THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar, China discuss peace and stability in border regions

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

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

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

MNA

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

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

By *Ye Myint*

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

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

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

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

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

Other factories operated by the approved enterprises will produce goods including beverages, packaging, plastic products,

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MRTV channels to broadcast live Myanmar-Thai Sepak Takraw final

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

Vietnam conference seeks sustainable tourism strategies for Mekong nations

By *Ye Myint*

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

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

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

PHOTO: MYANMAR TOURISM FEDERATION

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears report on disputed mine project

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 June — A progress report concerning a disputed copper mine project was read out at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday.

U Than Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Mines, read out the progress report of the committee responsible for the investigative report on the Letpadaung copper mine project.

According to the profit-sharing ratio of the modified contract, the government will receive 51 percent while Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and the Myanmar Wanbao Company will take 19 percent and 30 percent respectively, the deputy minister said.

The new contract requires the project to annually contribute US $1 million for regional development activities at its construction period, 2 percent of its annual profits at its production period, and $2 mil for reclamation activities at its shutdown.

The copper mine project has employed 1,678 local people and 336 from other areas. According to the progress report, 37 of 42 suggestions made in the investigative report have been implemented.

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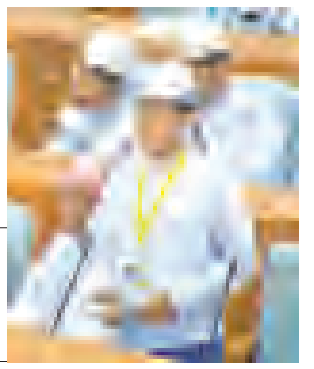
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung.
MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses communications problems, land ownership dispute

Deputy Minister U Win Than.—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint.
MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 June — U Myint Shwe of the Waw constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw on Thursday about possible solutions to communications problems facing Nyaungkhashay village despite mobile towers having been erected.

U Win Than, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology, in response said transmitting antennae are still to be installed but are expected to be completed in late October.

Plans are under way to install 99 more mobile phone base station towers in the eastern part of Bago Region, with the deputy minister saying Telenor Myanmar Limited has completed two of five towers in Waw, while Ooredoo Myanmar Limited is working on six towers in the town.

U Paw Khin of the Natogyi constituency asked for settlement of a land ownership dispute arising from land grabbing for the construction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Pyinsi village.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, spoke of investigations and hearings by the village's land management committee.

The land management committee of Mandalay Region ordered the return of 3.17 acres of land to the original owner. The disputed land covers a 4.52-acre area, the deputy minister said.—*MNA*

Zo National Regional Development Party applies for registration as political party

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

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw approves amendment bill on referendum law

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 June — The Amyotha Hluttaw approved bills Thursday to hold a referendum on constitutional reform and amend the Myanmar Town and Village Lands Act.

MPs continued Wednesday's debate on construction of a diversion dam on Thanlwin River.

U Myo Myint, MP of Mandalay region constituency 6, suggested central areas and southeastern parts of Myanmar need the dam to address annual drought and floods.

Regarding the proposal, Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon region constituency remarked the mega projects should have social and environmental benefits without putting a burden on the state and the people.

U Sai San Min, MP of Shan state constituency 3, opposed the project saying that locals are worried about floods if the dam or reservoir collapses due to earthquake. He also remarked that a ceasefire agreement is a prerequisite to developing these infrastructures, so as not to fuel conflicts among the government military and ethnic armed groups.

U Kywe Khan, MP of Chin state constituency 1, suggested suspension of the diversion dam, saying reforestation plans should be implemented to conserve water resources in the central region and northern and western areas of the country.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw.—MNA

U Myo Myint, MP of Mandalay region constituency 6.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said the diversion dam project should be added to the country's long-term plan for irrigation and hydropower.—*MNA*

8 companies vie to run state-owned fertilizer factory

By *Aye Min Soe*

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

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

The ministry invited local and foreign companies experienced in urea production, storage and marketing in mid-March to apply to run one of its fertilizer factories.

The foreign companies which submitted expression of interests to the ministry are Chiyoda Corporation, ITOCHU Corporation and Sojitz Corp from Japan and Haldor Topsoe from Denmark, while local companies are Capital Diamond Star Group, Parami Energy Services Co Ltd and UMG Co Ltd.

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

Also known as the Kyawzwa Fertilizer Factory, the plant is located on 902 acres in Aunglan Township. It was in operation from 1987 to 2010 and manufactured up to 450 tons of urea per day.

GNLM

Information for Public Remonstration

1. Zo National Regional Development Party-Z.N.R.D. headquartered at No 150, 5th floor (A), Sangyoung Street, Shin Saw Pu Ward, Myenigon, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 11-6-2015 in accord with Section 5 of the 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.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Zo National Regional Development Party

Emblem of Zo National Regional Development Party

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Russian Federation, the Philippines

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation and His Excellency Mr Dmitry A Medvedev, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2015, and His Excellency Mr Benigno S Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines on the occasion of the 117th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2015.—*MNA*

Myanmar, China to further strengthen friendly ties

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Yang Houlan, who had completed his tour of duty, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Thursday.

They held talks on further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries based on friendly ties and principles of peaceful co-existence.

Also present at the call were deputy ministers Commodore Aung Thaw, U Thant Kyaw and U Kyaw Kyaw Win and officials.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo together with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.

MNA

Myanmar prepares 7th CLMV Summit, 6th ACMECS Summit

***Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin delivers speech at meeting on holding 7th CLMV Summit and 6th ACMECS Summit.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—The coordinating meeting of the working committee and subcommittees for the 7th Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam Summit and the 6th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Summit, and related meetings commenced on 11 June at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

The meeting was attended by working committee members, Chairmen of subcommittees and responsible officials. Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and the chairman of the working committee for the said summits, delivered the opening remarks.

Later on, the Chairmen of the respective subcommittees reported the status of ongoing preparations and then the Union Minister coordinated among the various subcommittees to fulfill their needs to make necessary preparations towards the successful convening of the summits.—*MNA*

Union FM sends messages of felicitations to Russian, Philippine counterparts

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergey V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2015 and His Excellency Mr Albert F Del Rosaric, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines on the occasion of the 117th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2015.

MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung received Mr John Williams, Vice President ASEAN & India, Advertising Sales of BBC, at the ministry, here, on Thursday.

They discussed advertisement of Myanmar tourism industry in BBC channel, websites and social media on a wider scale, successful cooperation in tourism promotion and coordination for providing assistance to TV crew.Also present at the call were deputy ministers and the permanent secretary.—*MNA*

Vietnam conference seeks...

(from page 1)

The annual event is expected to attract public and private sector participants representing the tourism industry, civil society, academia, the media and development organization including the ADB, the bank said.

"Tourism is flourishing in the GMS, but with that growth comes the need to shape the industry in a way that increases benefits to local communities and protects the environment," said Steven Schipani, senior specialist at the ADB's Lao PDR resident mission.

According to the ADB, the GMS attracted 52 million international tourist arrivals in 2013, up 17 percent from the previous year, with arrivals have growing at an annual rate of 12 percent since 2002.

Among the countries in the subregion, Myanmar is the fastest growing destination, it added.

According to Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the country is set to receive 5 million foreign tourists this year, eclipsing last year's record 3 million arrivals.

Pointing out strains on tourism resources that could be brought about by the surge in globetrotters, the ADB said that the forum aims to highlight the importance of practices that enhance environmental, social and economic benefits of tourism.

The forum will also develop a "white paper" for tourism ministries and private tourism operators, outlining a path for the industry's future, the ADB said. — *GNLM*

Farmers receive Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds as poppy substitute

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

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

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

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

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

School leaders discuss private education law

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

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

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

Nyaungtay Bridge in Myanaung Tsp ready for use

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

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

Win Bo
Township IPRD)

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

Local authorities upgrade Lahagyi-Theingon-Wayonchaung road

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

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

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

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

Township DRD

Local regiment releases parcels of confiscated farmland

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

The Village and Township Land Utilization Management Committee and Township Department of Settlement and Land Records presented the land to local farmers at the hall of Township General Administration Department.

The Defence Services confiscated farmlands for the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Training School in Myanaung. The local regiment then released the farmlands the school did not use to eight farmland owners.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Expo showcases South Korean products

MANDALAY, 11 June— The Korea Expo, showcasing South Korean-made goods including cars, agricultural machinery and construction materials, was held at the city hall in Mandalay from 9 to 12 June.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung opened the expo, held in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and South Korea.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Respect paid to teachers, vehicle donated to social welfare association

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

Owner of Aung Thamadi gold refinery U Aung Hsan Win paid respects and presented K200,000 each to the teachers.

He also donated a Toyota Surf to Aung Myitta Health and Social Welfare Association from Wanbewin Village in Pinlebu Township.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Workshop discusses plight of international migrant workers

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

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

A total of 25 departmental officials participated in the discussions.

Migrant worker centres have been opened in Mandalay, Kyaukse, Meiktila and Myingyan in Mandalay Region.

Trained staff have been assigned to the centres to assist migrant worker.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Supporting dam reduces annual flood damage

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

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

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

The supporting dam is being built with the aim of helping local farmers.

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

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

Po Chan (Monywa)

Singapore must get prepared for MERS: PM

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

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

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

TTSH has been designated by Singapore's Health Ministry to be the isolation center for suspected and confirmed MERS patients once the virus was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

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

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

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

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

No case of MERS cases has been reported in Singapore up to now. But the country's Health Ministry has previously said the possibility of an imported case cannot be ruled out given today's globalized travel patterns.

Xinhua

Indonesian president looks to open up neglected Papua region

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

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

"The new approach will be more humane, with the aim of developing Papua more fairly," Mualimin Abdi, director of human rights for the justice ministry, told *Reuters*.

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

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

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

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

Heralding a new era for peace and development, Widodo last month released five political prisoners and lifted travel restrictions for foreign journalists in Papua. But in a clear indication of the difficult road ahead for Widodo, military chief Moeldoko quickly revised the president's statement saying foreign journalists would still need special permits to travel there because of security concerns.

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

"It has to be done gradually."

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

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

Indonesian President Joko Widodo

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

"If the approach is wrong, it's a fine line between wanting to be part of Indonesia and becoming a freedom fighter," Sulistyo said.

Reuters

South Korea cuts rates as MERS clouds outlook; 14 new cases

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

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

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

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

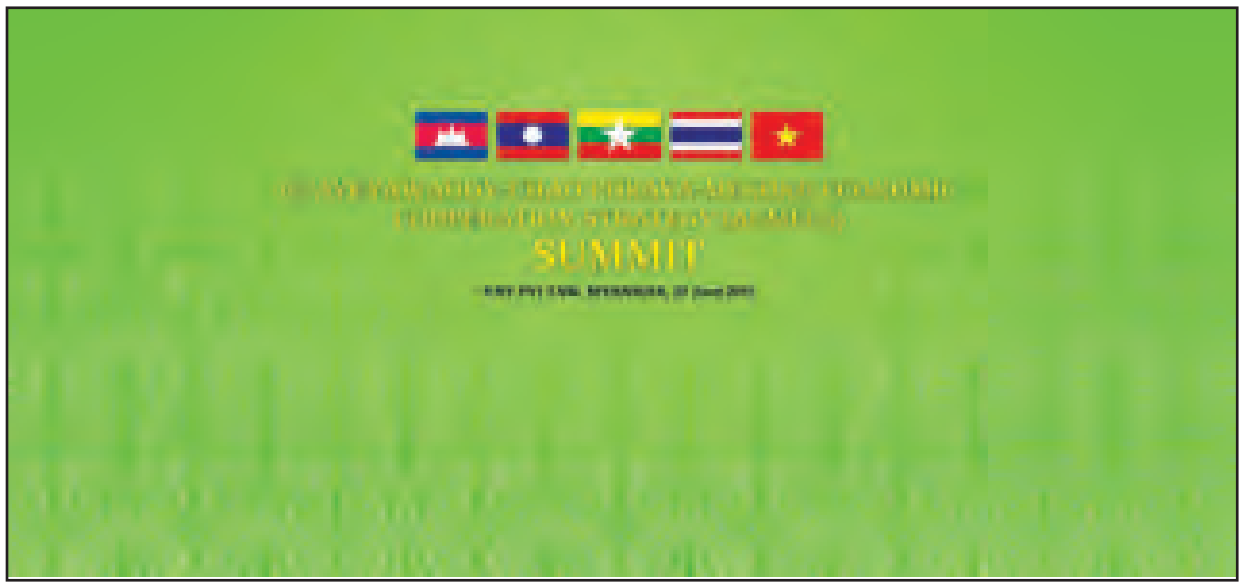
The central bank of Asia's fourth biggest economy said it had to act and cut its policy rate by 25 basis points to a record-low 1.50 percent.

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

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

One positive sign was a fall in the number of South Korea's schools and universities that have closed. The total dipped to 2,431 on Thursday from about 2,700 the previous day after a joint team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and South Korea recommended that schools be reopened as they were unlikely to spread the disease. "We all need to put behind us excessive fear and psychological withdrawal over MERS and try to go back to normal daily lives next week so we can minimise the impact on the economy," Kim Moo-sung, who heads the ruling Saenuri party, said at a party meeting.—*Reuters*

A health care worker in full protective gear checks on a patient who is infected with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) inside an isolation ward at Seoul Medical Centre in Seoul, South Korea, on 10 June, 2015.
REUTERS



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China urges end to 'microphone diplomacy' over US differences

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

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

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

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

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

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

US President Barack Obama (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping in front of US and Chinese national flags during a joint news conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 12 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

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

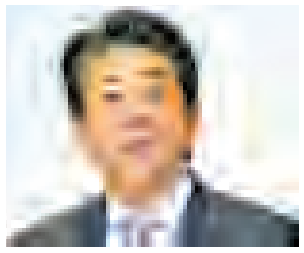
Wu said she did not see any US-China "tensions," as the countries shared a common interest in peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and always discussed differences.

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

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

Reuters

Abe mulls attending event to mark 50th anniv of Japan-S Korea ties



Shinzo Abe

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

Abe's final decision on attending the 22 June event organized by the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo will hinge on whether South Korean President Park Geun-hye will attend a similar commemorative event to be held by the Japanese Embassy in Seoul on the same day, the source said.

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

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

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

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference earlier in the day that the government has sent invitations to both countries' government officials, adding that nothing has been decided at the moment on the possible attendance of Abe and Park to the two separate commemorative events.

Meeting for the eighth round of talks, the senior diplomats are believed to have set the stage for South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se's possible visit to Japan to attend the anniversary event and to hold talks with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, ministry sources said.

Japan was represented by Junichi Ihara, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and South Korea by Lee Sang Deok, director general of the foreign ministry's Northeast Asian Affairs Bureau.

During their talks, Ihara and Lee also discussed the issue of former South Korean "comfort women" who worked in wartime Japanese military brothels.

"We conveyed each other's positions and agreed to continue talking to find a common ground," Lee told reporters after the meeting. He said they will hold their next round of talks next month.

When they last met in March, they apparently made no significant headway on the comfort women issue.

South Korea has repeatedly demanded that Japan settle the issue in a way that is acceptable to surviving victims such as through an apology and compensation.

But Japan maintains that all compensation issues were settled under a 1965 bilateral treaty that normalized diplomatic ties.

Ihara and Lee also discussed a recent issue of mutual interest — the proposed UNESCO World Heritage listing of historical industrial sites in Japan, Yasuhide Nakayama, a senior vice foreign minister, said at a Press conference held after the meeting.

Japan aims to register the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution," which represent Japan's industrialization in the late 19th to early 20th centuries, on the World Heritage list.

South Korea contends that about 60,000 Koreans were conscripted to work at some of the 23 proposed sites during World War II.

Japan, however, argues that the period covered by the proposed listing is from the 1850s to 1910, thus well before the time of conscripted labour usage. Japan has also asked South Korea not to politicize the case.

Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 12 June, 2015

Time for politicians to think seriously about campaign promises

By *Myint Win Thein*

Elections are seen from different points of view by people and politicians. People tend to see elections as a weapon to get rid of incompetent politicians from office, or as a process to prolong the political life of efficient and honest lawmakers.

However, politicians, whether competent or otherwise, view elections as a tool to gain or hold onto power.

Although they view elections differently from the populace, they are not in a position to completely neglect the wishes of voters, and thus they make campaign promises to help people get out of their troubles or find more success. In hindsight, it is obvious that not all campaign promises are kept.

People do not accept politicians who break campaign promises. Therefore, politicians who have broken their promises are not likely to be elected. On the other hand, it can clearly be seen that politicians who can keep their campaign promises or political novices who have never made promises are in a better position than the promise breakers in elections. Therefore, it is important that politicians think seriously about their campaign promises before making them to the public.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Self-Reliance

Kyi Mun

Attā hi attano nātho
You are your own savior/ refuge
Attā hi attano gati
You are your own protector

- Dhammapada

We should rely on ourselves for our own health, happiness and success. Since we are not, like Robinson Crusoe, living alone by ourselves, we have got to live among other people, with other people and for other people. In our human society we are all interdependent. We have got to live and move and have our being interdependent with other people. Self-reliance is not exclusive to interdependence. Self-reliance does not mean to live and move and have our being independent of other people's help and assistance. Self-reliance means to have an independent SPIRIT, independent mental attitude, and independent emotion, feeling and mood. So, self-reliance means you should be the MAIN DRIVER of your life's journey. **It means you are responsible for your own life. It also means you must take charge of your own life, your work and your relationships. You have got to be In-Charge of yourself, in-command and control of yourself**. According to the Oxford dictionary,

Self-Reliance means: Ability to do or decide things by yourself, rather than depending on other people for help.

Now, Let's explore some wider meanings of self-reliance as follows:

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

❖ **STRUGGLE**

Struggle means: (1) To try very hard to do something when it is difficult or when there are a lot of problems: A country struggling for independence; *She struggled for breath; He is a struggling artist.*

(2) To move somewhere or do something with difficulty: *I struggled up the hill with the heavy bags; Paul struggled out of his wheelchair.*

(3) To fight against somebody/ something in order to prevent a bad situation or result: *He struggled against cancer for two years; Lisa struggled with her conscience before talking to the police.*

(4) To fight somebody or try to get away from them. *I struggled and screamed for help.*

(5) To compete or argue with somebody, especially in order to get something. *Rival leaders struggling for power.*

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

❖ **EARNESTNESS**

Earnest means: Very Serious and Sincere.

In earnest means: (1) More seriously and with more force or effort than before. e.g. the work on the house will begin in earnest on Monday.

(2) Very serious and sincere about what you are saying and about your intentions; in a way that show that you are serious: e.g. you may laugh but I'm in deadly earnest; I could tell she spoke in earnest.

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

❖ **LIVING, MOVING & HAVING OUR BEING IN SELF-RELIANCE**

We have got to be SINCERE, SPIRITED, SWEET and SMART in living, moving and having our being in self-reliance. Self-reliance means to be resolute, to fear no sacrifice and to surmount all difficulties to win victory.

❖ **FAITH, FOCUS & FIGHT**

A self-reliant person has faith in his/ her struggle, focus on his/ her strategy for success, and a fighting spirit to win victory.

Faith means:

(1) Trust in somebody's ability or knowledge; trust that somebody/ something will do what has been promised: e.g. *I have great faith in you— I know you will do well.*

(2) Strong religious belief: e.g. *FAITH is stronger than reason.*

(3) The intention to do something right: e.g. *they handed over the weapons as a gesture of good faith.*

It is said in the Bible that if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can remove the mountain.

Focus means: the thing or person that people are most interested in; the act of paying special attention to something and make people interested in it.

Fight, here, means:

To try very hard to get something or to achieve something: e.g. he is still fighting for compensation after the accident.

Fight your way: *She gradually fought her way to the top of the company.*

Fight to do something:

Doctors fought for more than six hours to save his life.

Self-reliant people usually have faith, focus and the fighting spirit in their life-journeys. They are unbeatable fighters.

❖ **RESILIENCE**

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

❖ **ENDURANCE**

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

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

❖ **LOFTY MIND**

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

❖ **INDOMITABLE SPIRIT**

Indomitable means: Not willing to accept defeat, even in a difficult situation; very brave and determined. People with indomitable spirit are people with unconquerable mind. Self-reliant people are invincible fighters.

❖ **AUDACIOUS SPIRIT**

Audacious means: Having the quality of being willing to take risks or to do something shocking.

People with the spirit of self-reliance are rare people with audacious spirit. People with audacious spirit are relentless fighters with tremendous courage and persistence.

❖ **NEVER GIVING UP**

Giving up means: To stop trying to do something.

Giving in means: To admit that you have been defeated.

Self-reliant people are, indeed, people who:

"Never give up
Never give in
Stand up to it, and
Fight it through to victory."

❖ **COMMITTED**

Committed means: Willing to work hard and give your time and energy to something; believing strongly in something: e.g. *A committed member of the team: They are committed democrats.*

People with the spirit of self-reliance are in fact, committed people, with a great sense of dedication and purpose.

❖ **ENDEAVOUR**

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

- **Drive**
- **Strive**
- **Thrive**
- **Arrive**
- **Revive**

CONCLUSION

Ants and bees are the exemplary creatures of the spirit of self-reliance.

Have a great spirit of self-reliance!

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

	Name	Appointment
(a)	U Khin Maung Win Director-General Electric Power Department Ministry of Electric Power	Director-General Electric Power Planning Department Ministry of Electric Power
(b)	U Khin Maung Tint Managing Director Textile Industries Ministry of Industry	Managing Director No 2 Heavy Industries Enterprise Ministry of Industry
(c)	U Thant Sin Director-General Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department Ministry of Industry	Managing Director Myanma Pharmaceuticals Industries Ministry of Industry
(d)	U Nyunt Aung Director-General Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce
(e)	U Hla Maw Oo Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Trade Promotion and Consumer Affairs Department Ministry of Commerce

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

	Name	Appointment
(a)	U Win Swe Tun	Director-General Department of Civil Aviation Ministry of Transport
(b)	U Tint Thwin	Director-General Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General Dr Ye Tun Win of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

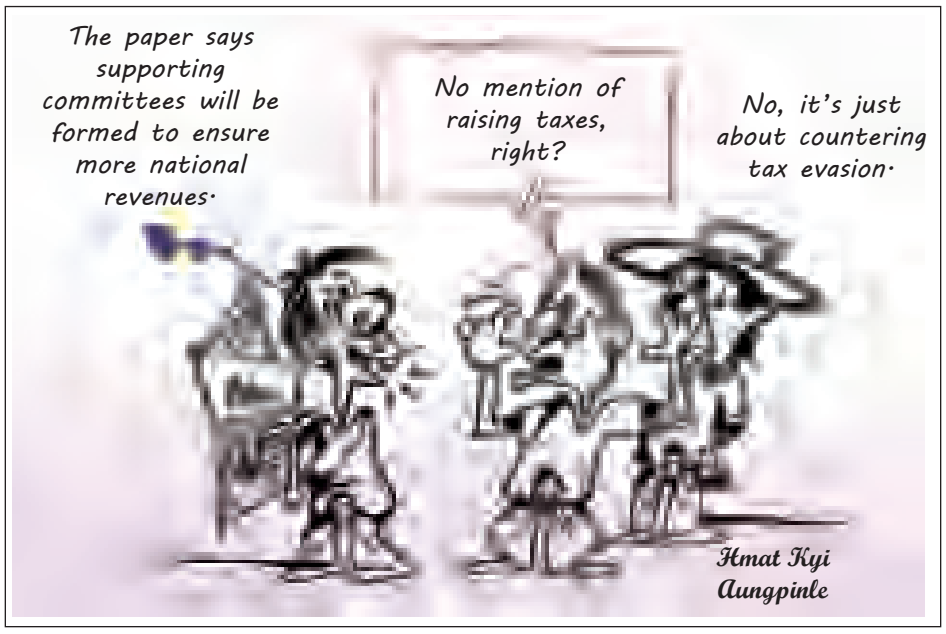
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and wife being welcomed by Philippine Ambassador Alex Garcia Chua and wife at the reception to mark 117th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Philippines at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 11 June.—MNA

Myanmar delegation attends Meeting of Economic and Social Council

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

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

MNA



Meeting of High level Task Force (HLTF) on ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision concludes

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

The meeting was chaired by Dato Hsu King Bee, Malaysia HLTF Representative and was attended by HLTF representatives and delegates from ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. Myanmar delegation comprising officials from the three pillars led by U Hla Myint, retired ambassador as Myanmar HLF Representative, attended the meeting.

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

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

MNA

Tower cranes are seen on the riverside in Yangon. A heavy crane rental services is among the enterprises approved in June by the Myanmar Investment Commission.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Myanmar Investment Commission …

(from page 1)

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

In the service sector, two businesses— PECI (Myanmar) Limited and Two Elephant Asia Group Co., Ltd— will engage in mechanical fabrication and related services, as well as rental services of heavy cranes, as joint ventures.

In May, the Myanmar Investment Commission allowed seven foreign and local enterprises to engage in manufacturing and constructing businesses.

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

GNLM

Russia, Serbia tied by common civilizational roots

Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin

BELGRADE, 11 June — Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin said on Wednesday, at a reception marking Russia Day, that over centuries of their history, Russia and Serbia have been linked together by common civilizational roots, victories and successes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

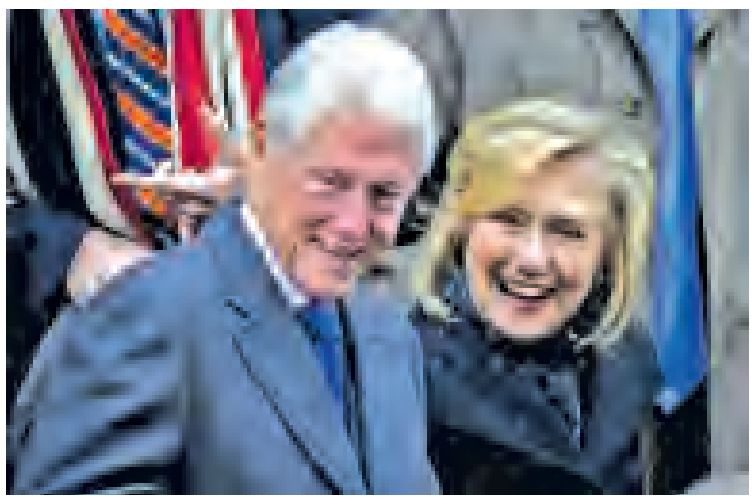
"Yeah, but I mean we're used to it," Clinton said.

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

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

He described being "plagued by self-doubt" in his late 20s, particularly after an unsuccessful run for Congress. "Whenever I had trouble, she was the rock in the family."

Republicans and media commentators have criticized both Clintons for earning millions of dollars from paid speeches, saying the practice raises the possibility of conflicts of interest.



Former US President Bill Clinton and former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton depart the former Governor of New York Mario Cuomo's funeral in Manhattan, New York on 6 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

In a separate interview, Clinton was asked if he would continue to give paid speeches if his wife won the election in November, 2016.

"No, I don't think so," he told Bloomberg TV's Betty Liu. "I will give speeches, though, on subjects I'm interested in," he added.

Reuters

Greece agreed to work intensively with creditors — Merkel

German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) shakes hands with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R) at the start of an EU-CELAC Latin America summit in Brussels, Belgium on 10 June, 2015.—REUTERS

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

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

Reuters

British Nobel laureate quits job after "trouble with girls" remark

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

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

Israel denies any link to reported cyberattack on Iran talks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The West suspects Iran wants to develop a nuclear weapons capability from its enrichment of uranium. Iran says it is seeking nuclear energy for electricity and medical isotopes.

Reuters

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

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

"The second phase of the government's military offensive, ' Operation Decisive Summer' has resulted in high numbers of newly displaced people," said Edmond Mulet, assistant secretary-general for UN peacekeeping operations.

"In addition, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs received reports of some 130,000 additional internal displaced persons but was not yet able to verify," he added.

Mulet said the security situation remained serious in Darfur with limited progress in the peace process, highlighting that the current year has seen inter-communal conflicts leading to periodic outbreaks of violence.

The Security Council convened on Wednesday to have consultations on African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) . The mission was established on 31 July, 2007 with the primary mandate of civilian protection and its current authorization is until 30 June, 2015.

Moulet said the UN Secretariat, in agreement with the Council for Peace and Security of the African Union, has requested from the Security Council the extension of UNAMID's mandate for an additional year, until June 2016.

He also mentioned that the exit strategy for UNAMID is based on the achievement of the mission's benchmarks and premised on a political solution to the conflict based on direct talks between the parties, starting with a cessation of hostilities.

"The exist strategy is also based on the gradual and phased withdrawal of UNAMID's force from West Darfur where there have not been any major activities by armed groups or inter-communal fighting in the past two years," he added.

Darfur region lies on the far west region of Sudan with a total area estimated at around 500,000 square km. It is considered Sudan 's western gate where the region shares joint borders with Libya, Chad and Central Africa Republic.

The region has seen growing tribal violence as the local tribes could easily obtain weapons, while many parts of the area have no effective governance.

For years, efforts have failed to end the tribal conflicts, which have become a nagging concern for local population and the authorities of the troubled region.

Xinhua

Syrian army dislodges IS militants from key oil fields in Homs

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

The government forces fully captured the al-Jisel oil fields and the town with the same name in the eastern countryside of the central province of Homs, near the ancient city of Palmyra, which was overran by the IS militants last month, according to the report.

Over the past two days, the IS militants advanced into the al-Jisel town and its oil fields, forcing the Syrian army to call for back up forces, which eventually secured the area on Wednesday, according to the report.

The TV said the oil fields have not been affected by the battles, adding that clashes are currently taking place in the eastern outskirts of al-Jisel.

Separately, the Syrian air force killed at least 17 IS militants in the Bayarat area in eastern Homs on Wednesday, according to the report.

Throughout the long-running conflict, the Syrian government lost control of key oil and gas fields to the IS militants, mainly in the oil-rich province of Deir al-Zour in eastern Syria.—*Xinhua*

UN envoy quits role as mediator in Burundi crisis talks

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

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

Said Djinnit has hosted dialogue between the government, the ruling party, opposition parties and civil society groups to try to resolve a row over President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term, but there have been only limited signs of progress.

A series of elections have been delayed by weeks of unrest and violent clashes between police and protesters, plunging the nation into its worst crisis in a decade and alarming a region which has a history of ethnic killing.

Djinnit has faced criticism from the opposition, who said he was biased towards the government, a charge he dismissed.

"He has just left his work as facilitator for the dialogue in Burundi," the spokesman for the UN mission in Burundi, Vladimir Monteiro, said. "He remains the special envoy."

Monteiro did not give a reason and it was not immediately clear if the United Nations would assign a new mediator.

In a statement late on Wednesday which did not specifically mention that Djinnit was quitting the facilitation role, the UN envoy thanked all the parties for their cooperation "during the dialogue that he facilitated with impartiality".

"The special envoy encourages the Burundian parties to continue their dialogue with a view to create conditions conducive to holding free, fair, inclusive and peaceful elections," the statement said.

Opponents of Nkurunziza say he is violating the constitution and a peace deal that ended an ethnically charged civil war in 2005 by seeking a third term. The president cites a constitutional court ruling saying he can run. The parliamentary vote will now take place on 26 June, followed by a presidential poll on 15 July.

Reuters

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

ISLAMABAD, 11 June — At least two policemen were killed and six others injured in a suicide attack at a police convoy in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city on Thursday, officials said.

Senior Superintendent Police Mian Saeed said that the suicide bomber hit his explosive-laden motorbike into a vehicle carrying deputy commandant (DC) of Frontier Regiment Police in Hayatabad area of Peshawar, the capital city of the country's north Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

The DC Malik Tariq received serious injuries and his vehicle was completely destroyed in the blast.

Tariq was on his way from his home to office when his convoy came under attack.

Police said the bomber who was carrying about four to six kg of explosive materials also got killed in the attack.

The injured people have been shifted to Hayatabad Medical Complex.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Police cordoned off the area for investigations.

The country's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the attack and sought a report from the concerned officials.

Xinhua

Tunisia rescues 350 migrants heading by boat to Italy from Libya

TUNIS, 11 June — Tunisia's navy rescued more than 350 illegal migrants off its coast and was searching for hundreds more on Wednesday after they tried to sail from neighbouring Libya to the Italian island of Lampedusa, the local Red Cross said.

Boat smugglers often use Tunisia's proximity to the Italian coast to ship migrants there. Tunisian authorities have rescued dozens of people travelling in unsafe boats in recent months.

"Naval forces have rescued at least 350 clandestine migrants off the coast near Ben Guerdane in an old boat that left from Libya," local Red Cross representative Abd el Karim Rguiyi told *Reuters*. "Among them are Syrians and families, Africans. Authorities are looking to save around 300 more."

Ben Guerdane is a coastal town just across the border from Libya and not far from the tourist island resort of Djerba.

The conflict in Libya between two rival governments and their armed forces has fomented a breakdown of order that smugglers have been quick to exploit to try to send thousands of illegal migrants across the Mediterranean to mainland Europe.

European leaders are increasingly concerned that Libya will become a failed state if the rival factions fail to accept a UN-sponsored peace deal.—*Reuters*

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

12 dead, dozens missing in landslides in eastern Nepal

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

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

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

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

Kyodo News

Australia's Abbott calls for global effort against terrorism

SYDNEY, 11 June — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Thursday called on delegates from over 30 countries including Japan to work together in the fight against terrorism, which he called "the biggest security challenge of our time."

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

"Our task is to share our challenges and our strategies, to discuss where we have failed and where we think we might have succeeded so that all of us can learn to be more effective in grappling with the biggest security challenge of our time," he said.

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

"In the end, though, the only really effective defence against terrorism is persuading people that it's pointless," Abbott said.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop also addressed the conference, calling for women and families to be empowered to act as "champions of counter-radicalization." "Friends and family may be able to stop the situation getting to the stage where a person packs their bag, buys a plane ticket or buys a gun," she said.

Earlier, Attorney General George Brandis said in his opening speech that he hoped the two-day summit would further discussions held in Washington in February, about the need to invest more in countering radicalization.

"Countering radicalization and arresting the flow of foreign fighters is a generational challenge that affects every one of us here today," Brandis said.

The two-day summit is aimed at understanding the drivers pulling citizens toward extremist ideologies, and how to respond, according to Brandis.

Ministers, ambassadors and senior officials from over 30 countries including Japan, Indonesia and the United States are participating in discussions.

A progress report on the region will be provided to the UN General Assembly in September.

Kyodo News

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

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

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

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

In a statement, the governor, Takeshi Onaga, hailed the ruling as "meaningful."

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference that the government failed to have the court fully understand its arguments. "We will adequately deal with this after coordination among the ministries and agencies concerned."

The suit follows a similar one filed by local residents in October 2002. In the previous case, the Fukuoka High Court ordered the government in July 2010 to pay about 369 million yen in damages to the plaintiffs, but rejected their plea for the suspension of early morning and evening flights.

The latest suit was filed in 2012 by those who did not become plaintiffs in the previous case. During the trial, the government sought an exemption and reduction in compensation, arguing that some of the plaintiffs had moved into the area knowing that an air base exists there, and that the government had taken measures to reduce noise, such as funding noise abatement work on residences.

Kyodo News

Groups discuss discrimination against leprosy sufferers at UN

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

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

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

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

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

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

PK Gopal, president of IDEA India, who was eventually cured of leprosy after contracting the disease at 12, stressed how someone with polio, for example, faces a "physical barrier" but does not face possible abandonment by their families or their communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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lmm@kcyangon.com
Dated 12 June 2015

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Bago Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likely to be isolated heavy falls in Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Traffic law revised to bar elderly drivers with dementia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kyodo News

Torrential rain hits Kumamoto, Nagasaki in southwestern Japan

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

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

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

Kyodo News

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

Katniss leads rebellion in "Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2" trailer

Cast member Jennifer Lawrence poses at the premiere of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1'' in Los Angeles, California on 17 Nov, 2014. **Reuters**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Carrie Underwood sweeps CMT Music Awards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police investigate after new 'Fifty Shades' reported stolen

London, 11 June — Police are investigating reports that a copy of "50 Shades" author EL James's latest novel, "Grey", has been stolen just a week before publication, her British publisher Random House said on Wednesday.

A publicity firm representing Random House said that the latest in James's series of hugely successful erotic novels would still be published as scheduled on 18 June, which is the fictional character Christian Grey's birthday.

"We have no further comment to make due to an ongoing police investigation," the statement said.

Reports of the book's theft had been circulating, raising fears that it could be leaked or that extracts could be sold to the media.

The trilogy about the erotic relationship between a college student, Anastasia Steele, and business tycoon Grey, is one of the most successful series in the history of publishing, with more than 125 million books sold.

The trilogy was mostly told from the point of view of Anastasia, but James has said the new book looks at the affair from Grey's vantage point.—*Reuters*

Author EL James (L) signs autographs at the "Fifty Shades of Grey'' UK film premiere in London, on 12 Feb, 2015.—**Reuters**

Katy Perry's 'Dark Horse' reaches huge milestone

Pop sensation Katy Perry's song "Dark Horse" has crossed a major milestone of reaching one billion mark on Youtube.—**PTI**

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

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

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

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

PTI

One Direction invite Alton Towers victim

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

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

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

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

Boyband One Direction have invited the teenage girl who had her leg amputated after last week's rollercoaster crash at Alton Towers to meet them.—**PTI**

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

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

Tokyo conservatory to start programme to encourage overseas studies

TOKYO, 11 June — The Tokyo University of the Arts is planning to enable its most talented music students to complete their studies at age 20, two years earlier than normal, so they can meet the age limit for joining the world's top conservatories, a source at the national university said on Wednesday.

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

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

The university, known as Geidai in Japanese, said premier institutions such as the Conservatoire de Paris and Moscow Conservatory offer courses limited to certain ages such as less than 22, and some Geidai students quit halfway to join those overseas courses.

Once admitted to Geidai's new programme, students will be offered double the amount of individual lessons given to students in regular programmes, the source said.

They will also be given priority access to lessons offered by artists from top overseas music schools and orchestras.

Entrance fees and initial-year tuition will be waived for those accepted for the new program, the source said.

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

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

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

Kyodo News

Californian oil spill clean-up costs exceed $60 million

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

LOS ANGELES, 11 June — Clean-up costs associated with a Californian oil pipeline rupture that dumped as much as 2,400 barrels of crude onto a pristine stretch of coastline and into the Pacific Ocean have exceeded $60 million, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Wednesday.

Plains All American Pipeline spokeswoman Meredith Mathews told the newspaper that expenses for restoring the affected area near Santa Barbara ran as high as $3 million a day.

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

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

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

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

Romantic street art replaces love locks on Paris bridge

PARIS, 11 June — Panels of street art have been installed on Paris's Pont des Arts to replace the hundreds of thousands of "love locks" that weighed down the bridge's balustrade until the city began removing them last week.

The temporary exhibition on the theme of love, assembled by Paris gallerist Mehdi Ben Cheikh, is intended to cover the railing with an alternative attraction for romantics no longer able to immortalize their love by attaching a padlock and throwing the key into the River Seine. Among the works is one by the Franco-Tunisian street artist eL Seed, known for mixing Arabic calligraphy and graffiti in "calligraffiti".

His work, spelled out in pink Arabic letters, is a quote from "Le Pere Goriot" by the 19th-century novelist Honore de Balzac: "Paris is in truth an ocean: you can plumb it but you'll never know its depths".

"I thought it was brave ... to put up an Arabic sentence in Paris," Cheikh said.

"It's not only a language of terrorists, it's the language of a whole people across the world ... who are very open, with an extremely spiritual dimension in their religion too."

eL Seed, born in the suburbs of Paris to Tunisian parents, is known for his decoration of the 47-metre high minaret on the Jara mosque in Gabes in southern Tunisia.

Alongside his panel are other love-themed works by the street artists Brusk, Pantonio and Jace.

Workmen began taking off the padlocks last week after a section of railing collapsed under their weight.

The graffiti panels will be replaced by plexiglass later this year.—*Reuters*

A workman removes an iron grill panel covered with 'love locks' on the Pont des Arts which crosses over the River Seine in Paris, France, on 1 June, 2015.
REUTERS

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Women's World Cup opens with brilliance and blowouts

TORONTO, 11 June — The Women's World Cup stopped to take a breath on Wednesday following an opening round of games that produced a little bit of everything, from tight matches to blowouts played in front of packed stands and near empty stadiums. The month-long tournament which began on Saturday in Edmonton under the dark cloud of a FIFA bribery and corruption scandal got off to a brilliant start when Christine Sinclair scored in injury time to give the hosts a heart-stopping 1-0 win over China.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 12 June, 2015

Myanmar athletes participate in 28th SEA Games

Singapore, 11 June — Woman cyclist Thuza and man cyclist Myat Thura Zaw participated in the 29-km and 40-km cycling contests at Marina Bay (South) in Singapore Thursday.

Aung Ko Lin secured the second prize in men's 500-m singles rowing, Nilar Win and Shwe Sin Latt, one silver in the women's 100-m doubles event, Myint Hsan and Saw Wai Lyan, one bronze medal in men's 500-m doubles event and Thet Naing Soe, one bronze medal in the 500-m singles event.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoyed participation of Myanmar athletes in the sports events namely cycling, rowing, squash, and Sepak Takraw events.

SPED

Victorious Myanmar athletes back from 28th SEA Games

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

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

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

SPED

Medal Standings for Tuesday 11 June, 2015

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Singapore	66	58	69	193
2	Vietnam	57	31	50	138
3	Thailand	55	62	49	166
4	Malaysia	32	33	43	108
5	Indonesia	29	34	46	109
6	Philippines	22	27	41	90
7	Myanmar	11	21	25	57
8	Cambodia	1	4	5	10
9	Laos	0	3	13	16
10	Brunei	0	0	5	5
11	Timor-Leste	0	0	1	1

Zico launches FIFA presidency bid without federation backing

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

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

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

Zico said he does not yet have that backing.

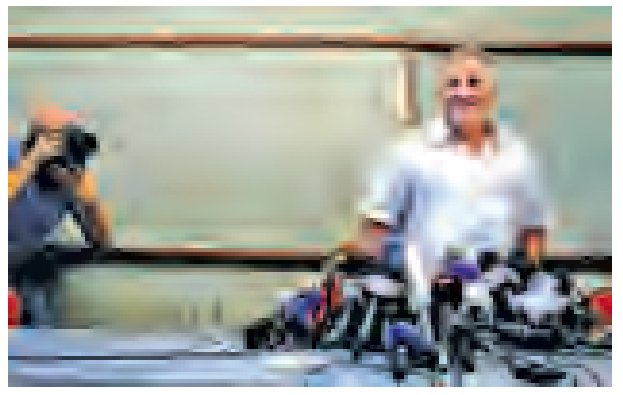
The 62-year-old said UEFA boss Michel Platini had advised him to run for head of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) first but Zico said that was almost impossible as he did not have the required support of the eight state federations and five clubs.

"There's more chance of FIFA than the CBF," Zico told reporters in Rio de Janeiro.

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

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

Reuters



Former Brazil soccer player Zico arrives for a news conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 10 June, 2015.—Reuters

Khamdamov brace sends Uzbeks into quarters

Bernd Gschweidl of Austria and Odiljon Hamrobekov of Uzbekistan battle for the ball during the FIFA U-20 World Cup round of 16 match between Austria and Uzbekistan at Northland Events Centre on 11 June, 2015 in Whangarei, New Zealand.—FIFA

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

The first half would not have exhausted anyone's vocabulary of superlatives as neither side brought a great deal of quality to the party. The closest either side came to unsettling the netting was when a curling free-kick from Austria captain Lukas Gugganig was punched clear by Dilshod Khamraev.

Zabikhillo Urinboev saw his goal-bound volley deflected wide just before the break but, besides that, the highlight reel was left wanting. When the sides returned though, the Central Asian side seemed to have discovered a formula for unlocking the Austrian backline.

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

A hopeful up-and-under from Mirjamol Kosimov kept the ball alive following a corner, with superb strength from Rustamjon Ashurmatov seeing him hold off the defence and work space to volley onto the post. Khamdamov then had the simple task of slotting back across goal and the game had been transformed.

But for all the urgency Austria served up in hope of rescuing the game, they produced little. Khamraev was forced into a save by Markus Blutsch, before Jakob Kruezer threatened, but it was not the onslaught that could have been expected. In fact, Uzbekistan looked more likely to extend their lead, but Urinboev blazed over before Khurshid Giyosov forced Casali into a save. With no breakthrough for the Austrian's coming, it ended as a famous win for the Uzbeks.

FIFA

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 11 June, 2015

Match 41	Germany	1-0	Nigeria
Match 42	Austria	0-2	Uzbekistan
Match 43	Portugal	2-1	New Zealand
Match 44	Brazil	0-0	Uruguay
	Brazil win on penalties (5-4)		

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