



Myanmar, Singapore pledge strengthening of ties President receives Singaporean Dy Prime Minister

(News on page 3)

IMF warns of downside risks despite strong economic growth

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 1 July — An International Monetary Fund team on Wednesday cautioned Myanmar about the downside risks stemming from its rapid credit growth, expansionary budget and widening trade deficit, despite predicting strong economic growth of 8.5 percent in the current fiscal year.

The warning came on the final day of the Washington-based IMF team's two-week visit to Myanmar.

Mission chief Mr. Yongzheng Yang told the media in Yangon that these potential risks could affect the economy given weak capacity and thin policy buffers. He emphasized the importance of carefully managing the rapid liberalization of the financial sector despite its overall benefits.

He warned of risks to the country's fiscal and external positions that could be weakened by persistent dollar strength and low natural gas prices.

With strong demand and credit growth caused



A bird's eye view of downtown Yangon. An IMF team says Myanmar's economy faces some downside risks, though its economic growth is expected to remain strong at 8.5 percent in this fiscal year.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

by the increased fiscal deficit and continued monetization of the deficit, inflation may rise further this fiscal year, while the external current account deficit is expected to widen further due to the continuous release of pent-up demand, the mission chief added.

"Myanmar needs a tightening of monetary and fiscal policies to restrain inflationary pressure and anchor exchange rate expectations."

Mr. Yang called on the Central Bank of Myanmar to scale up deposit auctions to mop up excess liquidity

and implement a prompt transition to the newly calibrated reserve requirement for banks.

Revenue mobilization and expenditure re-prioritization could help reduce the fiscal deficit for FY 2015-2016, he said.

Emphasizing the sta-

bility of exchange rate expectations, he stressed the need for the central bank to sell foreign currencies to importers at competitively determined market rates to decrease the risk of excessive drains on international reserves.

In conclusion, the

IMF's Myanmar mission chief said building the institutional capacity for macroeconomic management is crucial to addressing Myanmar's huge development challenges.

According to his statement, the current account deficit widened further to about 6 percent of gross domestic product in the previous fiscal year due to strong import growth.

With lower-than-expected foreign direct investment inflows, the foreign reserves held by the CBM are equivalent to less than three months of imports. The Myanmar kyat has depreciated notably although in real effective terms it remained largely unchanged, the statement said.

During its visit to Myanmar, the IMF team met Vice-President U Nyan Tun, CBM Deputy Governors U Sett Aung, Daw Khin Saw Oo and U Soe Min, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein and other senior officials. They also held discussions with parliamentarians and private sector representatives. — GNLM

Tax stamp policy successful, Yangon IRD chief says

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 1 July — The Yangon Region Internal Revenue Department hailed its restaurant tax stamp policy a success Wednesday, after collecting more than K3 billion in commercial taxes from

food outlets last fiscal year.

At a meeting with businessmen, Yangon Region IRD chief U Zaw Thant Lwin said the commercial tax pulled in more than K3,129 million in fiscal 2014-2015, compared to K1,938 million the previous year.

Last year, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue launched a program across the country selling to restaurants stamps to be affixed to receipts as proof of tax payment to customers.

More than 950 million has already been collected in the first two

months of April and May of the current 2015-2016 fiscal year. Despite the success of the program, the department received complaints from some customers that they had received receipts without stamps, U Zaw Thant Lwin said.

(See page 3)

Hours-long queues subside at Yangon's new KFC outlet

YANGON, 1 July — Waiting times to eat at Myanmar's first Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet dropped to around 20 minutes Wednesday, after eager customers had lined up for hours the previous day for the store's official opening.

"I had to wait for about

20 minutes today and lined up to eat at KFC," said Ma Nwe Ni, who returned to the store Wednesday after being unable to get a seat the previous day. "The price is fair. The taste is good," she said after tasting the food for the first time.

(See page 2)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Parliament plans to hold referendum simultaneously with election

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July— To save time and money, a referendum on amendment Article 59 (D) is scheduled to be held along with the general election, after informing the chairman of Union Election Commission, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker told the parliament on Wednesday.

The amendment of the article was passed with 556 votes, or more than 75 percent of members, in the

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 25 June, and must now be put to a referendum.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said he would ask the chairman of UEC to hold the referendum together with the upcoming general election.

Dr Banya Aung Soe, MP of Mon state constituency 7, voiced his support for the amendment, which seeks to allow representatives of states and region

parliaments select their respective chief ministers.

Defence Services representative Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw San Oo said the president can select experienced experts for government ministries in accordance with democratic norms. He also said ministers should prioritize the ministerial affairs rather than their parties' activities.

U Thein Swe, MP of

Ayeyawady region constituency 10, said committees of parliament should have the rank of Union level, adding that the military should consider amendment of the constitution to promote good relations between the military and the people. MPs from ethnic areas also suggested the amendment would help establishment of national reconciliation and ceasefire agreement.—MNA

Border Affairs Ministry provides cash and aid to flood victims



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win meets flood victims in Rakhine State.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, co-chair of the Rakhine State Peace and Stability and Development Central Committee, attended the ceremony to provide aid to flood victims in

Thandwe on 30 June.

The union minister presented aid and cash assistance to 419 flood victims.

He inspected repair of road sections and bridges on Thandwe-Gwa road and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Thilawa SEZ job vacancies to be posted online

YANGON, 1 July — Fuji Work Company is set to launch a website for people seeking work at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, where business operations will soon start.

The website will provide information not only for vacancies but also for workshops for job opportunities organized by Fuji Work Company, according to Ma Zun Pwint Phyu of the company's Myanmar Branch Office.

Fuji Work Company established the first vocational training centre in Thilawa Special Economic Zone in June 2015. It is conducting free vocational training courses for residents displaced by the project in cooperation with the Government of Myanmar and Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Ltd.

A director of Fuji Work Company said, "We are conducting training courses for operating machinery in the first phase and in the second phase, we will conduct Japanese language, English lan-



Skilled workers at construction projects in Thilawa Special Economic Zone.—PHOTO: MYAT THANDA

guage, information technology and accounting courses."

The course will admit some 1,000 trainees, said the director, who estimated some 100,000 Myanmar citizens will eventually be employed at the special economic zone.

Secretary of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee Dr Than Aung said the special economic zone is the first of its kind in Myanmar being implemented

with the aims of developing infrastructure, attracting foreign investment and fostering the economic and industrial potential of the country.

So far, Japan, Taiwan, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, the United States, China, Sweden, Hong Kong, Australia and Malaysia have invested in manufacturing of auto parts, electrical appliances, construction materials, shoes, packaging materials, garments, foodstuffs,

cement and other products in the special economic zone.

Job vacancies of companies in Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be posted at <https://www.thilawajob.com> after the site is launched.

Job seekers may register their names at the website and further information will be available by phoning 09 979007123 or emailing thilawajob@gmail.com.

Reported by Ye Khaung

Hours-long queues subside at Yangon's new...

(from page 1)

A large crowd had gathered on Tuesday for the opening of the store, the first by any U.S. fast-food chain in Myanmar.

The KFC outlet is the product of an agreement between the U.S. fast-food giant and Yoma Strategic Holdings, a Singapore-listed company that is focusing on Myanmar.

Yoma Strategic Holdings plans to open more KFC restaurants in the country before the end of the year, targeting middle class customers.

Two-piece chicken meals are selling for about 3,500 kyats, one rice box plus one soft drink at K2,500 and TGG Tart plus cappuccino at 1,600 kyats.

By Tun Aung Kyaw



Customers wait outside KFC's first outlet in Myanmar.—PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW

Negotiation, Stability and Peace Party applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July — The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registration as political parties. Negotiation, Stability and Peace Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on Wednesday.—MNA

Information for Public Remonstrance

1. Negotiation, Stability and Peace Party headquartered at No 4/361 on 12th Karya Street in Thindagangyungyi, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 1 July 2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.
2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Negotiation, Stability and Peace Party



Emblem of Negotiation, Stability and Peace Party

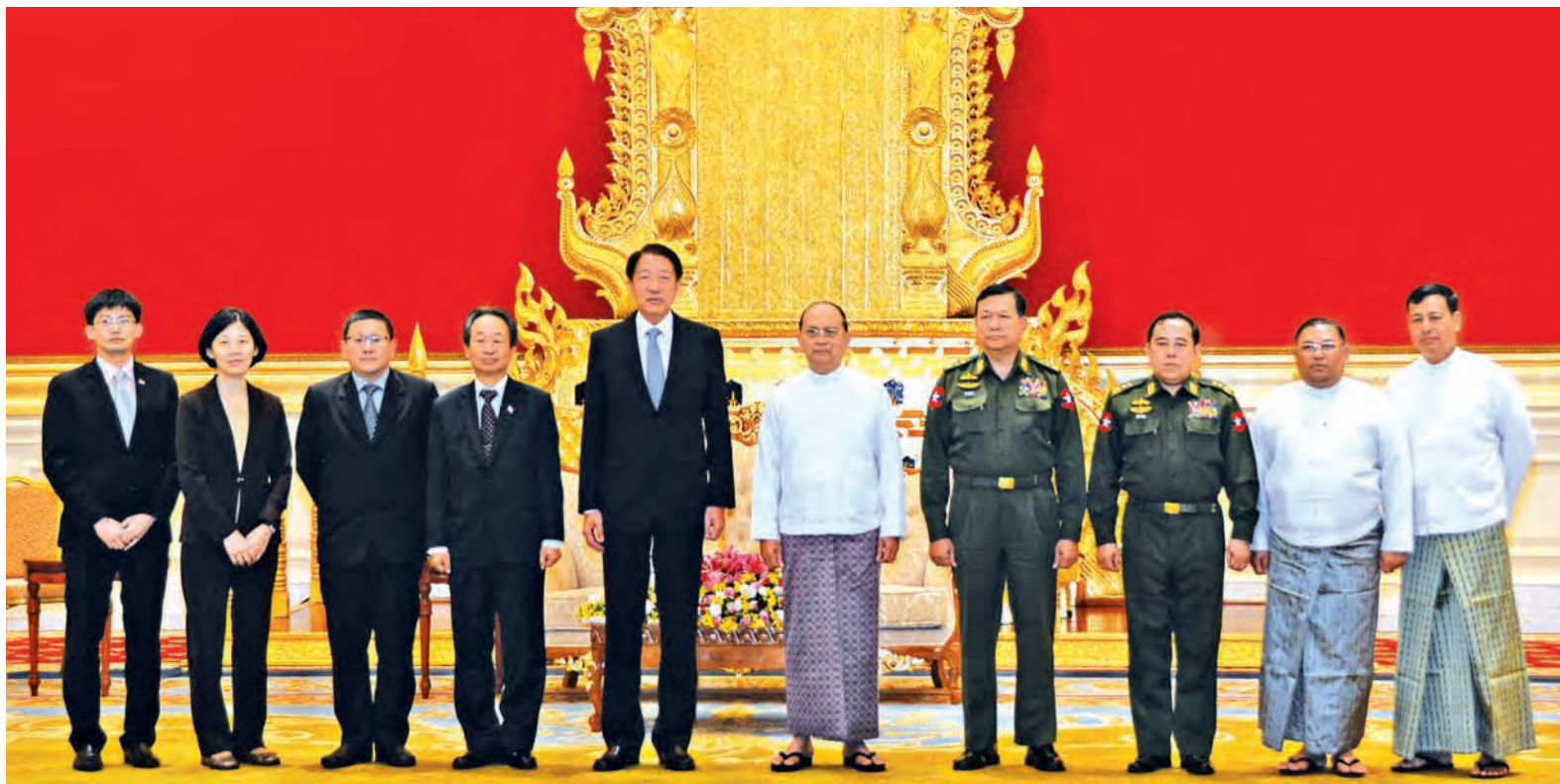


Myanmar, Singapore pledge strengthening of ties

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Wednesday.

U Thein Sein and Mr Teo Chee Hean, who is also Singapore's Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, discussed further cementing bilateral ties, development of human resources and cooperation in the financial sector.

Also present at the meeting were union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Ye Htut, and officials, and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua.—MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Singapore's Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs Mr Teo Chee Hean.—MNA

Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs Mr Teo Chee Hean and party at Zabuthiri Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw, here, on Wednesday.

They held talks on national unity, national reconciliation, internal peace-making process, discussions on amendment of the 2008 constitution, cooperation in technology and human resource development, bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and Singaporean Ambassador to



Myanmar Mr Robert Chua. The Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister and party observed the 66th-day session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean.—MNA

Tax stamp policy successful, ...

(from page 1)

The department sent warning notices to more than 50 restaurants last year and fined more than 30 in 2015 for not following the policy, he said.

According to the policy, customers must pay a 5 percent commercial tax on their meals as of Novem-

ber 1 last year.

The purpose of the program is to collect taxes indirectly from the public through restaurants, said the head of the Yangon Region IRD, who urged customers to make sure they receive receipts with the tax stickers properly affixed

without fail.

The stamps produced by the International Revenue Department range from K50 to K10,000 in value.

Taxes on restaurant sales and services started in 1949 and have been brought under the Commercial Tax Law (1990).

GNLM

Union Home Affairs receives Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and

Minister for Home Affairs Mr Teo Chee Hean and party at the ministry, here, Wednesday.

They discussed bilateral relations and cooperation between the two

countries, transnational crimes, search and rescue works and cooperation between two ministries of Home Affairs.

MNA

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Singapore's Dy PM visit Myanma Gems Emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Madam Chew Poh Yim, wife of Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean visited the Myanma Gems Emporium where

jade lots were sold through open tender on Wednesday.

In the afternoon, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin also observed sales of jade lots at the emporium.

At the gems emporium attended by 4,495 local and foreign merchants, a total of 126 gem lots and 3,723 jade lots have been sold through open tender. On 2 July, 1,450 jade lots will be sold open tender.

MNA



Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, and Madam Chew Poh Yim, wife of the Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister view jade stone at Myanma Gems Emporium.

MNA

Floating hotel lets travellers view scenic Ayeyawady River

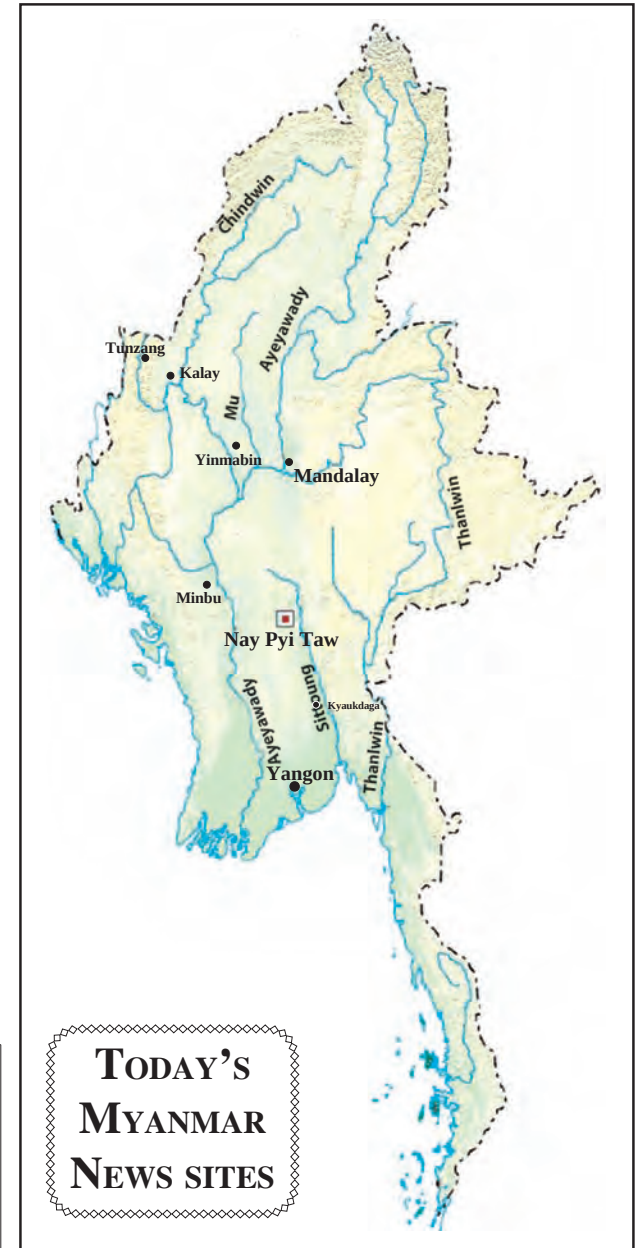
MANDALAY, 1 July—The Karaweik floating hotel opened in Mandalay on 28 June, giving guests the chance to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Ayeyawady River and surrounds, an official of the hotel said.

“We have schedules to run the floating hotel every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m.,” he said.

While staying at the hotel, customers can view natural scenery in Chanayethazan Township, as well as Sagaing and Mingun regions. The hotel charges K7,000 per customer and serves snacks and soft drinks.

The 250-foot-long hotel, decorated with paintings and sculptures, was built in March 2013.

Kyaw Min Thaw



Kalay Township gets new bodybuilding gym, weightlifting hall

KALAY, 1 July — A new bodybuilding gym and weightlifting hall have been added to the people's sports ground in Kalay, Sagaing Region, as part of a recently completed upgrade.

Myintmo Sekkya Company was assigned to build the new facilities valued at K137.05 million. Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials of District Sports and Physical Education Department inspected the buildings on 28 June.



U Maung Htoo and officials of District Sports and Physical Education Department inspected the buildings on 28 June.

Joe Net

Well-wishers from Kubota Company of Thailand donate school bags to 44 students of No 6 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Pyinmana on 1 July.—ZAW MYO NAING



Speakers share knowledge about MERS, dengue fever with students

YINMABIN, 1 July — Health workers gave a talk on the dangers of MERS and dengue haemorrhagic fever at the basic education high school in Yinmabin, Sagaing Region, on 30 June.

At the talks, Health Assistant-1 U Saw Hlaing explained facts about dengue fever while Head of Township Public Health Department Dr Sein Lin spoke about infection of MERS, or Middle East respiratory syndrome. Leader of the Forward Project Daw Nwe Nwe Win discussed the importance of washing hands. The talk, attended by more

than 500 students, teachers and social organization

members was organized by the Yinmabin Township

Management Committee, the Township Women's

Affairs Organization and Department.—Tun Ko Ko

Township Public Health (Yinmabin)



LOCAL NEWS

Drains dredged for proper flow of water



YANGON, 1 July — Local authorities undertook dredging of drains and construction of roads in Ward 26, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon, in the last

week of June.

Officials of the Township Development Affairs Committee and local residents participated in dredging of drains along main roads in the township to ensure proper flow of water in the rainy season.

They also carried out works to widen Shwe Chit Kyi Yay, Shwe Yadana, Shwe Bontha and Shwe Kantha roads.

Chairman of the Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyi Soe said, "We will try our best for development of the township in joining hands with the local residents."

*Min Htet Paing
(Hlinethaya)*

Casting of King Athinkhaya Saw Yun bronze statue complete



MANDALAY, 1 July — Metal workers finished casting a statue of King Athinkhaya Saw Yun, founder of Sagaing, on 30 June, an official of the Pyae Wa bronze foundry in Tampawady Ward, Mandalay.

Technicians took more than nine months to cast the 13-foot-high bronze statue in three parts.

Under the auspices of venerable Sitagu Sayadaw, retired construction minister U Khin Maung Myint spent K35 million on the statue. It will be moved to the Ohbo roundabout in Sagaing in the first week of July.

King Athinkhaya Saw Yun lived from 1299 to 1327 AD.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

New rural road improves border trade between Myanmar and India

TUNZANG, 1 July — Road. The road, built by Tunzang Township Rural Development Department in Chin State has completed construction of the 15-mile-long Twalkhein-Bwatal-Panmwal

Road. The road, built by Rhema Foundation Co Ltd at a cost of K180 million, is a major route for Myanmar-India border trade in the state.

Zo Hay Hsar

Hockey federation honours bronze medallists, well-wishers

YANGON, 1 July—The Myanmar Hockey Federation held a ceremony for the bronze medal winning team from the 28th SEA Games at the Dolphin Restaurant at Kandawgyi Garden, here, on 30 June.

Vice President of the federation U Kyaw Naing Oo had donated K20 million and K6.6 million for 22 hockey players, K8.5 million for nutritious foods of players and USD 18,520 for meals of athletes during the games.

President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win presented a certificate of honour to the vice president for his generous donations.

On behalf of the players, captain of the team



Than Htut Win accepted K 12.6 million provided by the government, K3.6 million donated by executive of the federation Chair-

man U Ko Ko Latt of Noble Yangon Construction Co Ltd, K900,000 by U Kyaw Win, K2.2 million by U Myo Ko Ko and 22

G Shock Casio watches for selected hockey players by Naing Group.

*Reporter Than Swe
(Pabedan)*

Kyaukdaga Township trains midwives, public health workers

KYAUKDAGA, 1 July — The Township Public Health Department in Kyaukdaga, Bago Region, opened the midwifery and public health workers course at its hall recently.

Training officials delivered the manual on midwifery and public health to the trainees.

The midwifery course runs for six months, while the public health worker course runs for one month.

Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

Minbu Township to hold sports competitions at new buildings

MINBU, 1 July — Minbu Township Sports and Physical Education Department is preparing to hold football, Sepak Takraw and volleyball competitions, as well as a mini marathon, on 5 July.

The events will take place at the township's recently upgraded sports ground and newly built gymnasium.

According to the Township SPED, eight football teams will take part in the football tournament, 200 athletes will participate in the mini marathon, and 20 teams will compete in the Sepak Takraw event.

Zeyatu (Magway)



Indonesia to review ageing air force fleet after deadly crash

MEDAN, (Indonesia), 1 July — Indonesia's president promised a review of the country's ageing air force fleet and a defence modernization drive on Wednesday, as the death toll from the crash of a military transport plane in the north of the country climbed past 140.

The C-130B Hercules aircraft, which went into service half a century ago, ploughed into a residential area of the city of Medan on Tuesday, throwing a renewed spotlight on Indonesia's woeful air safety record.

"There must be an evaluation of the age of planes and defence systems," President Joko Widodo tweeted late on Tuesday, as earth movers worked through the night to recover the dead from rubble of twisted metal and smashed buildings.

The TVOne news channel said that 141 body bags had been brought to a hospital near the crash site, all but two of which contained complete bodies.

Officials said the Hercules, which plunged into houses and a hotel two minutes after take-off, had been carrying 122 people which would suggest around 20 were killed on the ground by the impact of the plane.

The plane had been on its way from an air force base in Medan, one of Indonesia's largest cities, to Tanjung Pinang in the Riau Islands off Sumatra. Media said the pilot had asked to



Security forces and firemen attempt to extinguish the wreckage of an Indonesian military transport plane after it crashed in the North Sumatra city of Medan, Indonesia, on 30 June, 2015 in this photo taken by Antara Foto.—REUTERS

return to the base because of technical problems.

Widodo said he had ordered an in-depth investigation into the cause of the accident, which may be the deadliest yet for an air force with a long history of crashes, and a "fundamental restructuring" of weapons management and procurement.

"We should not just buy weapons, but shift towards modernizing our weapons systems," he said in a televised statement on Wednesday.

"Our defence industry should be involved, starting from production, operation, maintenance. The main point is ... the procurement of weapons should ultimately move toward an independent defence industry."

According to the Aviation Safety Network, 10 fatal crashes involving Indonesian military or police aircraft have occurred over the last decade.

The Indonesian air force has now lost four C-130s, reducing its transport reach in an archipelago that stretches more than 5,000 km (3,000 miles) from its western to eastern tips. The air force has grounded its remaining eight C-130Bs until investigators discover the cause of the crash.

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 for defence, said in an interview.

"The Hercules is already old, many of our other systems are already old. As parliament we will support giving more funding to the military so that they can upgrade."

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

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

China asks two Koreas to take part in parade marking end of WWII: Yonhap

SEOUL, 1 July — China has extended invitations to the militaries of the two Koreas to take part in a Chinese military parade in September marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Yonhap News Agency reported on Wednesday.

"To my knowledge, China has sent invitations to the militaries of South and North Korea to take part in the military parade," a South Korean diplomatic source was quoted as saying in the dispatch from Beijing.

The source said South

Korea is "carefully weighing" the invitation but has not yet made a decision on the matter.

The military parade, which will be held on 3 September at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, will mark the first of the kind for China to commemorate what the country calls its victory in the war against Japanese aggression.

China has said it invited foreign troops to participate in the parade, but has refrained from offering specific information on foreign participation.—Kyodo News

Search to restart for missing people after Ontake eruption



A Shinto ceremony is held in the village of Otaki on the seventh station of Mt. Ontake on 1 July, 2015, to commemorate people killed in an eruption in September 2014 and pray for the safety of those climbing the volcano in central Japan.—KYODO NEWS

NAGANO, (Japan), 1 July — The Nagano prefectural government said on Wednesday it will resume in late July its search work for six people still missing after last September's volcanic eruption at Mt Ontake that killed another 57 people.

The local government in central Japan said it plans to send an advance team as early as next week to the 3,067-metre mountain straddling Nagano and Gifu prefectures. The move comes after the Japan Meteorological Agency re-

duced the alert level for the mountain last week to 2 on a five-point scale from 3, although still warning hikers not to approach its crater. There are subsiding fumes and volcanic tremors at the mountain, the agency said.

On Wednesday, officials of local governments and tourism organizations held a ceremony to commemorate the victims of the 27 September eruption in the village of Otaki, Nagano at the foot of the mountain.—Kyodo News

Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa to stand for Prime Minister in 17 August polls

MEDAMULANA, (Sri Lanka), 1 July — Former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa said he would run for prime minister during next month's parliamentary elections, a move that is likely to infuriate rights groups as he is

accused of war crimes in a civil war.

"I accept the request to contest the election," Rajapaksa said on Wednesday, referring to the 17 August parliamentary polls when the island nation is set to choose its prime min-

ister. President Maithripala Sirisena, who is also the leader of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), has rejected Rajapaksa's demand to name him as the prime ministerial candidate in the party, which Rajapaksa led for 10 years until his elec-

tion defeat this year.

Rajapaksa did not specify the party under which he would contest, but his supporters told Reuters that he would form a new coalition if Sirisena does not relent.

Reuters

Half of S Korean big companies adopt wage peak system

SEOUL, 1 July — Nearly half of South Korea's big companies have already adopted the wage peak system, under which salary for workers begins to reduce from a certain age, a government report showed on Wednesday.

Among 378 major affiliates of top 30 conglomerates, 177 companies, or

47 percent of the total, have introduced the system, according to the Ministry of Employment and Labour.

South Korea had announced a plan to make the retirement age of 60 mandatory from 2016, but industrial circles opposed to it for higher labour costs.

The wage peak system would allow companies to

reduce wages for workers of a certain age, many of them from 56 years old, to lower labor costs against the extended retirement age.

The labour world protested against the system as the fallen wage would reduce severance pay, which is calculated based on wages of the last three years be-

fore retirement.

More than half of top 15 conglomerates, including Samsung and Hyundai, have adopted the wage peak system or plan to introduce it from next year.

Under the system, wages could fall to 40 percent of the salary of the last year when it peaked.

Xinhua

S Korea urges DPRK back to dialogue table

SEOUL, 1 July — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Wednesday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to return to the inter-Korean dialogue table.

Park made the remarks during a meeting of the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC), the presidential advisor on unification.

The South Korean government is ready for a frank dialogue with the DPRK about all inter-Ko-

rean issues, but the DPRK hasn't responded to the dialogue offer and only proposed preconditions for talks, Park said.

On the DPRK's nuclear development, Park said it was threatening the future of the Korean people as well as peace in Asia and across the world.

Pyongyang issued a statement on 15 June, saying there is no reason not to hold an inter-Korean talks if trust and rapprochement mood is formed.—Xinhua



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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 July, 2015

Start revving up engine of socioeconomic growth for peace, stability

By Kyaw Thura

Lasting peace and stability are attainable only when economic and social welfare are assured across the country. Our country has lagged far behind its neighbours, let alone Western nations, especially in terms of technology.

Careful consideration of the root cause of instability in the country will reveal lack of proper management. At a time when the use of

information and technology has come to the fore, development efforts should directly contribute to the well-being of the entire population, regardless of race, age and gender.

In this context, the government should take the lead in the effort to create conditions of full employment so as to ensure higher standards of living, which in turn will pave the way for conditions of economic growth and social welfare.

A hungry mob is an angry mob, sang Bob Marley, supporting the notion that poverty reduction is fundamental to peace, stability and development. Similarly, Mahatma Gandhi described people with full bellies as peaceful people.

It is absolutely imperative that the government must recheck whether its priorities are focused on issues of national concern that stress the need for all-round social and economic development. In addition, economic and social reforms

should be aimed at the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger through careful analysis.

With steady economic growth and social welfare in place, peace and stability will ensue, thereby encouraging both local and foreign investment in key development areas such as education, health, transportation and agriculture.

All things considered, it is time to start revving up the engine of socioeconomic growth.

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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.

Is it the right time for a minimum wage?

U Aye Chan

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

The recent news, that the national committee in charge with setting up a minimum wage has just proposed a 3,600kyats per day figure, compels me to ask if it really the right time to set up the minimum wage and if it is really necessary, after all.

There are many arguments for having a national wage, such as most countries having it, providing a survivable wage to lowest income earners, etc.

Most people start jumping onto the minimum wage bandwagon without first understanding what the implications would be for people of Myanmar.

Almost everyone assume that minimum wage will help the poorest segments of Myanmar population; people without any skills, qualifications or experiences such as cleaning ladies, tea shop boys or the farmer families who move up to the cities in search of a better living.

It would be so easy to criticize the government and complain how the government is doing not enough for this most vulnerable group of people and the perfect solution would be a minimum wage. Because their wages are not rising fast enough, they cannot keep up with the ever-increasing cost of living and growing income inequality.

So, minimum wage is supposed to help these people, right?

The arguments against having a minimum wage are aplenty...

- If a young worker without any qualifications or experience applies for job at a garment factory, the factory owner knows that he/she cannot be as efficient or productive as an experienced worker. If the owner is forced to pay an artificially set minimum wage, he will choose not to employ her/him, as it does not make financial sense. He can find a better-skilled worker at that price.

In this instance, instead of working for less than minimum wage until he gets more experience, the young worker is now unemployed. How would he improve his standard of living without an opportunity for gainful employment and gather relevant skills and experience.

In fact, in Western Europe, the average jobless rate is twice as high in countries with a minimum wage compared to those with no minimum wage. (see picture)

At this very time, where Myanmar workers need more skills and better work experiences, minimum wage discourages skills upgrading, as workers think they can still earn a minimum wage without any skill set or employability.

- Minimum wage leads to inflation; setting up the minimum wage will definitely cause cost-push inflation. If a manufacturer is forced to pay a higher

wage, he has to pass on this increased labour cost into increased selling prices, there by raising the general price of goods and services. We can hardly afford a high inflationary environment at this point of time.

As mentioned in my previous article in Global New Light of Myanmar on June 14th, high inflationary currency will depreciate against a stable currency like USD. Do we really need further depreciation of Myanmar Kyats at this point of time? On the very day of minimum wage news appearing in the press, Myanmar Kyats depreciated by close to 50kyats (nearly 4%) against the USD.

- Almost 100% of the burden of the minimum wage will be borne by business owners. Is it wise to let them bear all, in an environment where we need more private investments and more FDIs?

Myanmar domestic economic growth is slowing down due to the downturn in the private construction sector and the wait and see attitude coming from the uncertainty over upcoming elections. The burden of the minimum wage should be borne by all society and taxpayers at large, not only by businesses that employ many workers.

Is it the right time for a minimum wage?

Minimum Wage and Jobless Rates in Western Europe

Country	Minimum Wage (\$)	Jobless Rate
Belgium	\$11.69	8.9%
France	\$12.09	11.1%
Greece	\$5.06	27.3%
Ireland	\$11.09	13.6%
Luxembourg	\$14.24	5.9%
Netherlands	\$10.93	7.0%
Portugal	\$4.19	16.3%
Spain	\$5.57	26.6%
UK	\$10.02	7.5%
Average		13.8%
Median		11.1%
No Minimum Wage		
Austria	0	4.9%
Denmark	0	7.1%
Finland	0	8.1%
Germany	0	5.2%
Iceland	0	4.7%
Italy	0	12.5%
Norway	0	3.5%
Sweden	0	7.9%
Switzerland	0	3.1%
Average		6.3%
Median		5.2%

POEM:

MWAFF (2)

(Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation)

Myanmar Mothers:

Past, present and future

Key family figures

To keep it close-knit

And to bring up well-rounded kids.

Myanmar Women:

All along standing as a strong force

Serving national interest in due course;

With spiritual ability and fine traditions,

Taking part in various operations

For development and welfare.

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation:

The great sun has come out bold

To protect womenfolk young and old;

With its rays branching around

To ensure their life safe and sound.

Let's all hail the federation

For its noble and worthy operations;

Full tribute should we all pay

On this auspicious 'Myanmar Women's Day'!

Aye Phyu

The poor could be better provided for through tax rebates, training grants and incentives, job apprenticeship programs, etc., with funding from all taxpayers.

- If we looked at the United States, a high minimum wage has done little to reduce income gap or growing social inequalities. Singapore, on the other hand, does not have a minimum wage, yet their workers earn more than the US counterparts and income inequality is lesser than the US.

It is imperative that we examine the potential effects of minimum wage in the long term and decide if we really needed one. It would be wise for lawmakers not to succumb to populist measures that will gain little votes but more demonstrations yet damage our currency recuperating at this very moment.

[U Aye Chan of IMA Group is a graduate in Economics from University of London -London School of Economics and also holds a Master of Business Administration from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore). He is also a Certified Public Accountant.]

ARTICLE

CONCEPT ON CULTURE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DIALOGUE AMONG PEOPLES

(Continued from
1-7-2015)

In accord to carry out its Mission Statement “**Honouring the State with Culture**”, the three main departments and two National Universities of Arts and Culture under the administration of the ministry have their own activities in line with the Objectives of the State Short and Long Term Plans. The Archaeology, National Museum and Library, firstly established as Archaeology Department was the oldest which was established since 1905 with the objectives of: to reveal historical sites and ancient cities by exploration and excavation; to preserve Myanmar cultural heritage monuments; to preserve and protect Myanmar cultural properties; to establish Archaeological museums; to preserve inscriptions and publish books and to reveal and preserve ancient mural paintings. But those cultural policies can not only protect and sustain the existence of the buildings and remains of those historic cities. At present, Three Ancient Pyu Cities have been nominated as World Heritage List in 2014. The cultural landscapes have been focal areas of excavations and surveys to be carried out by the Archaeology Department. Cultural and historical values, heritage remained and other related archaeological findings and artefacts, with those tangible assets come out have to be undertaken systematically. So that views and Terms of References under the sustainability of those old and ancient cities and their preservation calls for many challenges. To ensure its significances in the past has also become the great concern and it does not only depend on the state budget and technical know-how but also the awareness raising of those people staying in the area and near. The systematic way of taking inventory list of cultural products, recording the cultural and political landscape and dissemination of culture is the challenges for each ethnic culture.

One of the initiatives of the Ministry of Culture is to establish the Art College for the ethnic groups is a part of extending networking and promoting and understanding the culture of ethnic groups. Arts Education and their related assessment underscores the fact that the arts are serious and rigorous academic

subjects — an essential aspect of human knowing. Here, for arts education, it is meant that to be lectured and practiced their respective arts by qualified arts education specialists working in collaboration with professional artists, arts organizations, and cultural and community institutions to bring the arts to ethnic students as participants and spectators to be handed down to the next generations for the preservation of their own culture. These professionals provide a curriculum that includes: engaging students in the processes of creating and producing works of art, guiding students in interpreting and evaluating work by others, providing students with knowledge of and appreciation for the arts, and offering all students an opportunity to participate in various art forms of their own ethnic group. It also provides experiences that build teamwork and training for leadership as it helps young people sharpen their skills in critical thinking and creative problem solving especially by understanding their own culture and spirit of preservation. Moreover, they will gain an understanding of the finest achievements of human expression. And as they explore art forms it helps them to expand avenues for personal self-expression. But perhaps most important of all, students educated in the arts will become citizens who will be literate about their own culture as well as appreciate the contributions of other cultures.

Language, religion, family structure, gender relations, political and economic ideologies, attitudes toward race and ethnicity and learning conflict between tradition and creativity are the Elements to be taken into account for the culture. It is seen that culture has to be used as Tool for the security of today's nation because of the changing world and security in a global world sometimes in its weakest link; blurring between external and internal security has profound institutional and policy consequences; regional responses become more necessary but not sufficient; emerging importance of law enforcement, declining importance of the use of force; focusing on new threats and agendas, not to ignore old ones in new forms, etc. are put into account by the countries.

Throughout the histori-

cal periods and post independence, Myanmar has overcome most of its upheavals, clashes among groups and civil unrests through the following main concepts reflected as its own guided principles and mandates for the emergence of the peaceful and modern state;

- Concept on Three National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty.

Throughout the legacy of Myanmar kingdoms, the importance of these Three National Causes was proven. Moreover, the Independence of Myanmar was lost in 1885 because of the negligence of these Causes. The First Myanmar Nation established by the King Anawrahta's reign (1044-1077) and only after 250 years, the Second Myanmar nation can be established after Bagan Dynasty was ruined and fallen. The Kings and Leaders of successive periods, showed their prowess strength and political dialogues with different counterparts for the sustainability of the nation and peacekeeping. In fact, the Three National Causes, firmly stand as the Political Will of Myanmar and are the benchmark for the State's stability and sovereignty.

Moreover, the Union Spirit which is very important to build the nationalism and unity of the nation among hundreds of national races, with reference to culture, it is meant: attachment to a place and a sense of historical identity. The nationalism can form part of the identities of most people in the world, creating communities from similar and different backgrounds bound by common values and aspirations. In Myanmar, according to those discriminations and divide and rule policy of the colonialists in the past, the legacy of *Union Spirit* is the one that can unite the nationals and extend the cultures of them.

Concept on Union Spirit (True Patriotism): “It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place where he lives to have strong Union Spirit. Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard”. This is the ties that can bind the nationalities whenever there is a distortion. We always celebrate the Union Day which falls on 12th of February every year to re-

mind all nationalities their dedication and strong support to get the Independence from the British by signing the Panglong Agreement with a sense of patriotic spirit. The culture of having understanding and binding together and ensuring perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State is also the commitment of every nationality in the country.

After becoming the full-fledged member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1997, Myanmar also joined recognizing the importance of promoting an ASEAN identity through fostering of greater awareness of the diverse cultures and heritage of the ASEAN region. The principle of respect for the different cultures, languages, and religions of the peoples of ASEAN, while emphasizing their common values in the spirit of *unity in diversity*, it is accepted as an effective means of bringing together ASEAN peoples to recognize their regional identity become important.

- Concept on “Unity in Diversity”: Cooperation and complement each other but not competing and walk and grow together for a strong and prosperity of ASEAN. This is a regional culture of ties. There is another new wave of culture that is to be bound by ties of ASEAN Way and now to achieve the goal of a truly ASEAN Community by 2015, ASEAN Member States will promote **Think ASEAN** as the framework for designing and crafting regional policies, programs, projects and promotional strategies in the area of culture.

It is also noted that ASEAN's culture always gives prominence to **consensus, mutual respect and assistance**, jointly paying attention to and harmonizing the national and community interests. ASEAN's strength of solidarity was proven when the Association steadily overcame the financial crisis in 1997 and 1998, worked together and shared difficulties to surmount the aftermath of natural disasters and epidemics that affected the entire region. Solidarity and unity are the keys to building ASEAN's prestige and reliability in its relationships with other partners'.

When we look back the changes on the concepts related to “culture”, the first

emergence of concept is connoted as “a process of cultivation or improvement” which was occurred in 18th and 19th century in the world. Then in 19th century it was changed to the betterment or refinement of individual through education and then to fulfilment of national aspirations or ideals. But in the mid of nineteenth century, it is referred to a universal human capacity and emerged as concept central to anthropology in the 20th century. By 21st century, externally affected via contact between societies, which may also produce — or inhibit — social shifts and changes in cultural practices, has been happened.

That is why “culture” refers to the following ways of Life, including but not limited to: language, arts and science, thought, spirituality: social activity and interaction, the oldest human institution and the most sophisticated medium of expression.

And also there are some **obstacles** to promote understanding of other's culture. When it is urged to understand and promote other's cultures, the following factors are to be taken into account:

- economical factors and equal opportunity
- nationalist sentiment
- bureaucracy
- media
- language
- capacity for minorities to represent themselves

Because of those paradigm shifts from the Cold War to the Age of Globalization, Economic Dimensions of Globalization, Socio-cultural Dimensions of Globalization and Political Dimensions of Globalization are the factors that are now being faced in most of the countries.

At present, culture is the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution, organization or group. Also at the regional level, the concept has been changed. Even in the ASEAN Community, the important central elements of the post-2015 Vision of the ASEAN Community: “**realizing a political cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN**” is set as the Vision to be achieved. “*Building ASEAN Identity*,” which is character-

Dr Nanda Hmun
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Culture

istic of the elements of the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community ASCC Blueprint defined as the collective personality, norms, values, beliefs and aspirations of one ASEAN community. Mainstreaming and promoting greater awareness and common values in the spirit of unity in diversity at all levels of society are among the priorities of the ASCC so this will be the changes of culture in the region as it has its own way to its destiny.

Due to the globalization impacts on culture, in the time of the rise of the information society, innovative measures, well prepared dialogue, consultations, web forum, vision, promote recognition of civil society initiative, keep the database of good practices, provide guidelines, using of media and its involvement, are to be given prior. Moreover, to harmonise and mutualise with international organizations like European Commission, UNESCO, etc. innovation, methodology, choice of target group and correspondence with an issue identified in the surveys are also called for. In accord to the previous World Wars and recent civil unrests all over the world, we all must “**Light One Candle**”. That is how we make a culture of peace become a reality. We are committed to sharing and caring and promoting *Unity in Diversity* for culture to be a useful instrument among peoples.

Insisting on accomplishment of the mission of peaceful coexistence; believe and promote the richness of diversity through mutual understanding and respect, trust to be built on, the legacy of peace can be shared together and the love that unites as one big diverse family will be the ingredients for the utmost solution of all fragile relationships happening throughout the world. Since the peace is dedicated as the priceless, why not we all can plant the seeds of peace by the approaches of planting it with a heart of forgiveness and understanding. This will be in some way or another help us to lessen our negative effects at different levels, some feeling of discomfort on individual, disharmony in groups, social conflicts, those risks of destructions on vital equilibrium regarding the natural environment and narrow the horizon of misconducts.

Greece misses deadline for debt repayment to IMF



The word 'Yes' in Greek is seen on a banner during a pro-Euro rally in front of the parliament building, in Athens, Greece, on 30 June, 2015. — REUTERS

BRUSSELS/ WASHINGTON, 1 July — The International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday that Greece had not repaid 1.6 billion euros owed to the international institution by the time the deadline for repayment expired the same day.

The IMF said that Greece made a request for an extension of its repayment obligation, "which will go to the IMF's Exec-

utive Board in due course."

"I confirm the (1.6 billion euro) repayment due by Greece to the IMF today has not been received. We have informed our Executive Board that Greece is now in arrears and can only receive IMF financing once the arrears are cleared," Gerry Rice, director of communications at the IMF said in a statement.

The failure to make

the repayment comes after eurozone finance ministers rejected Greece's last-minute request for new financial aid in an emergency conference call.

Greece became the first developed country to fall into arrears on IMF payments, while the eurozone bailout programme for the country expired on Tuesday.

The financial crisis in

Greece has unnerved financial markets, with concerns mounting that it would ultimately lead to the country's exit from the eurozone common currency.

US President Barack Obama said on Tuesday that Greece's repayment failure should not create a major shock for the financial system but warned that it can have a "significant effect on growth rates in Europe," and eventually a "dampening effect on the entire world economy."

"So far, I think the markets have properly factored in the risks involved," Obama said, warning against overreactions.

Talks on a bailout for Athens will continue as another teleconference will be held on Wednesday, a spokesperson for Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the president of the eurozone finance ministers' group, said.

On Sunday, Greek citizens are set to vote on whether to accept the austerity terms of continued international aid in a referendum.—Kyodo News

IAEA chief Amano heads to Iran as nuclear talks extended



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano

VIENNA, 1 July — International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Yukiya Amano will be in Teheran on Thursday to discuss monitoring sensitive nuclear sites with senior officials as major powers and Iran seek a breakthrough in forging a lasting nuclear agreement.

Iran and world powers gave themselves an extra week on Tuesday to reach an accord curbing Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, but US President Barack Obama warned there would be no deal if all pathways to an Iranian nuclear weapon were not cut off.

Western countries suspect Iran of seeking the capability to make a nuclear weapon. Teheran says its program is peaceful.

Major sticking points that remain between the two sides include access for UN nuclear inspectors to Iranian military sites, the pace and timing of sanctions relief for Iran and IAEA queries about Teheran's past activities that may have been related to atomic weapons research.

Amano will meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and other senior officials, the IAEA said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Discussions are expected to address ongoing cooperation between the IAEA and Iran," the IAEA said, and would cover "how to accelerate the resolution of all outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear programme, including clarification of possible military dimensions (PMD)."

For more than a week, the sides have been working into the night trying to break an impasse in talks they feel have never been closer to success.

Western diplomats say they are nearing a resolution on access, although Iranian officials maintain that military sites are

off-limits due to a red line set by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran has been accused of stonewalling the IAEA probe on its past activities, and Western officials have said some of the sanctions relief would depend on Iran's cooperation.

But diplomats say Iran will be reluctant to open up to IAEA investigators until the punitive sanctions are lifted.

Rouhani said on Tuesday Iran would resume suspended atomic work if the West broke its promises.

In a positive sign for the talks, Western diplomats said an IAEA report due out later on Wednesday would show that Iran had complied with a preliminary deal to reduce its low-enriched uranium stockpile.

An IAEA report in May said the stockpile had increased above the required level, but Teheran met a 30 June deadline to reduce it, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

Tuesday was the official deadline to reach a long-term deal that would build on the preliminary agreement. But with the prize tantalizingly close and the atmosphere seemingly positive, the week-long extension came as no great surprise.

A successful negotiation could help ease decades of hostility between Iran and the United States. But many US allies in the region, including Israel and Saudi Arabia, are skeptical, as are hardliners in both Washington and Teheran.

The powers negotiating with Iran are the five UN Security Council permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — plus Germany.

The French and Chinese foreign ministers are due back in Vienna on Thursday, a French diplomatic source said. All the ministers are expected to meet on Thursday to take stock of where negotiations stand.

Under the November 2013 preliminary agreement, Iran agreed to take some steps to constrain its nuclear programme in exchange for limited relief from sanctions.—Reuters

Clinton struggled to fit in with Obama's White House, emails show

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 1 July — Hillary Clinton struggled to fit into the government of President Barack Obama after being appointed Secretary of State in 2009, according to emails released by the State Department on Tuesday.

They showed Clinton turning up for meetings that had been cancelled and worrying about how much time she had with her new boss, revealing growing pains in the relationship between her and former election rival Obama in the early months of her time as America's top diplomat.

In an email to two aides on 8 June, 2009, Clinton was unsure if the White House had held a Cabinet meeting and whether she should attend. "I heard on the radio that there is a Cabinet mtg this am. Is there? Can I go? If not, who are we sending?" Clinton wrote.

A State Department official wrote back that the government was holding a meeting, but not a full cabinet meeting that she needed to be at. As Clinton sought to navigate her relationship with the Obama White House, she corresponded with several former aides and advisers to her husband,

former President Bill Clinton. They included Sidney Blumenthal, a former White House speech writer, Sandy Berger, the former National Security Adviser and Mark Penn, who served as a political adviser to both Bill Clinton and to Hillary Clinton's 2008 White House bid.

As the Obama administration was conducting a review of its policy in Afghanistan, for example, Penn emailed her and advised her not to ignore the threat posed by the Taliban.

While they were fierce competitors on the campaign trail Clinton and Obama eventually struck up a cordial working relationship in the four years she spent as secretary of state. As she runs for the White House again at the November, 2016 election, Clinton's relationship with her fellow Democrat will come under further scrutiny.

While she has aligned herself with the Obama administration on issues that are popular with the base of Democratic supporters such as immigration reform, she has also tried to make her own mark by distancing herself from Obama on trade. Back in 2009, there were a few misunderstand-



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at the Virginia Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson party fundraising dinner at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, on 26 June, 2015. — REUTERS

ings, according to an email Clinton sent about what she thought was a meeting at the White House. "I arrived for the 10:15 mtg and was told there was no mtg," she wrote to aides. "This is the second time this has happened. What's up???" she asked.

The emails released on Tuesday are among some 30,000 work emails relating to Clinton that a judge has ordered to be released in batches after a controversy broke out earlier this year when she acknowledged using a personal email account rather than a government one for State Department business.

As she began her tenure, Clinton worried about perceptions that she was not meeting enough with the president, given that former President Richard Nixon used to see his secretary of state Henry Kissinger daily.

"In thinking about the Kissinger interview, the only issue I think that might be raised is that I see POTUS at least once a week while K saw Nixon everyday," she said in an email to a spokesman, using Washington shorthand for President of the United States. "Do you see this as a problem?" she asked spokesman Philippe Reines.

Reuters

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Cuba first country to eradicate mother-to-child HIV transmission: WHO

HAVANA, 1 July — Cuba on Tuesday became the first country in the world to eradicate the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mother to newborn, said the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO announced in a Press release that it validated Cuba's success in eliminating mother-to-child transmission.

"Eliminating transmission of a virus is one of the greatest public health achievements possible," WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan said.

"This is a major victory in our long fight

against HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and an important step towards having an AIDS-free generation," she added.

Cuba celebrated getting the recognition from the international agency.

"It is a historic day for the prevention of HIV and AIDS and for progress towards a generation free of this burden both nationwide and around the world," Cuba's state daily *Granma* said.

"This is a celebration for Cuba and a celebration for children and families everywhere. It shows that ending the AIDS epidemic is possible and we expect Cuba to be the first of many countries coming forward

to seek validation that they have ended their epidemics among children," said Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS.

Every year, an estimated 1.4 million women around the globe living with HIV become pregnant.

Untreated, they have a 15 to 45 percent chance of transmitting the virus to their children during pregnancy, labour, delivery or breastfeeding, according to the WHO.

The good news is that the risk drops to just over 1 percent if antiretroviral medicines are given to both mothers and children throughout the stages when infection can occur.

The number of children born annually with HIV has almost halved since 2009, down from 400,000 in 2009 to 240,000 in 2013, but much more needs to be done "to reach the global target of less than 40,000 new child infections per year by 2015," the WHO said.

Nearly 1 million pregnant women worldwide are infected with syphilis annually, which can result in early fetal loss and stillbirth, neonatal death, low-birth-weight infants and serious neonatal infections.

Thanks to Cuba's "equitable, accessible and universal health system," infected pregnant women are ensured key early access to

prenatal care, and HIV and syphilis testing for them and their partners, said the WHO.

Cuba succeeded in lowering the HIV transmission rate to 1.85 percent, below the 2 percent target rate countries in the region in conjunction with the WHO and other health agencies had been aiming for.

"Cuba's achievement today provides inspiration for other countries to advance towards elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis," said Dr Carissa F Etienne, the director of the Pan American Health Organization.

Xinhua

18 killed in landslides in E India

NEW DELHI, 1 July — At least 18 people have been killed in landslides triggered by heavy rains in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong sub-divisions of Darjeeling district of the eastern Indian state of West Bengal since Tuesday night, said local media on Wednesday.

The Press Trust of India quoted officials as saying at least 25 landslides have caused extensive damage to two local highways, cutting off road and telecommunication link to Darjeeling and the eastern state of Sikkim.

Government rescue teams have rushed to the affected area, where at least 15 people are reported missing.

The two one lane highways to Darjeeling district of West Bengal are the only land transport links to the hilly area.—*Xinhua*

Australian treasurer confident of AIIB structure, decision making mechanism

CANBERRA, 1 July — Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey said in a series of interviews with Australian and international media on Monday and Tuesday that Australia is confident of the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's (AIIB) structure and its decision making mechanism.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, Hockey said Australia has the capacity to be a major beneficiary of new infrastructure, especially in Asia-Pacific region where there has an eight-trillion-US dollar infrastructure shortfall over the next 10 years. As for the US concerns about the structure of the AIIB, Hockey said, "We went into negotiations in good faith hoping to ensure that the bank had the best corporate governance principles of any major multilateral bank and they've actually got that."

"We're satisfied that when it comes to issues like ensuring that minority shareholders are not oppressed, there are protections now in place ensuring the directors make the decisions about where the money goes. Those arrangements are in place. And importantly, it's not dominated by any single shareholder," he told Bloomberg.—*Xinhua*

More than 135,000 refugees reached Europe by sea in 2015's first half — UNHCR

WASHINGTON, 1 July — More than 135,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea in the first half of 2015, with most of the burden being borne by countries in southern Europe, according to a new report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Desperate people resort to desperate measures and unfortunately ... the numbers are expected to continue to soar," said Brian Hansford, a spokesperson for UNHCR.

The number of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe in the first six months of 2015 increased more than 80 percent increase from the same time period in 2014, the UNHCR report said.

It comes as European Union leaders remain divided over how best to solve the growing migrant crisis.



Migrants wait to disembark from the Norwegian vessel *Siem Pilot* at Catania's harbour, Italy, on 30 June, 2015.—REUTERS

The increase in refugees and migrants, many braving dangerous Mediterranean waters in unsafe boats, has hit countries in southern Europe particularly hard, the report said.

Greece, the largest arrival point for refugees

and migrants in the first six months of 2015, has a struggling economy and was headed for a default on loans with the International Monetary Fund.

Refugees and migrants have been pouring into the western Balkans from

Greece and since the beginning of June, over 1,000 people have been entering every day "as opposed to 200 just a few weeks ago," the report said.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi rebuked fellow EU leaders last week

for failing to agree on a plan to take in 40,000 asylum-seekers from Italy and Greece.

"As arrivals increase, the reception capacity and conditions remain seriously inadequate," Hansford said. "This is a regional problem that needs a regional response and regional solidarity."

Syria, which has been embroiled in a civil war since 2011, accounted for nearly 44,000 people, making them the largest group coming to Europe's shores. The report said instability in Libya was another reason for the increase.

Eritrea and Afghanistan were the second- and third-largest countries of origin, the report said.

The report added, however, that increased EU funding for rescue operations has meant a decrease in the number of deaths at sea since May.—*Reuters*

Toyota exec Hamp resigns after arrest over drug import

TOKYO, 1 July — Toyota Motor Corp said on Wednesday its first female managing officer Julie Hamp has resigned after being arrested last month for allegedly importing a narcotic painkiller to Japan.

Toyota "accepted her resignation after considering the concerns and inconvenience that recent events have caused our stakeholders," the automaker said in

a statement. Hamp offered to step down Tuesday.

The resignation of 55-year-old Hamp comes only a few months after she assumed the post in April as part of Toyota's efforts to diversify its leadership.

Toyota said it was "a big decision" to take as it had never had a foreign executive fully stationed in Japan. But the automaker said it will continue to

put the right people in the right places regardless of nationality, gender and other factors. Japanese police arrested Hamp on 18 June on suspicion of sending oxycodone pills, which are illegal without a prescription in Japan, via mail.

Following her arrest, Toyota President Akio Toyoda apologized for the incident, but said he believed she had not intended

to break any law.

Oxycodone is often used as a pain reliever by cancer patients and is said to be stronger than morphine.

To bring oxycodone into Japan, a medical certificate from a doctor must be submitted to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for approval. The drug cannot be imported by mail.—*Kyodo News*



Julie Hamp, the first female Toyota Motor Corp managing officer

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In respect of **Class 21**: Brushes for body and beauty care, in particular, hair brushes, sauna brushes and massage brushes; brushes for oral care in particular manual and electric toothbrushes, oral irrigators; electric and non-electric brushes and combs as well as cases therefor; cosmetic devices, in particular device for skin care; dental floss; interdental cleansers; interdental sticks; interdental brushes; toothpicks; toothpick cases; toilet cases [filled and unfilled]; in International Class 21.

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Dated: 2.7.2015

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV THAI BINH STAR 01 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH STAR 01 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 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 in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 2nd July, 2015: Rain will be widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kayin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (127W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (127W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.7.2015 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF266R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF266R) 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 CMA CGM LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (08/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (08/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-643)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-643) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.7.2015 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV TAN BINH-69 VOY NO (6/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAN BINH-69 VOY NO (6/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (2) 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ASSAD ULLAH VOY NO (006/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASSAD ULLAH VOY NO (006/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING
CO. LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

Daniel Radcliffe crowned Britain's Rear Of The Year 2015

LONDON, 1 July — Actor Daniel Radcliffe has beaten "Fifty Shades Of Grey" hunk Jamie Dornan to land the UK title of Rear Of The Year 2015.

"Thor" star Idris Elba and Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne round out the new top five at four and five, respectively.

Meanwhile, British singer-turned-soap actress Kym Marsh's posterior won her the female honour, beating her former Coronation Street co-star Michelle Keegan to claim the award.



"I'd like to thank everyone from the heart of my bottom for voting for me. It's totally unexpected but greatly appreciated. I'm very flattered to receive this award; it looks like all those extra gym sessions have paid off," Marsh said after winning the title.

Veteran TV presenter Carol Vorderman, who took home the prize in 2011 and 2014, comes in third, followed by actress Amanda Holden at four and "The Great Gatsby" star Carey Mulligan, who is rumoured to be pregnant, at five.—PTI

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Daw Khin Myint & Family

Usain Bolt withdraws from Diamond League meetings with leg injury

KINGSTON, 1 July — Six times Olympic champion Usain Bolt announced on Tuesday that he has pulled out of the Diamond League meetings in Paris on Saturday and Lausanne on 9 July, due to a left leg “discomfort”. The 28-year-old sprinter has been feeling discomfort in his left leg since his last competition in New York on 13 June, according to a statement on his website. He has been diagnosed

with a blocked sacroiliac joint, “which is restricting his movement and putting pressure on his knee and ankle,” the statement said.

“I’m disappointed not to be able to compete in Paris and Lausanne. I love running at these meetings but at the moment I am unable to compete at 100%,” Bolt said in the statement. “I look forward to getting back into full training as soon as possible.”

Xinhua

Residents return to see homes destroyed by Washington state fire



Homes destroyed by the Sleepy Hollow fire are pictured in Wenatchee, Washington on 29 June, 2015. —REUTERS

WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON, 1 July — Families whose homes were destroyed in a massive grassland wildfire in Washington state were returning to scenes of destruction on Tuesday as firefighters fought to contain the virtually unchecked blaze, officials said.

Fueled by extreme heat and gusting winds, the so-called Sleepy Hollow fire has scorched nearly 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares) of rolling grasslands and brush around the city of Wenatchee since it erupted on a parched central Washington hillside on Sunday. The blaze was just

10 percent contained late on Tuesday.

At least 24 residences were destroyed or badly damaged at the north end of the city of some 30,000 residents, as were four downtown businesses including a recycling plant, an agricultural chemical distributor and two packing

plants, said Kay McKellar, a fire management team spokeswoman.

Mandatory evacuation orders for several hundred homes had been lifted late on Tuesday in the Wenatchee area, though some roads were closed.

Residents and family members of the portion of the city where homes where burned were allowed to return to assess damage and gather belongings, McKellar said. In the quiet neighbourhood, there was a little tent set up with two women and children giving away cold drinks and snacks in what they said was an effort to raise peoples’ spirits as building contractors, cable company workers, insurance adjusters and residents milled about.

“I don’t even have a fork or a plate or clothing,” resident Diane Reed, who lost her home in the blaze, told local broadcaster KOMO. “Just the basic things you take for granted. It’s just gone.”

Reuters

Australia’s snowfields experiencing poor season due to El Nino

MELBOURNE, 1 July — Australia’s ski resorts are suffering through one of their worst seasons on record, with most reporting little or no snow cover as they enter the second month of winter.

The last snowfall experienced by Victoria’s best-known ski fields — at Mount Buller, Falls Creek and Mount Hotham — was nearly a fortnight ago, on 21 June, and the bureau of meteorology is predicting just a single day of snowfall this week.

The weather event of

El Nino has been blamed for the poor start to the snow season, which has left resorts desperate for snow. Some have resigned to relying solely on manufactured snow to entice visitors to the area. Many Australian ski resorts are unable to open their ski runs, with Mount Buller, which last received snowfall almost a month ago on 6 June, operating just one of its possible 41 runs. Only four of its ski lifts are in operation, from a possible 14.

The situation is dire at Falls Creek; only three

out a possible 77 ski runs are open, purely due to an artificial snow base of 25 centimetres.

El Nino years are infamous for bringing poorer snow seasons to Australia, with only three years in the event’s history resulting in above-average snowfall, while the four lowest peak snow depths in Australia’s alpine region were all recorded during El Nino phases. The southern Australian snow season usually begins in late fall and continues until early spring, however El Nino brings

with it a shortened season; on average the season lasts three weeks less than a typical season. The snowfields are under pressure to deliver snow over the next two weeks as school holidays are in effect across Victoria and New South Wales.

More than 309,000 snow-goers flocked to Victoria’s Mount Buller alone last year, but without consistent snow, local businesses and the economy could also experience a dry year, with visitor numbers likely to fall in 2015.

Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(2-7-2015 07:00 am~ 3-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * Wholesale Fish | * A Way of Life: Karate-do |
| * Today Myanmar “Reasons Behind | * Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Maung Zaw |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(2-7-2015, Thursday)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:30 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am | 8:40 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Teleplay |
| 6:40 am | 9:55 am |
| • Fashion Show | • ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) |
| 7:00 am | 10:10 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:45 am | 12:00 noon |
| • TV Drama Series | • Close Down |

Land prices rise in 10 prefectures in Japan

TOKYO, 1 July — Land prices in Japan as of 1 January increased in 10 prefectures including Tokyo, Osaka and Aichi, up from last year’s eight prefectures, the National Tax Agency said in its annual report released on Wednesday.

The survey, which covered about 329,000 points across the country and is used for inheritance tax calculations, also showed the land prices declined an average 0.4 percent from a year earlier for the seventh straight yearly fall but the margin of decline narrowed from last year’s 0.7 percent.

The rising land prices were attributable to increasing investment in real estate, mainly by foreign investors, due to the yen’s depreciation and low interest rates under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policy mix called “Abenomics” amid gradual economic recovery.

Of the country’s 47 prefectures, the sharpest rise was 2.5 percent in Miyagi, followed by 2.3 percent in Fukushima, where reconstruction was under way from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Tokyo, the main venue of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, came next with 2.1 percent.

While land prices rose in 10 prefectures of Miyagi, Fukushima, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Aichi, Kyoto, Osaka and Okinawa, they fell in 35 prefectures, down from last year’s 38 prefectures.

The margin of decline widened from last year in five prefectures of Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Hokkaido, Shimane and Oita.

The highest land prices in prefectural capitals went up in 21 cities, up from 18 last year, and fell in 12 cities, down from last year’s 21. The land price plunged 49 percent at a point in Hiroshima City’s Asaminami Ward where huge landslides killed 74 people last year.—Kyodo News

Devastating Argentina reach Copa final



Angel Di María (L) of Argentina kicks a goal during the semifinal between Argentina and Paraguay at the 2015 Copa America, in Concepcion, Chile, on 30 June, 2015. Argentina won 6-1 and was qualified for the final.—XINHUA

CONCEPCION, (Chile), 1 July — Argentina produced their best performance of the Copa

America so far to crush Paraguay 6-1 on Tuesday and set up a classic final against hosts Chile.

Angel di Maria scored twice and Marcos Rojo, Javier Pastore, Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo

Higuain also found the net in a brilliant display orchestrated by an inspired Lionel Messi.

Argentina had scored only four goals in their four previous matches but Messi said it was not because the team had not been playing well.

“We talked about that just before the match and we said it was just chance that we hadn’t scored more because we’ve been playing well,” Messi said.

“Today all the goals came at once.”

Gerardo Martino’s side took the lead after 15 minutes when Messi swung a free kick in from the left, Rojo failed to connect cleanly with his first touch but swept

the ball home from close range with his second.

Argentina doubled their lead 12 minutes later and again Messi was the provider, threading an inch-perfect pass through the Paraguayan defence for Pastore to run on to. His powerful low shot gave goalkeeper Justo Villar no chance.

Things went from bad to worse for Paraguay when both their strikers, Derliz Gonzalez and Roque Santa Cruz, limped off injured.

Santa Cruz’s replacement, Lucas Barrios, gave them hope with a goal just before the break but in the second half Argentina were unstoppable.

Minutes into the sec-

ond half Pastore burst through midfield and fed Di Maria, who buried a left-foot shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Six minutes later Messi destroyed the Paraguayan defence with a mazy run to set up Pastore. His shot was parried by Villar but Di Maria was on hand to slot home the rebound.

On 80 minutes Di Maria turned provider, crossing from the left for Aguero to head home, and minutes later Higuain came off the bench to score a sixth.

Argentina will face Chile at Santiago’s national stadium on Saturday.

Reuters

Federer and Kvitova feast on Wimbledon starters

LONDON, 1 July — When Roger Federer’s game flows at Wimbledon and his opponent knows his place you half expect him to slide into a deck-chair at changeovers, pour cream on to some strawberries and tuck in.

It was like that on Centre Court on Tuesday as the King of Cool began his quest for an eighth title at the All England Club with a nonchalant dismantling of Bosnia’s Damir Dzumhur.

With the mercury soaring into the high 80s Fahrenheit as London prepares for a heatwave, spectators were spared the full glare of the mid-afternoon sun thanks to the welcome shade offered by the partly-extended roof.

For 88th-ranked Dzumhur there was no escape from the dazzling shot-making of the Swiss maestro who won 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. It was a similar

story earlier as reigning women’s champion Petra Kvitova scorched the grass with some searing serves in a 35-minute demolition of Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens.

She dropped only one point on serve in a commanding first-round show of force that augurs well for her chances of repeating her title charge of 12 months ago when she blew Eugenie Bouchard away in a one-sided final.

German 10th seed Angelique Kerber also caught fire, thrashing compatriot Carina Witthoeft 6-0, 6-0 to record the third so-called ‘double bagel’ in the women’s singles so far, the most since 1996.

It was not all one-way traffic for fancied players though.

Third seed Simona Halep checked out 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 in round one against 106th-ranked Slovakian Jana Cepelova to

become the highest-profile casualty so far.

Last year’s runner-up Bouchard’s fall from grace continued as she was bundled out by China’s Duan Yingying.

By contrast, all of the top 16 men’s seeds are still alive.

Britain’s number three seed Andy Murray had some tricky moments before overcoming Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin 6-4, 7-6(3), 6-4 — dropping serve three times in the second set.

Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who 2013 champion Murray could play in the last 16, needed five sets to scramble past Luxembourg leftie Gilles Muller. With umbrellas popping up around the grounds, for shade not falling raindrops, London’s hottest day of the year so far seemed to agree with Spain’s twice former champion Rafa Nadal.

Lurking in the draw as 10th seed after a poor year, the 29-year-old bludgeoned Brazil’s Thomaz Bellucci 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

World number two Federer, starting his 63rd consecutive grand slam, which he firmly believes can deliver a long-awaited 18th title, was given carte blanche to go through his exquisite repertoire against the willing Dzumhur — a player whose first tennis shots were forged in bomb-ravaged Sarajevo.

The 23-year-old Dzumhur pushed Federer harder at the French Open this year, but looked like he had turned up uninvited to a Federer garden party on the world’s most famous lawn at times.

He at least finally made Federer sweat, but not much as the free-swinging Swiss fired off graceful winners and raced through service games in the blink of an eye.—Reuters

US beat Germany to reach Women’s World Cup final



Carli Lloyd (Front) of the United States celebrates scoring over the penalty during the semifinal between Germany and the United States at the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Montreal, Canada on 30 June, 2015.—XINHUA

MONTREAL, 1 July — Carli Lloyd scored one goal and set up the other as the United States beat Germany 2-0 to reach the Women’s World Cup final on Tuesday.

Lloyd put the Americans ahead in the 69th minute from the spot. They were awarded the penalty kick after German defender Annike Krahn fell Alex Morgan at the edge of the area.

Germany’s head Silvia Neid was left disappointed by the referee’s penalty decision.

“I felt very sad about that. It decided the match. Clearly it’s outside of the area, you can see it on TV, but you have to live with it. I could not change it,” she said.

Lloyd’s goal came nine minutes after Germany’s Celia Sasic, the tournament’s leading scorer, missed a penalty kick of her own, pushing the ball outside the left goalpost.

That seemed to put a brake on German comeback and give a new life to the Americans.

“If you miss a penalty and then have a penalty scored against you, it could be hard for you to come back into the game,” Neid said. The 32-year-old Lloyd, who headed in the sole goal in their win over China in the quarter-finals, delivered a superb pass for Kelley O’Hara whose shot sealed the win the US side in the 84th minute. US team head coach Jill Ellis, who was under fire from the American media for her side’s under-performance, declined to comment on the officiating. “I thought it was an unbelievable duel between two tremendous teams,” she said.

Germany put on a forgettable performance and their finishing was incredibly poor as only one of their 15 shots was on target.

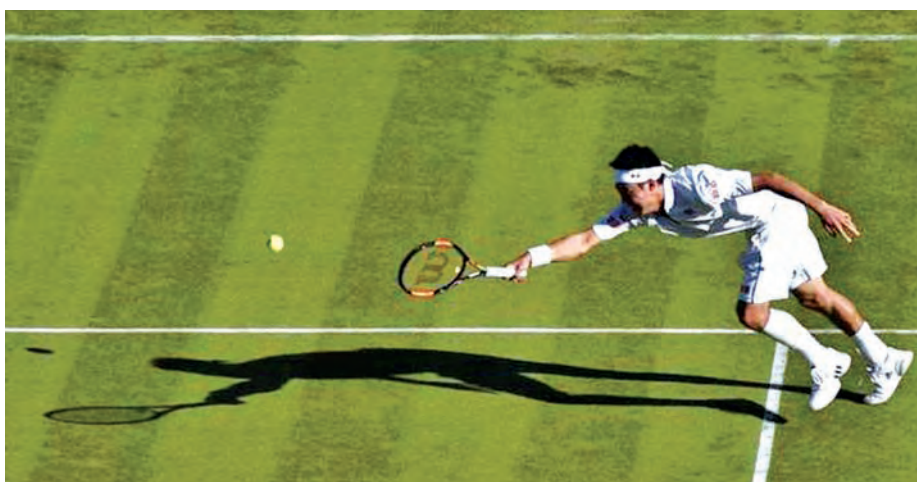
Xinhua

Japan’s Nishikori pulls out of Wimbledon with calf strain

LONDON, 1 July — Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori pulled out of Wimbledon before his second round match on Wednesday after failing to recover from a calf strain.

“It’s the same injury, it got better before the first match. I thought it would be okay but in the last match in fifth set it was hurting too much... and I decided not to play today,” Nishikori told reporters.

He had been due to play Colombian Santiago Giraldo on Centre Court.—Reuters



Kei Nishikori of Japan stretches for a shot during his match against Simone Bolelli of Italy at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on 29 June, 2015.

REUTERS