

President U Thein Sein arrives in Japan to attend 7th Mekong-Japan Summit

TOKYO, 2 July—President U Thein Sein and party left Nay Pyi Taw for Tokyo to attend 7th Mekong-Japan Summit on Thursday morning.

They were seen off at the airport 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 officials.

The president and members of delegation including Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Maung Soe, U Kyaw Lwin, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Than Aung and U Ye Htut, deputy ministers U Ohn Than and U Han Sein, U Set Aung, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing of the Ministry of Defence and officials arrived in Tokyo at 2.48 pm local time.

The president and party were greeted at Haneda Airport by officials of Japanese government, charge d'affaires counselor U Win Aung and staff of the embassy and the military attaché office, before the president and party went to the Hotel New Otani.

At 4 pm local time, the president received Minister for Tokyo Olympic Mr Toshiaki Endo at the hotel and the president thanked



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by officials of Japanese government at Haneda Airport in Tokyo, Japan.—MNA

the minister for Japan's help for success of 27th SEA Games.

At 5 pm, the president met with Chairman Mr Fumiyo Kobubu of Marubeni Company and discussed generation of

electricity, infrastructure development and rail transportation.

At 5.50 pm, the president received Chairman Mr Koichiro of Tokyo Stock Exchange and held talks on establishing Yangon Stock

Exchange in 2015.

At 7.10 pm, the president received Imaizumi Scholarship Foundation Chairman Imaizumi Saeji, a 92-year old Japanese veteran. The foundation was established in 1988 to help

Myanmar nationals who helped Japanese soldiers in Myanmar.

NHK News Agency interviewed President U Thein Sein at 6.30 pm at the Hotel New Otani.

During the interview,

the president explained the implementation of political, economic, administrative and private sector reforms to fulfill the two wishes of the public, stability and development.

Concerning the question on second term of the presidency, the president said that he places more emphasis on national politics of peace and development than party politics and he added that he would carry out everything he could for the national interests.

As for the second term of the presidency, the president said that the decision depends on situation of the country and will of the people which he said he would take seriously.

Regarding important tasks to be carried out during the second term of the presidency, the president said that whoever becomes the president of Myanmar will have to restore eternal peace, graduate Myanmar from LDC status and turn the country into a medium per capita income one.

During the interview, the president invited investment of Japan in infrastructure, industry, electricity and oil and gas sectors of Myanmar and thanked Japan for its role in settlement of foreign loans of Myanmar.

MNA

Garment factories vote against proposed minimum wage

By Aye Min Soe

Yangon, 2 July—Myanmar garment factory owners on Thursday unanimously voted against a proposed minimum wage set at K3,600 for an eight-hour day, promising to send their objections to the National Minimum Wage Committee within two weeks.

The vote was done by more than 200 businessmen from 145 garment factories attending a meeting at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, at which they discussed the challenges they face in meeting the proposed minimum wage, which was announced by the government

on 29 June. There are about 300 garment factories in Myanmar.

Garment industry bosses had offered a wage of K2,500 during the 22-23 June negotiation between the employers and employees, but the two sides could not reach an agreement during the talks sponsored by the government.

The employers cannot agree to the proposed minimum wage because the garment cutting, measuring and packaging industry does not depend on working hours but rather on productivity, said Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, secretary of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

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UEC issues procedures for international election observers

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July – The Union Election Commission, on 26 June 2015, issued the Election Observation Procedures for international observers to participate in holding free and fair elections.

The notification covers 13 chapters, and five forms as annexes. Chapter I, *Title and Definition*, carries the 12 explanations of the words.

Chapter II, *Criteria for Election Observers*, defines the criteria for the observers as being non partisan; having transparent fund; having registered to the UEC and being accredited by it and performing the electoral observation activities in by abiding to the provision in laws and rules.

Chapter III, *Registration and Submission for Accreditation*, says international election observers, in order to get the permission to conduct election observation, shall fill out the registration form issued by the UEC or the

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses amendment of Section 436(B)

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — The constitutional amendment bill came under discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday, with MPs discussing Section 436(B), a clause that determines which sections need over 75% of the vote to change.

U Min Oo of the Bago Region constituency

stressed the unity of political parties in the establishment of a multi-party democratic system, warning not to ignore public desires for constitutional change.

Daw Khin Hmwe Lwin of the Minkin constituency described peace, law enforcement and constitutional amendment as fundamental for democra-

cy to thrive, urging the parliament to stand with the people.

Lt-Col Ye Naing Oo, representative of defence services, showed support for some constitutional amendments but said that democratization will take

time in Myanmar as a nascent democracy.

He cited sluggish economy, non-democratic neighbours and internal conflicts as the reason for some sections to be left as they are for some time.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief stresses efforts for establishment of standard army

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — The commander-in-chief of defence services on Thursday urged senior military trainers and trainee officers at the Command and General Staff College in Kalaw to strive to build the country's defence services as an army of international standard.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the importance of technical and

technological assistance in increasing the military power through the installation of modern weaponry, urging trainee officers to immerse themselves in training so as to hone their capacity.

He also called for fatherly and commanderly spirits in display of leadership and management of their bases.

Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts patients at military hospital in Kalaw.—MYAWADY

Garment Factories voted against ...

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On behalf of the employers, she suggested the government bear some of their burden by making arrangements for the construction of housing quarters for workers and for ferry services for workers, and by giving tax breaks to garment businesses and assisting in the logistics of the garment industry.

During the meeting today, about 30 factories with foreign investment expressed their intent to shut down in September if the proposed minimum wage takes effect on 1 September.

The closure of the 30 factories would lead to more than 70,000 job losses, a Chinese businessman said.

Meanwhile, about 16 factories owned by Korean businessmen are facing a very difficult situation threatening their ability to continue running, said Mr Seo Won-Ho, CEO of Golden Shine Co Ltd from the Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone.

He also urged the government to reconsider the proposed minimum rate and to hike the wage in at least three steps from the current

salary rate to the proposed rate.

The garment industry has trained 80 percent of people who have not finished their education and given jobs to them, so factory closures could cause many social problems, said Mr Howard Kuan, business development manager of North Shore Group Co Ltd.

Ma Tin Moe Khaing, Secretary of the Hline-thaya Industrial Zone garment workers association, expressed her sympathy with the garment factory employers in the letter sent to Korean employers on 26 June inviting to negotiate for the proposed minimum



Employers and representatives of garment factories raise hands in protest against the proposed minimum wage as the issue is taken to vote.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

wage and urged them to be in tune with the current reforms of the garment in-

dustry to considerate the workers as the government has already committed to sustainability of the factories.

GNLM

UEC issues procedures ...

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registration form that can be downloaded from UEC's website, and submit it to the UEC. The forms are to be submitted starting from the announcement of election day until 15 days before the election day.

Chapter IV, *Documents to be Attached with the Registration Forms*, calls for submitting name, address and occupation of observer's guarantor including two recent coloured passport size photographs and statement letter of the election observation organization's source of fund and recommendation letter about the international election observation experience and others.

Chapter V, *Scrutinizing the Submission and Granting*, explains the methods of scrutinizing the submitted documents, accepting and rejecting of the documents and sending the list of diplomats from foreign embassies to the submissions.

Chapter VI, *Issuing Letter of Accreditation and Identification Card*, says the colour of the card for the internation-

al election observers is yellow, and the green colour is for observers from foreign embassies and consulates in Myanmar.

Chapter VII, *Requirements on Identification Card*, provides information to be included in the card - date and number of ID card, name of the observer, nationality and passport number, name of organization and expiry date and colour-photograph of the observer.

Chapter VIII, *Letter of Accreditation's Period of Validity*, says the observers shall conduct the electoral observation activities once they receive the official letter of accreditation issued by the UEC.

Chapter IX, *Geographical area of Electoral Observation*, states the observers shall conduct their observation only in the designated areas proposed in their plan submitted to UEC. Chapter X, *Rights, Obligations and Codes of Conduct for Election Observers*, states legal protection and security the right to observe and to have access to the information of the election process, the right to observe voting, vote counting and developing the voting results, the right to observe the polling station, the right to use equipment to record the election process except in polling station, freedom of movement,

and the right to inform to each election sub-commissions if the unlawful conducts are discovered.

Chapter XI, *Penalties for Election Observers*, explains the right of the UEC stating if the sub-commissions files a report, the UEC has the right to revoke the status and rights of the observer who violates the duties and codes of conduct.

Chapter XII, *Stages of Election Allowed to be Observed*, states observers can observe all stages of the 13 election processes in accord with the law.

Chapter XIII, *Election Observation Report*, calls for the observers to report the results of their observations which shall be written as accurately as possible based on facts and evidences to the UEC within 60 days.

The notification is attached with five forms namely Request of Accreditation for Election Observation Group; the Accreditation Letter; Identification Card for International Election Observers (Yellow); Identification Card for Foreign Diplomats in Country (Green); and Observer Pledge.

For further information please visit www.uecmyanmar.org, www.moi.gov.mm and globalnewlightofmyanmar.com.—GNLM

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus and His Excellency Mr Andrei Kobaykov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2015.

MNA

Education means acquiring knowledge and skill through teaching, learning and training: Vice President



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits science lab of basic education high school in Magway.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July—Education is an acquisition of knowledge and skill through the process of teaching, learning and training, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham told a meeting with teachers in Magway on Thursday.

The vice president cited some evaluations as saying that students complete their basic education at the age of 16, adding they are too young when compared with international students.

The National Education Law has proposed to add one year to the current academic period of basic education, which takes students 11 years to complete their basic education from kindergarten to matric.

Both quality and quantity are of great importance in education, he said, admitting that quality is what

some 9 million students at basic education level still lack.

The Ministry of Education is ranked fifth in government budget allocations.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham urged teachers to improve themselves to bring about well-rounded students, noting that success in education, health and economy is impossible without the active participation of the private sector.

He also explained how his government is putting effort into the establishment of independent universities.

He provided K10 million for outstanding students from four local high schools. He also donated computers, school notebooks and sports gear.

MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife attend reception to mark Independence Day of the USA

YANGON, 2 July—Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint attended the reception to mark the 239th anniversary of Independence Day of the United States of America at the residence of the US Ambassador on Pyay Road in Hline Township on Thursday evening.

Also present at the ceremony

were Union Minister U Soe Thane, deputy minister U Thant Kyaw, ambassadors of foreign missions, diplomats and officials of UN agencies.

US Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell extended greetings.

The US ambassador and wife hosted a dinner to the guests.

MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun being welcomed by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell at the reception to mark 239th Anniversary of Independence Day of the United States of America.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 3 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 His Excellency Mr Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2015.—MNA

20 students to get scholarship awards

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July—PTTEP Company and Integrated Refinery Petrochemical Complex Technological Collage (IRPCT) of Thailand that cooperate with Ministry of Energy in oil and natural gas exploration and production selected 20 scholarship students to attend the four-year High Vocational Diploma in Mechanic.

A total of 20 students came from one each of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Rail Transportation, Central Bank of Myanmar and Mandalay City Development Committee, five of Ministry of Communications and Informa-

tion Technology, six of Ministry of Energy and two of Ministry of Education.

The students will be presented high vocational diploma scholarship awards on 8 July and leave for Thailand on 13 July.

The Ministry of Energy has sent 40 students to IRPCT for the first time and 40 for the second time.

MNA

UEC announces constituencies for 2015 General Elections

YANGON, 2 July — For the upcoming 2015 general elections, the Union Election Commission announced the constituencies for Pyithu Hluttaw with a notification No. 22/205, for Amyotha Hluttaw with a notification No. 23/2015, for region or state Hluttaws with a notification No.

23/2015 and for region or state Hluttaws for national races with the notification No. 25205 dated 1 July.

According to the announcements, there are 330 constituencies for Pyithu Hluttaw, 168 constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw, 644 constituencies for region or state Hluttaws and

29 constituencies for region or state Hluttaws for national races.

Announcement for designation of constituencies will be covered in state-run dailies and detailed information are available at www.uecmyanmar.org.

MNA

French experts share insight on Mandalay's urban development



MANDALAY, 2 July — French firms shared their expertise Wednesday at a meeting to discuss strategies for developing Mandalay as a green city.

French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou gave a speech to

open the meeting at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Aungmyethazan Township for the French FASEP grant program, which guides development of critical infrastructure including water and transport. Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Ye Myint extended greetings participants and called for further cementing bilateral relations between Myanmar and France. FASEP programme leader Mr Christian Moncet explained the supply of potable water to new satellite areas of the city, while transport expert Mr Vincent Lichere discussed improvement of urban transport systems.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Free clinic donates glasses, wheel chairs to patients

KYONDOE, 2 July—Ananda Myitta mobile free clinic (Kyondoe branch) provided health care services to local people in Kyondoe, Kayin State, in the third week of June.

Patron of the Ananda Myitta health and education foundation and eye specialists arrange eye care services to needy patients in all regions of the nation. While in Kyondoe, the specialists gave free treatment to 58 eye patients and donated

wheel chairs to four children and one man.

They also provided health care services to 157 general patients.

In June, the mobile medical team donated 118 pairs of glasses and five wheel chairs to the patients.

Under the supervision of the venerable monk, 16 volunteer students teach 31 students of fifth grade and ninth grade at the Amae-ein (Kyondoe) free tuition.

Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

Driving courses set to begin

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — Nay Pyi Daw Road Transport under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is set to begin driving courses for trainees seeking to obtain their drivers' licenses.

The department uses Japanese-made Toyota Corolla cars for the courses. Those who have held a B licence for five years may attend the express bus course, an official said.

Road Transport will run its transport service for passengers by Man Express buses along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay route as of Friday.

Shwe Ye Yint



Volunteer midwives graduate in Hinthada Tsp



HINTHADA, 2 July — The volunteer midwifery course for the 2014-15 fiscal year recently concluded at the hall of Hinthada People's Hospital in Ayeayawady Region.

After a speech by township administrator U Tin Aung Win, district hospital medical superintendent Dr Toe Toe urged the volunteers to do their works with good will, providing health care services to the people.

District and township officials presented certificates and delivery kits to the trainees.

Altogether 20 female trainees from villages in Hinthada Township attended the six-month course starting.

Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

Authorities to honour outstanding Inn ethnic volleyball players

NYAUNGSHWE, 2 July — Plans are under way to honour outstanding Inn ethnic volleyball players at the city hall in Nyaungshwe, Shan State, on 5 July.

An official said the ceremony would acknowl-

edge the efforts and brilliant sports skills of Inn ethnic players, adding that the ceremony will help enhance sporting spirit of the youth.

Thirty-five selected Inn ethnic players of the

Myanmar volleyball team and those of region and state level teams will be honoured at the ceremony. Players will also demonstrate their sports skills on the occasion.

Nay Myo Thurein



LOCAL NEWS

Myanaung Tsp upgrades basic education schools

MYANAUNG, 2 July— Ceremonies to upgrade basic education schools were held in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 1 July.

Township level officials cut the ribbon to open a newly upgraded basic education high school branch in Myanaung oil field.

General manager of the oil field U Saw Maung

Maung presented gifts to officials.

The upgrading ceremonies were held at BEMS branches in Hmyinwataung village, Thonze-kyun, Meelaungkwin, Sanbawdikon and Paukon, and at the basic education post-rimary school in Hsinpon village.

Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)



Judicial officers discuss swift administration of justice



MANDALAY, 2 July— Judicial officials need to win the trust of the people while uplifting the prestige of the courts, Chief Justice of Mandalay Region High Court U Soe Thein said Wednesday at a meeting

aimed at reducing the number of judicial cases.

The chief justice said judges should hand down sentences in criminal cases that deter law-breaking.

Mandalay Region Minister for Security and

Border Affairs Col Aung Kyaw Moe, Transport Minister U Kyaw Hsan and Advocate General of the region U Ye Aung Myint participated in discussions.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Gov't boosts anti-venom production to cut snake death toll

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 2 July — A state-owned pharmaceutical plant is ramping up production of anti-venom in a bid to reduce Myanmar's snakebite death toll, the factory's deputy manager said recently.

The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) under the Ministry of Industry will produce up to 80,000 doses of anti-venom this year, 20,000 more than last year, Dr Daw Khin Pyone Lwin said.

Snake anti-venom is normally supplied in liquid form, but the factory will also produce freeze-dried

anti-venom this year. The factory produces two types of anti-venom, for cobras and vipers.

"The freeze-dried form is better than liquid in storage and transportation," Dr Daw Khin Pyone Lwin said, adding one-third of the total production may be freeze-dried. There are roughly 10,000 snakebite cases in Myanmar each year, with one in 10 fatal.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint said the mortality rate had not decreased over the past decade, despite the fact "varieties of measures against snakebite

have been carried out".

"One of the reasons is delay in receiving anti-venom by snakebite victims, and limited availability of safe and potent anti-venom in our country," the deputy minister said at an information workshop.

Jointly conducted by the Health Ministry and Brazil's Butantan Institute, the five-day course aims to bring the latest information to health ministry workers and researchers involved in the campaign to reduce snakebite deaths.

The ministry also plans to open a new WHO-standard anti-venom production plant at the Insein factory in August.—GNLM

University students receive knowledge about traffic rules

DAWEI, 2 July — An educative talk on traffic rules and discipline for road users was held at the convocation hall of Dawei University, Taninthayi Region, on 1 July, with an opening speech by Rector Dr Ba Han.

Police Major Soe Win of No 8 Traffic Police Corps (Taninthayi) spoke about the importance of traffic rules and prevention of accidents and replied to queries raised by students and faculty mem-

bers. Also present at the talks were Pro-Rector Dr Than Than Htay, faculty

members and students.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



New buildings open at Nursing Training School

MANDALAY, 2 July — A ceremony to inaugurate new buildings of the Mandalay Nursing Training School under the Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management was held at the school in Chanmyathazi Township on 1 July.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Re-

gion Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and Director-General of the department Prof. Dr Nwe Nwe Oo.

The minister and the director-general formally opened the building and met with trainees.

The school was opened in the compound of Mandalay General Hos-

pital in 1991 and moved to Chanmyathazi Township in 1996. Work on the school buildings on 60th Street in Mandalay began in 2012 and were completed in June 2015. The nursing training school (Mandalay) has produced 1,531 nurses since 1991.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Mechanical, human errors possible causes of TransAsia plane crash



The wreckage of a TransAsia Airways turboprop ATR 72-600 aircraft is recovered from a river, in New Taipei City, on 4 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

TAIPEI, 2 July — Both mechanical failure and human error might have contributed to the deadly crash of a TransAsia Airways plane in February shortly after takeoff, data released by Taiwan's Aviation Safety Council showed on Thursday.

Thomas Wang, ASC managing director and spokesman, declined to specify the cause of the accident as the council will not publish its final report until April next year, but emphasized that many accidents have more than one cause.

"Every accident will be a series of events (leading to the) unfortunate result," he said speaking in English.

The ATR 72-600 twin-engine turboprop, which was bound for Taiwan's outlying Kinmen islands, was carrying 58 people — five crew members and 53 passengers — when it crashed just minutes after takeoff from Taipei's Sungshan Airport on the morning of 4 February.

Footage from a car's dash-cam provided by a witness showed the plane banking sharply and then clipping a taxi and an elevated expressway moments before crashing into the Keelung River at 10:55 a.m.

Forty-three people died in the crash, and 17 people were injured including two on the ground.

While the official cause of the crash is yet to be determined, transcripts of the plane's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder published on Thursday by the ASC suggested both mechanical failure and human error as possible causes.

The biggest indicator of trouble has come from the plane's control system. ASC investigations showed that a connector in the auto-feather unit of the automatic take-off power control system of the No 2 engine on the right side of the plane had a problem during takeoff. The problem caused the system to auto-feather the N. 2 engine, that is, reduce thrust to the propeller. That was when the cockpit received a "flame out" signal alerting the pilots that the No 2 engine's combustion chamber had gone out, stopping the propeller. While the pilots were trying to restart the No 2 engine, they mistakenly shut down the No 1 engine, which was working normally, causing the plane to lose power and crash. Wang said the chief pilot was experienced in flying the 72-500 model, but had only begun to fly the 72-600 model in April last year. —Kyodo News



Photo taken on 1 July, 2015 shows the interior of the new terminal of Pyongyang International Airport in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The newly completed terminal of Pyongyang International Airport, which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) says is "a model edifice in the Songun era," was officially put into use starting Wednesday after a topping out ceremony held here in the morning. —XINHUA

Indian Cabinet approves pacts to be sealed during Modi's visit to central Asian countries next week

NEW DELHI, 2 July — The Indian Cabinet has approved a number of agreements that are likely to be inked during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to central Asian countries next week, sources said on Thursday.

"The Cabinet of Ministers gave its approval to all the pacts to be signed between India and the central Asian countries, at a meeting held on Wednesday," the sources said.

While India is likely to sign tourism pacts with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, it will seal an emergency response system deal with Uzbekistan, they added.

Modi will visit Uzbekistan on 6 July for one day, followed by Kazakhstan from where he will head to Russia to attend the BRICS Summit. The final leg of his tour includes visits to Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. —Xinhua

Philippine ferry sinks, killing at least 36, but most passengers survive

MANILA, 2 July — A ferry carrying 189 passengers and crew capsized off the central Philippines in heavy waves on Thursday, killing at least 36 people but the majority of those on board were rescued, the coast guard and police said.

The MBCA Kim-Nirvana, a motorised outrigger with 173 passengers and 16 crew on board, capsized minutes after leaving the port of Ormoc.

Coast guard spokesman Armand Balilo said 127 people survived, while 26 were still listed as missing.

"Search and rescue operations are ongoing. Initially we learned that it was due to big waves," said Rey Gozon, director of the office of civil defence for the region. Scores, sometimes hundreds, of people die each year in ferry accidents in the Philippines, an archipelago of 7,100 islands with a notoriously poor record for maritime safety. Overcrowding is common, and many of the vessels are in bad condition.

May Sopa told CNN Philippines that when she



Passengers of the capsized MBCA Kim-Nirvana ferry (far L) are rescued by a tugboat of the Philippine coast guard near a port in Ormoc city, central Philippines on 2 July, 2015. —REUTERS

hit the water, other panicking passengers pushed her down, before a man holding on to a water container rescued her.

"I told him 'Please save me'," Sopa said, adding they bobbed on the water and tried to paddle ashore. Two other women and a boy around 10 years old also latched on to the same water container.

Television pictures showed orange rubber

boats and white coast guard vessels bringing survivors ashore, including at least one toddler and some on stretchers, with the half-submerged ferry visible offshore.

Balilo said authorities were looking at various possible causes, including human error and bad weather.

"There was an occasional swell but the sea condition was manageable.

Some motorised outriggers were able to sail," he told a local TV news channel.

"There was no gale warning and while there was a tropical depression, it was far from the area of the accident," he said.

Authorities took the captain and some crew members of the 33-tonne boat into custody, Balilo said, adding that a formal investigation would be conducted as soon as search

and rescue operations were concluded.

Eli Borinaga, the vice mayor of Pilar town on an island to the south who had hoped to join the ferry but didn't make it on time, told local radio that there was only light rain at the time of the accident.

He cited a witness at Ormoc port who saw the boat make a sharp turn just before it capsized.

Reuters

Cambodian PM heads for Mekong-Japan Summit in Japan

PHNOM PENH, 2 July — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen left here on Thursday for Tokyo to attend the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit, to be held on 3 and 4 July, a government official said.

The Mekong-Japan Summit will be held between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and leaders from five Mekong River countries, including Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand. Hun Sen will deliver a speech at the summit, which will adopt the "New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation" in the next three years from 2016 to 2018, Sry Thamarong, minister attached to Hun Sen, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport before the prime minister's departure. "On 4 July in the afternoon, Hun Sen will hold a bilateral meeting with Shinzo Abe," he said, adding that Hun Sen will also meet with several Japanese investors on the sidelines of the summit.

Xinhua

PHOTO GALLERY

Images of President U Thein Sein's Japan visit



President U Thein Sein meets Tokyo Stock Exchange Group Inc President Mr Koichiro.—MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Chairman Imaizumi Seiji, Chairman of Imaizumi Scholarship Foundation.—MNA



President U Thein Sein at interview with NHK news agency.

MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Japanese Tokyo Olympic Minister Mr Toshiaki Endo.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Marubeni Company Mr Fumiyo Kokubu and party.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 3 July, 2015

From gender equality to national prosperity

By Kyaw Thura

Society in the 21st Century has undergone a dramatic shift in public opinion about the so-called weaker sex, coming to demand that women should enjoy the same rights as men.

Our country has designated 3 July as Myanmar Women's Day with the aim of celebrat-

ing the economic, political and social achievements of women. It is a national day that honours women and advocates their equal rights in all aspects of life.

In support of women's rights, the United Nations has urged in Article 1 of its Charter that all nations should promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Any attempt to deny women rightful access to education, financial security and participation in social, political and economic contexts can be interpreted as a form of persecution.

A hard look at today's international settings will, however, reveal that some women still face discrimination in terms of employment, salary,

governance and peace building.

This challenges our efforts and points out the need to restructure our society so that women can play the same role as men in every aspect of life. After all, women's rights are part of human rights, as gender equality benefits people everywhere.

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Decent Work

Lokethar

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 'Decent Work' sums up the aspirations of the people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration. The Decent Work Agenda of the ILO was adopted at its 87th International Labour Conference (ILC) held in Geneva in 1999. The agenda has been widely accepted as an important strategy to foster development. Also it has been pointed out that "Productive Employment and Decent Work are key ele-

ments to achieving a fair globalization and reduction of poverty".

As far as wage employment is concerned, work is the means of earning a livelihood for many. In Myanmar, 'Decent Work' to many workers is still an 'aspiration' as prevailing wages for normal hours of work have been on the low side and conditions of work could be further improved. With the advent of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Common Labour Market in the offing, enhancing wages and improving conditions of work may be the means of keeping our workers happy and productive in their own country.

In Myanmar, many workers, especially in the labour intensive production industries even in the

formal sector, do not earn a 'living wage' for normal hours of work. They usually have to work overtime to earn an income to make ends meet. Making the workers work overtime saves the factory from working two or three shifts or hiring more workers (both of which may be difficult to do at short notice). Thus to cope with sudden pressures of work, many industries often require their workers to work for the normal 8 hours plus up to 4 hours overtime a day. Thus the total working time is around 12 hours a day. This situation, for some factories, may last for months on end which may be far in excess of the legal limits allowed by the Factories Act of 1951. Most workers are willing to work overtime so as to earn enough to make ends

meet. This, in the long run, will definitely be detrimental to their health and well being and will lead to low productivity and possibly accidents at work.

As of general 'practice' employers, particularly in the 'labour intensive' industries, have been 'breaking up' worker's total wage into 'basic' wage and a packet of so called 'incentive wages' conditional up on say, not being late/absent for work, exceeding production targets, not taking leave of absence etc. The 'basic' wage component is usually fixed rather low and overtime wages are calculated based up on the 'basic' wage. In addition to requiring the workers to work overtime, many employers, especially in the garment manufacturing industries, also 'out-source' their manufacturing to 'home industries' in the **informal sector** to cope

with urgent 'orders' of their buyers.

Some local employers are of the opinion that to increase wages of workers may force them to close down their operations because it will lead to economic loss for them. This does not seem to be entirely true as there are other factors which may affect profitability, as for example mismanagement of the 'supply chain', which may give rise to cost over-runs. Once Myanmar is integrated into the ASEAN Economic Community it will be difficult to provide 'protection' to local industries in the context of 'free market' practices within ASEAN. Some say that increasing production workers' wages will cause investors from abroad to shy away from making investments in labour intensive industries. However foreign investors who plan to

make investments in industries take into consideration many factors, other than workers' wages, which will affect their operations and profitability in the long run.

The Factories Act of 1951 of course, needs to be amended to be in step with the corresponding laws of the other ASEAN countries. In particular, it needs to be more explicit regarding the mode of calculation of overtime wage rates and fixing limits to hours of overtime work allowed, whether per week, per month or per year. However, fair wages need to be paid to workers in the meantime to enable them to earn an adequate income for living. This, in the long run will lead to increased productivity and profitability for the enterprise as well as lessen industrial disputes.

☆☆☆☆

Myanmar receives \$400 million to support poor rural communities

WASHINGTON, 2 July—More health centres, schools, roads and drinking water systems will be repaired and constructed for rural communities in Myanmar with an additional \$400 million in financing approved today by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors for the ongoing Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project (NCD-DP).

The additional financing from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for low-income coun-

tries—together with financing from the Myanmar government and with co-financing from the Government of Italy—will scale up the program to improve access to basic services and essential infrastructure for an estimated 7 million people across 62 Myanmar townships.

Community Driven Development is an important element of Myanmar's rural poverty reduction strategy. The NCDDP project supports Myanmar's "people-centred" approach to rural development, focused on engagement with

communities in poor and historically underserved rural areas.

"We are pleased to be able to expand access to services for poor people in Myanmar. These additional funds will help to transform the way rural development works. They will empower and motivate communities, by putting people in charge of how to manage community development resources," said U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

GNLM



CANADIAN EMBASSY MARKS NATIONAL DAY: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw being welcomed by Canadian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mark McDowell at the reception to mark National Day of Canada at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 1 July.—MNA

NATIONAL

Preliminary Kayin National Conference held in Yangon

YANGON, 2 July — Preliminary Kayin National Conference organized by Kayin National Unity and Peace Committee started on Thursday at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon.

The conference will contribute to the interests not only of the Kayin but also of other ethnic groups, according to Yangon Region Affairs Minister Pado Saw Tun Aung Myint.

“It is sure that organizing such conferences for peace will contribute to the interests of the Kayin and this will in turn contribute to the interests of other

ethnic groups,” Pado Saw Tun Aung Myint told the GNLM at the conference.

“The committee was formed with the aim of making the peace process of the Kayin National Union a success. However, the process has been a little delayed because all armed ethnic groups involve in the process. Peace must be restored in the long-term interests and the conference was organized with this aim,” the region minister added.

“All Kayin nationals must be able to participate in the conference despite difficulties for organizing

such conference. However, we tried our best and we hope to organize the Kayin National Conference as the second step,” he added.

The conference will push peace process as well as promote economic, education and social status of the Kayin, according to the region minister. The conference will focus on development of Kayin State, it is learnt.

“It is time for the Kayin to reunite and to follow the democratic path of the state,” said Venerable Pastor Saw Matthew Aye. The conference will last three days. —By Ko Moe



Kayin ethnics participate in Preliminary Kayin National Conference.—MNA

Singapore's UOB marks Myanmar launch with loans for automotive, tourism projects

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 2 July — Singapore-based United Overseas Bank inked loan agreements with two firms investing in Myanmar's automotive and tourism industries Thursday in Yangon, at the opening of its first branch in the country.

UOB said its loan to Cycle & Carriage Automobile Myanmar will fund the construction of two automobile showrooms and a servicing workshop in Yangon, catering to rising demand for private transport.

Cycle & Carriage Automobile Myanmar Company is owned by Singapore-listed Jardine Cycle & Carriage and Myanmar-based Automobile Alliance Company limited.

The bank said the automotive industry has seen strong growth in Myanmar,

with the number of vehicles having increased by 86 per cent in the two years following the country's relax-

ation of automotive import regulations in 2012. The number is expected to grow 7.8 per cent a year through

2019, it said.

As part of its commitment to supporting the development of Myanmar's



In the presence of UOB Group Deputy Chairman and CEO Mr Wee Ee Cheong (far left), Union Minister U Win Shein (centre left), Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean (centre right) and CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung (far right), Mr Woo Siew Hin, Director of System-Bilt (Myanmar), Mr Harry Loh, Country Manager of UOB and U Aye Tun, Director of Cycle & Carriage Automobile Myanmar sign loan agreements at the Parkroyal Hotel on Thursday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Waziya Cinema renovated as Red Carpet Theatre



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway inspects preparations to upgrade Waziya Cinema to Red Carpet Theatre.—MNA

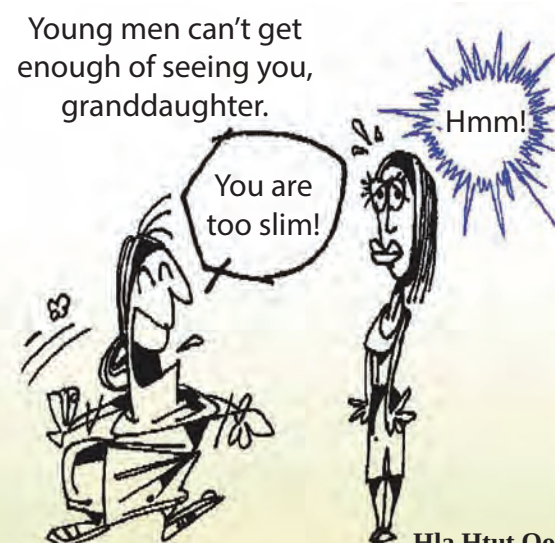
YANGON, 2 July — Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway together with Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Lu Min and officials inspected upgrading of Waziya Cinema to Red Carpet Theatre on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, on Thursday.

According to the decision of Myanmar Investment Commission's meeting, MMPO hired the cinema from the Ministry of Information from 22 October 1999 to May 2015. Now, arrangements are being made to hand over the cinema to the ministry.

The ministry and the organization is maintaining

the cinema as Red Carpet Theatre. The deputy minister attended the opening of DW

Akademie Myanmar Branch at French Culture Centre on Pyay Road.—MNA



tourism sector, the bank also extended a loan to System-Bilt (Myanmar) Ltd to build a 200-room extension for the Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon.

System-Bilt (Myanmar) Ltd is 100 per cent owned by Regional Hotel from Singapore.

The bank did not reveal the amounts of the loans in a press release Thursday, but said in an earlier release that it will facilitate investment injections worth US\$300 million from its clients based in Europe and Asia into Myanmar over the next 12 months to build factories, hotels and commercial properties.

UOB Group deputy chairman and CEO Mr Wee Ee Cheong said the investments of the bank's clients were directed at meeting Myanmar's growing urbanization and industrialization needs.

“UOB is keen to support sectors that can help create far-reaching and long-term benefits for the country, including invest-

ments in infrastructure, manufacturing and tourism,” Mr Wee said.

In addition to the loans signed Thursday UOB provided offshore financing to Asiatech Energy, the Singaporean firm that built Myanmar's first combined cycle gas-fired power plant in Mon State in early 2014.

UOB's Yangon branch provides corporate loans, trade and project financing, and cash management solutions for regional and global companies expanding into Myanmar.

Also present at the opening ceremony of the branch together with the bank's officials were Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister for Finance U Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Governor of the CBM U Soe Min and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua.—GNLM

Indonesia to call off search for victims in deadly military plane crash

JAKARTA, 2 July — Indonesian authorities will call off a two-day search for victims on Thursday after a military transport plane crashed into a residential area in Sumatra, killing around 140 people, the military said.

The *Hercules C-130B* was carrying 122 passengers when it crashed into houses in the northern city of Medan shortly after takeoff on Tuesday, killing all on board and more on the ground.

"We have not found any bodies since yesterday, so hopefully, we will be able to finish the search-and-rescue operation today," military spokesman



Fuad Basya said.

Basya said 135 people were confirmed dead, although Indonesian media reported on Thursday at

least 141 bodies had been recovered from the crash site. The incident is the latest in a string of aviation disasters to hit Indonesia

and prompted President Joko Widodo to order a review of its aging air force fleet. The type of plane that crashed in Medan went into

Indonesian soldiers and search and rescue teams remove debris from the crash site of a military C-130 transport plane which went down yesterday in a residential area of Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, on 1 July, 2015.

REUTERS

service half a century ago.

The Indonesian air force has now lost four C-130Bs, a model that forms the backbone of its transport fleet. Jakarta has grounded its remaining eight C-130Bs until investigators discover the cause of the crash.

The crash could spur Southeast Asia's largest country to boost military spending, currently the lowest in the region at just 0.8 percent of GDP.

"The incident in Medan shows that the military's transport equipment needs to be renewed soon," parliamentarian TB Hasanuddin told reporters.

"We advise the gov-

ernment to buy newer aircraft rather than used ones even if they are more expensive," he said.

Some victims' families said passengers, many of whom are believed to have been civilians, had paid to get on the flight, which was headed to Tanjung Pinang in Riau Islands off Sumatra.

The air force has denied the allegations and said it will investigate any possible breach of rules.

Last December, an AirAsia passenger jet crashed en route from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore, killing all 162 people on board.

Reuters

US NSA also spied on several German ministers, media reports say

BERLIN, 2 July — The US National Security Agency (NSA) has spied not only on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, but also on numerous high-ranking government members such as the economy and finance ministers, German media reported on Wednesday.

Revelations by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden about wide-ranging US spying have caused outrage in close ally Germany where privacy is an especially sensitive issue after the extensive surveillance by Communist East Germany's Stasi secret police and by the Gestapo in the Nazi era.

The spying scandal was compounded by allegations that the German BND foreign intelligence agency helped the NSA and tracked other European targets on behalf of the NSA.

In the latest development, the German newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* and broadcasting network ARD reported, based on Wikileaks documents, that the NSA targeted 69 telephone numbers in the German government administration.

Among the officials being targeted were Economy Minister and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel as well as several of

his deputy ministers, the reports said. British intelligence agencies were also involved in some of the operations, they said.

Germany and the United States have been at odds over the NSA spying practices since Snowden's revelations showed Washington had listened in on many of its allies, including Merkel.

However, Germany's top public prosecutor last month closed a year-long investigation into the suspected tapping of Merkel's cell phone by US spies, saying evidence that would stand up in court was lacking.

Reuters

Cambodia urges Vietnam to stop roads construction at non-demarcated borderline

PHNOM PENH, 2 July — Cambodia has demanded Vietnam to immediately cease all planned road construction and other infrastructure along the border until the Joint Border Commission (JBC) of the two countries have completely demarcated the borderline. According to a diplomatic note sent to the Vietnamese government on Wednesday and posted on the Cambodian foreign ministry's website on Thursday, Cambodia requested Vietnam to provide the locations where its authorities have planned to construct roads and other infrastructures.

The country also asked Vietnam to show map indicating the locations of road construction alongside with the border where the JBC has already agreed to implant border pillars or decided to exchange the land in the framework of the 2011 MoU (Memorandum of Understanding). Moreover, it demanded Vietnam to stop as earlier as possible the construction of three road segments, which are as close as 10 meters from the borderline in Cambodia's Svay Rieng

Province, saying that the border pillars at the area have not yet been demarcated.

This was the fourth diplomatic note Cambodia sent to Vietnam since last month asking the Hanoi government to respect the borderline. Speaking in a press conference on Thursday, Var Kimhong, Cambodian Senior Minister in charge of Border Affairs, said the country sent those diplomatic notes to Vietnam because Vietnam violated a bilateral border agreement that prevents either side from developing in non-demarcated border areas.

"They (Vietnam) have violated the Joint Press Communiqué of 17 January, 1995 between the two countries by building roads and a military post, and digging ponds at the locations where have not been fully demarcated yet," he said.

Var Kimhong said a special JBC meeting of the two countries will be held from 6 to 9 July in Cambodia's Siem Reap province in order to solve the remaining border issues and recent violent clashes along the borderline.

Cambodia shares a 1,270 km border in the east with Vietnam. To date, about 80 percent of the border demarcation between the two countries has been completed. —Xinhua

In emails, Hillary's outside advisers pushed hawkish Afghan line



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton meets with Afghan President Hamid Karzai on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, on 24 Sept, 2012. — REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 2 July — In the fall of 2009, as US President Barack Obama conducted a long, divisive review of whether to pour more US troops into Afghanistan, an influential group of advisers were quietly pushing a hawkish line.

The advisers didn't work for Obama's White House, however. They were veterans of President Bill Clinton's administration and they peppered Obama's secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, with messages urging a robust counter-insurgency effort in Afghanistan and a tougher US stance toward Pakistan, according to emails released by the State Department late on Tuesday.

The emails reveal how, even as Obama ran a highly formalized Afghan policy review of near-endless meetings and position papers, Hillary Clinton was receptive to outsiders' sometimes off-the-cuff views delivered through back-channels.

How much they influenced Clinton, who was also getting plenty of ad-

vice on Afghanistan and Pakistan from officials at her State Department, remains unclear. But Clinton eventually threw her support behind a troop "surge" and there is some evidence the external advisers formed part of her thinking.

Some had more national security expertise than others, but all appeared to have Clinton's ear - and her private email address.

In one missive on 11 October, 2009, retired Gen Wesley Clark, a confidant of the Clintons, warned against repeating in Afghanistan the "incrementalism" of gradual troop increases during the Vietnam War.

"Hopefully, we can be more decisive: lean harder on the Pakistanis, provide more troops to (Afghanistan commander Gen. Stanley) McChrystal ... and raise the heat on al-Qaeda," Clark wrote.

Others in the Clintons' orbit weighed in with similar advice, including former national security adviser Sandy Berger, Clinton pollster Mark Penn and a consigliere to both

Bill and Hillary, Sidney Blumenthal.

On 3 October, Berger emailed Clinton with a provocative proposal: the United States should take targeted measures against military officials in Pakistan, nominally a US ally, who support al-Qaeda.

"Assuming we have adequate intelligence, we can go after bank accounts, travel and other reachable assets of individual Pakistani officers, raising the stakes for those supporting the militants without creating an inordinate backlash," he wrote.

"Thanks, Sandy. This is very helpful," Clinton replied. Through a spokesman, Berger declined comment on Wednesday.

There's no evidence Berger's idea gained traction. But on a trip to Pakistan later that month, Clinton came close to accusing Pakistan of sheltering terrorists, publicly voicing a US suspicion normally whispered in private.

"I find it hard to believe that nobody in your government knows where they are, and couldn't get to them if they really wanted to," she told Pakistani journalists.

The email exchanges took place during a wrenching Obama White House debate over sending more US troops to Afghanistan. Obama, elected on a promise to end US ground wars, had already deployed 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan and was weighing the military's request for tens of thousands more. —Reuters

WORLD

More than 100 dead as militants, Egyptian army clash in North Sinai

ISMAILIA, (Egypt) / CAIRO, 2 July — Egypt's army said on Wednesday more than 100 militants and 17 soldiers were killed after simultaneous assaults on military checkpoints in North Sinai, in the deadliest fighting in years in the restive province.

After a day of fighting, which involved F-16 jets and Apache helicopters, the army said it would not stop its operations until it had cleared the area of all "terrorist concentrations".

By late Wednesday, an army spokesman said the situation in North Sinai was "100 percent under control". Security sources and witnesses later said aerial bombardments on militant targets had resumed.

Islamic State's Egyptian affiliate, Sinai Province, had claimed responsibility, saying it attacked more than 15 security sites and carried out three suicide bombings.

The militants' assault, a significant escalation in violence in the peninsula that lies between Israel, the Gaza Strip and the Suez Canal, was the second high-profile attack in Egypt this week. On Monday, a bomb killed the prosecutor-general in Cairo.

It raised questions about the government's ability to contain an insurgency that

has already killed hundreds of police and soldiers.

The insurgents want to topple the Cairo government and have stepped up their campaign since 2013, when then-army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi removed President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood after mass protests against his rule. Sisi, who regards the Brotherhood as a threat to national security, has since overseen a harsh crackdown on Islamists. An army statement said the fighting had been concentrated in the towns of Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah and that the militants used car bombs and various weapons.

Of the 17 soldiers killed, four were officers, and 13 more soldiers were wounded, the statement said. Some security sources put the death toll for army and police much higher.

The army spokesman told state television that a number of militants had been arrested. He also posted pictures on his official Facebook page which he said showed the bodies of scores of militants. They were dressed in fatigues.

Security sources said the militants had planned to lay siege to the town of Sheikh Zuweid. "But we have dealt with them and broke the siege," one of the



Smoke rises in Egypt's North Sinai as seen from the border of southern Gaza Strip with Egypt on 1 July, 2015. —REUTERS

sources said. Earlier, security sources said militants had surrounded a police station in Sheikh Zuweid and planted bombs around it.

The militants also planted bombs along a road between Sheikh Zuweid and al-Zuhour army camp and seized two armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition, the sources said.

Suleiman al-Sayed, a 49-year-old Sheikh Zuweid resident told Reuters earlier on Wednesday that he was not allowed to leave his home while clashes were ongoing. He said he had glimpsed "five Land Cruisers with masked gunmen waving black flags."

Witnesses and security sources also heard two explosions in the nearby town of Rafah, which borders Gaza. The sources said all roads leading to Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid were shut down. The interior ministry in the Gaza Strip, run by the Islamist Hamas group, reinforced its forces along the border with Egypt.

"It is a sharp reminder that despite the intensive counter-terrorism military campaign in the Sinai over the past six months, IS ranks are not decreasing — if anything they are increasing in numbers as well as sophistication, training and daring," Aimen Dean, a former

al-Qaeda insider who now runs a Gulf-based security consultancy, said in a note. Islamic State had urged its followers to escalate attacks during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan which started in mid-June, though it did not specify Egypt as a target. In April, the army extended by three months a state of emergency imposed in parts of Sinai.

Besides bombardments in the region, the army has destroyed tunnels into the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip and created a security buffer zone in northern Sinai. It is also digging a trench along the border with Gaza to deter smuggling.—Reuters

British woman charged with being member of Islamic State

LONDON, 2 July — British police said on Thursday they had charged a 26-year-old woman with being a member of Islamic State and inciting terrorism on social media.

The woman, from Burton upon Trent in central England who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested by counter-terrorism officers at London's Heathrow Airport in February after arriving on a flight from Turkey.

West Midlands Police said she had been charged with publishing messages on Twitter in October last year which encouraged people to commit or prepare acts of terrorism, and being a member of the banned organization Islamic State (IS).

She is due to appear before magistrates in London later on Thursday.

Some 700 Britons are estimated by the authorities to have travelled to Syria or Iraq, many to join Islamic State, and on Wednesday police said they feared a family of 12 had been the latest to make the journey.

Reuters

Migrant trafficker jailed for 18 years for 2013 shipwreck off Italy

PALERMO, (Italy), 2 July — An Italian court on Wednesday found a Tunisian man guilty of trafficking migrants and sentenced him to 18 years in jail for contributing to a 2013 shipwreck that killed 366 people, a judicial source said.

A court in Agrigento, Sicily, convicted 36-year-old Khaled Bensalem of causing the 2013 shipwreck and the deaths of the mainly Eritrean passengers, and aiding illegal immigration, the source at the Agrigento prosecutor's office said.

The disaster near the southern Italian island of Lampedusa was one of the worst recorded in the decades-long history of people fleeing war and poverty in Africa on rickety boats bound for Europe.

Since the 2013 shipwreck, which prompted

Italy to start its now-defunct search and rescue mission Mare Nostrum, a bigger disaster in April killed up to 800 migrants and stunned the European Union into expanding joint rescue operations.

Bensalem's sentence was reduced by a third from the possible maximum penalty because he was given a fast-track trial which cuts eventual jail time for a defendant who admits guilt.

Migrant traffickers have exploited lawlessness in Libya to cram people onto unseaworthy boats, charging thousands of dollars for the perilous passage across the Mediterranean.

More than 135,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea so far this year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said earlier on Wednesday.—Reuters

Houthi shells kill 18 in Yemen, dengue fever spreading rapidly

ADEN, 2 July — Shells fired by Yemen's dominant Houthi group killed 18 people near the southern port city of Aden early on Wednesday, local officials and witnesses said, while the United Nations warned a dengue fever outbreak in Aden was rapidly gaining pace.

Yemen, which has long struggled with poverty and hunger, has descended into a full-blown humanitarian crisis since a war erupted between the Houthis and allies of the exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, drawing in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. The United Nations said in a report on Tuesday

that an average of 150 new cases of dengue fever and around 11 deaths were being reported daily.

The northern Houthi fighters, who have seized large parts of Yemen in recent months, advanced towards Aden in March, prompting Hadi, who had taken refuge there, to flee to Saudi Arabia.

Since then Aden has been host to almost daily clashes between the Houthis and local resistance fighters allied with Hadi. Thousands have been killed or wounded.

Residents of Aden's Mansoura district said mortar shells apparently fired indiscriminately by

Houthis stationed in a field to the north, killed seven people sheltering at a hotel and 11 more at a market.

They said one resident in his 30s, Atef al-Somali, was killed while trying to buy food for suhoor — a meal Muslims eat early in the morning before they resume their dawn-to-dusk fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

At least 30 other people were wounded in the attack, local officials said.

Houthi officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

Aden, a city of more than 1 million people, is facing shortages of food, fuel and medical supplies.

The United Nations, in a report on Tuesday, quoted Aden health officials as saying that 8,000 people had contracted dengue fever in Aden since the crisis began in March.

The report also said that 590 have died from the disease, five times what was reported two weeks ago. Dengue fever outbreaks had also been reported in eastern Hadramout and western Hudaydah.

Yemen's political turmoil deepened on 26 March when a Saudi-led coalition began a campaign of air strikes against the Houthis and their allies.

Reuters

Iran gets back 13 tons of gold in sanction relief

TEHERAN, 2 July — Iran has received 13 tons of gold which had been held in South Africa for two years due to sanctions, Iran's central bank announced on Wednesday.

The gold was delivered to the central bank on

Tuesday night. After purchasing the gold, Iran had to deposit it in South Africa as sanctions blocked its way to Iran, semi-official Fars news agency quoted Central Governor Valiollah Seif as saying.

The report did not

mention where nor when did Iran purchase the gold.

Seif thanked Iranian nuclear negotiators for the return of the gold, saying that their efforts at the Vienna talks helped free the frozen asset. Iran has received 4.2 billion US dollars in

unfrozen assets under the 2013 interim agreement with the United States and was then given another 2.8 billion dollars by the Obama administration last year in a bid to keep Teheran committed to the talks.

Xinhua

Striking ferry workers to ease blockade of Calais port

CALAIS, (France), 2 July — Striking ferry workers blocking access to Calais port in northern France agreed on Wednesday to let some boats through, partly lifting a blockade in its third day.

Workers at ferry service My-FerryLink are trying to prevent job cuts after their company was sold to a Danish company earlier this month.

They agreed to let some boats go after their representatives were invited to meet with Transport Ministry officials on Thursday morning, following a threat to disrupt traffic through the Channel Tunnel for 48 hours.

“We’ve accepted to lift the blockade of the port from 20:00 (1800 GMT) to let P&O boats through one by one,” union official Eric Vercoutre told journalists.

The threatened disruption of Tunnel traffic for Thursday and Friday would coincide with a surge in travel at the start of school summer holidays if the workers went ahead.

The protesters had already blocked the tunnel’s entrance for several hours on Tuesday by

setting fire to tyres thrown onto railway tracks. MyFerryLink was previously owned by Eurotunnel, the company that operates the undersea cross-Channel rail link.

Migrants from Africa and the Middle East seeking to slip into Britain tried to profit from the strike to stow away on waiting trucks.

Dozens of migrants sat on the roadside around the port in the hope of sneaking aboard one of the vehicles, lined up bumper to bumper to limit their chance of getting in the back doors.

Adam, 36, a Sudanese migrant who fled the war-torn Darfur region, said he had nothing to lose and hoped to take advantage of the chaos.

“I am from the Zaghawa ethnic group and I no longer have a future in Sudan, although I have graduated,” he said.

“I have been in France for the last two months and our life these days is very difficult. I hope to arrive to the UK because I will have identification documents quicker than in France.”

Calais is one of the flash-points of the immigration crisis



Migrants walk near trucks blocked on a road which leads to the Channel Tunnel terminal in Coquelles near Calais, northern France, on 1 July, 2015.—REUTERS

facing European Union countries, who are struggling to agree among themselves how to deal with the thousands of migrants heading their way to escape conflict or poverty.

Up to 3,000 migrants are

estimated to be amassed around the port. Many want to get to Britain because they speak English, have family connections or are convinced they stand a better chance of getting a job there. “Some try to get on the lorries by

all possible means. Sometimes they cause damage to the freight we carry and then the client may refuse to pay for the freight we ship,” said a 58-year-old truck driver who gave his name as Elso.

Reuters

Fleeing a crisis, Greek migrants flock back to Australia



Spiro Caras stands out in front of his family-run shop located on Lonsdale Street in central Melbourne, Australia, on 1 July, 2015.

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 2 July — Greek translator Nikos Fotakis considers himself one of the lucky ones.

At 39, he found himself virtually penniless, in debt, and desperate for ways to support his wife and two young children.

His escape route came via his wife’s birthplace. Fotakis left the turmoil in his homeland six months ago, arriving in Australia with few possessions but hope of a better future.

“I feel like I’m on a lifeboat and seeing the Titanic sink,” said Fotakis from his new home in Melbourne.

“I’m relieved but my people are still on that ship.”

Fotakis is one of tens of thousands of Greeks with Australian ties who are forming the biggest

wave of immigration from Greece since the country’s civil war in the 1940s sent more than 150,000 Greeks to Australian shores.

This generation of immigrants is better educated than their forebears but many are just as poor, arriving with almost no money and reliant on the expatriate community’s charity.

In the cafes and shops of Melbourne’s Greek precinct, sandwiched between the city’s Chinatown and a major shopping centre, the crisis is the only topic of conversation.

Melbourne has an estimated 300,000 Greeks, the largest grouping outside of Athens and Thessaloniki. A shop on Lonsdale Street’s “Little Greece” sells children’s books written in the Greek alphabet and replica number plates with Greek

names on one side and the European Union emblem on the other.

The community is gearing up to welcome more new arrivals as Greece teeters on an exit from the euro zone after defaulting on a 1.6 billion euro loan repayment to the International Monetary Fund.

Welfare groups estimate between 10,000 and 20,000 Greek nationals have come to Australia since mid-2013, the majority of them dual nationals or with family ties to Australia.

“They’re coming back with nothing — just a suitcase and trying to start up again,” said George Spiliotis, chief executive of the Melbourne-based Greek Welfare Society.

Jenny Karatzidis, student liaison officer at a pri-

vately held adult education school that also houses the Greek Centre for Contemporary Culture, returned to Australia two years ago.

Like Fotakis’ wife, Karatzidis was born in Australia to Greek parents who were part of the post-World War Two immigration wave. Both women were toddlers when their parents took them back to Greece in the 1970s. Between the 1970s and the middle of 2013, the migration path was firmly from Australia to Greece, with 120,000 Australian Greeks reported to be living in Athens.

Now the two women, returning as adults and bringing their own Greek born children, are reversing their parents’ path.

“Greece is very difficult, no work, no job, no future,” Karatzidis said.

Fotakis, who owned a cafe in Greece and now has a part-time job as a journalist with a Greek-language newspaper in Melbourne, arrived alone in December. It took him three months to find work and his wife and two toddler children followed him in March.

“I have heard people here complain they can’t find work and they have to spend four months looking,” Fotakis said. “This is a joke. People over the age of 20 in Greece are ruined.”

Reuters

Baltimore to put cameras in police vans, review riot gear

BALTIMORE, 2 July — Cameras that can record will be installed in Baltimore police vans like the one in which Freddie Gray suffered a fatal injury, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said on Wednesday. She said the cameras were among steps the city was taking after protests and rioting following Gray’s death in April.

“We’re working through a process that will place cameras with recording capabilities in the backs of all our police vans, to ensure that we have a more complete record of what occurs there,” Rawlings-Blake told reporters.

The van in which Gray was transported had a non-recording camera that the driver could use to monitor the passengers, but it was not working at the time.

The city also is reviewing riot gear used by police during the unrest, when some of it failed to work. Baltimore needs the right equipment in case trouble breaks out following trial verdicts in the Gray case, she said.

Gray, a 25-year-old

black man, was arrested on 12 April for possessing a knife and placed in the back of a police van for transport. He suffered a severe spinal injury during the ride and died a week later. Six officers have been charged in Gray’s death and their trial is set for October.

About 160 police officers were hurt and businesses suffered millions of dollars in damages during rioting on the day of his funeral. Rawlings-Blake also denied she had issued a “stand down” order during the rioting.

Some officers have said the order, akin to a withdrawal, was aimed at keeping police from looking as aggressive as officers did during rioting in Ferguson, Missouri, last year sparked by an officer’s shooting of an unarmed black man.

The Baltimore Sun on Tuesday quoted police commanders as saying they had instead told officers to “hold the line,” creating a barrier between rioters and police operations and people who were potentially at risk.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural
Development, MyanmarDepartment of Rural, Development,
Taunggyi District, Southern Shan State

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Bank) through the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development towards the cost of Rural Development Programme Phase (I).
2. Department of Rural Development under Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development intends to implement, with a contract system, the construction of bituminous roads and Macadam roads (total length around 35km) and bridges along the roads in Taunggyi District, Shan State.
3. Interested companies should provide an Expression of Interest in writing on the Prequalification forms provided and submit the completed forms in person to the address below not later than (7-08-2015) 16:00 pm.
4. Only the prequalified companies will then be invited to take part in the bidding process organized by the Central Tender Selection Committee. Further inquiries should be made by telephone or in person as mentioned below.

Contact Address

- (a) Director
Rural Road and Bridge Division
Ph & Fax : +95 67 409410 , +95 67 409210
Email : rbbdrd@gmail.com
- (b) Director
Procurement and Logistics Division
Department of Rural Development
Ph & Fax : +95 67 409029
Office No-14, Nay Pyi Taw.
- (b) Director
Shan State Department of Rural Development
Taunggyi
Ph & Fax : +95 81 2124250

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (075W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (075W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2015 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITYAGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITYAGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD
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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3rd July, 2015: Rain will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay Region and Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30 - 35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

Indian PM urges supporters
not to use abusive language
on social media

NEW DELHI, 2 July — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged his supporters to refrain from using abusive language on social media.

Modi told his online supporters to be positive on social media platforms as "abuse will finish this exciting medium", local media reported on Thursday.

"If all the abuses I receive are printed, that paper will cover the entire Taj Mahal," the prime minister was quoted as telling a gathering of his supporters in the national capital on Wednesday.

He added: "Despite the invective often hurled at me by critics on Twitter, I have not blocked anyone."

The tech-savvy Indian prime minister has nearly 13 million followers on Twitter.—Xinhua



Workers carry dried noodles at a local factory in eastern Pakistan's Lahore, on 1 July, 2015. Many Pakistani people buy noodles for an early morning meal before starting fast during the holy month of Ramadan.—XINHUA

Middle East, island states top New Zealand
agenda for UN Security Council

WELLINGTON, 2 July — New Zealand is to use its month-long presidency of the United Nations Security Council to advance the Middle East Peace Process and to highlight challenges facing small island developing states, Prime Minister John Key said on Thursday.

"As president, New Zealand will have a central role in guiding council consideration of key international security issues," Key said in a statement on the start of the presidency on Thursday.

"A particular focus will be the peace and security challenges confronting small island developing states, including many of our Pacific neighbours," he said.

"Such states rarely have the opportunity to be heard on the range of challenges they face, so we are ensuring the meeting on this issue will be open to all UN members so they can address the council themselves."

Foreign Minister Murray McCully would travel to New York this month to

chair the council.

"We will also look to further efforts to jumpstart negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process and focus on bringing more transparency to the way the council deals with the issues it is confronted with," said Key. The council would also remain focused on dealing with global crises, such as the conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Libya.

New Zealand takes over the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of July.—Xinhua

A boy walks past the US Interests Section in Havana, Cuba on 1 July, 2015. After five decades of icy relations and more than six months of negotiations, Cuba and the United States will restore diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies in their respective capitals as of 20 July, an official release said on Wednesday.—XINHUA

WestJet
flight
diverted in
west Canada
over bomb
threat

VANCOUVER, 2 July — A WestJet flight en route from west Canada's city of Vancouver to the eastern city of Toronto was diverted to Calgary in Alberta Province on Wednesday night after a bomb threat, WestJet spokesman Robert Palmer said.

The affected flight was WestJet 722, which took off from Vancouver at 5:14 pm local time, Palmer said in a statement.

The Boeing 737-700 carrying 30 passengers and five crew members landed safely in Calgary just before 8 pm local time. This was the fourth such incident targeting the airline in the past five days.

After WestJet found it to be "another hoax," the airline then managed to find seats for the passengers on Toronto-bound flights later Wednesday evening.

"We understand and appreciate that four false threats in five days is generating a great deal of interest and unfortunately, rumour and speculation," the WestJet statement said.

"We will not comment on these rumours nor will we share information about how we handle these incidents, for obvious reasons. We will continue to work closely with law enforcement to find those responsible. Safety remains our top priority and we will continue to be vigilant to keep our guests and our crews safe," the statement said.

Xinhua

Rihanna becomes recording industry's top digital singles artist



Singer Rihanna prepares for a photoshoot with photographer Annie Leibovitz in Havana on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 2 July — Grammy-winning R&B singer Rihanna is the first artist to surpass

more than 100 million cumulative digital singles, the Recording Industry Association of America said on

Wednesday.

Rihanna, 27, topped the list of artists with the most digital single awards,

coming in ahead of Taylor Swift and Katy Perry in the second and third places respectively. The recording industry's digital single certifications count download sales and on-demand streams in the United States.

"She has not only surpassed RIAA's one-hundred million mark, but also is the first artist to do so. It's an historic feat and a testament to an extraordinary career," Cary Sherman, the association's chairman and CEO, said in a statement.

Rihanna has won eight Grammy awards and has seven studio albums to her name. Her songs "We Found Love," "Stay" and "Only Girl (In The World)" are among her top-selling singles.

Reuters

It was Zayn Malik's decision to quit 1D: Perrie Edwards

LONDON, 2 July — Little Mix singer Perrie Edwards has revealed she did not ask her fiancée Zayn Malik to quit boyband One Direction.

Edwards, 21, has been the subject of a vocal backlash campaign on social media ever since Malik quit the band earlier this year, reported Contactmusic.

"People have said did I do this, did I do that? No matter what decision he made, I was always going to support him. If he'd wanted to stay, I would have supported him just the same as I have done since he's left... If he's happy then I'm happy," she said.

Newcastle-born Edwards has been engaged to 22-year-old Malik since late 2013.

Singer Tom Parker

says he understands why Zayn Malik quit One Direction because life in the boy band is "tough".

Parker, 26, who was part of the band The Wanted, said he found life in the band very "tough" and can sympathise with his old chart rival's decision to walk away from his grueling schedule, reported Hello! magazine.

"I don't think anyone realises how tough it is being in a manufactured boy band. When Zayn left 1D I totally understood why he couldn't handle it any more," he said.

At the height of their fame, the "Glad You Came" hitmakers were pitched as a bad boy alternative to "One Direction" but Tom insists it was hard trying to live up to their reputation.—PTI

Friends, musicians honour Winehouse at 'AMY' London premiere

LONDON, 2 July — A highly-anticipated documentary about late British singer Amy Winehouse has premiered in her hometown London, where friends and fellow musicians paid tribute to the six-time Grammy Award winner.

'AMY', which follows the "Rehab" singer's life and death in 2011 from alcohol poisoning, was shown on Tuesday night before hitting UK cinemas on Friday.

The biopic, first shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May, has drawn criticism from her father Mitch Winehouse who has called it misleading. Its makers disagree, saying they conducted around 100 interviews for it.

"The film is beautiful because it shows a side of Amy that I don't think people saw. It shows how funny ... intelligent (and) witty she was. That's the Amy I remember," friend and musician Tyler James, who appears in the film, said on the red carpet.

"I think it's important that her legacy is carried on and that people see her for who she really was."

Reuters

'Terminator' is back, but can Schwarzenegger still pull crowds?

LOS ANGELES, 2 July — "I'm old. Not obsolete," says Arnold Schwarzenegger's Terminator defiantly, three decades after his humanoid cyborg assassin first stormed onto the big screen.

But after an eight-year stint as California's governor, has Schwarzenegger, 67, still got the muscle to pull in the crowds in the role that cemented his international movie star status?

"Terminator: Genisys," in movie theaters on Wednesday, sees the action star return to the franchise that has grossed \$1.5 billion globally from four films, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com.

"It was really a big surprise for me when I got a phone call a month after I was finished with the governorship, 'Hey Arnold, do

you want to still be the Terminator?'" Schwarzenegger told Reuters.

After his 2003-2011 stint as California governor, Schwarzenegger has struggled to make a major box office impact especially with younger audiences who may have been babies when he was in his heyday.

"Terminator Genisys," made by Paramount Pictures for an estimated \$155 million, is expected to open over the US Independence Day weekend with upwards of \$50 million over five days in North American theaters, according to box office trackers Rentrak.

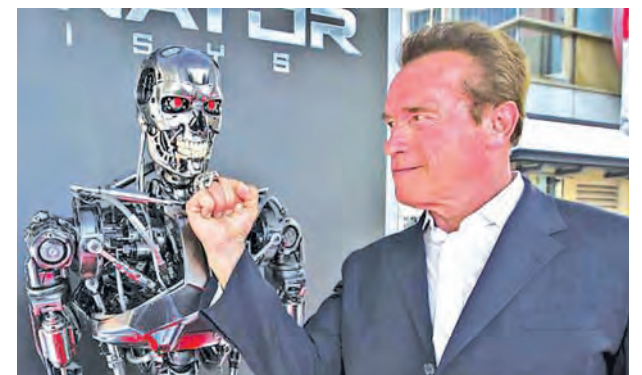
That compares to the record-setting \$208 million domestic opening for Universal Pictures' "Jurassic World" over three days in June, and a \$91 mil-

lion weekend opening last month for Pixar's animated "Inside Out."

In the past four years, Schwarzenegger's biggest role was alongside Hollywood's aging heroes in Sylvester Stallone's "Expendables" trilogy. Those films have grossed about \$790 million globally, drawing bigger crowds internationally than in North America. His other movies were mostly small, independent fare.

The first "Terminator" in 1984, which launched the catchphrase "I'll be back", featured the strapping Austrian-born body builder turned actor as an invincible killer robot. He reprised the role for two sequels.

"He is essentially having to start from scratch to build that credibility and



Cast member Arnold Schwarzenegger poses by a Terminator replica at the premiere of "Terminator Genisys" in Hollywood, California on 28 June, 2015.

REUTERS

appeal with a younger audience, and that is incredibly challenging for him to do at this age," said celebrity branding expert Jeetendr Sehdev.

Schwarzenegger is aware that his return to "Terminator" will be a test of his mass audience appeal.

"When you are in politics, you have to do the things that people want you to do. When you're in movies, you also want to do different types of movies that people want you to do, because otherwise they don't show up," he said.

Reuters

Conductor Seiji Ozawa graces stage in Paris

PARIS, 2 July — Japanese maestro Seiji Ozawa took to the stage on Wednesday in Paris to conduct an orchestra from his music academy, dazzling the audience.

Due to poor health conditions, Ozawa had cancelled a show that was scheduled in Geneva on 28 June, but he seemed to have fully recovered, leading his performers with energy, swinging his trade-

mark mop of white hair the whole time. It was his first overseas performance since last summer.

Under the baton of Ozawa, approximately 25 musicians from his Seiji Ozawa International Academy played pieces by Beethoven and Grieg. He greeted the fascinated crowd screaming "bravo" with a huge smile after the performance and thanked his orchestra by shaking

hands with each of them.

Ozawa will hold another concert in Paris on Friday before returning to Japan about a week later. He established the academy for young musicians 10 years ago and has been performing around the world with the orchestra.

Ozawa underwent surgery for esophageal cancer in 2010, forcing him to suspend activities for some time.—Kyodo News



Maestro Seiji Ozawa (R) responds to the audience following a concert of his international academy in Paris on 1 July, 2015. While he cancelled an appearance at a concert in Geneva on 28 June, Ozawa conducted in Paris youthfully.—KYODO NEWS

GENERAL

Sotheby's sees record London contemporary art sale despite Bacon failure

LONDON, 2 July — Andy Warhol's "One Dollar", the first in his dollar bill series, fetched 20.9 million pounds (\$32.4 million) at Sotheby's on Wednesday, the top-seller in what the auction house said was its highest ever total sales for an auction of contemporary art in London.

However, the auction's star attraction, Francis Bacon's "Study for a Pope I", which had been estimated at 25 to 35 million pounds, went unsold after bids failed to reach the reserve price.

"It wasn't the night for that one picture," said Oliver Barker, Sotheby's senior international specialist in contemporary art.

As a result, overall sales at the auction came in at just over 130 million pounds, below the pre-sale low estimate of 142 million pounds.

Despite the Bacon disappointment, Cheyenne Westphal, Sotheby's co-head of contemporary art, said the auction house had seen sales

of more than half a billion pounds in recent weeks in London, establishing the British capital as an art hub to rival New York.

Last week, Sotheby's saw sales of 178.6 million pounds at one auction in London, with 10 of the 51 lots selling for more than 10 million pounds, while on Tuesday an auction of post war and contemporary art at Christie's totaled 95.6 million pounds.

The soaring sums come after two weeks of sales in New York in May brought in well over \$2 billion at both houses. Wednesday's Sotheby's auction was dominated by eight works by Warhol, inspired by the US dollar and with the American pop artist's 1962 hand-painted "One Dollar Bill (Silver Certificate)" exceeding its top of estimate of 18 million pounds to reach 20.9 million.

The works sold for a combined total of 34.3 million pounds, while another



Employee's poses as they hold 'Silver Certificate' by Andy Warhol at Sotheby's auction house in London on 8 June, 2015.—REUTERS

11 in the series go under the hammer on Thursday.

Among the other big sellers was Gerhard Richter's 1987 work "A B, Brick Tower", which sold for 14.2 million pounds, and David Hockney's "Arranged Felled Trees", which went for 3.4 million pounds, more than a million above its high estimate.

Although Bacon's stand-out painting failed to inspire bidders, two other works by

the Irish-born British artist - a 1975 self-portrait and "Three studies for a Self-Portrait" — sold for 15.3 million pounds and 14.7 million pounds respectively.

"Four Eggs on a Plate", a 2002 work by Lucian Freud which he gifted to the late Duchess of Devonshire, saw the fiercest bidding of the night. It sold for 989,000 pounds, almost 10 times its pre-sale estimate.

Reuters

UEFA probing Barca over separatist flags, chants

MADRID, 2 July — UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against Barcelona whose fans waved separatist flags and chanted slogans in support of Catalan independence at last month's Champions League final.

Barca confirmed on Wednesday that European soccer's governing body, which prohibits political demonstrations at matches, had begun proceedings but added that the club did not yet have an official reaction.

Barca beat Juventus 3-1 in the showpiece match at Berlin's Olympic stadium to clinch their fifth European Cup. Josep Maria Bartomeu, who is standing for re-election as Barca president in this month's poll of members,



Barcelona's Xavi Hernandez shows the Barcelona jersey signed by the whole team between President Josep Maria Bartomeu and his teammate Andres Iniesta (R) during Xavi's farewell event at Auditori 1899 in Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

defended the club's fans and said both sets of supporters had shown "exemplary" behaviour at the match.

"UEFA needs to get to

know much better what Barca is and what Catalonia is," he said at a campaign rally.

"It (Barca) is a democratic club which respects

freedom of expression and any demonstration by its members is legitimate," he added. Barcelona are a source of pride for many independence-minded Catalans and fans often take the chance at matches to emphasise the region's separate identity from the rest of Spain.

The club came under fire from the ruling People's Party (PP) after May's King's Cup final against Athletic Bilbao, when the national anthem was roundly whistled by both sets of fans despite the presence of King Felipe at Barca's Nou Camp arena.

Bilbao is in the Basque Country, where many people are also in favour of independence from Spain.

Reuters

Germany to shut down coal-fired plants, extend power grid

BERLIN, 2 July — The German government decided on Thursday to order the shutdown of several coal-fired plants in order to reach its ambitious climate goals by 2020, government sources told Reuters.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and the leaders of her two junior coalition parties also settled a dispute over high-voltage power lines which are planned to carry green energy from the breezy north to the industrial south, the sources said.

Energy minister Sigmar Gabriel is expected to explain the results of

the coalition negotiations which lasted more than four hours at a news conference on Thursday morning (0300 ET).

"Coal-fired plants with a capacity of 2.7 gigawatts will be shut down," said the government sources, who declined to say how many plants will be closed.

"The affected power plants will not be allowed to sell electricity on the normal energy market," they said, adding that with this step Germany would manage to reach its goal to curb CO2 emissions by 40 percent by 2020 compared

with 1990 levels.

Gabriel originally proposed putting a levy on CO2 emitted by the oldest and most-polluting power stations above a certain threshold to help reach a target of cutting CO2 emissions from the coal sector by a further 22 million tonnes by 2020.

But he faced a backlash from industry, with unions saying the plan could put up to 100,000 jobs at risk and lead to the decline of the mining and power generation industries.

The utility companies have lobbied hard against

the levy and demanded compensation for an alternative reserve option.

While the levy now seems to be scrapped, it remained unclear whether companies such as RWE or Vattenfall Europe [VATN. UL] would get compensation payments or not.

Unconfirmed media reports earlier in the week have said the utilities may be allowed to move 2.7 gigawatts of old coal-fired capacity into a reserve scheme in the coming years, netting a few hundred million euros in the process.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(3-7-2015 07:00 am~ 4-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(3-7-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 3:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • People's Talks |
| 6:25 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Maths) |
| 6:40 am | 5:00 pm |
| • Documentary | • News |
| 9:35 am | 5:30 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • Head Line News |
| 10:30 am | 5:35 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Current Affairs |
| 10:35 am | 6:30 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • Head Line News |
| 11:00 am | 6:35 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • Hyper Sports |
| 11:30 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News |
| 11:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • Documentary |
| 2:10 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • Teleplay | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 2:35 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Traditional Boxing | • News |
| 3:30 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • Head Line News | • Amazing World |
| | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(3-7-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:55 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:20 am | 8:40 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Musical Programme |
| 6:40 am | 8:50 am |
| • Song Programme | • Teleplay |
| 7:00 am | 10:15 am |
| • Fashion Show | • ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) |
| 7:10 am | 12:00 noon |
| • TV Drama Series | • Close Down |

Sasaki says result is all that counts for finalists Japan



Japan's coach Norio Sasaki (C) issues instructions to his players during a Women's World Cup semifinal against England in Edmonton, Canada, on 1 July, 2015.—KYODO NEWS



Japan's midfielder Aya Miyama (8) scores the opener with a penalty kick during the first half of a Women's World Cup semifinal against England in Edmonton, Canada, on 1 July, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

EDMONTON, (Canada), 2 July — Japan coach Norio Sasaki admitted the champions had not lived up to his expectations in Wednesday's 2-1 win over England, but said they still deserved to be in the Women's World Cup final for the second tournament in a row.

The Nadeshiko were pushed to the brink by an England team that had never been in the semifinals before, but a freak own goal

in second-half stoppage time from defender Laura Bassett gave the Japanese victory to set up a rematch of the 2011 final against the United States on Sunday in Vancouver.

"England were more mobile than I was expecting, and we struggled to cause them problems. We didn't play as well as I'd hoped," said Sasaki, whose team had not beaten England in their previous four meetings.

"But when you qualify, it means you've achieved your objective."

Two soft penalties left the teams all square at 1-1 at the break, with both Aya Miyama and Farra Williams converting from the spot for the second time this tournament.

With the prospect of extra time and a penalty shootout looming, Japan launched a counterattack and Nahomi Kawasumi made a surging run down

the right wing before sending a ball into the penalty area. With Yuki Ogimi breathing down her neck, Bassett lunged a foot at the ball to try and clear, but it looped over goalkeeper Karen Bardsley, bouncing off the bottom of the crossbar and over the line.

"As for the own goal, I feel sorry for the player, but Yuki Ogimi was right behind her ready to pounce, so I don't think it would have made a difference either way," said Sasaki.

"We still created the goalscoring opportunity ourselves — for me, it's more a goal made by Nahomi Kawasumi and Ogimi than an own goal."

Kozue Ando, who broke her leg in winning the penalty that Miyama slotted home in Japan's opening 1-0 win over Switzerland, told the players before the game that she will be coming back for the final to support the team and that, according to Sasaki, fired them up.

"In the dressing room, Ando told the players over the phone that she would be at the final in Vancouver to support them. I think that provided them with the motivation to qualify," said Sasaki.

England coach Mark Sampson was naturally disappointed with the result but rightfully proud of his players, who created a raft of chances in the second half before the cruel twist at the death.

"What a tough one to take. I can't really talk about the match right now, but I can talk about my team, who have sacrificed so much and who have given sweat, blood and tears, while continuing to smile throughout," the Welshman said.

"The players deserve to go back home as heroes. Laura Bassett is devastated after the own goal, but without her we wouldn't have been in this semifinal. It was a horrible moment, but you just have to look at how the team has supported her to understand that she'll be able to get over it."

"This group is so close-knit that the players are now friends for life. Japan are the world champions, and we saw why tonight. Whatever happens, they always manage to find a way of hanging on in a match, and tonight that helped them to reach the final."

"But I've never seen a team put Japan under the kind of pressure that we did. That's almost worth a World Cup victory."

Kyodo News

Argentina odds-on favourites to lift Copa America



Argentina's national soccer team players Lionel Messi (R), Javier Mascherano (L), Nicolas Otamendi (2nd L) and Pablo Zabaleta participate in a team training session in Concepcion, Chile, on 1 July, 2015.—REUTERS

SANTIAGO, 2 July — Argentina are odds-on favourites to win the Copa America for the first time since 1993 by beating Chile in Saturday's final.

They are mostly quoted at 4-7 to lift the trophy while the hosts are 6-4, according to betting aggregator oddschecker.com.

Chile swept through the group and knockout stages with relative ease but benefited from being drawn against weaker teams, with referee decisions also tending to go their way.

Lionel Messi-led Argentina nearly stumbled against Colombia, beating them in the quarter-finals on penalties, but their 6-1 destruction of Paraguay in the semis on Tuesday was a clear demonstration of the havoc they are capable of wreaking.

The odds of either team winning on penalties is 10-1, according to Sportingbet.

Chile forward Eduardo Vargas, who played in the

Premier League for Queens Park Rangers last season on loan from Napoli, is tournament top scorer and favourite to win the Golden Boot.

The hero of Chile's semi-final clash with Peru after scoring both goals, Vargas has scored four times in the tournament so far, just ahead of a quartet of players on three including his team mate Arturo Vidal and Argentina's Sergio Aguero.

Messi, who British bookmakers William Hill had as favourite to be top scorer before the tournament began, has netted just once with a penalty but the mercurial forward has been the creative spark behind many of Argentina's goals.

He has had 17 shots on goal from open play — more than any other player — but his failure to score more goals has been one of the talking points of the tournament. Nevertheless, Messi is the 3-1 favourite to score first in the final on Saturday.—Reuters

Djokovic, Serena turn up heat as Wimbledon sizzles

LONDON, 2 July — With everyone "feeling hot, hot, hot" at the All England Club on Wednesday it was little wonder that Novak Djokovic, Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams were eager to escape the Wimbledon furnace as quickly as possible.

Spectators sitting under the searing sun on Wimbledon's Henman Hill were heard breaking out into the Buster Poindexter anthem that aptly summed up the hottest day of the year in Britain — with the mercury hitting 93 degrees Fahrenheit.

Champion Djokovic was spared the worst of the heat on the partly covered Centre Court as he kept things simple in a 90-minute 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 second-round demolition job that ended the Wimbledon career of seasoned Finn Jarkko Nieminen.

His opponent in the next round, Australian Bernard Tomic, will be hoping the weather eases for their Friday showdown after complaining it was "too hot".

"I was starting to get dizzy out there with the heat hitting me... I was very dizzy out there," Tomic

said after beating Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert 7-6(3), 6-4, 7-6(5).

The blazing sun was the least of Sharapova's concerns, however.

"It's much much warmer in my hometown in Longboat Key, Florida," the Russian fourth seed said after subduing Dutchwoman Richel Hogenkamp 6-3, 6-1.

What would have concerned her though is her misfiring serves.

The 2004 champion was left red-faced as she fired down three successive double faults to surrender her serve at 4-2 up in the first set but survived that blip to win eight of the next nine games.

Court Two also hosted the other half of tennis's golden couple with Sharapova's boyfriend Grigor Dimitrov, the 11th seed, outlasting American Steve Johnson 7-6(8), 6-2, 7-6(2).

"Everyone was talking about it's hot, it's hot. To me it was just such good weather today," said the 2014 semi-finalist who will next take on Frenchman Richard Gasquet.

Williams might want to drop Marin Cilic and Ricardas Berankis a thank you note after the duo's five-set

thriller meant she did not have to step on to Centre Court till almost 7pm.

However, the slightly cooler conditions did not mean the American world number one wanted to hang around longer than necessary as she took another step closer to winning her fourth successive major. She whooped in delight after completing a 6-4, 6-1 pummeling of Hungarian Timea Babos.

While US Open champion Cilic was relieved to be still standing following a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(6), 4-6, 7-5 win over Lithuania's Berankis, the same could not be said of his Flushing Meadows final victim.

French Open champi-



Maria Sharapova of Russia serves during her match against Richel Hogenkamp of the Netherlands at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on 1 July, 2015.—REUTERS