

Myanmar plans to introduce emergency ambulance services (News on page 3)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw votes down 5 of 6 changes to constitution

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday voted down proposed amendments to the constitution that sought to remove the military’s effective veto power over key legislative reforms and alter the eligibility requirements for the presidency.

Out of six proposed changes to the constitution, the parliament voted in favour of only one, an amendment to Section (d) which changes the wording of “military” to “defence” in a clause stipulating that a president must be well acquainted with the political, administrative, economic and military affairs of the Union.

The five amendments rejected by the parliament included one which sought to limit the military’s legislative power by lowering the voting threshold for constitutional reform from 75 to 70 percent of MPs in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Section 436 (a) and (b).

The sections currently stipulate that amendments of some key provisions must be agreed upon by more than 75 percent of MPs, in addition to more than 50 percent of eligible voters in a referendum. As the military is guaranteed a quarter of the seats in parliament through appoint-



MPs line up to get ballots during voting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

ment, it has an effective veto over reforms.

The remaining amendments rejected by the parliament are the amendment to Section 60 (c) dealing with the eligibility for the presidency, stating that the president shall be selected from elected MPs, and the amendment to Section 59 (f), which bars non-citizens from becoming president or vice-president, as well as anyone with a spouse, “legitimate child,”

or child’s spouse who holds foreign citizenship.

As a change to Section 59 (f), the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party sought to exclude just “one of the legitimate children or their spouses” from the section.

The constitutional amendment bill was proposed by the USDP.

Out of 633 MPs, 583 attended the parliamentary meeting and 50 were absent Thursday. Of 583 vot-

ers, 467 MPs were elected representatives, comprising 73.78 percent, while 166, or 26.22, were military appointees.

Before the vote, five MPs debated the bill. U Thein Zaw from the USDP said during the debate that the party submitted the bill to the parliament at the right time and under the right circumstances, urging the MPs to support the constitutional amendment bill.

Col Than Htike, a military MP in the parliament, argued against the amendments.

National League for Democracy MP U Win Myint demanded before the vote that the parliament record the party’s stance of sharing the USDP’s wish to amend the constitution, but did not agree with specific details of the reforms.

Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, de-

clared that the parliament put it on record.

After the session, NLD chairwoman Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told reporters she was not surprised with the result.

The amendments proposed by the USDP were not effective enough to help the country’s reforms, and voting against even such amendments indicate a lack of willingness for reform, she added.

GNLM

Secret ballot cast by Hluttaw representatives on Section 59 (d)	Secret ballot cast by Hluttaw representatives on Section 59 (f)	Secret ballot cast by Hluttaw representatives on Section 60 (c)	Secret ballot cast by Hluttaw representatives on Section 418 (b)	Secret ballot cast by Hluttaw representatives on Section 436 (a)	Secret ballot cast by Hluttaw representatives on Section 436 (b)
Against 4.63 %	Against 44.94 %	Against 33.79 %	Against 33.79 %	Against 33.45 %	Against 33.45 %
Favour 95.37%	Favour 55.06%	Favour 66.21%	Favour 66.21%	Favour 66.55%	Favour 66.55%

Myanmar, India to enhance security measures in border region

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya at the hall of Bayintnaung Guest House, here, Thursday.

They discussed cooperating between two armed forces of Myanmar and India in enhancing security measures at border region, and development of production, agriculture, transport and trade between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers of



the office of the Commander-in-Chief and the Military Attaché of India.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya.—MYAWADY

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of services organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Soe Lwin Nyein	Director-General
Deputy Director-General (Epidemiology)	Department of Public Health
Department of Public Health	Ministry of Health
Ministry of Health	
(b) Prof Dr Win Htay Aung	Rector
Deputy Director-General Traditional Medicine Department	University of Medicine (Taunggyi) Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management
Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health

Press Release

In view of the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh, and in maintaining the spirit of good neighbourliness, Myanmar local authorities transferred Bangladesh serviceman of Bangladesh security force, who was arrested earlier by Myanmar authorities for illegally entering into Myanmar territory and for opening fire first on Myanmar border police force, to Bangladesh side on 25th June 2015 at 1100 hrs through flag meeting between the two countries.

With the aim to promote existing friendly relations between the two countries and stability along the international border, it is our sincere hope that local authorities of Bangladesh will continue to take necessary action and to cooperate with Myanmar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNOPS Myanmar holds three workshops to enhance project management capacity in the country

YANGON, 25 June — Approximately 230 representatives from the Government, international and national development partners are being trained in project management techniques this week, in a series of three workshops organized by UNOPS Myanmar. The sessions focus on how to implement better projects by measuring their success, cost and quality, in order to increase their impact and control risks, thereby better supporting people in need.

The first session, which took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 June, gath-

ered 85 participants from 13 infrastructure-related national ministries, including the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Transport. On 25 June, a second workshop was held in Yangon for 75 participants from donors, UN agencies, NGOs and private sector. The final session, due to take place tomorrow (Friday, 26 June) in UNOPS' premises, will target 70 UNOPS local and international staff stationed in Yangon.

This workshops, which are participative and interactive through role-plays and simulations, are offered free of charge and allow all participants to receive a certificate of attendance issued by UNOPS, as a PMI Global Registered Education Provider.

GNLM

Local and foreign gem merchants checking quality of jade stones at Myanma Gems Emporium.—MNA

German technology giant looks to support vocational training centres in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 June — German technology and electronics giant Bosch is looking into the possibility of supporting vocational training centres in Myanmar, an official from the company said Thursday.

"We hope to find a right way that can help a lot of people in Myanmar," Mr Phirum Hay, corporate communications manager for Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar of Robert Bosch (Cambodia) Co., Ltd, told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Bosch was among the first European companies to venture into Myanmar after the European Union lifted sanctions on the country. It has supplied a diverse range

of products from car spare parts to power tools since starting operation here in 2013.

Bosch has established plants, vocational training, and research centres in a number of ASEAN countries.

"Vocational technical training is the focal point where Bosch is looking at the moment, but Bosch cannot do it alone and needs to combine its efforts with other German or European companies or maybe with everybody to support and develop the skill sector in the country," Mr. Andre de Jong, managing director of Robert Bosch (Cambodia) Co., Ltd told *The GNLM* at a press briefing in Yangon on Wednesday.

The company has

sponsored four training centres in Cambodia and two in Lao to teach youths how to use state-of-the-art tools.

German companies including Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) agree that vocational training is a key focus for Myanmar, said the managing director, who is also a founding member of the recently launched German Myanmar Business Chamber.

Regarding the possibility of setting up a factory in the country, he said the company is currently "focusing on business development and sales opportunities in Myanmar" and "not yet planning for production in the country".

At the press briefing,

Mr de Jong said the company will set up 800 milestones with reflective paint and 200 signposts with warnings and road safety messages on both sides of the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Highway.

"We believe road safety in Myanmar needs attention and Bosch is supporting the country's road safety campaign by communicating and sharing information with the relative parties in the government," he said.

Bosch recently erected a 150-metre long painting with road safety signs and messages on Yangon's Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road.

According to the press briefing, Bosch saw growth of almost 70.17 percent in Myanmar last year.

GNLM

Local and foreign gem merchants check jade and gem lots

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The 52nd Myanma Gems Emporium continued for the second day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, Thursday.

Local and foreign gem merchants checked jade lots and jewellery and submitted price proposals.

The emporium that will run till 6 July showcases 8,943 lots of jade and 323 lots of jewellery to be sold through tender and competitive bidding system.—MNA



Myanmar plans to introduce emergency ambulance services

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — Myanmar plans to introduce its first-ever emergency ambulance services, it was revealed at a workshop here on Thursday.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham described the workshop as an important step for the country's healthcare.

Rapid emergency ambulance responses will be able to bring down the mortality rate by 20 percent to 30 percent, with the vice president stating that 89 percent of patients do not receive systematic treatment before being admitted to hospital.

Regarding fewer emergency ambulance services, he quoted a research finding as saying that only



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with participants to workshop on introduction to emergency ambulance services.—MNA

3 to 5 percent of emergency admissions to hospital have access to ambulance services.

According to a 2014-2015 report on the under-5 mortality rate, the number of child deaths account-

ed for nearly one third of child births.

Myanmar still sees 62 to 72 child mortalities for

every 1,000 child births.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham recognized healthcare services provided by government and private hospitals and civil services organizations.

On the subject of international cooperation in health care, he said Yangon University of Medi-

cines-1 offers master's degree courses in partnership with the Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM).

He also pointed out the need for prompt voluntary medical services and valid emergency telephone numbers.

MNA

Transparency vital for land governance policies: Vice President U Nyan Tun



Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at meeting of National Land Resources Management Central Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June —Land governance policies must be implemented transparently to maintain public trust, Vice President U Nyan Tun, chairman of the National Land Resources Management Central Committee, said Thursday at its meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his speech, the vice president said the duties of the committee are wide-ranging, involving management of land for food, water resources, transportation and economic development.

He said the committee was formed with the aim of managing land resources of the country more effectively in accordance with the state constitution.

The vice president said future tasks of the committee include development of basic principles for land resources management policy in consultation with the public and implementation of pilot projects that aim to achieve people-centred development outcomes.

To develop land resources management policy with participation of

the public, a draft policy has been amended with the consultation of experts and the public, the vice president added.

An increasing population, urban development, and the environmental impacts of climate change are among the challenges that must be addressed by the committee, the vice president said.

Afterwards, vice chairman of the central committee, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister U Win Tun and officials reported on development

of policies for land confiscation, transfer, lease, issuing of land ownership documents and progress of work.—MNA

U.S. delegation explores investment opportunities, potential in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development hosted a meeting Thursday between local and United States business representatives on expansion of U.S. investment in Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, who led the Myanmar delegation, gave details about sectors in which U.S. businesses are investing. He called on the U.S. delegation led by US-ASEAN Business Council chairman

Mr Alexander C. Feldman to help boost bilateral economic relations.

The US delegation, consisting of 15 companies including Chevron, GE and Time Warner, sought information on Myanmar's investment potential, showing strong interest in infrastructure, human resources, natural gas, health, agriculture, film and TV, insurance and ICT sectors.

The meeting was attended by 40 officials from both sides. — MNA

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw meets with US-ASEAN Business Council chairman Mr Alexander C. Feldman and party.—MNA



Mayor inspects upgrade works on 62nd Street



MANDALAY, 25 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs and Mayor U Aung Moun

on Thursday inspected work to upgrade 62nd Street, Mandalay's longest thoroughfare, linking

six townships.

He also viewed upgrade works between 35th and Theikpan streets and

the laying of asphalt concrete between Manawhari and Theikpan streets.

An official outlined plans to upgrade 62nd Street to a six-lane road. The mayor instructed officials to emphasize durability of the road, and proper flow of water at drains along both sides.

The mayor and party also viewed the laying of asphalt on, and widening of, roads in Chanmyathazi Township.

Mandalay City is implementing plans to ease traffic congestion, install traffic lights and signs, and erect lamp posts along the road.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)



Shan State gov't provides regional development assistance to townships

LASHIO, 25 June — Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat recently met with local authorities from Lashio, Hsenwi, Tangyan, Mongyai and Kunlong townships at the city hall in Lashio, northern Shan State.

At the meeting, the chief minister outlined endeavours of the state government for electricity supply in rural areas, avail-

ability of potable water, development of agriculture and livestock breeding, enhancement of the tourism industry, creation of job opportunities and provision of education and health care services.

The chief minister stressed the need to effectively spend the funds on priority tasks in the townships.

Shan State (IPRD)

Firefighters led by Head of Kyangin Township Fire Services Department U Saw Win Min Kyaw demonstrate usage of rescue works for preparedness of natural disaster at office of Township FSD on 24 June.
AYEYA U THAR



Earthen lakes in Natogyi Tsp ready to store rainwater



NATOGYI, 25 June — Under the arrangements of Mandalay Region government, the Irrigation Department dredged 25 earthen lakes in Natogyi Township last fiscal year to store water for farmland irrigation and local consumption.

A total of 75 earthen lakes dredged by the de-

partment can store rainwater this year to benefit summer and monsoon paddy plantations.

Under the current government, Natogyi Township has maintained 133 earthen lakes and small dams and these facilities are ready to store rainwater this year.

Htay Myint Maung

Summer sesame gets good price in Taungtha Tsp

TAUNGTHA, 25 June — Local farmers in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, planted 2,288 acres of summer sesame in irrigated areas this year, compared with 566 acres last year.

At present, about 50 percent of the sesame crop is being harvested. Local farmers can earn increased income from summer sesame due to rising prices.

"Thanks to sinking more and more tube-wells in the township, local people dare to grow summer sesame on the extended farmlands," said Staff Officer U Phone Maung of the Department of Agriculture. "The sesame yields 17 baskets per acre."

A local farmer said, "I grew a 3-acre sesame plantation. I have harvested my

all fields. Now, I sell red sesame for K50,000 per basket and black sesame for K60,000 per basket."

Kyaw Myo Naing
(Taungtha)



LOCAL NEWS

Region industry minister outlines sub-station plan for Yamethin Tsp



YAMETHIN, 25 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Kyaw Myint held a meeting with electrical engineers and local residents in Thabyebin Village, Yamethin Township, on 24 June

to talk about electrification of villages and regional development.

The region minister said priority was being given to supplying electricity to Thabyebin village and eight nearby village-tracts.

A plan is under way to build a 33/11kV sub-station in Thabyebin village and it will be completed in October 2015. Upon completion, the sub-station will benefit 19 villages in the township.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

JICA provides assistance for sinking tube-wells in Myothit Tsp

MYOTHIT, 25 June — A team led by of Department of Rural Development Director U Hla Khaing and officials recently inspected the sinking of a four-inch-diameter tube-well in Baw Village in Myothit Township, Mag-

way Region. The Japan International Cooperation Agency provided assistance for sinking the tube-wells. The department will sink 87 tube-wells under the project.

The department sank 60 tube-wells last fiscal

year and plans to sink 20 of the remaining 27 wells this year.

Upon completion, the tube-wells will benefit more than 97,000 people from 87 villages in Myothit Township.

Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)



Geography professors gather for seminar in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 25 June — Myanmar high school students lack knowledge of geography, despite learning the subject at primary and middle school levels, according to experts from across the country who recently gathered in Mandalay.

The Myanmar Geography Association (Upper Myanmar) held its talks and paper-reading session at Hotel Mandalay in Mahaangmye Township, with geography professors, faculty members and university students in attendance.

Retired Associate Professor U Aung Than of Yangon University of Distance Education and retired professor U San Myint of Sagaing Uni-



versity of Education were among the academics to give presentations at the seminar.

At the talks, professors of geography departments voiced their concern about the lack of

geography knowledge at high school level.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Residents receive disaster preparation briefing

KYAIKTO, 25 June — An educative talk on prevention of natural disasters was recently presented at the Dhammayon in Nawarat Ward, Theinzayat village-tract, Kyaikto Township. Head of Township Fire Services Department U Tin Htwe explained two types of disasters caused by nature and human beings, natural disaster manage-

ment and preparedness for disaster risk reduction.

Firefighters later demonstrated the use of life jackets. IP Zaw Min Oo of Theinzayat Police Station gave lectures on natural disasters that occurred last year while village administrator U Khin Zaw spoke about emergency shelters and storage of aid.

Ye Khaung Oo

Women's Affairs Organization honours students who passed matric exam



MANDALAY, 25 June — A ceremony to honour students from the Cetana night school conducted by Mandalay Region Women's Affairs Organization was held at No 32 Basic Education High School in Tagundaing Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, on 23 June.

Patron of the organization Daw Myat Ngwe made a speech while Sec-

retary Daw Thanda Phone Win spoke about the night schools run by the organization in the region. The patron presented gifts to three students who passed the 2015 matriculation examination and volunteer teachers.

Chairperson Daw Su Su Lwin provided 12 notebooks to each of the night school's current students.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Officials of Department of Rural Development (Head Office) inspect placing of concrete on the rural road in Pandawgyi Village, Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, recently.
TOWNSHIP DRD

Thailand to teach journalists how to ask inoffensive questions

BANGKOK, 25 June — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Thursday he was not afraid of the press, days before the government is to hold a meeting to teach journalists how to ask questions that won't offend him.

Gaffe-prone Prayuth has had a love-hate relationship with the media during the year since he seized power, at one point saying he would probably "just execute" journalists that "did not report the truth".

His office later said the comment was made in jest.

Affectionately called 'Uncle Prayuth' by his admirers, he has overseen a period of relative stability but has been criticized by rights groups for using heavy-handed tactics against detractors.



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha answers questions from journalists after a ceremony marking the National Anti-Human Trafficking Day at the Government House in Bangkok on 5 June, 2015.

REUTERS

Prayuth said he has never tried to censor the media.

"I'm not afraid of the press but I ask for fairness because I have never told the press not to speak or write anything. I am friendly with the media," Prayuth told reporters.

"I do not have control

over the media, nor do they have power over me."

Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the junta, or National Council for Peace and Order, said the government would hold a meeting next week for 200 local and foreign journalists to "create understanding" and teach

them how to ask questions that will not offend Prayuth.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand in a message to members of the foreign press this week said it had been alerted to reports of journalists encountering difficulties when trying to start, renew or change their media accreditation.

Winthai said there was no policy to stop foreign journalists from renewing their visas or applying to work in Thailand.

"Absolutely not. There is no policy to stop foreign journalists from working in the kingdom," he told Reuters.

Prayuth toppled the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in a May 2014 coup, putting an end to months of street demonstrations.—Reuters

Modi slams India's main opposition Congress to mark 40th anniversary of Emergency



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 25 June — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday slammed the country's main opposition Congress party to mark the 40th anniversary of the Emergency.

The Congress party was in power when then and India's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed emergency on the country in 1975, jailing opposition politicians and putting curbs on media.

In a series of tweets, Modi not only described the Emergency as the darkest periods of the country, but also called on people to bolster In-

dia's democratic ideals and ethos.

"We mark 40 years of one of India's darkest periods — the Emergency, when the then political leadership trampled over our democracy," Modi tweeted.

"We are very proud of the lakhs of people, who resisted the Emergency and whose efforts ensured that our democratic fabric is preserved," the Prime Minister said.

He added: "Let us do everything possible to further strengthen our democratic ideals and ethos."

Xinhua

Five Thai students detained in Pakistan return home

BANGKOK, 25 June — Five Thai students detained in Pakistan for trying to board a plane with a pistol and ammunition have been freed and returned to Bangkok on Thursday, said Thailand's foreign ministry.

The men, who were studying at a religious school in Pakistan, were trying to catch a Thai Airways flight on 8 June when they were intercepted.

Thailand's government said an investigation into the students found the men had no links to the Islamic State militant group or any criminal organization.

"The five Thai students were released from Pakistan and travelled back to Thailand this morning," Sek Wannamethee, a spokesman for Thailand's foreign ministry, told Reuters.

The students were released by Pakistani authorities on Monday, he said. He gave no details about negotiations to free the men but added that the case against them would be handled by Thai embassy staff in Pakistan.

"In terms of the case, it has not finished yet. Thai embassy officials will continue to work on this case until it is over."—Reuters

India, China pledge nearly \$1.5 billion in Nepal quake aid

KATHMANDU, 25 June — India and China pledged nearly \$1.5 billion in aid for earthquake reconstruction in impoverished Nepal on Thursday, as the Asian giants try to help it back on its feet and expand influence in the buffer state.

Two quakes, on 25 April and 12 May, killed 8,832 people, injured more than 22,000 and forced tens of thousands into temporary shelters. Nepal's government has estimated the cost of recovery at over \$6.6 billion, equivalent to one third of its gross domestic product.

India offered \$1 billion and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj told a donors' conference that a quarter would be in the form of grants and was over and above India's existing aid pledges to Nepal. The rest would be loans.

"This takes our total assistance to Nepal over

the next five years to \$2 billion," she said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been wooing Nepal among the smaller neighbours since he took over as fears have grown that years of neglect and minor disputes have provided China an opportunity to make inroads.

"The relationship between India and Nepal is as old as history itself. We share ties of culture, religion, tradition, language, literature and mythology," Swaraj said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged \$483 million to help Nepal rebuilt after the quake, saying it wanted to focus on sustainable development of the Himalayan nation.

He did not specify terms, but China has mostly given grants in the past.

"China will help Nepal in every way it can ... to promote its socio-econom-



Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala greets upon his arrival to take part in the International Conference of Nepal Reconstruction in Kathmandu, on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ic development," Wang said. Both China and India flew in rescue teams soon after the 7.8 earthquake struck.

Nepal says the disaster destroyed more than 500,000 houses and pushed 700,000 more people to poverty. Already one in four of 28 million Nepalis lives on a daily income of less than \$1.25.

"To overcome the

huge challenges of rehabilitation and reconstruction, we need a robust global partnership for doing what we must with clear goals and plans of action," Prime Minister Sushil Koirala told donors from more than 60 countries and aid agencies in Kathmandu.

The Asian Development Bank committed \$600 million for reconstruction.

Reuters

Indonesian navy docks in Australia despite diplomatic tensions

SYDNEY, 25 June — Two Indonesian navy ships have docked in Darwin as part of an annual joint maritime security operation despite strained diplomatic tensions.

The Australia-Indonesia coordinated maritime patrol (AUSINDO COPRAT) is designed to improve coordinated maritime security between Australian and Indonesia's armed forces along the shared maritime boundaries, Australia's na-

tional broadcaster reported on Thursday.

AUSINDO COPRAT started in 2010, however this year's operation marks the first time it has been held since 2013 where —along with several other bilateral military exercises — it was canceled following the wire-tapping scandal involving former Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. In the past, the activity has targeted illegal fishermen in the two countries'

maritime zones, however it is designed to target any illegal activities.

The exercise starts in eastern Indonesia with the two countries undertaking a range of training exercises before concluding the operation in Darwin.

University of Melbourne's Director for the Centre for Indonesian Law, Professor Tim Lindsey, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation the fact the exercise is going ahead is good

news.

"It suggests that whatever may happen at the peak government to government level, there are relationships between government agencies and defense forces that are still resilient," Lindsey said.

Australian-Indonesian relations have been strained over the past few months following the executions of two convicted Australian drug smugglers in Indonesia.—Xinhua

Lattes and Mars bars on sale at North Korea's gleaming new airport terminal

SEOUL, 25 June — Designer shirts, duty free watches and cosmetics, and chocolate fondue will soon await visitors to North Korea, according to photos of Pyongyang's new airport terminal released by state media on Thursday.

Three pages of Thursday's ruling Workers' Party official daily newspaper, the *Rodong Sinmun*, were devoted to images of leader Kim Jong Un and his wife inspecting shops, restaurants and waiting areas in a large, glass-fronted terminal building state media said would open on 1 July.

Since taking power in 2011, Kim has promised to raise living standards in the isolated country, although many of the young leader's signature projects

are showpieces beyond the reach of average North Koreans, such as a ski resort, water park, and riding stables. While many North Koreans suffer from a lack of food, drinking water and stable electricity, in recent years a new moneyed class called "Donju", or "masters of money", has begun to spend more conspicuously the cash they earn in the unofficial economy.

In one image, Mars Bars, Werther's Originals and bottled beers were on display in one of the airport's new duty free shops. Another showed a cafe serving espresso-based drinks.

Most of the tiny handful of flights to and from the capital ferry tourists and North Koreans on of-

ficial business between Pyongyang and Beijing. The vast majority of tourists to North Korea are from neighbouring China, North Korea's main ally.

The country does not publish tourist numbers, but travel agencies estimate as many as 6,000 westerners visit the country every year, although visits decreased following a border closure over fears of the deadly Ebola virus last year.

Thursday also marked 65 years since the start of the 1950-53 Korean War, where a China and Soviet-backed North Korea fought against South Korea and its US and UN allies. The two Koreas remain technically in a state of war.—Reuters



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (L) gives field guidance at the construction site of Terminal 2 of Pyongyang International Airport, which is nearing completion, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 12 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Iran foreign minister to fly to Vienna on Friday for nuclear talks

DUBAI, 25 June — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will fly to Vienna on Friday evening for talks with six major powers aimed at sealing a final deal on Teheran's nuclear programme, Iranian agencies reported on Thursday.

US Secretary of State John Kerry will also fly to Vienna on Friday, the State Department said.

"The head of Iran's nuclear delegation will de-



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

part for Vienna on Friday evening to join the negotiating team," the ISNA agency reported.

The major powers in the talks — Britain, China,

France, Germany, Russia and the United States — reached a framework accord with Iran in April. A deadline of 30 June was set for the deal, but negotiations are widely expected to slide past that date.

Zarif met with his European counterparts in Luxembourg on Monday and said he saw a good chance of reaching a final agreement by the deadline or a few days later.

Reuters

Australian police raid Melbourne properties in foreign bribery probe

SYDNEY, 25 June — Australian police raided a home and a business in central Melbourne on Thursday as part of a foreign bribery investigation reportedly involving Malaysian government officials and a multi-million dollar property deal.

Malaysia said on Wednesday it planned to investigate allegations that its officials spent millions of dollars of government funds to buy an apartment block in Melbourne at an inflated cost and allegedly received kickbacks for the transaction.

Australian Federal Police confirmed two premises in Melbourne were raided as part of "Operation Carabola", which is a probe

into foreign bribery allegations. Australia's Fairfax Media reported the raids were directly linked to the Malaysian corruption allegations.

Fairfax reported earlier this week that the officials had overpaid by A\$4.75 million (\$3.66 million) for an apartment block, Dudley International House, bought in 2013 to house Malaysian students studying in Melbourne. The alleged kickbacks went to Malaysian firms that had close links with a senior official at government agency MARA, the report said.

MARA was originally set up to drive development and provide financial assistance to ethnic Malays. MARA is conducting an

internal audit and assisting an investigation by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, officials of the investment agency told reporters at a news conference on Wednesday.

The Australian government did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's government has been roiled by corruption allegations surrounding Malaysian state-linked entities, including the debt-ridden investment fund 1MDB.

His opponents, chief among them influential former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, have repeatedly called for Najib to step down over 1MDB and other issues.—Reuters

China says getting good global cooperation on graft fight

BEIJING, 25 June — China has been getting good international cooperation in its campaign to return suspected corrupt officials who have fled abroad, including tip-offs from overseas and help from the media, the Communist Party's graft watchdog said on Thursday.

The government earlier this year unveiled an initiative called "Sky Net" to better coordinate its fight to return corrupt officials and published a list of 100 suspected corrupt people believed to be abroad and subject to an Interpol "red notice". "Since the release of the 100 person 'red notice' list, our country has had positive cooperation with many other countries' legal authorities, and signs have appeared of some suspects abroad who have been hidden for a long time and thought they'd gotten

away with it," the watchdog said. "Media at home and abroad have dug deep, the people have proactively paid attention, people here and overseas have enthusiastically offered tips," the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection added. As of the end of May, 214 suspects have been returned to the country, according to the government.

President Xi Jinping has launched a sweeping campaign against graft since assuming power in late 2012, but has been hampered to an extent by difficulty in getting corrupt officials and assets back from overseas.

China does not have extradition treaties with the United States or Canada — the two most popular destinations for suspected economic criminals.

Western countries have balked at signing extra-

dition deals with China, partly out of concern about the integrity of its judicial system and treatment of prisoners. Rights groups say Chinese authorities use torture and that the death penalty is common in corruption cases.

A businessman on the most-wanted list argued in a Canadian court this week that he deserved refugee protection, with his lawyer saying some of the evidence against his client had been obtained by torture. The graft watchdog said that no country wished to be viewed as a "safe haven" for the corrupt. "The 'red notice' has announced to the 100 people on it that they have become enemies to the world, not only offering them shock and awe but also sounding a serious warning to those corrupt elements who still harbour illusions."—Reuters

S Korea to spend over 13.5 bln USD to stimulate economy after MERS outbreak

SEOUL, 25 June — South Korea's Finance Ministry said on Thursday that it would spend more than 15 trillion won (13.5 billion US dollars) to stimulate the economy hit by the outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The stimulus package included a supplementary budget plan, but the size of the extra budget would be decided upon in early July after consulting with lawmakers, according to the second-half economic policy direction.

Finance Minister Choi Kyung-hwan said that it would be hard to reach a 1-percent growth rate, the government's earlier fore-

cast, in the second quarter on a quarterly basis due to the MERS outbreak.

It would mark the below-1-percent growth for six straight quarters, which fueled worries about the prolonged trend of low growth, Choi said, adding that such concerns led the government to take stimulus measures.

The MERS infections increased to 180 on Thursday since the first case was reported on 20 May. The death toll rose to 29 as two more patients died.

The economy was damaged by the MERS fears as consumers refrained from entertainment and social

gatherings and even delayed shopping. Tens of thousands of foreign tourists canceled travel plans to South Korea amid the unabated epidemic. The government plans to increase fiscal funds for local governments as the MERS spread nationwide and hit the local economies. To boost exports, public trade finance would be provided for exporters.

Detailed supplementary budget plan would be submitted to the parliament next month. If the extra budget bill is passed, it would mark the second since the Park administration took office in February 2013.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 26 June, 2015

Nutritious meals serve up better future for children

By Aung Khin

While politicians argue for ideologies they say are in interests of the country and people, many children in Myanmar are facing malnutrition due to poverty.

A school meal programme is an appropriate way to supply nutritious food to children. There are many children who cannot bring lunch boxes with nourishing meals in rural and remote areas.

Feeding children in school is important to pro-

mote their ability to focus on educational programmes, and could reduce the dropout rate. Both the government and local communities are concerned with this programme to establish a sustainable, secure, and nutritious source of food for schoolchildren during the day.

As pre-processed foods cannot be imported from outside of each village in rural areas, ingredients for all lunches can be grown in school gardens, and prepared by locally hired cooks.

Meals should also be fortified with essential vitamins and minerals. Young children need sufficient nutrition for both physical and mental development. Only if they are properly fed will the country have happy and healthy citizens in the future.

In urban areas, some schools have no garden space and playgrounds. At this juncture, school management committees should raise a fund for the school meal programme.

The programme is expected to decrease the

dropout rate as the schools take responsibility for children's lunches. In some developing countries children who attend classes regularly received food rations for their homes to encourage their schooling.

Myanmar is not a poor country in term of natural or food resources. Taking advantage of this favourable situation, school meal programmes should be carried out for the children to give them a brighter future.

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Wheeler-dealers, Yes-men, wishy-washy persons and free-wheeling practice jeopardize the development and prosperity of a certain society

By Tommy Pauk

Wheeler-dealers are clever enough to gain benefits for them by doing a lot of complicated deals in business or politics. They way they handle or conduct is pretty dishonest. They seek the opportunities to do business whichever is lucrative, but they outwit or outfox the other businessmen. On the other hand, the wheel-dealers are extremely egocentric and never hesitant to exploit the business partners or businessmen to their own advantage. They would not consider the interest of the majority people of their community. Moreover, they have effrontery to cheat the fellow businessmen or politicians. Thus they possess the so-called high social status in their society. Wheeler-dealers organize and influence the gullible people from their society to support them for political gain. They suck up to the public officials or officials or higher rank officials in authority in order to gain some advantage for themselves. Normal businessmen must take precaution against the wheeler-dealers in dealing with doing businesses. The wheeler-dealers usually go into politics aiming to attain some authority or power to influence general public as well as businessmen. Obviously, it can be learnt that their aims and objects are merely for their personal gain indeed. In this case, the malpractice or tricky ways must be under covered so that the smooth and harmonious business dealing can be prevalent in the society.

Yes-man is a person who always agrees with the people in authority in order to gain their approval or obeys his employer, leader and superiors. Then they take in some advantage. In other words, yes-man is a person who endorses or supports without criticism every opinion or proposal of an associate or superior. The relations between yes-men and their superiors may be harmonious, but they lose the trust of the vast majority people or general public. If they are involved in the leadership or cabinet or public administration or parliament, the interest of public will not be developed. Instead of getting approval from the voters, they agree and support every proposal by themselves in the cabinet or assembly sessions or meetings. They always say 'yes' and nod their heads in agreement without arguing or criticizing anything to their superiors. Yes-men are not reliable for the public due to their selfish-characters. The way they act is nasty and does not contribute to any achievement of the public concerned. Yes-men should not be existent in the organizations, governments and public services. Yes-men are the ones who cheat the vast majority of people and the society concerned. We, the ordinary people must get rid of such persons in order to prevent from jeopardy while governments and entire people are striving for all-round development, prosperity and tranquility of our society. Truth and justice cannot be prevalent in

any society when there are many yes-men in public affairs or services or administrations. They should not deserve as public representatives since they are submissive to their immediate superiors or policy makers or decision makers.

Free-wheeling practice can be seen in some public administration offices or public services. Some public personnel are not concerned about duties, rules and regulations or the possible results of what they do. They do neglect their responsibilities and accountability though they are obliged to do properly. They do not have any plan or frame work to serve the public services. They perform their duties recklessly, unsystematically and inefficiently. Due to their negligence, the success and development of organizations, administrations and the society concerned will be certainly jeopardized. If this type of practice persists in the public services, the relations between the government and the public concerned will not be harmonious indeed.

Wishy-washy persons are the ones who lack in commitment, certainty or support. Their wishy-washy act and behavior make others frustrated or upset. Wishy-washy persons are unreliable in doing business or in social dealing. If the wishy-washy persons are in public authority, they usually dodge the duties for fulfilling the aspiration or necessities demanded by the general public. In fact, they are not capable of performing their duties. Besides, they are bureaucratic-mind-

ed and subservient to the bureaucratic administrators. Even if they are engaged in carrying out for social welfare with associates, their behaviors are not appreciated by others. Wishy-washy persons could be politicians and they promise something to the voters. Afterwards, they are elected by public votes and they become the parliamentarians or attain the authority. However, they dodge the performances what they have promised or what they are supposed to do. When they do not want to be pressed for details, their answers to the public are always uncertain and indecisive. Their wishy-washy answers do not meet the points that the public expect to hear or to know. So, people are disappointed with their wishy-washy answers pertaining to public services. Of course, they are mealy-mouthed politicians! We, ordinary people should be aware of such persons those who are in politics,

businesses and social life. When they try to deal with us in these fields, we should be wise enough to avoid dealing with them. Wishy-washy persons as well as wishy-washy acts are absolutely not fit for democracy governments.

When we make some careful observation about the behaviors of above-mentioned persons, we find that they really do not fulfill the needs and wants of the general public and the fellow citizens. Wheeler-dealers do exploit fellow businessmen and politicians. Similarly, yes-men ignore the interests of public and they pay respect to their superiors submissively. The mentality of wishy-washy persons is disgusting as he or she does not act in good faith for the simple people indeed. The

free-wheeling practice causes a profound impact on the society concerned. Even then, the operations concerning public services or, organizations or administrations are thrown into disarray by the free-wheeling practice. Undoubtedly, they do jeopardize the development and prosperity of the society concerned.

To be able to create an advanced society or nation, we must work together with our knowledge, skills, professional expertise and professional experiences honestly and ideally. Essentially, every human society requires good governance, clean government, philanthropists and honest persons so that the society could maintain sustainable development and prosperity.

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

The conductor warmly greets all the passengers on the bus.

Hey, your writing is out of touch with reality.

Hmm!

Author

Bahan Aye Min

6th meeting on Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The 6th meeting on Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative (MJJI) was held Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw, with participation of representatives from both public and private sectors of Japan and Myanmar, under the auspices of the Meeting Co-Chairs, Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar.

The meeting focused

on outcomes and future challenges. In particular, they addresses issued related to tax, business environment and labour, and agreed to further continue discussions. They also consented to establish mechanisms for vitalization of MJJI and smooth information sharing system among parties.

Furthermore, following the proposal made at the previous meeting, Japanese side explained the overview of Myanmar

industrial development vision (MIDV) which complied Japan's ideas on necessary policies for Myanmar future industrial development.

MIDV is a vision to realize Myanmar's balanced development between urban and rural areas, being formulated based on the coordination of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry among other related ministries in Japan. In detail, it proposes Urban-Rural Synergy Strategy to

create a virtuous cycle of development of foreign capital-led labour intensive industries in urban areas and of agriculture, fishery and forestry industries and local industries such as high-value-added textiles in rural areas. Myanmar welcomed the proposal and agreed to continue a dialogue to reflect MIDV into concrete policies. Also a similar for more detailed discussions on MIDV was held separately from MJJI in the morning.—GNLM

Japan grants US\$4.4million for project for human resource development scholarship

YANGON, 25 June — Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Daw Lei Lei Thein, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar, exchanged notes concerning grant aid for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship, worth 487 million Japanese Yen (approximately 4 million

USD) in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

This scholarship provides an opportunity for young Myanmar Government officials to study in Japan to learn necessary skills and knowledge for problem solving and policy making with a view to promoting Myanmar's reform and social and economic development as well as to establishing a friendly relationship between Japan and Myanmar.—GNLM

Plan to maintain two pagodas of stone plaque chambers in India

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — A coordination on maintenance of two pagodas built by King Sagaing and King Mindon and stone plaques in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar State of India, was held at the Ministry of Culture, Wednesday.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu

stressed the need to form committees for maintenance of the pagodas and stone plaques and to carry out the tasks in line with cultural maintenance rules of India.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin discussed sending of pilot project team, submission of a proposal on

architectural designs and financial matters to India and assistance of India on work.

Maintenance of the pagodas for the chambers of stone plaques will be spent through the fund of the government as well as donations of well-wishers.

MNA

Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein shakes hands with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi after exchanging notes.



Summit Parkview Hotel unveils plans for new wing



An artist's impression of the new Summit Parkview Hotel wing scheduled for completion by 2017.

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 25 June —Yangon's Summit Parkview Hotel, the first foreign-owned hotel in Myanmar, plans to build a new wing after its 20th anniversary celebration this month.

Construction on the

new building comprising 181 rooms will begin at the end of this month, increasing the hotel's total number of rooms to around 450 upon completion.

The extension will include an executive floor, serviced apartments, a

ballroom, gym, pub, swimming pool, a luxury spa and an ethnic restaurant, hotel general manager Vivian Chan told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on Thursday.

"The new project will be built with Singapore's state-of-the-art architectural design by its famous architects," a hotel spokes-

man said. "The project is scheduled to complete by the end of 2017."

Built by a Singapore government-linked company, the hotel opened its doors on Ahlon Road in Dagon Township on 3 June 1995. The spokesman said the hotel had been involved in charitable and community activities since its opening.

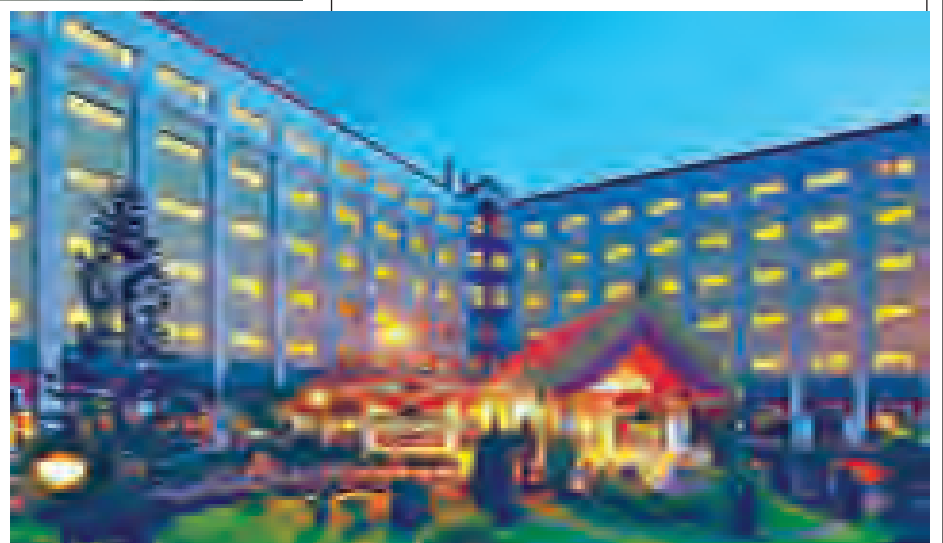
"The hotel brings activities to the orphanages,

homes for the aged and underprivileged as part and parcel of its culture," he said.

He went on to say, "Although we are constantly evolving, Summit Parkview has retained the values of the old and rich history of Myanmar through its architecture, décor and cuisine without compromising its international flavor."

GNLM

Photo shows present view of Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon.



Obama reassures France after ‘unacceptable’ NSA spying



The top floors of the US Embassy in Paris, France, is seen the day after WikiLeaks revelations of US spying on French presidents on 24 June, 2015.—REUTERS

PARIS, 25 June — US President Barack Obama reaffirmed in a phone call with his French counterpart Francois Hollande on Wednesday Washington’s commitment to end spying practices deemed “unacceptable” by its allies.

The presidents’ conversation, announced by Hollande’s office, came after transparency lobby group WikiLeaks revealed on Tuesday that US National Security Agency (NSA) had spied on the last

three French presidents.

The latest revelations of espionage among Western allies came after it emerged that the US National Security Agency (NSA) had spied on Germany and that Germany’s own BND intelligence agency had cooperated with the NSA to spy on officials and companies elsewhere in Europe.

“President Obama reiterated unequivocally his firm commitment ... to end the practices that may have

happened in the past and that are considered unacceptable among allies,” the French president’s office said.

Hollande had earlier held an emergency meeting of his ministers and army commanders and the US ambassador was summoned to the foreign ministry.

“France will not tolerate actions that threaten its security and the protection of its interests,” an earlier statement from the presi-

dent’s office said, adding it was not the first time allegations of US spying on French interests had surfaced. A senior French intelligence official will travel to the United States to discuss the matter and strengthen cooperation between the two countries, Hollande’s office said.

“We have to verify that this spying has finished,” Stephane Le Foll, government spokesman, told reporters, adding that ministers had been told to be careful when speaking on their mobile phones.

While Paris and Washington have good ties in general, UN Security Council veto-holder France fiercely maintains its independence on foreign policy and over the last two years there have been moments of friction and irritation on both sides.

Hollande was disappointed by Obama’s last-minute decision not to strike Syrian government positions in 2013. US officials have frequently, in private, criticized France’s tough stance in talks over Iran’s nuclear programme.

Reuters

Queen says must guard against division in Europe

BERLIN, 25 June — Queen Elizabeth urged Europe on Wednesday to guard against division in the continent, at a state banquet in Berlin where Germany’s president declared: “the European Union needs Great Britain”.

On the first full day of her visit to Germany, the queen said she and German President Joachim Gauck had seen “the worst but also the best” of Europe in their lifetimes, adding: “we must work hard to maintain the benefits of the post-war world.”

The 89-year-old queen, now in her 63rd year on the throne, lived in Britain during World War Two.

In her fifth visit to Germany, where she will remain until Friday, she said: “We know that division in

Europe is dangerous and that we must guard against it in the west, as well as in the east of our continent. That remains a common endeavour,” she said, before proposing a toast to Gauck and the people of Germany.

The queen made her speech as the Ukraine crisis stokes tensions with Russia to Europe’s east, Greece’s debt woes test tempers in the core of the continent and as Britain on its western flank seeks to renegotiate its position in the EU.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron, who will head to an EU summit in Brussels on Thursday, also attended the banquet at Gauck’s official residence, Schloss Bellevue.—*Reuters*



Queen Elizabeth makes a speech during a state banquet at Bellevue presidential palace in Berlin, Germany on 24 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Polish police say detained airport bomb hoax suspect

WARSAW, 25 June — Polish police said on Thursday they had detained a man suspected of making a hoax telephone call about a bomb on board a Ryanair passenger jet.

Warsaw police spokesman Mariusz Mrozek told Polish broadcaster TVN24 that officers traced the number from which the call was made, and detained the 48-year-old suspect at his home.

“There is no evidence that we are dealing here with an organized group, rather this was an irresponsible prank,” Mrozek said.

Reuters

China, US wrap up annual high-level talks on ties with substantial results

WASHINGTON, 25 June — Top Chinese and US officials wrapped up on Wednesday their two-day high-level talks here with substantial outcomes in strategic and economic sectors, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

During this year’s seventh China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) and the sixth China-US High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE), a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues of common concern were covered, including climate change, interaction in the Asia-Pacific region, managing differences and sensitive situations, the United Nations and multilateral affairs, science and innovation, green ports and ships, as well as fighting illegal trade in wildlife.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang said that during the two days of the seventh round of economic dialogue under the S&ED, the two sides con-

ducted candid and in-depth exchange of views on issues of long-term and strategic importance to the two economies and the world economy, and achieved over 70 important outcomes.

Wang said the success of this round of economic dialogue has provided a stronger foundation and driven for the healthy and stable growth of China-US relations and laid the ground work for the economic agenda of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s upcoming state visit to the United States in September.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi said on the strategic track, the two sides have achieved concrete outcomes in nine areas.

Yang said that the two sides had discussions on how to build the new type of major-country relations, deepen practical cooperation, enhance the China-US cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, handle regional hot-spots and global challenges and manage differences in a constructive fashion.

During the two-day

CPE talks, the two sides have also achieved 119 outcomes in seven areas, including education, science and technology, culture, health, sports, women and youth.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, US Secretary of State John Kerry said the depth and breadth of discussion at this year’s S&ED was significant,

adding that the dialogue of this year’s S&ED reflected a joint US-China commitment to cooperating in areas of common interest and seeking constructive solutions where the two sides have differences.

Kerry emphasized that the United States welcomes the emergence of a stable, peaceful and prosperous China that plays a responsi-

ble role in world affairs.

This year’s S&ED was co-chaired by Wang and Yang, special representatives of Xi, and John Kerry and US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, on behalf of US President Barack Obama.

The CPE was co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong, a special representative of Xi, and Kerry.—*Xinhua*



Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang (2nd L), Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (1st L), US Secretary of State John Kerry (2nd R) and US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew attend a joint Press conference after the seventh China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) in Washington DC, the United States on 24 June, 2015. Top Chinese and US officials wrapped up on Wednesday their two-day high-level talks here with substantial outcomes in strategic and economic sectors, as well as people-to-people exchanges.—XINHUA

WORLD

Syrian army secures oil field perimeter, kills militants

BEIRUT, 25 June — Syrian state television said on Wednesday the army and allied militia had secured the perimeter of an oil field near the central city of Palmyra which had been the focus of recent heavy fighting with Islamic State militants.

The report said the army took control of the area surrounding Jazal field, territory that contains important sites for energy production in Homs province, and killed a number of Islamic State fighters.

The advance appeared to be an attempt to shore up defence lines near Palmyra, an Islamic State-held city

home to Roman ruins that are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Jazal is a medium-sized field in Syria that produced several thousand barrels of oil per day when functioning under normal conditions. The area, which lies to the north west of Palmyra, includes a complex for natural gas extraction.

Islamic State captured Palmyra in May in a major blow to the military. A source in Syria briefed on developments said on Tuesday the army's operations in the area were aimed at shoring up defences but were not immediate preparations for retaking the city.

Syria's defence minister visited army units in the Homs countryside earlier this month in what appeared to be the latest in a series of morale-boosting trips by senior officials to military outposts.

On Tuesday Kurdish-led forces also seized the town of Ain Issa in northern Syria from Islamic State after capturing a military base overnight. They were aided by US-led air strikes in some of the most significant gains yet against the militants who had made major advances in Syria and Iraq in May.

Reuters



Free Syrian Army fighters gather before heading towards what they said an offensive against forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Deraa on 23 June, 2015. — REUTERS

Shelling by Yemeni group kills four troops on Saudi border

RIYADH, 25 June — Shelling by Yemen's Houthi militia killed four soldiers from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates stationed on Yemen's border with the kingdom, Saudi state media reported early on Thursday.

The Houthis have stepped up attacks on the kingdom's border posts in recent weeks, despite three months of bombardment by a Saudi-led coalition intent on restoring Yemen's exiled government.

Two soldiers from the Royal Saudi Land Forces, one from the kingdom's Border Guards, and an officer from the UAE's forces were killed on Wednesday

in three incidents along different stretches of the border, a mostly mountainous area. The Houthis and their allies, army forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, have managed to hold most of the populated western part of Yemen against disparate groups in Aden, Taiz, al-Dhala and Marib baked by coalition air strikes.

Saudi Arabia's coalition of Arab countries wants to force the Houthis and Saleh to quit captured areas, return seized arms and let President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi return from his Riyadh exile in line with UN Security Council resolution 2216. —Reuters

About 40 killed in suspected Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria

BAUCHI, (Nigeria), 25 June — About 40 people have been killed by suspected Boko Haram militants who torched houses and shot people as they fled in two villages in northeast Nigeria's Borno state, witnesses told Reuters on Wednesday.

The attackers, who arrived on motorcycles and vehicles mounted with guns, shot residents and looted shops in the villages of Debiro Biu and Debiro Hawul late on Monday night and into Tuesday morning, the witnesses said.

Local police confirmed the attacks took place but

declined to comment further. Details of the attack did not emerge for several hours due to poor telecommunications networks in the remote villages in northeast Nigeria, a region in which Boko Haram has killed thousands in a six-year bid to set up an Islamic state.

"They were shooting sporadically and then they started looting shops and setting places ablaze," said witness Hussaini Adamu, who fled with other villagers to hide in bushes after fleeing Debiro Biu.

More than 100 people have been killed in northeast Nigeria in the past few

weeks in a spate of bombings, mostly in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state.

Muhammadu Buhari, the new president of Africa's most populous nation and biggest economy, made Maiduguri the command centre for the military campaign against Boko Haram after being inaugurated last month.

Buhari has held talks with counterparts in neighbouring countries to set up a joint force to tackle the insurgents.

Boko Haram controlled territory the size of Belgium in the northeast at the start of the year but has been pushed out of most

of it by the Nigerian army, backed by troops from Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said the United States condemned the Boko Haram attacks and commended the military forces of Nigeria and the other countries for their advances against the group.

"We encourage the government of Nigeria to take steps to secure and govern liberated areas by filling in behind military successes with police and civilian administration," he said in a statement.

Reuters

Drug-resistant bacteria lurk in crowded Afghan war clinic

KUNDUZ, (Afghanistan) 25 June — A frontline hospital in Afghanistan already stretched by rising war casualties is facing another, invisible danger that is only beginning to come to light: highly contagious strains of drug-resistant bacteria which are making treatment harder.

While drug resistance is a problem in hospitals the world over, early evidence from tracking by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in the last two years suggests it may be acute in Afghanistan. At the trauma centre in the northern city of Kunduz, where Afghan forces are battling Taliban militants, staff have identified nearly 100 cases of multi-drug resistant bacteria, or nearly 30 percent of samples tested, since last year.

That is putting extra strain on the MSF-run facility already struggling to

cope with wounded combatants and civilians.

One hot morning in mid-June, the halls of the clinic quickly filled with wheeled stretchers carrying around a dozen bloodied Afghan security personnel hurt in a mortar attack by

insurgents. One man struggled for breath, and a waft of iron hung in the air as staff wiped blood stains from the white-tiled floor.

Not far away, teenager Zemaury, one of whose legs had to be amputated after a mortar round went off in

his back yard several days before, lay in a quiet isolation ward. His wounds had become infected and the drugs he was taking were not helping. Staff tested the wounds for resistant bacteria and started treating him with a different drug, after which his health began to improve. By late June, he had been hospitalized for nearly 40 days. "I thought I was going to lose him, or that maybe he'd lose his other leg," said Ameer Muhammad, Zemaury's father.

Doctors in Kunduz do not have enough comparative data to chart the long-term trajectory of the problem, but they are worried.

The hospital plans to expand its laboratory to test patients' blood in order to better pinpoint which organisms are causing infection and what drugs to use to treat them; at present, the lab can only test pus from

openly infected wounds.

"I'm sure the rates are higher, but we can't see it," said Kathleen Thomas, head of the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) and the emergency room. "I think it's a big problem."

In the southern province of Helmand, another Afghan region where militant violence is common, staff at an MSF-supported hospital noticed patients with respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea were not getting better.

An ensuing 2013-14 study showed high levels of resistance to widely used antibiotics among those being treated at the hospital.

Doctors say the probable causes of the problem include over-prescription and patients not finishing courses of treatment. In Afghanistan drug resistance may be made worse by medicines of suspect qual-

ity being illegally imported into the country.

"The general population has a big problem of resistance because of self-medication and patients putting pressure on doctors (to prescribe drugs)," said Abdul Qayoum Wardak, who oversees MSF's laboratories in Afghanistan.

Nearly 60 percent of medicine in Afghanistan enters through illegal channels, said Abdul Khalil Khakzad, head of the Avicenna Pharmaceutical Institute in Kabul, possibly contributing to what doctors suspect is a glut of ineffective drugs on the market, including antibiotics.

Though many of the smuggled drugs may be fine, the lack of information may already be contributing to drug resistance, as some doctors try to over-correct for presumed low quality.

Reuters



Zemaury, an Afghan boy, receiving treatment at Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF) after a mortar exploded in his yard, and recovering from a drug-resistant bacterial infection, lies in an isolation ward in Kunduz on 11 June, 2015. — REUTERS

Arrested Toyota exec says narcotic painkiller not prescribed for her



Julie Hamp

Tokyo, 25 June — An American executive at Toyota Motor Corp suspected of violating Japan's drug laws by importing a narcotic painkiller has told police that the tablets in question were not prescribed for her, investigative sources said on Thursday.

Julie Hamp, 55, also said that she asked her father to make the shipment of the painkiller oxycodone, which was sent by parcel post to Japan from the United States earlier this month. Japan does not allow the drug, which is used for medical purposes, to be sent through the post.

Tokyo police are considering sending officers to the United States to verify Hamp's statement and confirm other aspects of the investigation.

Hamp has denied having had an intention to import drugs, while telling investigators that the oxycodone tablets were intended to alleviate knee pain.

The Metropolitan Police Department arrested her 18 June on suspicion of having 57 oxycodone tablets delivered in a package from an airport in the US state of Kentucky to Narita airport near Tokyo.

On Tuesday, the police searched Toyota's headquarters in Aichi Prefecture in connection with the case. In Japan, oxycodone is often used to alleviate pain experienced by cancer patients during their treatment. It cannot be purchased without a doctor's prescription and a person who wants to bring in oxycodone into Japan needs permission from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. As consuming a large dose of oxycodone can have a euphoric effect similar to heroin, its misuse has become a problem in the United States.

The police have said earlier that the customs label on the package sent to Hamp declared the contents to be a necklace and that the oxycodone pills were placed in the bottom of the package with some of the pills inside an accessory case. Hamp, a former General Motors Co and PepsiCo Inc executive, was appointed in April as Toyota's first female managing officer and chief communications officer.

Kyodo News

Vucic announces fight against Novi Sad narcotics market

BELGRADE, 25 June — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic announced on Wednesday that the presence of security forces will be boosted in Novi Sad to fight crime, in particular the growing narcotics market there.

The prime minister said that "both a visible and an invisible" increase in the presence of security forces in Novi Sad has been agreed with the head of the Security and Information Agency and the interior minister.

"I think that we will have results within the shortest period of time," Vucic told a Press conference after a meeting with the leader of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

Nenad Canak.

Vucic invited Canak to dis-

cussions in Belgrade on the current issues in Vojvodina after the

LSV leader sent him a letter in which he opposed the merger of electric power distributors Elektrovojvodina and Elektrodistribucija Beograd, urging him to use his authority to prevent the creation of a single operative dispatch centre for entire Serbia.

At the joint Press conference, Canak said that finding a solution for a more efficient fight against organised crime and narcotics trade was also one of the crucial reasons for the meeting.

Organized narcotics trade is a danger to the lives of citizens, as indicated by almost daily conflicts among crime groups in Novi Sad, he noted.

Tanjug

NATO says won't be dragged into arms race with Russia

BRUSSELS, 25 June — The head of NATO said on Wednesday the alliance would not be forced into a new arms race with Russia but said what he called Moscow's aggression in Ukraine had compelled it to strengthen its defences.

The United States announced plans this week to station tanks and heavy weapons in NATO member states on Russia's border, shortly after President Vladimir Putin said Moscow would add 40 missiles to its nuclear arsenal.

"We will not be dragged into an arms race, but we must keep our countries safe," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters at a meeting of alliance defence ministers.

A Russian official last week accused NATO of pushing Russia into an arms race by stepping up its military activity around its borders, not least in the formerly Soviet Baltic states.

Stoltenberg said the US decision to store equipment in eastern Europe was a prudent response to Russia's actions.

He said the defence ministers had agreed to increase the strength of NATO's rapid response force, including its air, maritime and special operations components. The force will now consist of up to 40,000 personnel, up from 13,000 previously.

Within that force, NATO plans to create a 5,000-strong "spearhead" force, part of which could move within 48 hours.

The United States said on Monday it would contribute special operations forces, intelligence and other high-end military assets to the new "spearhead" force.

Canadian Defence Minister Jason Kenney announced on Wednesday his country was ready to offer air-to-air refuelling, reconnaissance or transport planes for the force.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter, who is attending his first NATO ministerial meeting, said on Tuesday the Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — as well as Bulgaria, Romania and Poland had agreed to host the US arms and heavy equipment.

It was one of a range of steps Washington and NATO are taking to reinforce allies in eastern Europe after Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region last year and what NATO says is Russia's military support for rebels in eastern Ukraine.

The defence ministers also agreed on Wednesday to give NATO's military commander new powers to prepare the rapid reaction force in a crisis, although governments would still have to give the go-ahead before it could go into action.

Polish Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak reiterated his country's call for NATO forces to be based permanently on

its soil. Siemoniak told *Reuters* he hoped regular rotations of alliance forces through Poland would gradually be transformed into a permanent presence.

Despite the alliance's concerns over a more assertive Russia as well as other security challenges, only five of its 28 member states are expected to meet NATO's target of spending at least two percent of their national output on defence this year.

Reuters

Australian crocodile stones hold key to dinosaur past

SYDNEY, 25 June — A Japanese crocodile researcher is in Australia's northern territory to prove the link between modern crocodiles, dinosaurs and birds.

Hokkaido University crocodile stone researcher Ryuji Takasaki is in Darwin to compare the stones found in dinosaurs with those found in crocodile stomachs, though the role of the stones remains unclear.

"I personally believe that they [eat] those stones for helping digestion inside stomachs," Takasaki told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Thursday.

Takasaki is investigating whether dinosaurs, birds and crocodiles developed the system of using stones for digestion independently or if it was a result of evolution.

"We want to know if the same system of digestion was started from crocodiles and evolved in dinosaurs and then to birds or there is some other stories," Takasaki said. According to Takasaki, it was understood by many researchers that crocodiles are the evolutionary ancestors of birds.

Xinhua

Ornamental square watermelon shipments begin with prices 10,000 yen

TAKAMATSU, (Japan), 25 June — This year's shipments of ornamental watermelons known for their rare square shapes started on Thursday in western Japan with wholesale prices of around 10,000 yen (\$81) a piece.

The watermelons, with sides about 18 centimetres in length, acquire their cube shapes from being grown in plastic containers. They are inedible, as they are harvested unripe. Production began about 45 years ago.

Department stores and fruit stores are buying them as they are popular as ornaments. Recently, they caught on among consumers abroad, with orders from countries like Canada, Turkey and Russia. A total of around 400 square watermelons produced by six farmers will be shipped mainly to Tokyo and Osaka by mid-July.

"We were troubled by the temperature difference this year,"



Workers prepare to pack cube-shaped watermelons in Kagawa Prefecture, western Japan, on 25 June, 2015, as first shipments of the watermelons commence.—Kyodo News

Toshiyuki Yamashita, one of the producers, said, as he was boxing them at a collection point in the

city of Zentsuji in western Japan's Kagawa Prefecture.

Kyodo News

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (008W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (008W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OOCL SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BAO AN LING VOY NO (201506)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO AN LING VOY NO (201506) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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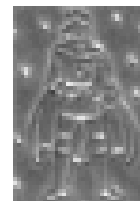
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Ph:0973150632

Email:
law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm
(For. mirandah asia (singapore) pte ltd)
Dated. 26th June, 2015

Typhoon Kujira leaves seven dead, four missing in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 June — Typhoon Kujira, which made landfall in Vietnam on Wednesday noon, has left seven dead and four others missing as of Thursday morning.

According to meteorological agency in Vietnam's northern Son La province, some 200 km west of capital Hanoi, the flood after typhoon Kujira has swept away 23 houses.

Rainfall from Wednesday night to Thursday morning hit 219 mm. Heavy downpours in a short period of time have flooded many districts in Son La Province. Flash flood occurred in some areas, local **VNExpress** online newspaper reported on Thursday.

Making landfall in Vietnam's northeastern Quang Ninh province (some 120 km east of capital Hanoi) and Hai Phong city (some 90 km east of capital Hanoi) on Wednesday noon, typhoon Kujira has brought about no casualties in these two localities.

However, the typhoon has caused heavy rain in all the country's northern region.

Kujira is the first typhoon hitting Vietnam so far in 2015.—*Xinhua*

34 killed in heavy rains in western India

NEW DELHI, 25 June — At least 34 people have been killed due to heavy rains in the western Indian state of Gujarat since Wednesday, a senior police official said on Thursday.

"Heavy rains and squally winds lashed parts of Gujarat on Wednesday. So far, the heavy downpour has claimed the lives of 34 people across the state," he said on condition of anonymity. A senior weather official said that the state is bracing for flood because of the heavy rains that were the result of a deep depression in the weather system.

"Though flood is unlikely, still the state's disaster management system has been put on high alert," the official said. Monsoon has already arrived in western and southern India.—*Xinhua*

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**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(TENDER NO. 3(T)MPE/ LBO(2)/2015-2016)**

- Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Lube Base Oils & Additives (220.11 Metric Tons).
- Tender Closing Date : 22.7.2015 at (12:00) noon.
- Tender Opening Date : 22.7.2015 at (13:00) hrs.
- Delivery Time : Up to End of December 2015
- Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 29.6.2015 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise
Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

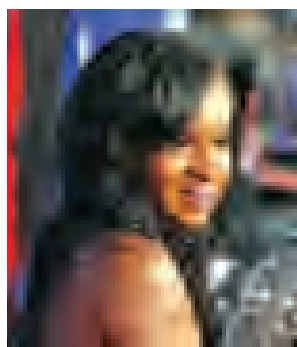
FOOD SHOULD TASTE GOOD

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th June, 2015: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, fairly widespread in Magway Region, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Bobbi Kristina Brown in hospice, boyfriend accused of abuse



Bobbi Kristina Brown

LOS ANGELES, 25 June — Bobbi Kristina Brown, the only child of late singer Whitney Houston, was moved to hospice care on Wednesday after suffering irreversible brain damage five months ago, and her former boyfriend was hit with a lawsuit alleging physical abuse and theft from her bank account.

Bobbi Kristina, 22, was found face down and unresponsive in a bathtub in her suburban Atlanta home on 31 January. The incident had eerie similarities to the 2012 death of her mother.

Bobbi Kristina was placed in a medically induced coma and her family said she was later diagnosed with irreversible brain damage.

A statement issued by the Houston family on Wednesday said that despite great medical care “Bobbi Kristina Brown’s condition has continued to deteriorate. As of today, she has been moved into hospice care... She is in God’s hands now.”

Bobbi Kristina, who inherited her mother’s fortune, was found in January by her then boyfriend, Nick Gordon, and a friend.

Gordon was accused in a \$10 million lawsuit filed on Wednesday of causing her life-threatening injuries and stealing from her bank account while she was in a coma.

No one has been criminally charged in the case. Randall Kessler, Gordon’s attorney, said he had no

comment on the lawsuit which was filed in Georgia by Bobbi Kristina’s court-appointed conservator.

In the first public account of what is alleged to have happened, the lawsuit claimed that on 31 January Bobbi Kristina had a loud argument with Gordon. When it ended she was found “unresponsive and unconscious, face down in a bathtub, with her mouth swollen and another tooth knocked out.”

It said that as a direct result of Gordon’s conduct “Brown has suffered life-threatening bodily harm.”

Gordon was partly raised by Whitney Houston as an informally adopted son. He later began dating Bobbi Kristina and after the singer’s death, the pair referred to each other as husband and wife although they were never legally married.

The lawsuit alleged that Gordon began to beat up Bobbi Kristina and tried to take control of the substantial funds she had inherited from her mother.

“Even after Brown’s hospitalization, and while she was in a coma, (Gordon) accessed Brown’s bank account and stole in excess of \$11,000,” the lawsuit added. Gordon was barred by the family in February from visiting Bobbi Kristina in the hospital.

Bobbi Kristina is the daughter of Whitney Houston and R&B singer Bobby Brown. They divorced when she was 14 after a tempestuous, drug-fueled marriage.

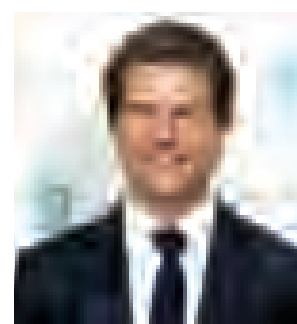
Her Grammy award-winning mother drowned in a Beverly Hills hotel bathtub in February 2012 at the age of 48. In that case, authorities said years of cocaine abuse and heart disease played a key role.—Reuters

Alibaba film unit ties up with Paramount on next ‘Mission: Impossible’

SHANGHAI, 25 June — Alibaba Pictures Group Ltd is making its first Hollywood movie investment and partnering with Paramount Pictures to promote the studio’s latest “Mission: Impossible” installment in China.

The film unit of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd will collaborate with Viacom Inc subsidiary Paramount in online ticketing, promotion and merchandising for “Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation” in China, it said in a statement on Wednesday. It did not say how much the tie-up would cost. The movie, starring Tom Cruise, is due in theaters on 31 July, according to Paramount’s website.

Alibaba Pictures, previously known as ChinaVision Media Group, raised nearly 5 billion yuan

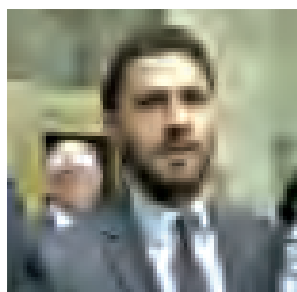


Actor Tom Cruise

(\$805.5 million) in 2014 from a share offer that put Alibaba in control of the company. Earlier this month, it agreed to sell 4.20 billion new shares at HK\$2.9 each to independent investors to boost its share capital.

In January, Alibaba Pictures unveiled its first movie project under its new ownership, a romance to be produced by acclaimed Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai.—Reuters

Actor Shia LaBeouf suffers head injury on film set



NEW YORK, 25 June — Actor Shia LaBeouf was treated in a hospital after suffering a head injury when a stunt went wrong while he was filming in North Dakota, his publicist said on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old actor, who starred in the “Transformers” films and with Brad Pitt in the World War Two drama “Fury,” is expected to resume filming on Thursday.

“Shia LaBeouf sustained minimal injuries late last night on the set of his current film, ‘American Honey,’” said publicist Melissa Kates.

“As protocol, production sought out medical attention and Shia received stitches on his hand and for a laceration on his head.”

LaBeouf also had surgery in 2008 on his hand after he injured it in a car accident.—Reuters

After nearly 50 years, James Taylor scores a chart-topping album

LOS ANGELES, 25 June — Veteran singer-songwriter James Taylor raced ahead of pop singers Adam Lambert and Hilary Duff to score his first No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 chart on Wednesday.

Taylor, 67, had to wait nearly half a century since his self-titled debut album came out in 1968 to notch the top spot on the chart with his 17th studio album.

His first studio release of new songs in 13 years “Before This World” sold 96,000 albums, 9,000 songs and was streamed 411,000 times, totaling 97,000 units according to figures from



Singer James Taylor performs on NBC’s “Today” show in New York on 15 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Nielsen SoundScan.

At No 2, pop star Taylor Swift’s “1989” holds steady in its 34th week on

the chart, selling another 57,000 units.

The singer made waves over the weekend by writ-

ing an open letter to Apple Inc, criticizing its policy of not paying artists during a three-month free trial of its new music streaming platform Apple Music.

The company bowed to her pressure and reversed its policy, saying it will now pay artists during the free trial.

Former “American Idol” contestant Lambert entered the chart at No 3 this week with his latest record “The Original High,” selling 47,000 units.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and stream-

ing activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other new entries in the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart include former child star Duff’s latest album “Breathe In. Breathe Out” at No 5, and FUN. frontman Nate Ruess’s solo debut “Grand Romantic” at No 7. Last week’s chart-topper, “Drones” by British rockers Muse, dropped to No 19 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online sales, Swift’s “Bad Blood” held steady at No 1 with 173,000 downloads.—Reuters

‘Seinfeld’ fans reminisce in replica of iconic TV apartment

NEW YORK, 25 June — Fans of the hit 1990s television show “Seinfeld” can lounge on comedian Jerry Seinfeld’s battered sofa and reminisce about their favourite episodes in a pop-up, real-life replica of his iconic apartment on New York’s Upper West Side.

Online video streaming service Hulu on Wednesday unveiled the replica apartment, where Seinfeld hung out with his best friend George, former girlfriend Elaine and neighbour Kramer, to mark the debut of all the episodes of the Emmy-award winning

series on its website.

“Seinfeld: The Apartment,” which will be open through Sunday, includes original items from the TV set, a memorabilia gallery and an interactive fan experience from the show about four single friends coping with life in New York City.

“I think it is going to be like Disneyland for so many of the fans,” said actor Larry Thomas, who played the immigrant chef known as Soup Nazi because of the strict demands he placed on his customers.

Seinfeld donated several items to the pop-up

apartment, including a canvas brick wall signed by the cast and crew when the series ended in 1998 after a nine-year run.

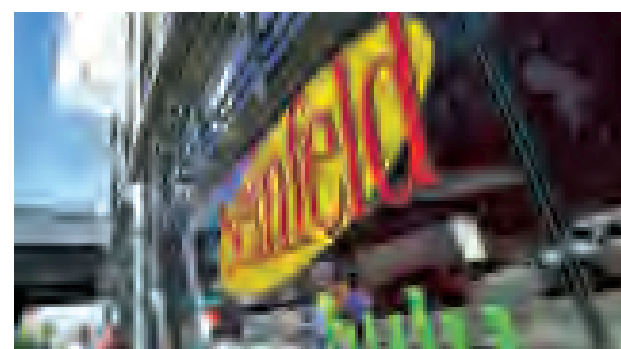
Fans can wander around the 3,500 square foot space, see the original table and booth from Seinfeld’s favourite restaurant around the corner, the Devil’s hockey team shirt, his suspended bicycle and the picture of Porsches featured in the show.

They can also recreate Kramer’s famous stumbling entrance into the apartment and speak to visitors through the intercom

system.

“There are like 13-year-olds that come up to me and they love

the show and stuff,” said Thomas. “It’s going to be introduced to a lot of new people.”—Reuters



A view shows the exterior of Hulu’s ‘Seinfeld: The Apartment’, a temporary exhibit on West 14th street in the Manhattan borough of New York City, on 24 June, 2015.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Special Condolences

To

Uncle Lt; General Htun Kyi (Rtd)
daughters Ma Ma Gyi, Thi Thi, Ma Pauk & Aye Su
Aunty Ni Ni was an amazing, caring and kind lady.

We are privileged to have known her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Praying that you will find comfort in your memories of her and in the knowledge that others are also missing her too.

With heartfelt sympathy from.
Sit Nyein & Shirley Tan

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(26-6-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am
• Mono Classical Songs | 9:25 am
• Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 9:40 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:35 am
• Song Programme | 9:55 am
• ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) |
| 7:05 am
• TV Drama Series | 1:00 pm
• (2015) Women Associated Fashion Show (Live) |
| 7:50 am
• TV Drama Series | |
| 8:25 am
• Teleplay | |

mitv Myanmar International

(26-6-2015 07:00 am~ 27-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|---|
| * News | (Episode - II)" |
| * Kayah Style | * Kyaikhteeyoe: |
| * Reflected Glory | My Father The Porter |
| * News | * News |
| * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-5) | * Great Shwedagon: |
| * Oboist and His Life | The Sacred Hair Relics |
| * News | Hailing Pogodas |
| * Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony | * Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater |
| * Climate Context "Heat Index" | * News |
| * News | * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-4) |
| * A Life in The Ring | * Today Myanmar & ICT "Economic Sector and ICT" |
| * Buddha Image built of Bamboo Strip | * News |
| * Temple Stalls | * Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems) |
| * News | * A Lucky Boy |
| * To The Blue Ridge Mountains of Rhododendrons | * News |
| * Kayah | * Chinlone & The Dreams of the players |
| *Changes | * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture: The Golden Land |
| * News | |
| * Discovering Tribes "MUUN" | |

Gerrard reveals moment he knew Liverpool career was over

LONDON, 25 June — Steven Gerrard knew it was time to leave Liverpool when he was omitted from the starting lineup for their Champions League group match at Real Madrid last November.

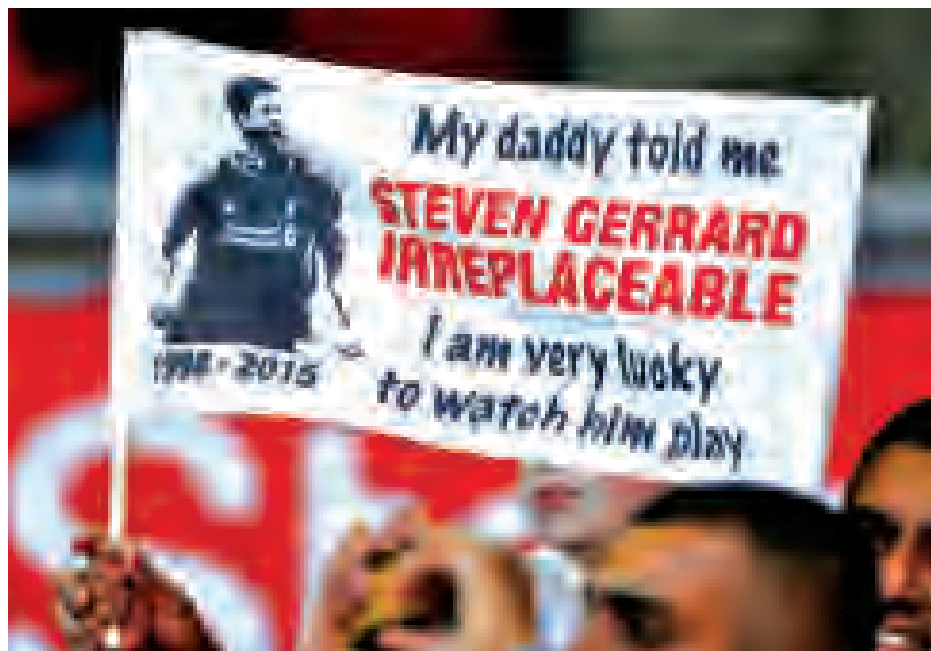
The 35-year-old former England captain left Anfield in May after more than 17 years and 700 matches with the Premier League club and has signed for Major League Soccer club LA Galaxy.

He said in an interview to be broadcast on Wednesday that he was "devastated" when manager Brendan Rodgers put him on the bench in Madrid and realised his days at the club were numbered.

"When I was told I wasn't playing, for the sake of the team and the squad and my relationship with Brendan, I took it and accepted it," Gerrard tells his former England team mate Rio Ferdinand in the interview, to be televised by BT Sport.

But the ex-Liverpool skipper said that was the moment he realised his long career at the club was coming to an end.

"I sat on the bench devastated because I wanted to play. It sort of pushed me into making a decision to move on and try something different,"



General view of a banner held up for Steven Gerrard's last game at Anfield during Premier League at Anfield on 16 May, 2015.—REUTERS

he explained.

Gerrard eventually came on in the 69th minute of the match, which Liverpool lost 1-0, and although he played 41 times last season, he was no longer the automatic first-choice he had been for most of his 17 years at Anfield.

He is now about to start the next phase of his career with the California-based LA Galaxy and can be seen on promotional posters dotted around the city under the banner 'Greatness'.

Liverpool, who finished

second in the Premier League in 2014, had a poor season by comparison last term finishing sixth.

He also said the slip he made that effectively cost Liverpool the title in 2014 "will hurt me till the day I die." That happened in April 2014 when they lost 2-0 at home to Chelsea after Gerrard's slip on the turf allowed Demba Ba to score the opening goal.

Liverpool never recovered from that and Manchester City snatched the title

from their grasp.

"The slip happened at a bad time, it was cruel for me personally. There's not a day goes by when I don't think, "What if that didn't happen?" Gerrard said "I've got memories, good memories, that will live with me forever. But that one moment will hurt me until the day I go.

"It's because if I had got that title, I'd have achieved every dream with Liverpool. And, as a man, that hurts."

Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(26-6-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am
• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | Troupe (Part-5) |
| 6:25 am
• Physical Exercise | 2:10 pm
• Documentary |
| 7:00 am
• News / Weather Report | 2:35 pm
• Traditional Boxing |
| 7:35 am
• People's Talks | 3:00 pm
• News / Weather Report |
| 8:35 am
• Current Affairs | 4:35 pm
• University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Frist Year (Oriental) |
| 9:35 am
• Weekly Entertainment | 5:30 pm
• Head Line News |
| 10:30 am
• Head Line News | 6:35 pm
• Hyper Sports |
| 11:35 am
• Science and Technology Programme | 7:00 pm
• News |
| 12:00 noon
• News / International News / Weather Report | 7:35 pm
• Documentary |
| 12:35 pm
• Hluttaw Image | 8:00 pm
• News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:50 pm
• Clever | 9:00 pm
• News |
| 1:15 pm
• Talk on Old Film (Part-1) | • Hluttaw Image |
| 1:45 pm
• Alinka Wut Yi Music | • Amazing World |
| | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |

Cat stationmaster Tama, superstar in western Japan, dies



WAKAYAMA, (Japan), 25 June — Tama, a cat stationmaster of a railway station in western Japan whose immense popularity helped boost the railway operator's revenues and the local sightseeing industry, died on Monday at a local animal hospital aged 16 years and two months, the equivalent of about 80 years in human age, the railway operator said on Wednesday.

Tama was a "tourism

superstar extremely popular in and out of Japan who contributed greatly to promoting tourism in our prefecture. I am filled with deep sorrow and appreciation," Wakayama Gov Yoshinobu Nisaka said in a statement.

According to Wakayama Electric Railway Co, which appointed the female tortoiseshell cat to master of Kishi Station in January 2007, Tama had been recuperating from rhinitis since

Tama, a cat stationmaster of a railway station in western Japan, receives a birthday cake on her 16th birthday on 29 April, 2015, in this file photo taken in Wakayama Prefecture.—KYODO NEWS

May. She is believed to have died of acute heart failure.

The day before her death, Wakayama Electric Railway President Mitsunobu Kojima visited Tama to wish her a speedy recovery. At the time, Tama stood up and let out a strong meow.

Before taking up the company's post, Tama was kept at a kiosk in front of Kishi Station.

Her cuteness and the novelty of a cat stationmaster turned the money-losing Kishigawa Line into a pop-

ular sightseeing spot. The number of passengers on the line jumped to 2.27 million in fiscal 2014 from 1.92 million in fiscal 2005. Photos of Tama and other merchandise also sold well, leading to her appointment to acting president of Wakayama Electric Railway in January 2013.

The railway operator said it will hold a funeral for Tama on Sunday at her station, with the president serving as the chairman of her funeral committee.

Kyodo News

Myanmar to play tune-up matches with UAE, New Zealand

YANGON, 25 June — As preparations to take part in the international tournaments in 2015, Myanmar national football team will play tune-up matches against New Zealand and UAE teams.

Football associations of both countries accepted offer of Myanmar Football Federation and agreed to play the tune-up matches.

On 28 August, Myanmar team that stands 143rd on the FIFA standing table will play a match with UAE that stands 73rd. Another tune-up match between Myanmar and New Zealand will be held in Yangon on 7 September. New Zealand standing 138th on the table is formed with professional players playing in the leagues in England and France and those from internal clubs.—MFF

Wozniacki beats Kuznetsova to reach Eastbourne quarters

LONDON, 25 June — Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki reached the quarter-finals of Eastbourne's Aegon Championships with a topsy-turvy defeat of Svetlana Kuznetsova on Wednesday.

The Dane surrendered the first set after leading 5-1 but recovered to win 6-7(3), 6-3, 6-1 as Kuznetsova faded.

Despite taking charge of the match, second seed Wozniacki said she was worried right to the end against the former US Open and French Open champion.

"I was 5-1 up in that first set, so when I was 5-1 up in the third set I was thinking to myself that I really couldn't repeat what happened earlier," she said.

"I served better as the match went on, tried to take the ball a little earlier."

The world number five plays Andrea Pet-



Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki in action during the third round match.—REUTERS

kovic next at the traditional seaside grasscourt tournament after the German beat American CoCo Vandeweghe 6-3, 6-4.

Eugenie Bouchard's problems continued as last year's Wimbledon runner-up retired with an abdominal injury when trailing Belinda Bencic 6-4, 3-0.

"I was feeling it dur-

ing the match," Canada's Bouchard told reporters. "It just wasn't smart for me to take a risk, and, you know, potentially be out for a long time."

"It's something I want to kind of take care of right away."

"I'm going to play (Wimbledon) no matter what, even if I'm on one leg," added Bouchard,

who has suffered a string of early defeats this year.

British wildcard Johanna Konta continued her surprise run with another shock, this time knocking over Spain's Garbine Muguruza, a day after beating world number eight Ekaterina Makarova.

Reuters

No time for fun as Canada focussed on World Cup 'summit'

VANCOUVER, 25 June — Canadian football fans may be enjoying the ride but for the players, the grind of the Women's World Cup is no fun and the team is still approaching the "death zone," head coach John Herdman said on Wednesday.

Another 50,000-plus crowd will pack into BC Place on Saturday ready to party when Canada play England for a spot in the semi-finals but it will be all business for Herdman's crew.

"You're not meant to have fun," a stern-faced Herdman said after putting his team through a training session on Wednesday. "You climb Everest, it hurts, and it's painful."

"We're now in the death zone where the oxygen is thinner."

"It is not meant to be fun. But when we look back and reflect, that's when we can go, 'Wow what an achievement what we have done for our country.'"

Herdman and the players have not avoided the bigger picture of what hosting a World Cup means for the sport's development in Canada but the team has maintained a laser focus on the more immediate goal of winning the tournament.

Standing in Can-

ada's way are a sixth-ranked England team that have been building momentum with consecutive wins over Mexico, Colombia and Norway after an opening loss to France.

The two teams are very familiar with each other, England having beaten Canada 1-0 in the Cyprus Cup final in March while the latter triumphed 1-0 in their final pre-World Cup friendly.

Playing at home in front of raucous capacity crowds has given the hosts with a lift but they have also been weighed down with burden of expectation.

But after having beaten the teams they were expected to beat based purely on world rankings, that seemingly endless pressure has taken on a new form.

"It just feels different," said Herdman. "It's almost like you can see the summit, you can actually see it now. And the players have got an absolute focus that it's not falling off the cliff any more."

"You're not looking to fall off the cliff. It's about there it is, we've got to get there and you've got to push through that and do anything it takes to do it."

Reuters

Chile down nine-man Uruguay to reach Copa semi

SANTIAGO, 25 June — Chile bundled reigning champions Uruguay out of the Copa America with a 1-0 victory in a fast-paced quarter-final that ended in controversy and kept alive the host nation's dream of a maiden title on Wednesday.

Uruguay were reduced to nine men by the end of the game with Edinson Cavani sent off for a second yellow card after 62 minutes and Jorge Fucile also shown red for a second booking with two minutes remaining.

After Fucile's exit, the match was halted for several minutes as Uruguay's players sur-

rounded the referee and officials and players from both sides scuffled on the field. The holders looked hard done by after video evidence showed it was Gonzalo Jara who first gave Cavani a friendly slap and then poked him behind the referee's back.

When Cavani touched Jara's face with the slightest of taps, he fell to the ground to provoke a second yellow for the Paris Saint Germain striker.

"There's a bitter taste in our mouths," Uruguay manager Oscar Tabarez told reporters. "I've seen the television and photographs, that's where the truth is." Mauricio Isla scored the only goal in the 82nd minute when he

fired home from 15 yards after Uruguayan goalkeeper Fernando Muslera had weakly punched away a cross. Hosts Chile, who dominated the match with 80 percent of possession, have never won the Copa America since its inception in 1916 and now face the winner of Thursday's Peru-Bolivia tie.

"We now have another game I don't know if it will be Peru or Bolivia but we still have the dream," said striker Alexis Sanchez.

"We fought hard and we have to thank the fans who were behind us all the way." In the other quarter-finals, Argentina face Colombia on Friday and Brazil play Paraguay on Saturday.—Reuters



Referee Sandro Ricci shows a second yellow card to Uruguay's Edinson Cavani as Chile's Gonzalo Jara (18) looks on during their quarter-finals Copa America 2015 soccer match at the National Stadium in Santiago, Chile, on 24 June, 2015.

REUTERS