. —Reuters
Chelsea fans banned after racist incident on Paris Metro

LONDON, 23 July — Four Chelsea fans who refused to allow a black man onto the Paris Metro were banned on Wednesday from attending football matches for between three and five years. The incident occurred in February when Chelsea fans were in the French capital to watch the Champions League match against Paris St Germain.

Video footage showed Chelsea fans refusing to allow a Seychellois-Syrian, a black Frenchman, from boarding the train amid chants of “We’re racist and that’s the way we like it”.

Richard Barklie, from Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, Josh Parsons and William Simpson, both from Surrey, were each banned for five years at Thames Magistrates’ Court, the Metropolitan Police said.

Jordon Munday, from Sidcup in Kent, was banned for three years. All four had denied racist behaviour. Police Chief Superintendent Colin Morgan said in a statement: “Violence and racism have no place in football and we will continue to put offenders before the courts as part of our efforts to make football a safer environment for everyone.”

Chelsea followed suit by banning the four for life from buying ticket combinations from them or attending games at their Stamford Bridge stadium.

Another individual, Dean Callis, was also handed a lifetime ticket ban by the west London club.

“The club will always reserve the right to decide who purchases tickets to attend Chelsea matches, and the behaviour of these five individuals was abhorrent, against all of the club’s values and falls way below the standards the club expects of supporters of our team,” they said in a statement on their website (www.chelseafc.com). — Reuters

Oregon salmon trucked north to stem die-off in warm waters

PORTLAND, Ore, 23 July — Federal officials in Oregon have been trucking hatchery salmon more than a hundred miles (160 km) north to another hatchery in Washington state throughout July to preserve fish that had been dying off by the thousands in an unseasonably warm river.

Water that would rarely top 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 Celsius) at this time of year in the Warm Springs River has reached 76 °F (24.4 Celsius), hot enough to weaken juvenile spring salmon immune systems. US Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries supervisor Rich Johnson told Reuters on Wednesday about 2,000 of this fish were dying every day before they were relocated, he said. “If the weather continues warm, there could be more problems for fish,” Johnson said, noting that river temperatures across the region spiked a full month earlier than usual this year.

The effort to save Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery’s 160,000 remaining baby fish — plus 680 adults — comes as state wildlife officials in both Oregon and Washington have imposed rare fishing restrictions. High temperatures have been blamed for hundreds of thousands of wild and hatchery fish deaths throughout the US Pacific Northwest.

At central Oregon’s Rock Creek Hatchery, a mechanical error that halted water flow was made worse by high water temperatures in June, killing 400,000 pre-smolt spring Chinook salmon.

Washington and Oregon state wildlife officials have reported hundreds of wild fish found dead along riverbanks in both states over the past month as well. The salmon at Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery were particularly vulnerable because of their location east of the Cascade Mountains, Johnson said.

Despite its name, there are no warm springs nearby, but low snowpack on nearby Mount Hood has left the hatchery with little of the chilling runoff that would normally cool its waters, he said. After rejecting a proposal to chill the water at Warm Springs as too expensive, officials opted instead to transport the fish to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery in Washington, located on the much cooler Columbia River, Johnson said.

“We will hold these little fish at little White Salmon until around October, when the temperatures cool, then we will move them back to Warm Springs to let them finish maturing there,” he said. Once the salmon mature enough, they are tagged and released into the wild.

West Ham sign Argentine youth international on loan

LONDON, 23 July — West Ham United have signed Argentine youth international Manuel Lanzini on loan from United Arab Emirates side Al Jazira with an option to make the deal permanent, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old midfielder, who came through the youth system at famed Argentine club River Plate, has been capped four times at under-20 level.

“Thijs is very emotional because it is one of the best teams I have ever signed for,” he said on the club website. “It is a very important step for my career and for my future.”

Lanzini becomes West Ham’s seventh close-season signing following the arrivals of Dimitri Payet, Angelo Ogbonna, Pedro Obiang, Carl Jenkinson, Stephen Hendrie and Darren Randolph.

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Djokovic, Williams head elite fields for US Open

New York, 23 July — Wimbledon champions and world number ones Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams head the field for the men’s and women’s events at this year’s US Open, the United States Tennis Association announced on Wednesday.

Djokovic, who has reached the US Open final five times and won the title in 2011, tops an elite list that includes other former champions in Roger Federer (2004-08), Rafa Nadal (2010, 2013), Andy Murray (2012) and last year’s winner Marin Cilic.

Serbian Djokovic will be aiming to land his third grand slam crown this year, having triumped at the Australian Open in February before beating Federer in four sets in the Wimbledon final earlier this month.

The US Open will be played from 31 August to 13 September at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in Flushing, New York.

Serena Williams will command much of the spotlight over that fortnight as she bids to become the only third woman to win the “calendar year” grand slam in the professional era.

Aged 33, she outclassed Spaniard Garbine Muguruza 6-4, 6-4 in the Wimbledon final earlier this month.

It was a sixth Wimbledon title and a 21st grand slam crown for Williams and, unless she suffers a dip in form, it seems unlikely anyone can stop her march into the history books at Flushing Meadows where she is unbeaten since 2011.

She won her sixth US Open last year, and has since landed the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon titles this season.

Joining Williams will be Russian world number two Maria Sharapova, the 2006 US Open champion; third-ranked Simona Halep of Romania and fourth-ranked Czech Petra Kvitova, the 2011 and 2014 Wimbledon champion.

Prince Ali tells Blatter to stay away from FIFA reform process

ZURICH, 23 July — Prince Ali bin Al Hussein of Jordan, who failed in an attempt to replace Sepp Blatter as FIFA president in May, says Blatter should not be handling the reform process at world football’s scandal-hit governing body and that the task should be left to his successor.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Prince Ali, who withdrew from May’s FIFA presidential election after winning 73 votes to Blatter’s 133 in the first round of voting, said he feared Blatter, who has ruled the body since 1998, was trying to rush through reforms before he leaves office on 26 February.

Blatter announced he would be stepping down from the presidency only days after his re-election as a corruption scandal led to mounting criticism of his leadership. “We need a clear process, clear timelines, and a very clear remit. And all this should belong to the new president,” said Prince Ali, who has yet to declare a clear remit. And all this should belong to the new president, the new one.

“It is the role of the new president to put in place the necessary systems to implement the changes that FIFA so desperately needs, not a Task Force trying to rush this through in less than 60 days,” he added.

FIFA was thrown into turmoil in May when nine people who were or had been football officials, most of whom had held positions in FIFA, and five sports marketing or broadcasting executives, were indicted in the United States on bribery, money laundering and wire fraud charges.

On Monday, Blatter announced FIFA was setting up a task force made up of 10 members of FIFA’s six continental confederations and a ‘neutral chairman’.

Sources have told Reuters that Swiss businessman Domenico Scala, who holds two other positions in FIFA, has been approached by at least three confederations heads to lead the process.

FIFA has asked for recommendations from the task force to be delivered by the next executive committee meeting in late September, a schedule that Prince Ali believes is too brief.

“How can this Task Force address change in any meaningful way within such a short timeline? There can be no quick fix to issues that are clearly structural,” he said, adding that the set-up of the task force was wrong.

“Any Task Force that really will have the clout to bring about such vital reform should be a totally independent body, not from within the governance structure of FIFA.”—Reuters

Jamaicans upset US in Gold Cup semi-finals

ATLANTA, Georgia, 23 July — Darren Mattocks and Giles Barnes scored first-half goals to propel Jamaica to an upset 2-1 victory over the United States in the CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-finals in Atlanta on Wednesday.

The victory assured Jamaica became the first Caribbean team to reach the Gold Cup Final since its inception in 1991.

They will face the winner of the other semi-final later on Wednesday between Mexico and Panama.

The 2013 champion Americans had reached five successive Gold Cup finals and were coming off a 6-0 thrashing of Cuba in the quarter-finals.

Mattocks, who was suspended for his team’s quarter-final win against Haiti last week, struck in the 31st minute with a header before Barnes scored from a free-kick five minutes later.

The US had made defensive changes entering the match, as John Brooks returned from suspension and replaced Omar Gonzalez while Brad Evans replaced Timmy Chandler, but they did not pan out.

American captain Michael Bradley helped claw the home side back with a goal in the 48th minute.

The US, however, could not find the equalizer despite pressuring Jamaica goalkeeper Ryan Thompson for much of the second half.—Reuters