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President U Thein Sein returns from Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — President U Thein Sein on Tuesday returned from a three-day state visit to Mongolia.

The president visited the country from 28 to 30 June at the invitation of Mongolian President Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj.

A special Myanmar International Airways flight carrying the president and Myanmar delegation landed at Nay Pyi Taw at 11:30 a.m. and was welcomed by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and deputy ministers.

Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj visited Myanmar from 18 to 21 November 2013 as the first state leader of Mongolia after establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1956.

During U Thein Sein's three-day visit to Mongolia, the heads of state discussed potential bilateral cooperation on trade, mining, tourism, culture and economy, with Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj saying his country will support democratic and socio-economic reforms in Myanmar, and shared knowledge on market economy transition.

Representative from the two countries also signed intergovernmental agreements on tourism cooperation, cooperation between Nay Pyi Taw Council and Ulaanbaatar City, and between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein being seen off by Mongolian Minister of Foreign Affairs and officials at Chinggis Khan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.—MNA

13 more local, foreign firms get investment green light in June

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 30 June — Thirteen domestic and overseas firms received the green light to do business in the country as joint venture, locally owned or wholly foreign enterprises in late June, the Myanmar Investment Commission said Tuesday.

Having already given the nod to 15 local and foreign companies earlier in the month, the number of firms granted approval by the MIC in June came to 28.

The newly approved businesses include wood finishing and timber processing, manufacturing of garments, paint, plastic products, sports equipment and building materials, as well as bus assembly and maintenance services.

Among the 13 enterprises approved at the commission's meeting on 19 June, Saung Hnin Cherry

Company Limited and Mother Trading Company Limited will set up facilities for wood finishing while Myanmar Brightex Veneer Company Limited will establish a timber-processing facility as a foreign-citizen investment.

In a sign of further expansion of the country's garment industry, four firms—Musung Garment Company Limited, Myanmar Knitting Factory Limited, Smooth World International (Myanmar) Limited and Myanmar High Choice Company Limited will establish clothing manufacturing

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Myanmar to host conference on reproductive, sexual health, rights

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 30 June— Myanmar will host the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights next year in Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association has announced.

The MMCWA, a national non-government organization, is coordinating the 23-26 February conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in cooperation with its partner agencies.

The event's theme is ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as a means of promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, MMCWA officer Dr Daw May Malar said Monday.

The biennial conference brings together young people, civil society groups, the government and the private sector, as well as development partners from around the region.

The four-day event will focus on reviewing scientific and qualitative evidence, refining advocacy strategies, and generating concrete plans of action across the region, Dr Daw May Malar said.

"About 2,000 delegates from within the region and from other countries are expected to come to the event," she said. "Currently, necessary preparations for successfully holding the

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Workshop aims to strengthen SME policy in Myanmar

YANGON, 30 June — A workshop on strengthening policy development for small and medium-sized enterprise through data enhancement took place here Tuesday at the Myanmar-Japan Center.

The workshop aimed to develop policy to encourage small SMEs, as well as promoting women and youth entrepreneurs.

It was organized by the SME Development Centre, under the Ministry of Industry, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

At the meeting, officials from Myanmar and overseas discussed improving data collection programmes to support SME development in the country.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Parliament approves signing of UN treaty

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Tuesday approved Myanmar's signing of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966.

The session also recorded expenditure from the separate budget of the Union Budget Bill 2015, with the Joint Bill Committee reading the findings on the Union Budget Bill and Special Marriage Bill for Myanmar Buddhist Women.

MP U Thein Swe also urged the union government to provide effective and urgent aid to flood victims in Rakhine State, Kayin State and Bago Region, where torrential rains have fallen in recent days.

MPs discuss signing of UN treaty at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Bone Swe explained humanitarian work being carried out by the government to help flood victims.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe clarified the formation of Yangon and Mandalay Electricity Supply Boards as state-owned corporations. Deputy ministers then discussed the law on farmer's rights.

MPs and representatives from Defence Services also discussed bills amending and revoking some paragraphs in the Constitution, including adjustment on the terms of Union judges and the balance of the judicial, legislative and executive branches of power.—*MNA*

13 more local, foreign firms …

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businesses in industrial zones in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions.

Statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration showed that Myanmar last fiscal year approved U.S. $8 billion worth of foreign investment from 38 countries and 211 companies. For the current financial year, the country expects to approve $6 billion worth of FDI.

GNLM

High-rise buildings and tower cranes are seen from Hlinethayar Township, where a number of Yangon's industrial zones are based.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Myanmar to host conference…

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conference are being made by the MMCWA."

Myanmar is the eight host country after the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, India, China and Indonesia. The first conference was held in 2001 in Manila.

Further information is available online at www.mm8apcrshr.org.—*GNLM*

Kachin State government helps send Rakhine migrant workers home

Rakhine migrant workers prepare to return home.

PHOTO: GNLM-001

MOHNYIN, 30 June — Kachin State government had to help send 508 migrant workers form Rakhine State back home and the train carrying them stopped at Mohnyin railway station on 29 June.

Thousands of migrant workers from Rakhine State worked in Kachin State and they have difficulty going back home as they have lost their jobs.

Mohnyin District Administrator U Aung Soe Moe, Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Aung, members of the township development affairs committee and the township supporting committee warmly greeted the returning Rakhine nationals and provided them with lunch boxes for 600 people, drinking water bottles and snacks.

"They arrived here three years ago to work in banana, rubber and dragon fruit plantations owned by the Chinese but a lot of Chinese workers came to Myanmar in recent years and the Rakhine workers were laid off," said a 40-year old Rakhine national from Minbya on the train.—*NLM-001*

Daw Maw Maw accredited as Ambassador to Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Maw Maw, Director General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway.—*MNA*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 21/2015
14th Waxing Day of First Waso, 1377 ME
(30 June, 2015)

Modern Union Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced on 30 June 2015 that Modern Union Party headquartered at No 647, Merchant Street, Ward 3, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 30 June 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party's registration number is 90.

By order,

(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Canada

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada, and the Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of Canada, which falls on 1 July 2015.—*MNA*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham hosts Singapore Deputy Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Tuesday received a Singaporean delegation led by Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean at the Chindwin Hall of the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present were union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko and U Tint Hsan, deputy ministers U Aung Thein, Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt, U Tin Oo Lwin, Daw Lei Lei Thein and U Myo Aung, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and Singapore's ambassador to Myanmar. Discussions focused on promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The vice president also attended the signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding between Myanmar and Singapore for technical cooperation at the hotel.

At the ceremony, Permanent Secretary U Aung Lynn of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Robert Chua signed the MoU. The vice president and wife hosted a dinner for the Singaporean deputy prime minister and wife at the same hotel in the evening.—*MNA*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean.
MNA

UNDP, Japan plan assistance for elections

***Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye greets Resident Director Mr Toily Kurbanov of UN Development Program.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June—Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye Tuesday held talks with Resident Director Mr Toily Kurbanov and party of UNDP at the commission, here, on assistance plans of UNDP for successfully holding the elections.

After that, the UEC Chairman, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi and the UNDP resident director attended the signing ceremony of Japan to provide 25,000 solar lamps worth US$895,000 for the elections.

The UEC Chairman thanked the international contributors including Japan for their assistance.

MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union holds meeting on Hluttaw's activities

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June— Myanmar Parliamentary Union on Tuesday held a meeting for reviewing activities of Hluttaws during the first term.

The meeting at Hluttaw Building was attended by Chairman of MPU and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Secretary of MPU and Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and the 12 speakers of region and state Hluttaws.

At the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann said MPU needs to monitor weakness and effectiveness of Hluttaws in the remaining term.

Vice Chairman U Khin Aung Myint will review its works to be able to set better plans for next parliaments.

U Nanda Kyaw Swa then explained resolutions of and activities of the first parliamentarian meeting in 2015.

Parliamentarians from regions and states presented their activities and suggested collaborative measures in the future.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Canadian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable Robert D. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of Canada, which falls on 1 July 2015.—*MNA*

Myanmar, Japan sign agreements for ODA loans

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June—A ceremony to sign exchange notes and loan agreements for Yen 25.888 billion of official development assistance loan of Japan was held at the Ministry of Finance, here, on Tuesday.

The loans will be spent on Yangon electrification project phase-1, infrastructure development project phase 1 (part-II) in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and small- and medium-scale enterprise development project.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi, JICA Myanmar Chief Mr Keiichiro Nakazawa and Director-General of Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance U Maung Maung Win signed the agreements.

MNA

***Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung shakes hands with Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi after exchanging notes.*—MNA**

Basic education primary upgraded to middle school

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — A ceremony to inaugurate the upgraded basic education middle school branch was held in Mathein village, Ottarathiri Township, on 29 June.

An official of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area spoke about undertakings of education promotion tasks and region development tasks in the township.

District Education Officer U Ba Tun explained the purpose of upgrading the school.

Local authorities cut the ribbon to unveil the signboard of the upgraded school.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

Region minister inspects rural development

MANDALAY, 30 June —Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than provided 213 notebooks to 71 students at the basic education primary school in Zeebingway village, TadaU Township on 28 June after giving instructions on regional development to local residents and teachers.

The minister also donated cardboard worth K130,000 to the school.

He inspected progress of an earthen road at the entrance to the village.

In Uti village, the minister viewed a 5-acre plot where coal will be stockpiled.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Sanitation work marks Myanmar Women's Day

MINGALADON, 30 June — To mark Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2015, sanitation work was carried out at the School for Girls (Htauk-kyant) under the Social Welfare Department in Mingaladon Township on 29 June. Students of the non-formal primary education school led by Principal Daw Thein Thein Htwe, trainees from the vocational course, teachers and staff participated in sanitation tasks inside and outside the school.

Local residents led by ward administrator U Ye Tint and officials joined the sanitation tasks of the school

Khin Zaw (Mingalar)

A ceremony to open newly-upgraded Basic Education Post-Prinary School was held in Ayechantha model village in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 29 June. Local people attend opening ceremony of signboard at BEPPS in the village.

TIN SOE LWIN (TATKON TOWNSHIP IPRD)

Development Minister emphasizes efficient use of funds

MANDALAY, 30 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs and Mayor U Aung Moung held discussions on development tasks with officials of Wundwin, Thazi and Meiktila townships on 28 June. The minister made trips to the three townships the whole day to meet with chairmen of Township Development Affairs Committees.

He stressed the need to efficiently spend the funds on development tasks in respective townships, urging the staff to relate with people politely and give better services to them while striving for development of the townships.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

New bridge stretches over Gyowah-Kyangin Creek in Pyapon Township

PYAPON, 30 June — The Gyowah-Kyangin Creek Bridge was recently commissioned into service in Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Local authorities formally opened the bridge, with more than 1,400 local residents in attendance.

Pyapon Township Rural Development Department assigned Moe Htaung Company Ltd to build the 200-foot-long, 12-foot-wide concrete bridge at a cost of K123.5 million.

Gyowah-Kyangin Creek is 8 miles west of Pyapon. Prior to its construction residents of 41 villages in Pyapon and Bogale townships had to cross the creek by boat.

Thanks to the bridge, local residents will easily overcome transport difficulties along their routes.

Thuzar Nwe (Pyapon)

School, students lauded for exam results

YAMETHIN, 30 June — A ceremony to recognise outstanding performers in the 2015 matriculation examination was held at the basic education high school in Ywadan village, Yamethin Township, on 28 June.

Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint presented a certificate of honour to the headmaster of the school that secured the highest pass rate in the township while officials gave prizes to distinction winners in the examination.

All 29 of the Ywadan BEHS students who passed the examination received distinctions. The minister presented a digital radio to each distinction winner, uniforms to teachers and notebooks and pens to basic education schools.

At Ywadan Station Hospital, the minister instructed officials to repair a water tank that was damaged in a recent natural disaster.—*Maung Pyi Thu Mandalay)*

Agriculture dept ready to assist farmers, businessmen

NAY PYI TAW, 30 June — The Department of Agriculture recently distributed quality Palethwe hybrid paddy to local farmers from eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Local farmers signed mutual-interest agreements with Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation to grow the paddy.

The Department of Agriculture has plans to educate farmers on how to grow paddy to boost production. MAPCO, Pinle Koe Thwe Paddy Company and Khittaya Hinthar Paddy Company will pay K450,000 per 100 baskets of Palethwe paddy at minimum price.—*Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)*

Vets assist livestock breeding programs in rural area

TIDDIM, 30 June — Chin State Head of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Myat San and officials made field trips to Twilant village in Tiddim Township recently to inspect the progress of livestock breeding programs. As part of implementing the Emerald Green Project, authorities provided K30 million to the village in the 2014-15 fiscal year for agriculture, livestock breeding and small-scale industries, so as to increase family incomes of local residents.

Departmental officials held a meeting with village committee members to discuss the project. They urged local residents to try hard to increase livestock breeding to a commercial scale in order to alleviate poverty.

Zo Hay Hsar

Taungtha Tsp residents attend talk on dengue fever danger

TAUNGTHA, 30 June — An educative talk on the dangers of dengue haemorrhagic fever was held at the basic education post-primary school in Aungtha village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region on 28 June.

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Myat Kalyar Aung gave talks on public activities for prevention of DHF and symptoms of dengue fever while senior nurse Daw Khin Mar Than spoke about infection of dengue, TB and malaria diseases, maternal health and the importance of nutrition.

Members of the MWCA distributed pamphlets on health knowledge to local people.—*Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)*

Quality growth, economic zone to top agenda at Japan-Mekong summit

Tokyo, 30 June — The leaders of Japan and five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River will meet on Saturday in Tokyo and adopt a new three-year development strategy for the Mekong region, a move Japan hopes will boost intraregional connectivity and promote sustained quality growth.

The strategy is likely to involve fresh Japanese aid to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, part of which will be covered by a five-year, $110 billion "high-quality and innovative" infrastructure investment initiative for Asia that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe advocated in May, according to Japanese government officials.

With China's rising economic clout in fast-growing Asia, Japan aims to highlight differences with China over infrastructure development by utilizing its advanced technology and environmentally friendly know-how, as well as training local workers.

"The Mekong region is a major priority area for the Abe initiative," one official said on condition of anonymity. "Japan will continue to build infrastructure of high quality for sustainable growth of the region with the spirit of 'developing together' based on a win-win relationship."

One such example concerns Japan's planned assistance to a Thai-Myanmar project to develop the Dawei Special Economic Zone in southeastern Myanmar. When completed, the zone will have a total area of 200 square kilometres, making it one of the largest SEZs in Southeast Asia.

Abe will announce Japan's participation in the project in an agreement he plans to sign on Saturday with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Myanmar President U Thein Sein, according to the Japanese officials.

The project includes improvement of an unpaved road linking Dawei on the Andaman Sea coast to the Myanmar-Thai border checkpoint in Phu Nam Ron, giving Bangkok a full-fledged land access to the Indian Ocean that would eventually make Dawei a gateway of the region's trade with India, the Middle East and Africa.

Development of the road and the economic zone, about 300 kilometres west of Bangkok, would allow businesses in Thailand — including Japanese investors such as automakers, auto-parts manufacturers and consumer electronics makers — to reduce time and costs in shipping products without passing the Strait of Malacca.

Image shows the location of the Southern Economic Corridor, a transportation route in the southern Mekong region that currently links Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok via Phnom Penh. Japan's planned assistance for improvement of an unpaved road linking the Dawei Special Economic Zone in southeastern Myanmar to the Myanmar-Thai border will extend the corridor to the Indian Ocean coast.—Kyodo News

As of June 2014, the number of Japanese investors in Thailand totaled 1,552, about half for the five Mekong states and one-fourth for the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

Development of the road would also mean that the Southern Economic Corridor, a transportation route linking Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok via Phnom Penh, will be extended to Dawei, a symbolic step for increased intraregional connectivity.

Governments and businesses expect the corridor to serve as a major industrial artery in the Mekong region, especially when ASEAN is lowering barriers to the flow of people, goods and money to launch a more integrated economic community by the end of 2015.

"Now that we have the corridor, we want more industrial zones," Sok Siphana, adviser to the government of Cambodia, told *Kyodo News* during a recent visit to Japan. "We would like Japan to invest more into industrial zones along the corridor so Cambodia can benefit."

Citing the Dawei project as a prime example, Chutintorn Gongsakdi, director general of the International Economic Affairs Department at the Thai Foreign Ministry, sought Tokyo's assistance in narrowing development gaps among Mekong states, a prerequisite for greater ASEAN integration.

As of 2013, per-capita gross domestic product totaled $5,390 in Thailand, compared with $2,073 in Vietnam, $1,628 in Laos, $1,103 in Myanmar and $1,018 in Cambodia, according to Japanese government data.

Chutintorn also called for Japanese investment in sustainable areas such as environmentally friendly technology and human resources development to help the region pursue high-quality growth.

Sok Siphana shared a similar view, saying, "How Japan can play a good role in building the industrial capacity in the region, how to transform the Mekong Subregion into an economic grouping that can play a role in stimulating the regional economy. This is what we expect."

"And we see a role of Japan quite a bit in terms of developing human resources, engineering infrastructure, soft infrastructure and hard infrastructure for connectivity," he said. "The issue is how to link the Mekong region into ASEAN and ASEAN into a larger Asia."—*Kyodo News*

More than 100 feared dead after Indonesian military plane crashes

Medan, (Indonesia), 30 June — More than 100 people were feared dead after a military transport plane ploughed into a residential area shortly after take-off in northern Indonesia on Tuesday, in what may be the deadliest accident yet for an air force with a long history of crashes.

"For the moment we know there were 113 people (on board). It looks like there are no survivors," Air Marshal Agus Supriatna told Metro TV in the Sumatra city of Medan, adding that some of the passengers were air force families.

The crash of the *C-130B Hercules* aircraft, which went into service half a century ago, is bound to put a fresh spotlight on Indonesia's woeful air safety record and its aging planes.

Firemen attempt to extinguish the fire surrounding the wreckage of an Indonesian military transport plane after it crashed in the North Sumatra city of Medan, Indonesia on 30 June, 2015.—Reuters

Officials said the plane plunged into a built-up area of the Sumatra city of Medan. Eye witnesses said it had appeared to explode shortly before it smashed into houses and a hotel.

An official at a nearby hospital who declined to be named said that 55 bodies had been brought in so far. In the first hours after the crash officials had said that only a crew of 12 service personnel were on board.

Black smoke billowed from the wreckage, and crowds of people milling around the area initially hampered emergency services rushing to the scene.

"We have been using heavy equipment like earth movers to clear the wreckage of the plane," said Romali, chief of Medan's search and rescue agency, who has only one name.

"We are still evacuating bodies from the rubble and we hope we can finish the operation tonight," he told *Reuters*.

The Hercules plane had been on its way from an air force base in Medan to Tanjung Pinang in Riau Islands off Sumatra. Media said the pilot had asked to return to the base because of technical problems.

"It passed overhead a few times, really low," said Elfrida Efi, a receptionist at the nearby Golden Eleven Hotel.

"There was fire and black smoke. The third time it came by it crashed into the roof of the hotel and exploded straight away," she told *Reuters* by telephone.

According to the Aviation Safety Network, there have been 10 fatal crashes involving Indonesian military or police aircraft over the last decade. The accidents put under a spotlight the safety record of Indonesia's aviation and its aging aircraft.

AirAsia flight QZ8501 crashed less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya in Indonesia to Singapore last December. All 162 people on board the *Airbus A320* were killed.

"It's too early to say what caused today's disaster, but it will again raise concerns about air safety in Indonesia, especially since it comes just half a year after the crash of QZ8501," said Greg Waldron, Asia Managing Editor at Flightglobal, an aviation industry data and news service.

The Indonesian air force has now lost four *C-130s*, reducing its transport reach in an archipelago that stretches more than 5,000 km from its western to eastern tips.

Air force spokesman Dwi Badarmanto said it was unclear what caused the crash and, until it was, eight other *C-130Bs* would be grounded.

Although Indonesia accounted for nearly one-fifth of defense spending by Southeast Asian countries last year, as a percentage of GDP it was the lowest in the region at 0.8 percent, according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute data.

President Joko Widodo, who took office last year, has said he plans to double military spending to $15 billion by 2020.

However, the transport plane accident could bring pressure on the president to spend more on modernizing the air force. "This incident shows us that we must renew our aircraft and our military equipment," Pramono Anung, a lawmaker and member of the parliamentary commission overseeing defense, told *Reuters*. "The Hercules is already old, many of our other (weapons) systems are already old. As parliament we will support giving more funding to the military so that they can upgrade."—*Reuters*

Iran and powers set to miss deadline as nuclear deal remains elusive

Vienna, 30 June — Iran and six world powers ramped up negotiations on Tuesday after accepting they would miss a 30 June deadline for a nuclear deal, with both sides cautioning that major obstacles to a lasting agreement remained.

Diplomats said the Vienna talks would run on for as long as necessary to reach a deal intended to promise an end to sanctions in exchange for at least a decade of limits on Iran's most sensitive nuclear activities.

The West and its allies suspect Iran may be developing technology that would allow it to build nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian atomic energy program, but Teheran says its ambitions are strictly peaceful.

US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, US Secretary of State John Kerry and US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman (L-3rd L) meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (2nd R) at a hotel in Vienna, Austria on 28 June, 2015.
Reuters

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who is on crutches due to a broken leg, has remained in Vienna to await the return of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif from consultations with the leadership in Tehran, and the arrival of the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China.

"There are real and tough issues that remain which have to be resolved in order to get the comprehensive agreement, and we still do not know yet whether we will be able to get there," a senior US administration official told reporters.

Zarif flew in on Tuesday morning with Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, still recovering from major surgery in May, and immediately went into almost two hours of private discussions with Kerry.

"I am here to get a final deal, and I think we can," he told reporters." Zarif was also due to meet his German and Russian counterparts later.

For more than a week, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China have been working into the night with Iran trying to break an impasse in talks that they feel have never been closer to concluding positively.

Diplomats have said the real deadline is not 30 June but 9 July, the latest that the deal can be presented to the US Congress if a mandatory review period before President Barack Obama can begin suspending sanctions is to be limited to 30 days. After that, the review will last 60 days, with growing risks that the deal could unravel.

The main differences are on the pace and timing of sanctions relief for Iran and on the nature of monitoring mechanisms to ensure it complies with the deal.

A big sticking point is Western demands that UN inspectors have access to Iranian military sites and nuclear scientists.

Western diplomats say they are nearing a resolution, although Iranian officials maintain that access to military sites is a red line set by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The US official said the six powers had come up with a system to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would have the necessary access, though there was no suggestion the Iranians had agreed to this.

Reuters

S Korea says too early to talk about timing of summit with Japan

Seoul, 30 June — South Korea said on Tuesday that discussion over when to hold a bilateral summit meeting with Japan is premature.

"It's too early to talk about the timing as to when a summit with Japan could be held," Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said during a press briefing.

He reiterated his government's position that it remains open to a summit with Japan, but conditions should be created to make such an event a success.

Noh was responding to a question concerning remarks made by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama on Monday, seen as being indicative of a possible summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye as early as in September. "If a summit among Japan, China and South Korea is held in early fall, we could stage a Japan-South Korea summit as well," Sugiyama said in a speech in Tokyo.

If realized, it would be the first Japan-South Korea summit since Park came into power in 2013. She has declined to hold a bilateral summit with Japan due to factors such as the so-called "comfort women" issue involving Korean and other women procured for brothels for Japanese military servicemen during World War II. Tokyo's relations with Seoul have been strained over this and other war-linked issued as well as a territorial dispute. In a related development, a diplomatic source, cited by *Yonhap News Agency*, said South Korea, Japan and China are expected to resume a trilateral meeting of their leaders in early October. "Given busy diplomatic schedules in the second half of this year, the meeting is likely to take place in early October or no later than mid-October," the source was quoted as saying. If such a meeting is realized, it would also set the stage for a summit between Park and Abe on the sidelines.

As for where the trilateral summit would take place, the source said, "Seoul is the most likely venue but it's not a bad idea to hold it in another city, for example Gyeongju," the source said, referring to the ancient capital in North Gyeongsang Province.

The summit involving the three neighbours was launched in 2008 but it was last held in Beijing in 2012 amid strained relations mainly caused by territorial and historical disputes.

It is South Korea's turn to host the gathering to be attended by Park, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.—*Kyodo News*

4th Russian-made Kilo submarine arrives in Vietnam

Hanoi, 30 June — A freighter carrying the fourth Kilo- class submarine made by Russia for Vietnam has arrived on Tuesday morning at Cam Ranh gulf in Vietnam's south central coastal Khanh Hoa province, some 1,040 km south of capital Hanoi.

After one and a half months voyage from Russia's Saint Petersburg, the submarine, which was made under the contract between Vietnam and Russia to build six of its kind, will be released into the sea after several days, reported Vietnam's state- run news agency *VNA*.

The submarine is nearly 74 metres in length with displacement of 3,000-3,950 tons. It is able to operate at a maximum depth of 300 metres and at a speed of 20 nautical miles per hour with 52 crew members on board, reported *VNA*.

The Kilo-submarines will be called under the names of major cities and provinces of Vietnam. Earlier, the country received three of the submarines, namely HQ-182 Hanoi, HQ-183 Ho Chi Minh City, and HQ-184 Hai Phong. The fourth submarine is set to be named Da Nang, a centrally controlled city in central Vietnam.—*Xinhua*

Liberia records new death from Ebola

Monrovia, 30 June — A Liberian has died of Ebola in the first recorded case since the country at the heart of an epidemic was declared free of the virus on 9 May, Deputy Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah said on Tuesday.

The body of a 17-year-old tested positive for Ebola in Margibi County, the deputy minister said. Margibi is a rural area close to the capital Monrovia, and is home to the country's main international airport.

"There is no need to panic. The corpse has been buried and our contact tracing has started work," Nyenswah said.

The case represents a setback for Liberia, which was declared Ebola free on 9 May after going 42 days without a new case. Authorities will now have to trace and potentially isolate every person the victim came into contact with while sick.

A total of 11,207 people died from Ebola in Liberia, neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone since the outbreak began in December 2013, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) report on 24 June.

Around 43 percent of those deaths were in Liberia, where the outbreak peaked between last August and October with hundreds of cases a week. Health workers say vigilance is needed if the outbreak is to be eliminated.

A total of 12 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and eight in Sierra Leone in the seven days to 21 June, according to WHO figures.

Reuters

Photo taken on 29 June, 2015 shows the 8th meeting of the Cuba-China Joint Working Group on Biotechnology in the city of Havana, capital of Cuba. Cuba and China are set to expand cooperation in the field of biotechnology, the Cuban News Agency (ACN) reported on Sunday.
Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 1 July, 2015

Children need a supportive classroom

By *Aung Khin*

There are certain differences between classrooms in cities and those in rural areas. While teachers in villages do not have modern school facilities and must manage classrooms of crowded children, their city counterparts are gaining additional opportunities.

While the urban lifestyle is too rushed and hard, parents have to use a considerable amount of money for their children. Some parents cannot take their children to schools themselves and must arrange privately owned school buses. Those who cannot check school lessons of their children may send them to after-school tuition.

In order to supplement their incomes, some classroom teachers turn to illegally providing tuition. Their income from this tuition often exceeds their teaching salary. Seeing the opportunity to get better income in cities, teachers from other areas seek appointment at city schools by approaching education authorities.

As a result, rural areas often have fresh teachers and residential teachers. This situation is a good opportunity for rural children. They can learn from new and active teachers who recently completed education courses. The residential teachers who are quite content with the existing lifestyle can focus on both children and lessons.

Children need supportive classrooms where teachers concentrate on education, not on money from tuition fees. Children who do not receive tuition may feel disadvantaged compared to their friends who are tutored by their classroom teachers. Ethics and codes of conducts are important for teachers as they should be icons for the future generation.

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

A GLANCE AT THE LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN

By *Maung Hlaing*

With much interest, I read an article on "Children's News" (ခလေးသတင်းစာ) of which literal meaning is the "Newspaper for Children". It was written by writer Hmaw Wun Kyi Myat in the Standard Time Daily (Myanmar) of 20-6-2015 issue. The article was so interesting that I couldn't help thinking about the children's journals of the past and present.

"The Children's News" indeed was produced as a supplement by Editor U Thein Maung of the Than-daw-sint Daily. In those days, children's corners or reading materials for children could be seen in the dailies to encourage the literature for children. However "The Children's News" came out in the post-war period of the World War II.

Prior to "The Children's News", "The Students' News", (ကျောင်းသားသတင်းစာ) emerged in 1940. The editor was Daw Ma Ma Khin [B.A, M.Sc. (Chicago)] and the paper was not a daily but a weekly. The paper could be called the first and foremost newspaper for children in the Myanmar literary world.

Regarding the literature for children, five periods could roughly be defined — From Myanmar prehistoric time to Konboung periods; colony period (1886-1948); Parliament Democracy period (1948-1962); Socialist Revolution period (1962-1988); and State Law and Orders Restoration/State Peace and Development Council (1988-2010).

Although we cannot definitely say the dawn of the history of the literature for children, no one can deny that story telling influenced the prehistoric time of Myanmar. Not only in Myanmar but also in the nations of the world, adults have told stories to their children since prehistoric times. Fairy tales, folk tales, myths, epics, ballads and fables have existed since then. Early people handed down their folk literature orally from generation to generation.

It is for this reason that the legends such as Maung Pauk Kyine, Pyu Saw Htee and etc. that our Grandma told us and Jataka stories came over to the children's literature that has appeal for young readers – individuals from the preschool age up to the teens. In the Inwa Period, literature for children came to flourish thanks to the emergence of (rhyming) homily. Most of the homilies were written by monk writers who wanted the children to become good citizens.

After the collapse of the Konboung Dynasties, the entire Myanmar became British colony in 1886. In Mawlamyine (Moulmein) which was accustomed to the British administration, missionary schools were thriving. A book for children was printed at A.B.M printing press in 1865. It was "Burmese Pictorial Reader" compiled by Maung Na Kaw. According to the historical researchers, it could be said to be the first reader for children in Myanmar. Similarly, Thudamasari Precedents, or Judgments printed and published in Sittway (Rakhine State) in 1866 could also be considered as a book for children simply because it contained folk tales suitable for children. Moreover, "Hitaw Padetha" printed and published in Yangon in 1870 was put on the list of literature for children.

Later, translated works for children's literature began to flourish in the 1870's. In 1873, the world-famous "Aesop's Fables were translated by W.Shway Too Sandy. Although the themes were based on alien origins, they could attract not only young readers but also the adults.

Regarding the history of the literature for children, we cannot ignore the significant role played by "The World of Books" (ဂန္ထလောကစာစောင်) that emerged in 1920's. It served as a bridge between the olden days' style and modern ones. "The World of Books" carried traditional folk tales and translated works for children. Most of the works educated the children to know how to obey the elders and admonished them. It introduced translation competitions for children's literature which was known as Prize Translation. Even U Thant (former Secretary - General of the UNO) translated a poem of French origin "The Crow and the Fox" into Myanmar under the pen-name of "Thilawa". Likewise, Thakin Ba Thaung paved the way for children's literature based on nationalism and patriotism through the children's corner of the World of Books.

The movements of literature for children gradually gained its momentum when the pioneers such as Maung Wun, Mega Wun, Sun Thawdar, Anyatra, Wathawa, Mya Wut Yee, Shwe Ka-nyit, Khin Theingi, Nga Nyo, Thutethi, Mingalar, Welu Thumana took part in the movements.

According to the records, "The Burma Boy" (မြန်မာပြည်သားစာစောင်) which came out in 1924 could be called the first and foremost magazine for children and became an important milestone in the movement of literature for children in Myanmar. The publisher was an English named Mr. Kinch (of the Scouts) who established the Burma Art Club in Rangoon Hhigh School in 1918 taught painting to Myanmar students. Successful artists U Ba Nyan, U Ba Zaw and famous cartoonist U Hein Soon ware his students. "The Burma Boy" contained The Editor's Notes, stories, materials on general knowledge including agriculture and livestock breeding, physical exercises and sports and etc. with attractive illustrations. However, the magazine was brought to an end, when Mr. Kinch was transferred to the Shan State in 1927.

It was in 1935 when a periodical called "Tet Khit" came out to encourage Myanmar citizens to learn current international affairs. The magazine enables the young readers to have political outlook. Especially, it inspired Myanmar children to have nationalistic and religious fervour. "Tet Khit" brought criticism to the readers' notice. Regarding criticism, it was obvious to us that "Bagyi Aung Nyar Dae" written by Sayargyi Min Thu Wun deserved a good example. It was a modern short story (at that time) based on Child Psychology and depicted the nature and spirit of a child. Mr.J.S. Furnivall (I.C.S. Retired) criticized the story as follows: -

"The other writers are more conventional in their themes and for European taste pipe too persistently on the pathetic stop. (Bagyi-aung-nya-de) by Maung Wun, for an example, is charming story of a small boy, who fell in love with a statuette and saved up his pice to buy it; but was disappointed of his hope and add another victim to the epidemic of sensibility that rages in this book. So many people are so very miserable with so very little reason that one feels the characters, and perhaps the another would be the better for a tonic ..." (Paper Reading Session on Literature for Children, Vol II, Sarpay Beikman.)

Sayargyi Min Thu Wun's "Bagyi Aung Nyar Dae" attracted not only the children but also even the adult readers in those days. Such a modern short story will surely be all the rage among the children of generation by generation.

A study will show that literature for children that flourished before the World War II generally included folk tales, myths, epics, fables and some modern writings. In other words, folk literature early people that handed down orally from generation to generation was in vogue.

Hmat Gyi Aungpinle

ARTICLE

CONCEPT ON CULTURE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DIALOGUE AMONG PEOPLES

Dr Nanda Hmun
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Culture

The word "dialogue" is firstly considered as a rational conversation among persons but the concept of the *"dialogue"* has expanded to "method", "process" and accepted as "social attitude". *It is much more conversation that aims at mutual confrontation, understanding of views, and as cooperation; it is meant for the true protection of general human values and for justice and peace.* Furthermore, it distinguishes itself from debate. Because negotiation is a discussion in which the participants try to strike a deal or reach an agreement of some kind. In contrast with that kind of art of negotiation and debate, the participants involve in dialogue see each other as particular individual and take part in process to accept the other.

Intercultural dialogue is a concept and discourse that dates back to the 1980s. It is the major means for managing diversity and strengthening democracy within Europe and beyond. It has been adopted by the United Nations, UNESCO and the Council of Europe as the basis for interreligious and interfaith initiatives and has become increasingly associated with a liberal theory of modernity and internationalism that presupposes freedom, democracy, human rights and tolerance. It is now the dominant paradigm for 'cultural policy' and the educational basis for the development of intercultural understanding.

It is learnt that governments have placed their hope in intercultural education as the way to avoid the worst excesses of globalization, especially exclusion and marginalization, and the problems of xenophobia and racism that afflict European societies. It is obvious that Interculturalism, Education and Dialogue is an international collection by renowned scholars who examine the ideological underpinnings of the European model and its global applications. It explores the historical, philosophical and educational dimensions of intercultural dialogue.

In the 21st century, to address questions related to cultural sustainability and the role of culture in sustainable futures, what is role of culture play: in the three-legged eco-centric model – with environmental, economic and politico-social dimensions – of sustainability; towards cultural sustainability; a four-legged model: environment, economy, social and cultural sustainability; everyday practices and living togetherness, costumes, food, identity-constructions and understandings, aesthetic and ethical values, artistic representations and performances, etc. has to be judged. The culture of each community differs as it defines the negotiation space between individuals — with capacities, aspirations and values and communities. Social participation therefore requires multi-cultural approaches. Dialogue is anyway regarded as social attitude and it calls for social participation with good attitude.

The term "peace", like "humanitarian intervention" has had such a checkered history that one finds it difficult to convince the skeptics of its true value. How can one talk about peace, while at the same time wage war in the name of humanitarian intervention? The answers are never simple, but the challenge of creating a "culture of peace" is one that is being met today with ever-growing confidence.

Constructing a culture of peace is firstly based on the respect for human rights. That respect must go beyond mere acquiescence, however. It starts with the application of pacific means of conflict resolution. It follows with a growth of tolerance for other viewpoints and the development of international understanding. It then proceeds to an active commitment to do things differently. From UNESCO's perspective, education for peace, human rights and democracy is the answer. Using proactive learning tools, normative instruments, and publications one can see how to fight against discrimination, whether it is economic, culture, or gender based. This is the essence of citizenship education.

Creating networks of communication, utilizing the latest concepts in information technology, and the development of electronic fora, enables us to bridge the traditional gaps between those who have the resources and those who do not. Increasingly people everywhere have access to the Internet. The growth rate continues to be faster than we can count. The truly exciting aspect is that we can now create a culture of peace through a variety of approaches, including music and images, and not be limited because of language differences. Ultimately, the great contribution of information technology in the globalization of a culture of peace will be that people will finally have a universal means of communication.

During the twentieth century, humankind has begun taking a new road to peace and social justice — the road of non-violence. In the past, the struggle for human rights and justice has often been violent. But violence reproduces the culture of war — authoritarian, hierarchical, exploitative, male-dominated, secretive, and, above all, mobilized to destroy "the enemy". We have paid a high price — the lives of millions and millions of people — for this culture of war. To build a culture of peace is utmost important. Culture is a shared way of life that includes values, beliefs, and norms transmitted within a particular society from generation to generation through symbolic learning and language.

A culture of peace is linked intrinsically to non-violent struggle. World well-known Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King named it as "active non-violence", and they showed that although the non-violent walk to freedom is long, it is a sure way to peace. In the struggle for a culture of peace and non-violence, there are no enemies. Everyone must be considered a potential partner. The task is to constantly argue and negotiate with those engaged in the culture of violence, refusing to give up the struggle, until they are convinced to join in working for a culture of peace.

Fifty-nine years after the founding of UNESCO, the culture of peace highlights and helps people all over the world to be able to live in accordance with the very principles that inspired the Organization's creation. UNESCO has a great variety of tasks, but only one mission — to build peace. In accordance to the Article I of the Constitution of UNESCO states: "The purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion."

The goal of Culture of Peace is to ensure the transition from a culture of war, violence, imposition and discrimination towards a culture of non-violence, dialogue, tolerance and solidarity. Individuals as well as institutions and states are already taking part in this movement. A great number of partners — including women's groups, youth groups, teachers, mayors, members of parliament, armed forces and the media, journalists, religious figures, representatives of indigenous peoples, artists, and many others — have already undertaken important projects. In the world, people have witnessed the loss of human lives, the millions of children and women turned into orphans and widows and the massive destruction of lives and countries for those civil wars. Also at present, the loss of lives in different parts of the world in different ways of dying can still be viewed through everyday news. This devastation makes people in this world to think that a wall of endless fear is building up.

Social cohesion is one of the arms of culture practices by scoping conventional and conceptual sources in academic and applied documents. Cohesive groups are well connected with networks and have social capital. Social capital bond people to each other, bridge them across divides, and link them to significant institutions that have important effects on their lives.

The social assets gained through building social capital include connectivity or networks, trust, reciprocity, mutuality and collectivity. As mentioned, social inclusion is a necessary condition for building social cohesion, but active participation is an additional needed ingredient. Participation by community members should be on equal footing with authorities, preferably in a partnership format. Social cohesion, in its turn, is contributory to enhance forms of quality of life. Local communities can transform toward achieving these desirables by cumulatively building "capitals" upon each other, and so interactively strengthen their power.

Cultural heritage bridges the past with the future, giving people the foundation to meet the challenges of tomorrow. As many urbanization issues can impact heritage sites, cultural resource and historic preservation, ensuring the management of such resources calls for many challenges. Cultural resources in many countries including not only the façade, historic monuments and building restorations, and rehabilitating or preserving iconic bridges, but also those intangible properties like language, music and customs and traditional events are being systematically undertaken for inventory list to be recorded and further actions.

Culture is a set of values and practices that create meaning for society which includes both high culture (literature, art, and education, which appeals to elites) and popular culture (appeals to the masses). When engaging in cultural diplomacy, a type of soft power, which is the "ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments.", it is noted that it comes from a *country's culture, political ideals and policies."*

This indicates that the value of culture is its ability to attract foreigners to a nation. Cultural diplomacy is also a component of ***public diplomacy***. Public diplomacy is enhanced by a larger society and culture, but simultaneously public diplomacy helps to "amplify and advertise that society and culture to the world at large." It could be argued that the information component of public diplomacy can only be fully effective where there is already a relationship that gives credibility to the information being relayed. This comes from knowledge of the other's culture." Cultural diplomacy has been called the "linchpin of public diplomacy" because cultural activities have the possibility to demonstrate the best of a nation. In this way, cultural diplomacy and public diplomacy are intimately linked.

Peace making requires effort and dedication. To be ambitious and dedicated and keep trying to reach the goals, no matter the obstacles and to keep believing in ourselves and in our power as humans to make the change we want to see in the world. The efforts of each of it is needed to be joined together because cooperation is the way to move forward. It is essential to be together to promote team cohesion and the importance of working in unity. Creating a ***culture of dialogue is therefore important for groups to share their common concerns and find ways to transform them together.*** It is advisable not to generalize or judge people and groups, nor characterize them as "good" or "bad" but approach and treat all people as humans and focus on the common interests and values that we share.

Myanmar which is home for more than a hundred of ethnic groups and all kinds of cultural heritage with its long history, is trying to sustain with its utmost capacity for the extensive presence of challenges. The activities which promote cultural identity and engage known experts in preservation practice and policy planning that addresses urban challenges also helps exchanging of information particularly on the preservation of archaeological collections of the sites, dissemination of information on the collections among the respective states and divisions and needs related to their respective museums and libraries are among the focused for to promote cultural connectivity and extend cultural understanding.

To share Myanmar experience, the Ministry of Culture which has been established since 1952, is the main focal ministry to take the responsibility of excavations and restorations of historic cities. The Ministry whose Vision and Mission is to be ***"Hub of National prestige and National Identity with cultural heritage" and "to fulfill the Social Objectives of the State by uplifting the morale and morality of the entire nation, national prestige and integrity and preservation and safe-guarding of cultural heritage and national character, and dynamism of patriotic spirit."***

(To be contiuned)

US spy agency wiretapped two French finance ministers

PARIS, 30 June — The US National Security Agency wiretapped the communications of two successive French finance ministers and collected information on French export contracts, trade and budget talks, according to a report by WikiLeaks.

The transparency website said the ministers targeted were Francois Baroin and Pierre Moscovici, who between them headed the finance ministry from 2011 to 2014.

The allegations, published jointly with newspaper *Liberation* and online outlet Mediapart, came a week after Wikileaks reported that the NSA had spied on three French presidents from at least 2006 to May 2012, prompting the government to protest to Washington that such behaviour between allies was unacceptable.

Wikileaks said that in one document dating from 2002 and renewed in 2012, the NSA asked intelligence services from Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand to collect information on proposed French export contracts worth more than $200 million in sectors including telecoms, electricity, nuclear energy, transport, and health.

No specific French companies were named in the Wikileaks documents.

Another leaked document showed a summary of a phone call between Moscovici, who now serves as Economics Commissioner for the European Union, and a Socialist senator, in which they discussed the poor state of the French economy and ongoing budget negotiations.

In a tweet on 24 June when the alleged NSA spying on French presidents was revealed, Moscovici said he would be shocked if he had been subject to such surveillance and would demand an explanation from the American authorities. "Unacceptable between allies and friends," he tweeted. A spokesman for France's foreign ministry declined to comment on Monday.

An illustration picture shows the logo of the US National Security Agency on the display of an iPhone in Berlin on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

In Washington, the NSA and Office of the Director of National Intelligence would not comment on the specifics of the latest Wikileaks documents.

US intelligence officials have repeatedly asserted that the United States does not carry out electronic surveillance for commercial gain.

While the United States collects intelligence about economic and financial matters, "What we do not do, as we have said many times, is use our foreign intelligence capabilities to steal the trade secrets of foreign companies on behalf of — or give intelligence we collect to — US companies to enhance their international competitiveness or increase their bottom line," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in September 2013.

Some US and European security sources have expressed concern that the latest sensitive documents may have been supplied to Wikileaks by a previously unknown source, and not by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. Snowden took refuge in Russia after releasing tens of thousands of classified US intelligence documents in 2013.—*Reuters*

Mogherini: Text of two agreements finalized

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini said early Tuesday after another round of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue that the text of two agreements has been finalized.
TANJUG

BRUSSELS, 30 June — EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini said early on Tuesday after another round of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue that the text of two agreements has been finalized.

In a statement released after a meeting with the Belgrade and Pristina delegations, headed by Prime Ministers Aleksandar Vucic and Isa Mustafa, she said that the text of two agreements was finalised - "on principles of the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo and on the implementation arrangements in the field of telecoms."

"Final political agreement however could not be reached," Mogherini said in the statement, adding that "we will now reflect on future steps."

The EU-facilitated dialogue on normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina started around 9 am on Monday, resuming shortly after 8.30 pm.

The break was due to High Representative Mogherini's other engagements in the afternoon.

The agenda consisted of four major issues — the community of Serb municipalities, telecommunications, energy and the Peace Park in Kosovska Mitrovica.—*Tanjug*

Greece to re-open bank branches for pensioners

ATHENS, 30 June — Greece will re-open 1,000 bank branches from Wednesday until the end of the week to cater for pensioners who do not use cash cards for automated teller machines, the finance ministry said on Tuesday.

Banks are expected to remain closed for other purposes until 6 July, as part of capital controls imposed this week to prevent a collapse of the banking system after the European Central Bank froze financial support needed to keep the banks afloat.

Although ATMs were reopened on Monday afternoon, many older people who do not use debit or credit cards were unable to collect their pensions.

Pensioners will each be able to withdraw up to 120 euros this week.

The finance ministry reiterated assurances that bank deposits would remain safe after Sunday's referendum on the terms of a bailout agreement with foreign lenders which the government has rejected.

Reuters

AeroMexico Dreamliner makes emergency landing in Ireland

DUBLIN, 30 June — A *Boeing 787* Dreamliner en route from Mexico City to Paris made an emergency landing at Ireland's Shannon Airport on Monday and all 193 people on board disembarked safely, a spokesman for the airport said on Monday.

Mexico's Aeromexico said in a statement that an alert in the cargo hold of the flight caused it to divert, and a spokesperson later added there was no fire on the plane.

The Shannon Airport spokesman said crews on the ground were planning to inspect the Aeromexico plane. He declined to comment on what caused the plane to make the emergency landing.

A Boeing spokesperson declined to answer questions about the incident and directed questions to Aeromexico.

While Aeromexico said there was no fire in this case, the Dreamliner has a history of electrical systems overheating. Regulators grounded the worldwide 787 fleet in January 2013 after lithium-based batteries overheated on two jets in two separate incidents in less than two weeks, prompting a full-scale US investigation.

Boeing modified the battery system and installed steel boxes around the batteries to contain fire and allow smoke and fumes to vent outside the aircraft.

In April 2013, the US Federal Aviation Administration allowed the 787 to resume service and other regulators followed. The root cause of battery overheating was never determined.

Reuters

France announces terrorism charge against gas plant attacker

PARIS, 30 June — France's chief public prosecutor said on Tuesday a man arrested last week on suspicion of beheading his boss and trying to blow up an industrial gas plant would be kept behind bars pending an inquiry on terrorism charges.

Prosecutor Francois Molins announced the news at the end of an initial 96-hour custody following the arrest of Yassin Salhi, 35, who was arrested on the scene of the crime near the southern city of Lyon on Friday.

The severed head of his boss was found hanging on the fence of a site belonging to US-based gas and chemicals company Air Products, next to flags bearing professions of the Muslim faith.

Molins said investigations in the four days since Salhi's arrest — notably evidence of contact with an Islamist militant in Syria — justified an inquiry on charges of suspected terrorism and not simply, as Salhi argued, an assassination that was provoked by personal problems with his boss and wife.

Reuters

Four Israelis wounded in suspected Palestinian West Bank shooting

JERUSALEM, 30 June — A gunman opened fire at a group of Israelis near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Monday, the Israeli military said, in a suspected Palestinian drive-by attack.

A spokesman for Israel's ambulance service Magen David Adom said medics were treating four people in their twenties, one of them badly wounded. A military spokesman said forces were searching the area for suspected Palestinian assailants.

There has been an uptick of violence in the area in recent weeks.

Earlier on Monday, police said a Palestinian woman stabbed and wounded an Israeli soldier at a crossing between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. On Friday Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank after he opened fire on them at a checkpoint.

Earlier this month a Palestinian stabbed and wounded an Israeli paramilitary policeman outside the walled Old City of Jerusalem. The policeman shot back and wounded him and in the West Bank a suspected Palestinian gunman shot at two Israeli hikers and killed one. The assailant escaped.

Palestinian militants this month have fired rockets into Israel from Gaza, drawing Israeli return fire. That frontier has been largely quiet since the Gaza war last year in which more than 2,100 Palestinians and 73 on the Israeli side were killed. Palestinians seek a state in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The last round of peace talks between the sides broke down in April 2014.—*Reuters*

***Israeli soldiers walk with a dog next to an Israeli checkpoint near the West Bank town of Bethlehem, after a stabbing attack on 29 June, 2015.—*REUTERS**

Tunisia arrests suspects associated with beach hotel attacker

SOUSSE, (Tunisia), 30 June — Tunisian authorities have arrested a group of suspects associated with the gunman who killed 39 people, mainly British tourists, in a beach hotel attack claimed by Islamic State, the interior minister said on Monday.

British interior minister Theresa May, and her French and German counterparts, visited the site of the attack near the Imperial Marhaba hotel in the resort town of Sousse, laying flowers on the beach. They promised Tunisia help in security, intelligence, police training and to help keep tourism alive.

Tourism Police, armed with handguns and rifles, patrolled the waterfront where some European tourists remained amid the parasols and bouquets scattered in the sand.

Interior Minister Najem Gharsalli gave no details of those arrested and said officials were checking whether gunman Saif Rezgui had been trained in neighbouring Libya in jihadist camps.

Forensic evidence shows Rezgui, a student who gave few clues to family and friends that he had been radicalized, was probably the only gunman, though others may have been involved in planning and organizing the attack.

"We will find all those involved, whether it was just logistical support or not," the Tunisian minister said, flanked by ministers from Britain, France and Germany.

Reuters

***A photograph of a tourist couple, who was killed during Friday's attack, is pictured at a makeshift memorial at the beachside of the Imperial Marhaba resort in Sousse, Tunisia, on 29 June, 2015.—*REUTERS**

Islamic State beheads female civilians for first time in Syria

BEIRUT, 30 June — The hardline Islamic State group has beheaded two women in Syria, the first time it has decapitated female civilians, the founder of a group monitoring the war said on Tuesday.

The beheadings took place in the eastern Deir al-Zor province this week said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks the conflict using sources on the ground.

One of the women was beheaded along with her husband in Deir al-Zor city. In al-Mayadeen city to the south east, the group beheaded another woman and her husband. All of them were accused of sorcery, the monitor said.

Islamic State has beheaded local and foreign men in Syria, including enemy combatants, aid workers and journalists as well as people it has deemed as violating its hardline interpretation of Islamic law.

Several of the group's female captives have been stoned to death previously after being accused of adultery and other offences. This is the first time it was reported to have beheaded female civilians.

Islamic State also "crucified" five men in al-Mayadeen for eating during daylight hours of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the Observatory said.

They were hung up by their limbs on the city wall and children were encouraged to mock them as they suffered, it added.

Activists say Islamic State uses such public punishments in areas where it is present to control the local population through coercion and fear.

Reuters

Car bomb in Yemeni capital hits mourners, dozens wounded

SANAA, 30 June — A car bomb claimed by Islamic State exploded in the Yemeni capital Sanaa overnight, medics said, wounding at least 28 people gathered to mourn another attack earlier this month.

In a new sign that three months of war in Yemen was ratcheting up, the country's military spokesman said its forces had launched a Scud missile at a Saudi military base on Tuesday.

A Saudi-led military alliance has been bombing Yemen's dominant Houthi group and its allies in the army to dislodge them from the capital and restore the exiled president.

A sectarian-tinged conflict has raged throughout Yemen's south and centre, pitting the Shi'ite Muslim Houthis against mostly Sunni local militiamen who support the Arab intervention.

The political vacuum has given hardline Sunni militants greater room to operate. They regard the Houthis as apostates worthy of death, and the overnight blast was the latest in a series of attacks on the group and their supporters.

"The explosion was caused by a car bomb which exploded behind the military hospital in the Sha'oub district in Sanaa, which injured 28 people including 12 women in a building where victims of a previous attack were being mourned," a medical source said.

In a statement posted online, Islamic State claimed responsibility for the blast, saying it had targeted the area "out of revenge for the Muslims against the Houthi apostates."

Despite the months of Arab air strikes backing up the Houthis' armed opponents in Yemen, the Houthis have not lost ground on the battlefield and have stepped up their exchanges of artillery and rocket fire with Saudi forces along their border.

Yemeni forces launched a Scud missile at a missile base in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, Yemeni state news agency *Saba* quoted the military's spokesman as saying.

"The rocket units in our heroic armed forces today launched a Scud missile at the Al Sulayyil missile base in Riyadh Province ... it comes as a response to the crimes of the brutal Saudi aggression," Brigadier General Sharaf Luqman said.

Luqman said the attack hit the base, which is about 450 km (280 miles) south of the Saudi capital Riyadh, but a previous Scud launched by Yemen's forces earlier this month was shot down by Saudi patriot missiles despite Yemeni claims it struck its target.

Reuters

***People stand next to wreckage at the site of a car bomb attack in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 29 June, 2015.—*REUTERS**

Ku Klux Klan gets green light for pro-Confederate flag rally in South Carolina

Participants in the "Ride for Pride'' event stand on the back of their pickup truck as they speak to an assembled crowd during the impromptu event to show their support the Confederate flag in Brandon, Hillsborough County on 26 June, 2015.—Reuters

Brandon, (Hillsborough County) 30 June — The white supremacist Ku Klux Klan has received approval from South Carolina officials to hold a pro-Confederate flag rally at the state capitol, a newspaper reported on Monday, less than two weeks after a white man shot dead nine people in a black church.

The suspect in the church shooting, 21-year-old Dylann Roof, has confessed to the killing. He had previously posted a racist manifesto online as well as photos of him posing with a Confederate flag, a Civil-War era banner associated with slavery and seen by many as a symbol of racist oppression.

The shootings on 17 June, in which all nine victims were black, unleashed shockwaves across the United States and triggered calls for South Carolina to stop displaying the Confederate flag on the statehouse grounds.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has called for the flag's removal, and told the Post and Courier that she did not endorse the Klan's planned rally.

But according to the newspaper, the South Carolina Budget and Control Board approved an application filed by the "Loyal White Knights" chapter of the Ku Klux Klan for a July 18 rally in favour of the flag. Budget and Control Board spokesman Brian Gaines told the newspaper that space to demonstrate was provided at the site when not already reserved.

The state capitol is located in South Carolina's capital, Columbia, about 115 miles (185 km) northwest of Charleston, home to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church where the shootings occurred.

The Southern Poverty Law Centre, which monitors extremist organizations, lists the Loyal White Knights as an active group within the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan.

With roots reaching back to the Civil War, the Klan is known for its white robes and pointed hoods and for its acts of violence and intimidation against African-Americans, including cross burnings and killings.

An answering machine for the South Carolina chapter referred to Roof as a "warrior," according to the Post and Courier.

Federal authorities said on Monday they are investigating a spate of fires at predominantly black churches across the southern United States, though so far no link between the incidents has been established.

In past year, race relations have been increasingly under the spotlight in the United States amid growing anger over frequent deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of law enforcement, leading to demonstrations and occasional unrest.—*Reuters*

China issues emergency alert for flood-hit Sichuan

Beijing, 30 June — Chinese authorities initiated a grade IV emergency response to torrential rain and floods in Sichuan Province on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction sent work teams to assist relief efforts in the southwest China province, where storms have brought floods and landslides since last week.

In Sichuan, two people were killed by landslides in Nanjiang County, which reported its worst floods since 1949. Another woman was killed by a landslide in Sichuan's Pengxi County. Official figures show that the disaster has forced the relocation of 132,300 people across 44 townships with 23,000 houses being completely destroyed as of 9 am on Tuesday.

A grade IV response, the lowest in the country's emergency response system, means a 24-hour alert, daily damage reports, and dispatching money and relief materials within 48 hours. The provincial government plans to allocate 15 million yuan (2.45 million US dollars) to provide daily living assistance for residents from disaster-hit areas.—*Xinhua*

Lightning, storms kill 56 Cambodians in 1st half of 2015

Phnom Penh, 30 June — Lightning and storms killed 56 people, injured 166 others and destroyed or damaged about 7,000 homes in Cambodia during the first half of this year, according to a government report made available on Tuesday.

The report of the National Committee for Disaster Management showed that 44 Cambodians were killed by lightning and 12 by storms over the past six months. The number of deaths by lighting decreased by about 20 percent compared with the same period last year when the total was 57.

Lighting and storms normally strike parts of the country during the rainy season from May to October.—*Kyodo News*

Elderly population surging in New Zealand

Wellington, 30 June — New Zealand's elderly aged 65 and over is projected to make up almost a quarter of the total population in another three decades, the government statistics agency said on Tuesday.

The age group was up from 9.9 percent of the population in 1981 to 14.3 percent in 2012, and was projected to grow to 23.8 percent in another 30 years, according to Statistics New Zealand.

People aged 85 and over were making up a growing proportion of the 65-plus group, rising from 10.8 percent in 2001 to 12.1 percent in 2013 and they were projected to be 19.7 percent by 2043.

"We've seen a very noticeable shift since the 1981 Census. The proportion of over-65s is steadily increasing, and is expected to continue growing, especially in the over-85s bracket," census customer focus manager Gareth Meech said in a statement.

More than a quarter — 27.5 percent — of the 65-plus age group were born overseas, and one in three of these has been in New Zealand for 50 years or more.

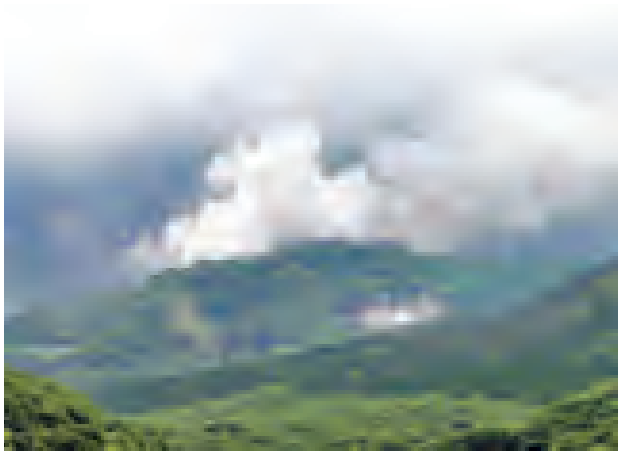
"People aged 65 and over are working for longer. In 2013, 22.1 percent of the age group were employed, which is up from 11.4 percent in 2001," Meech said.

Almost 65 percent of people aged 65-plus said they lived in a household with access to the Internet in 2013, but by the age of 75 years and over, the proportion fell to 49.1 percent.—*Xinhua*

Mt Hakone erupts southwest of Tokyo, alert level raised

Tokyo, 30 June — The weather agency raised its alert level for Mt Hakone on Tuesday following an eruption earlier in the day at the volcano located in a hot spring resort area southwest of Tokyo.

The agency said ash deposits at the volcano in Kanagawa Prefecture indicated a small-scale eruption occurred between Monday evening and Tuesday. Mt Hakone, about 80 kilometres from Tokyo, last erupted between the late 12th century and 13th century, according to experts.



White steam comes out from the Owakudani hot spring area of Mt Hakone near Tokyo on 30 June, 2015. Mt Hakone appears to have erupted, the weather agency said the same day, raising its alert level in warning against approaching the volcano.—Kyodo News

The eruption follows volcanic activity in the area, which began intensifying in late April but showed signs of subsiding recently.

A notable increase in volcanic tremors since Monday prompted the Japan Meteorological Agency and a local research institute to send an investigative team to the mountain on Tuesday morning.

The town of Hakone called on around 30 residents living in a 1-kilometre radius of the Owakudani district to evacuate, expanding the evacuation area from 300 metres.

The alert level was raised from 2 to 3 on a 5-point scale as the agency warned large volcanic cinders could fall in areas located around 700 metres from where experts believe a new crater has been created.

The latest eruption sparked concern among tourists and locals.

"I'm scared because I've never experienced an earthquake or volcano (eruption) in China," said a 25-year-old female tourist from China. "I plan on canceling my hotel reservation," she added.

"I thought (the volcanic activity) was starting to calm down so I'm disappointed," said Kiyohiko Yuzurihara of Hakone's tourism association, adding it will place priority on securing the safety of visitors and local residents.

Kazutaka Mannen, chief researcher at the Hot Springs Research Institute of Kanagawa Prefecture, said a phreatic eruption, or a steam eruption without the ejection of lava, is believed to have occurred after what appears to be the crater was observed with volcanic cinders the size of a human head lying tens of meters away from it.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO XIANG LING VOY NO (201506) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 2301186

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PUTRI ASIA VOY NO (07/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.F.S.L 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 K-MARINE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FSL SANTOS VOY NO (007N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY NO (007N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2015 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (083N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (083N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (133N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (133N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are Likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

Call for Ideas

Important Information: starting from 15th of June 2015, Project Ideas may be presented to the Facility for Partnerships any given time (rolling submission).

Are you a Myanmar company, association, NGO/CSO or any other local initiative, informal network or institution? Do you have a Project Idea together with at least one other organization? Does your joint Project Idea contribute to sustainable economic development in the private sector (tourism, fruits & vegetables, tea), banking and financial sector or technical and vocational education and training sector in Shan State?

If yes, and if you and your partner organization(s) need support to bring your Project Idea to implementation, please contact us for further information and the necessary application format. Project Ideas can be submitted any time (rolling submission).

If your Project Idea gets short-listed, GIZ will support you to develop a sound Project Concept, which then enters into a second evaluation round. Finalists have the chance to receive the necessary financial, organizational and technical support to realize their project.

Contact us at

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Sustainable Economic Development

Foreigners allowed owning houses in Vietnam from 1 July

HANOI, 30 June — Foreigners are allowed to own houses in Vietnam from 1 July, 2015, states the countrys housing law.

Vietnam's amended housing law, which was approved by the National Assembly in November 2014 and will take effects from the beginning of this July, regulates foreigners' permission to own houses in Vietnam.

Specifically, foreign organizations, individuals, foreign- invested companies, branches and representative offices of foreign companies, foreign investment funds, as well as branches of foreign banks are allowed to buy, rent, receive donation and inheritance as well as own less than 30 percent of apartments in apartment buildings in Vietnam.

Duration for house ownership among foreigners in Vietnam is 50 years, reported local VNEconomy online newspaper on Tuesday, adding that if a foreigner get married with a Vietnamese national, he or she will have long-term ownership to the house.

Xinhua

S Korea's MERS death toll rises to 33, no new infection for 3rd day

SEOUL, 30 June — South Korean health authorities reported on Tuesday an additional death linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus, raising the toll to 33. But no new cases of those diagnosed with the potentially fatal virus have been reported for the third consecutive day, with the number of infected standing at 182, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The latest deceased was an 81-year-old female patient who had been suffering from underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure and heart disease.

Out of the total 33 deaths, 30 MERS cases involved people of old age or those with existing health conditions.

Of the 54 patients still being treated, 13 are in an unstable condition. Ninety-five have been discharged from hospitals after recovering.

As of 6 am Tuesday, 2,638 have been quarantined — 2,098 at their homes and 540 at medical facilities.

The government has vowed all efforts to eradicate the outbreak of the disease since the nation's first case was confirmed on 20 May.—*Kyodo News*

Denmark tells Germany will impose border controls

COPENHAGEN, 30 June — Denmark's new foreign minister, Kristian Jensen, told his German counterpart that the country intends to impose border controls but within the rules governing the passport-free Schengen area, the foreign ministry said, confirming an earlier report.

The imposition of border controls, to restrict illegal immigration and smuggling, had been a key demand of the rightwing Danish People's Party during coalition talks. The party ended up not joining the Liberal government.

Reuters

Justin Bieber heads Down Under for Hillsong Church worship

Canadian singer, songwriter and actor Justin Bieber looks on at a musical event hosted by Calvin Klein Jeans in Hong Kong on 11 June, 2015.
Reuters

Sydney, 30 June — Justin Bieber arrived in Sydney on Monday to attend a week-long gathering at a Hillsong pentecostal church, after the pop star this year vowed to discard his hard-partying image.

"Justin is here, like tens of thousands of others, as a delegate who is seeking to build stronger foundations into his life," Hillsong Church said in a statement.

Music is central to Hillsong's form of worship but the Canadian singer is unlikely to perform any of Hillsong's faith-based songs, according to the church.

Bieber has made headlines for his hard partying lifestyle and run-ins with the law in several countries, including a January 2014 arrest for allegedly racing a Lamborghini through Miami. He announced in January on his Facebook page that he wanted to leave behind his "arrogant" and conceited" behaviour. Last year, Hillsong's conference in Sydney attracted around 20,000 followers from more than 60 countries.—*Reuters*

'Guardians of Galaxy' sequel gets title

Los Angeles, 30 June — Director James Gunn has confirmed the sequel of his 2014 superhit "Guardians of the Galaxy" will be called "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2".

Gunn, who has been hard at work on the film's script, made the title official on his Twitter and Facebook pages after Marvel's Kevin Feige let the title slip while discussing Ant-Man with Collider.

"Yes, the official title of the sequel to Guardians of the Galaxy is Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 Kevin Feige recently let the title slip while doing Ant-Man press, which I'm really happy about because God knows I've let more than one thing slip accidentally while chattering away on this FB page.

"Also, hats off to some intrepid fans who figured out the title a couple of days after I posted the cover page. More than one person guessed "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2" — I wanted so badly to give you props at the time, but knew I had to wait," he wrote on Facebook page.—*PTI*

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2

Men bring the moves, but ladies take charge in 'Magic Mike XXL'

Director of the movie Gregory Jacobs (R), writer of the movie Reid Carolin (4th from R) pose with cast members (from -R) Stephen Boss, Jada Pinkett Smith, Andie MacDowell, Matt Bomer, Elizabeth Banks, Chnning Tatum, Adam Rodriguez and Joe Manganiello.
Reuters

Los Angeles, 30 June — Mike may have the magic, but it's the ladies that have the control in "Magic Mike XXL," as five buff men cater to the female gaze in the supercharged raunchy male stripper movie sequel.

The film, out in US theaters on 1 July, follows 2012's surprise hit "Magic Mike," with Mike (Channing Tatum) rejoining the Kings of Tampa, his rogue band of male entertainers (Joe Manganiello, Matt Bomer, Adam Rodriguez and Kevin Nash), for one last ride to an annual stripper convention.

"XXL" serves up elements of a road trip, but the introduction of new female players like Rome (Jada Pinkett Smith) make the film all about what women really want from the men in their lives.

"The first one, we just wanted to make a weird movie about a weird subculture that we hadn't seen on film and that was it," said Tatum, who serves as a producer on the film, the first of which was loosely based on his own experiences as a male dancer.

"This is getting to hang out with the buddies again and ... hopefully try to push the conversation."

Pinkett Smith, who plays the proprietress of an exotic female-only club where women are entertained by male dancers, said she appreciated being consulted on the female point of view.

"Any time you're dealing with sex, it's really important to have an authentic female perspective included because men can't really know how we live in this space and how we relate to this space and what we really need," she said.

Andie MacDowell, who plays fun-loving southern woman Nancy in the film, said "XXL" slyly tapped into women being able to enjoy male entertainment without feeling shame.

"I love the fact that it's a feminist movie in that we are out there enjoying our sexuality," she said. "People are surprised ('Magic Mike') was a success and that just shows how little people understand about women."

Time Warner Inc-owned Warner Bros' "Magic Mike XXL" is projected by BoxOffice.com to open with $29 million over the US Independence Day holiday weekend.

But "XXL" is not just for ladies, said Bomer, who returns as the chiseled Ken. Rather the film is "giving everybody their voice," regardless of gender.

"A lot of the themes of this are very much about expression and communication and taking stigmas and judgment and shame off of sexuality and what turns you on," he said.—*Reuters*

Robin Williams' final film to open Ischia Global Festival

Los Angeles, 30 June — Hollywood funnyman Robin Williams' last film "Boulevard" will have its European premiere opening at the 13th Ischia Global Film and Music Festival on 12 July.

Hollywood funnyman Robin Williams' last film "Boulevard" will have its European premiere opening at the 13th Ischia Global Film and Music Festival on 12 July.—**PTI**

In the film, Robin Williams plays a married bank employee whose encounter with a young hustler forces him to face his repressed homosexuality, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

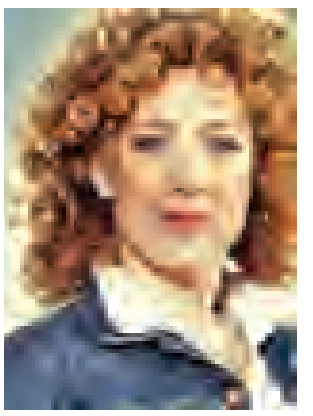
"We are proud to inaugurate the festival with a long awaited work. The first trailer of this movie — recently launched on the web — has touched the hearts of millions of fans who will soon commemorate the first anniversary of Williams' passing on 11 August," said, festival's director Pascal Vicedomini.

"Boulevard" directed by "A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints" helmer Dito Montiel also stars Bob Odenkirk and Kathy Baker.

Other films making their way to Ischia include the Sundance hit "Ten Thousand Saints", directed by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini, Doug Ellin's "Entourage", Paul Feigs "Spy" and James Kent's "Testament of Youth".

The 13th Ischia Global Film and Music Fest takes place 12-19 July.—*PTI*

Alex Kingston to feature in new 'Doctor Who' audio plays



London, 30 June — Actor Alex Kingston's character River Song will cross paths with the Eighth Doctor (Paul McGann) in a new series of "Doctor Who" audio plays.

Kingston will reprise her role as the time-travelling archaeologist in "Doctor Who: Doom Coalition 2" from Big Finish Productions, reported *Digital Spy*.

Best known for their audio plays based on the classic Doctor Who series, Big Finish have recently begun branching out into new series material with the upcoming box-set UNIT: Extinction starring Jemma Redgrave (Kate Stewart) and Ingrid Oliver (Osgood).

"Doom Coalition 2" will be released in March 2016 — with Kingston joined by McGann, plus Nicola Walker and Hattie Morahan as the Doctor's companions Liv Chenka and Helen Sinclair.

River will then return later in 2016 with her own spinoff series — "Doctor Who: The Diary of River Song", a four-hour adventure which will again feature McGann in its final installment.—*PTI*

Kendall Jenner, Cara Delevingne, Serena Williams join Taylor Swift for "Style"

Los Angeles, 30 June — Model Kendall Jenner, Cara Delevingne, Karlie Kloss, Gigi Hadid, Martha Hunt and Tennis star Serena Williams joined friend Taylor Swift onstage during the pop superstar's "1989" tour. The 25-year-old singer recruited many famous friends to appear in her "Bad Blood" music video, but several of her friends instead strutted the stage during a live performance of "Style" in London on 27 June.

In video footage from the show, the ladies can be seen having fun making their way down the catwalk as Swift sings, and Delevingne even marches down the stage with the UK flag.

"Style," which peaked at number 6 on the Hot 100, was released as the third single from Swift's album "1989." Swift's tour itinerary will bring her next to Ireland and Canada, and she will then return to the US for a pair of concerts on 10-11 July in East Rutherford, NJ.—*PTI*

GENERAL

Boxers Mayweather, Pacquiao top Forbes best paid celebrity list

New York, 30 June — Boxers Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao topped Forbes list of the world's 100 highest-paid celebrities on Monday, on the heels of their lucrative clash in Las Vegas last month.

With an estimated $300 million in earnings over the past 12 months, Mayweather more than lived up to his nickname "Money" and was the undisputed champion. Pacquiao was second, making $160 million over the past 12 months.

Their final earnings from the 2 May bout, which Mayweather won by unanimous decision, have not yet been disclosed. But *Forbes*' estimates were based on what experts have described as the richest fight in boxing history.

"His (Mayweather's) $300 million shattered the record for athlete earnings, which was previously held by Tiger Woods who managed to bank $115 million in 2008," Natalie Robehmed, of *Forbes*, said in an interview. "It is above and beyond anything anyone has ever done."

Singer Katy Perry's massive Prismatic World Tour helped her nab third place with $135 million, followed by British boy band One Direction with $130 million and TV and radio host Howard Stern with $95 million.

Musicians and athletes dominated the top 10 spots which included only two women.

Country music star Garth Brooks was No 6 with $90 million, while pop singer Taylor Swift tied for No 8 with actor Robert Downey Jr with $80 million.

Forbes compiled its annual list of the most powerful celebrities from the worlds of sports, television, music and books by estimating pre-tax earnings from 1 June, 2014 to 1 June, 2015. Management, agent and attorney fees were not deducted.

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who earned $28 million in the previous list, nearly doubled her earnings to an estimated $52.5 million, according to *Forbes*.

"I personally think she has been able to monetize fame better than anybody else," said Robehmed. "A large percentage of her earnings come from her iPhone game."

Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao box during their world welterweight championship bout at MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, NV, USA on 2 May, 2015.—Reuters

Kardashian placed just above Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence who was No 34 with $52 million. Lawrence and Scarlett Johansson, No 65 with $35.5 million, are the only two film actresses to make the 100 list, compared to 14 male movie stars.

"I think that really speaks to the wider Hollywood pay gap. It is a lot more difficult for women to get the kind of roles that they would earn massive profits on the back end of in comparison to male actors," said Robehmed.

British celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay at No 21 with $60 million was the highest earning chef ever on the list, which included 38 musicians, 29 athletes, six personalities and two comedians.

Reuters

Seattle home linked to Disney's "Up" movie could be demolished

A century-old Seattle house formerly owned by Edith Macefield and featured in a marketing stunt to publicize Walt Disney Co's balloon adventure movie "Up'', is pictured in Seattle, Washington on 13 March, 2015.—Reuters

Washington, 30 June — A century-old Seattle house resembling the home in Walt Disney Co's animated movie "Up" is facing possible demolition, local media reported on Monday.

In 2006, Edith Macefield drew national media coverage when she refused a $1 million offer for her 1,000-square-foot house. The investment company that made the offer eventually developed a 131,000-square-foot retail and office centre around the home.

Macefield died in 2008 and willed her house to a construction superintendent she had befriended. The house was sold the following year.

Newspaper website Seattlepi.com reported on Monday Paul Thomas, the house's broker, said a woman who purchased the home and planned to open a coffee-and-pie store with her teenage daughter there had backed out. Thomas told local media that bringing the house to code would be too expensive.

"It has become apparent that the age and condition of the house make it cost-prohibitive for anyone to use the house in its current location," Thomas said, according to Seattlepi.com.

He said the home would either be donated, preferably to a non-profit, or destroyed and the land would be sold.

If a recipient able to move the house within 90 days is not found, the website said, it could face demolition.

In 2009, publicists for the "Up" movie tied a cluster of balloons to the little two-story bungalow to market the Disney-Pixar film about a curmudgeonly old man who refuses to sell his home and flies off in the house tied to balloons.

The movie made more than $700 million at worldwide box offices and won an Oscar for the best animated movie in 2010.—*Reuters*

IOC asks Tokyo to finalize 2020 Olympic stadium plan by end of July

Tokyo, 30 June — International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has called on Tokyo to finalize a plan to build the main stadium for the 2020 Summer Olympics before an IOC meeting in late July, Japan's Olympic minister said on Tuesday.

Toshiaki Endo, newly appointed minister in charge of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympics Games, said at a Press conference that the IOC head made the request to former prime minister and 2020 president Yoshiro Mori, as Japan struggles with how to fund the project, which will be more costly than previously estimated.

The government said on Monday it expects the overall costs of building the new National Stadium to soar by 90 billion yen from the initial projection to 252 billion yen ($2 billion). Sports minister Hakubun Shimomura has asked the Tokyo metropolitan government to shoulder 50 billion yen of the bill. But no agreement has been reached yet. Endo said the funding plan cannot be fixed without good coordination with the Tokyo government.

"We want to settle the issue as early as possible," he said. The government is considering various ways to generate funding, including the idea of selling the naming rights to the new stadium, as well as the introduction of baseball lottery in addition to the existing soccer lottery to enable the nation's sports lottery operator to contribute to the fund for the new stadium.

But regarding the sports lottery, it would be difficult to revise relevant laws during the current Diet session unless a deal is struck with the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association by mid-July, Endo added.

Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(1-7-2015 07:00 am~ 2-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(1-7-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:40 am
- Classical Song

7:00 am
- News / Weather Report

7:35 am
- Money Talk Myanmar

8:50 am
- Documentary

9:35 am
- Science and Technology Programme

10:30 am
- Head Line News

11:00 am
- News / International News

11:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Hluttaw Image

1:45 pm
- Teleplay

2:35 pm
- Traditional Boxing

3:30 pm
- Head Line News

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Frist Year (Myanmar)

4:50 pm
- Dhamma Sakyar (Question & Answer)

5:35 pm
- People's Talks

6:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:00 pm
- News

7:35 pm
- Documentary

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

8:30 pm
- Documentary

9:00 pm
- News
- Hluttaw Image
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance
- Fashion Show (Part-2) (Myanmar Wonmen's Day)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(1-7-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Mono Classical Songs

6:25 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:35 am
- TV Drama Series

7:20 am
- TV Drama Series

8:05 am
- (2015) Women Associated Fashion Show (Part-5)

9:30 am
- Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon
- Close Down

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Full Moon Day of First Waso 1377 ME

Wednesday, 1 July, 2015

Vargas double takes hosts Chile into Copa final

SANTIAGO, 30 June— Chile took another step towards their dream of winning a first Copa America on home soil with a 2-1 win over Peru on Monday but Eduardo Vargas' match-winning double was overshadowed by an early refereeing decision that turned the game the hosts' way.

Carlos Zambrano's harsh sending off for a high tackle after 20 minutes was the second game in a row that Chile's rivals have been hit with controversial red cards.

The decision was a hard one to swallow for Peru, who in spite of being underdogs had started well in front of a capacity crowd at Santiago's National Stadium.

"I think Zambrano's expulsion was a bit tough," Peru striker Paolo Guerrero told television cameras.

"I don't want to complain about the refereeing but there were a lot of unexpected decisions. If it had been 11 against 11 it would have been a different story."

Chile's opponents in last week's quarter-final, Uruguay, were reduced to nine men in controversial fashion with Edinson Cavani and Jorge Fucile being sent off in Santiago.

Cavani's red card came after Chile defender Gonzalo Jara stuck his finger up the striker's backside and when he responded with the slightest of touches Jara fell to the ground theatrically, prompting the referee to send the Uruguayan off.

Chile got the decisive goal shortly after.

Jara later had a three-game ban for provoking Cavani cut to two by the governing body of South American football.

Peru refused to cave in after Zambrano's dismissal and matched their hosts in a pulsating first half.

But just when it looked like the teams would go in all square at half time Chile took the lead when striker Vargas poked the ball home from three yards after an Alexis Sanchez cross had come back off the post.

Television replays showed Vargas was marginally offside, but justice seemed to be done seconds into the second half when he had what looked like a legitimate goal chalked off for offside.

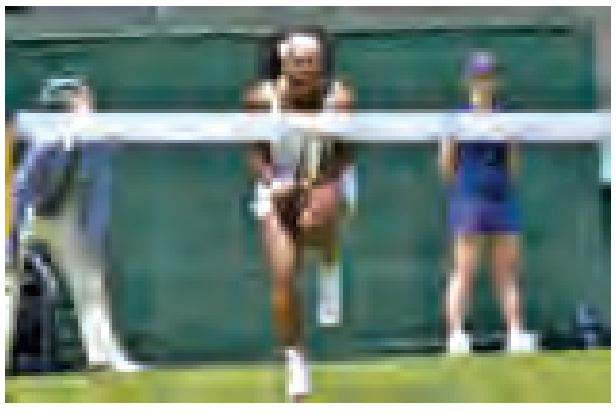
Peru came back into the game and equalized on the hour mark when Guerrero split the Chilean defence with a pass for Luis Advincula. He whipped in a cross from the right that Gary Medel turned into his own net.

Peru's lead lasted just four minutes, however, and again it was Vargas who did the damage as he picked up the ball in midfield and lashed home an unstoppable strike from 30 yards. Chile, who have never won the Copa America in its 99-year existence, will play the winners of Tuesday's semi-final between Argentina and Paraguay.—*Reuters*

Chile players celebrate after defeating Peru in their Copa America 2015 semi-final soccer match at the National Stadium in Santiago, Chile, on 29 June, 2015. REUTERS

Serena and Djokovic up and running at Wimbledon

Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after winning his match against Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 29 June, 2015. —REUTERS



Serena Williams of USA. reacts during her match against Margarita Gasparyan of Russia at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 29 June, 2015. —REUTERS

Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts against Johanna Konta of Britain at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 29 June, 2015. REUTERS

LONDON, 30 June — Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams made strong cases for the less is more approach to Wimbledon build-ups with resounding victories at a sunny All England Club on Monday.

Defending men's champion Djokovic, who has been training in the south of France rather than fine-tuning the grasscourt arts since his French Open title quest turned to dust, swept past Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

American 20 times grand slam champion Williams, who like the Serb rarely schedules in any grasscourt tournaments before Wimbledon, also proved impressive after a slow start, beating Russian debutant Margarita Gasparyan 6-4, 6-1 on Court One.

The reigning US Open, Australian Open and French Open champion is now half way towards a rare "calendar" grand slam last achieved by Steffi Graf in 1988 and only six wins away from holding all four majors at the same time.

"Honestly, I don't think about it. But every time I come into press, you guys talk about it," Williams, like her sister Venus bidding for a sixth Wimbledon title, told a news conference when asked about a possible repetition of the "Serena Slam" she completed in 2003.

"Naturally it's definitely getting more on my mind than I want it to be. But it's also six matches away."

The only blot on her copybook was a code violation for an audible obscenity early in the first set.

World number one Djokovic's hopes of completing his own "career slam" were scuppered by Stanislas Wawrinka in the Roland Garros final earlier this month, but the Serb showed no lasting effects as he dispatched Kohlschreiber in clinical fashion.

Knowing exactly when to squeeze the throttle, Djokovic broke serve in the 10th game of each set to safely negotiate what had looked like a dangerous opening obstacle.

"That's where maybe I can have a mental edge over him. He missed a couple shots," Djokovic, bidding to emulate his coach Boris Becker and win a third Wimbledon title, said after easing past the world number 33 on Centre Court.

"Overall a great performance against a quality opponent."

Djokovic might have expected to be playing 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt in round two but the gritty Australian's Wimbledon career was ended by Jarkko Nieminen.

Not that 34-year-old Hewitt went down timidly, rather scrapping tooth and nail as he has done throughout a career that took him to the summit of the sport.

Nieminen, one of 37 men aged 30 or over in the singles draw — a Wimbledon record — won 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0, 11-9.

"I was always going to leave it all out there, everything I had in the tank. I certainly did that," Hewitt, who will retire after his home grand slam in Melbourne next year, said.

It was a good day for seeds.

Fourth seed Wawrinka, looking to emulate the likes of Bjorn Borg and Rafa Nadal by claiming a French Open/Wimbledon double, cruised past Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-2, 7-5, 7-6(3).

Japan's Kei Nishikori, seeded five, scraped past Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 while big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic, the number seven, ousted Spain's Daniel Gimeno-Traver in four sets.

Croatia's Marin Cilic, who joined the elite by winning the US Open last year, beat Hiroki Moriya of Japan 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(4).

Russian Maria Sharapova screamed back to full volume after she coughed and spluttered out of the French Open a few weeks ago, the fourth seed looking revitalised in a 6-2, 6-2 defeat of British wildcard Johanna Konta on Centre Court.

"The first match of Wimbledon is never the easiest and especially against an opponent who has had a good few weeks and is a crowd favourite," Sharapova said.

Serbia's Ana Ivanovic, the 2008 French Open champion, powered past China's Xu Yifan 6-1, 6-1 while Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, another of the nine women's grand slam champions in the women's draw, beat Anett Kontaveit of Estonia 6-2, 6-1.

Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro became the biggest name to fall, the ninth seed thrashed 6-2, 6-0 by Latvian Jelena Ostapenko.—*Reuters*

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