

President U Thein Sein thanks Japan for development assistance in Mekong region

TOKYO, 4 July — Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended a bilateral summit Saturday in Tokyo that focused on the creation of two economic zones and the development of vital infrastructure, agriculture and human resources.

The Myanmar-Japan summit also covered the Korean Peninsula peace talks, and the reorganization of the United Nations Security Council.

Japan granted 72.18 billion yen (US \$59 million) to Myanmar for 50 projects from 2012 to 2015. The Japanese government has agreed to provide 100 billion yen worth of loans for the Yangon circular railroad project, power projects, and the East-West economic corridor project.

At a joint press conference, President U Thein Sein thanked Japan for its



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Myanmar President U Thein Sein, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung hold a joint press conference after their summit in Tokyo on July 4, 2015.—(POOL PHOTO)(KYODO)

support of the peace process in Myanmar.

The Thilawa special economic zone is expected to start operations in September, with the president

saying Myanmar will make arrangements for the implementation of the Dawei special economic zone in cooperation with Thailand and Japan.

Myanmar expressed its support for Japan's active role in maintaining peace and stability by working closely with the international community.

The country also supported the efforts Japan has put into the restructuring of the UN Security Council. The president urged Japan to help his country with its

economic reforms.

President U Thein Sein, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha
(See page 3)

Nine more domestic, foreign firms allowed to do business in July

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 July — The Myanmar Investment Commission has given the green light to nine local and foreign firms to conduct business in the country as joint venture, locally owned or wholly foreign enterprises so far this month, the commission said Saturday.

Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd, a satellite pay TV operator, was among the nine enterprises granted permission at the commission's meeting (12/2015) on Friday. The leading entertainment company in Myanmar was allowed to establish a facility for satellite-based telecommunication services on a plot in Yangon as a Myanmar citizen investment. However, any international gateway service is to be excluded from the services it will provide, said the commission.

In a sign of further investment in the country's hospitality industry, Adventure Myanmar Tours & Incentive Co., Ltd will build a hotel on 4.33 acres of land in Ngapali beach, Rakhine Region.

Among the other newly approved businesses, Wartayar Veneer Industries Private Limited, K-World Company Limited, Well Being Company Limited, Kamax Group Myanmar Company Limited, and Mother Industrial Company Limited were given permission to set up facilities for clothing manufacturing, wood processing, value-added agricultural product processing and exportation, tri-motorcycle assembling and manufacturing, and firebrick production in Yangon and Bago regions.

In addition, Eco Friendly Towers Co., Ltd will provide telcos with services in the areas of tower sitting and power solutions as a joint venture foreign investment while Northern Royal Jade Co., Ltd as a citizen investment will undertake road upgrading and toll collection for the use of the 47-mile Moe-Mauk-Lwe Gel under the Build-Operate-Transfer model.

According to the MIC, 28 domestic and overseas firms were permitted to do business in Myanmar last month alone.

GNLM

Chiang Mai talks raise hopes ceasefire deal will be signed soon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 July — Prospects for the signing of a national ceasefire agreement "look good," a senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre said Saturday, following a second day of preliminary talks in Chiang Mai, Thailand, between negotiators from the government and ethnic armed groups.

"Prospects for signing the NCA look good as it has been confirmed that formal talks will take place in Yangon," said U Hla Maung

Shwe, who attended the meeting aimed at clearing roadblocks to the ceasefire deal. At the three-hour meeting, the new senior delegation representing the ethnic side said the armed groups are not dogmatic in holding to a set of points they made at their recent Law Khee Lar summit, and are willing to further negotiate the draft text to ensure it is acceptable to both sides, the MPC senior adviser told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

"Both sides cleared roadblocks in the peace

process, setting a principle of moving towards further talks for the truce deal," U Hla Maung Shwe said.

According to the MPC senior adviser, the government side said it will be hard to continue if the ethnic side remains adamant about the signing process involving all ethnic armed groups, with the ethnic delegates agreeing to consider alternatives. He said the meeting was more productive than expected, as the ethnic delegation pledged to reach an official signing of the NCA and start a frame-

work meeting before the elections set for early November. According to the NCA draft approved in late March between the government and the ethnic groups' Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, both sides agreed to hold a framework meeting within 60 days and start political dialogues within 90 days of signing the NCA.

The latest talks marked the first meeting between the government's peace negotiating team and the ethnic group's senior delegation. — GNLM



Pu Zing Cung, deputy leader-2 of the senior delegation of ethnic armed groups, speaks at the second day of the preliminary meeting on a ceasefire deal with the government's peace negotiating team, led by Union Minister U Aung Min, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on Saturday.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO NYO OHN MYINT.

Electoral course explains voting rules, procedures

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July — Ottarathiri Township Election Sub-commission held a course to explain the electoral process Friday at the hall of the Township General Administration Department.

Chairman of Ottara District Sub-commission U Aung Lwin made an opening speech before chairman of the township sub-commission U Than Zaw explained the organizational setup of the sub-commissions and procedures for voting in advance.

Township Law Officer Daw The Oo Mon spoke about election rules and penalties for viola-



tions, while other officials

spoke about the roles of sub-commissions and the

media.

Altogether 60 trainees from wards and villages in

the township attended the training course.

Shwe Ye Yint

Mandalay automakers form industry alliance



MANDALAY, 4 July—A body for automotive industry operators in Mandalay was formed Friday at the city's Great Wall Hotel.

Chairman of the Myanmar Automobile Assembling and Distribution Association (Mandalay Region) Dr Soe Tun said the association was formed to assist the assembly, importation and sale of automobiles across the nation.

General Secretary U Aung Zaw Oo of the Mandalay Branch read out the list of executives for the Mandalay Branch.

Before concluding the ceremony, Acting Chairman of the branch Dr Ko Ko Aung gave an introductory speech.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

MANDALAY, 4 July—Officials of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Mandalay City Development Committee on Thursday visited the first, second and third-placed basic education schools in the Mandalay Region sanitation contest.

At Basic Education High School No 4 in Aungmyethazan Township, No 14 BEHS in Chanayethazan Township and No 26 BEHS at the corner of 66th and Seinpan streets, they viewed sanitation tasks, as well as arts and crafts projects using recycled materials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Japanese officials encourage sanitation among students



Farmers grow Japanese orange as poppy substitute

PEKHON, 4 July—As an alternative to opium poppy cultivation, 15 local farmers recently planted 3,000 Japanese orange saplings across 10 acres in Lakyinwe and Lweyin villages in southern Shan State's Pekhon Township.

Loinampha farm owner U Lwin Zaw sells saplings for K3,500 each to local people in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State. So far, he has distributed more than 20,000 saplings in the region.

Under the supervision of local authorities, people in Pekhon Township have planted more than 3,000 acres of potato, sunflower, Japanese orange, angelwood and other crops in place of poppy plantations this cultivation season.

Farm owner U Lwin Zaw said, "Japanese orange strain plants can resist bad weather, so local farmers buy the saplings for poppy-alternative cultivation."

Shan State Hluttaw MP Daw Aye Cho Sein



said, "Local people could not enjoy benefits of their crops because they could not send their products to the markets in Aungpan, Kalaw and Loikaw due to poor transport. So, we emphasize better transport for local people."

The poppy elimination plan has been implemented since 1999. During the 15-year period, they could reduce 86 percent of poppy cultivation in two townships.

Shwe Lin Pyae Sone

President sends message of felicitations to Venezuela

President U Thein Sein...

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attended the signing of a memorandum of intent on the Dawei special economic zone.

The MOI was signed by Myanmar Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein, Japanese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Nakane and Thai Deputy Minister of Transport Mr Arkhom.

In the morning, President U Thein Sein attended the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo, which also included Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laos' Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha

and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

President U Thein Sein thanked Japan for providing over 600 billion yen in loans over the past three years to help the region's development.

As an economic hub, the Mekong region has a population of nearly 240 million, with a combined GDP of about US \$664 billion.

The president stressed the need for peace and stability for economic growth in the region, welcoming Japanese assistance of 750 billion yen over the next three years.

Myanmar is planning to establish a university in

Shan State, which the president said would be named "Mekong University," with the aim of creating a new level of cooperation in education, social and cultural sectors among Mekong nations.

Improvement of transport infrastructure, economic cooperation for small and medium enterprises and development of human resources are at the top of the agenda for Mekong-Japan cooperation.

"Myanmar has placed special emphasis on these three measures," the president said.

Next, a press conference on Mekong-Japan Summit took place. After the press meet, leaders of

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which falls on 5th July, 2015.—MNA

Mekong sub-region countries together with Japanese Prime Minister signed in footballs and presented the balls to the captains of the respective teams.

In the evening, President U Thein Sein met Dr Nobuhiro Endo, President of NEC Corporation of Japan, and Mr Kazuo Ohmori, Chairman of Sumitomo Corporation, separately, at Tokyo's Hotel New Otani.

The president also met Mr Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of the Japan Myanmar Association, and Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, at the Kasumigaseki Building in Tokyo, followed by a dinner hosted by the Japan Myanmar Association.—MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the press conference.

MNA

Myanmar observes International Day of Co-operatives

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—The 2015 International Day of Co-operatives was celebrated Saturday at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cooperatives here, with Vice President U Nyan Tun providing opening remarks.

This year's event was held under the theme of 'Choose co-operative, Choose equality' to increase awareness of co-operatives and promote the movement's ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace.

The vice president said the International Co-operatives Alliance first celebrated the International Day in



Vice President U Nyan Tun visits booths displayed at ceremony to mark 2015 International Day of Co-operatives.—MNA

1923, with Myanmar observing it for the 21st time

this year.

He said the Ministry of Cooperative has disbursed cash loans of more than K 388 billion and sold 154,289 units of machinery in installments to over 3 million households in rural

areas across the country as of the first week of July.

Pro-rector Dr Htay Htay Lwin read out a message from the ICA, followed by an award ceremony to recognize outstanding cooperatives.—MNA

Myanmar gems emporium sells 120 jade lots in competitive bidding

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—A total of 120 jade lots were sold in competitive bidding on the 11th day of the 52nd Myanmar Gems Emporium here Saturday.

The annual gems emporium has sold 5,725 jade lots, out of 8,608, through open tender system from 28 June to 3 July. The event

will continue till 6 July and will put remaining more than 200 jade lots up for sale.

Last year's gems emporium generated a record US\$3.4 billion and was attended by more than 4,000 traders from Thailand, China, Hong Kong and Japan.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint honoured outstanding students and schools with high passing rate in 2014-2015 fiscal year in Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships in Mandalay region Saturday.

At the ceremonies held in the two townships in the morning and afternoon, U Khin Aung Myint said education and health care services play major role in the development of the country.

He urged teachers and parents to help improve morale and morality of the children in the establishment of a democratic state.

U Khin Aung Myint remarked that Myanmar needs to create a national education law which is suitable for the country by adjusting with international norms, saying the teachers to learn more educational knowledge for effective teaching.

The speaker also discussed repairing and renovation of school facilities, including establishment of school libraries.

U Khin Aung Myint and the persons concerned then gave outstanding awards to students and school management.

MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint awards outstanding student.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Venezuela

NAY PYI TAW, 5 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 Her Excellency Ms. Delcy Rodriguez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which falls on 5th July, 2015.—MNA

U Kyaw Tin presents his Credentials to Mexican president

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Mexican States, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States on 19 June, 2015, in Mexico City.—MNA

Japan pledges \$6.1 bil. for development of Mekong nations

TOKYO, 4 July — Japan pledged on Saturday to give fresh aid worth \$6.1 billion (750 billion yen) in official development assistance to five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River over the next three years to boost the region's infrastructure development and stability.

The aid was unveiled during a summit in Tokyo between leaders of Japan and the Mekong nations — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam — where they adopted a 2016-2018 strategy to spur quality growth and enhance connectivity in the fast-growing region, in a bid to counter China's growing political and economic clout there.

In a veiled criticism of Beijing's recent rapid and large-scale reclamation work in the South China Sea, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the five Mekong nations' leaders "noted concerns expressed over the recent development in the South China Sea," according to a document on their new cooperation strategy.

Alluding to Beijing's attempts to change the status quo by force, the leaders said the recent development in that area "will further complicate the situation and erode trust and confidence and may undermine regional peace, security and stability."

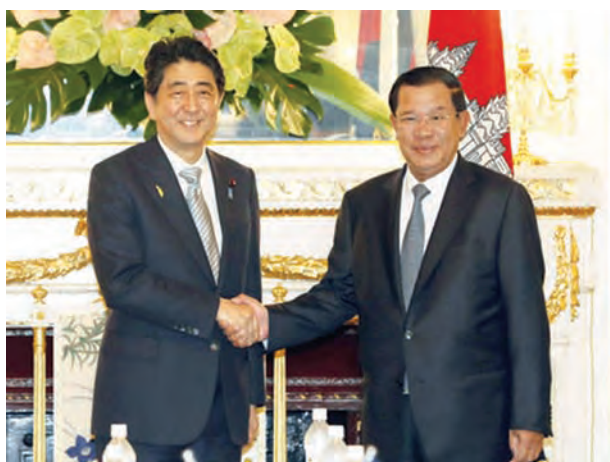
The document stopped short of singling out China.

Japan hopes to distinguish its aid packages on infrastructure development in the resource-rich Mekong region from that of China by promoting advanced Japanese technology, and sharing environment-friendly know-how and capacity-building, Japanese officials said.

Japan's engagement in the Mekong region — a potential destination for infrastructure exports — is also aimed at helping narrow the development disparities in the broader regional grouping known as the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations, which the five Mekong states are part of, and supporting efforts for ASEAN to be more integrated economically, the officials said.

In their summit in April 2012, Japan pledged to provide \$7.4 billion in ODA to the five Mekong countries over the following three years to boost the region's development.

Under the New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation, Abe and the Mekong leaders agreed that the region has potential to be a "global growth centre" given the region's growing economies in recent years and strategic location next to major Asian markets such as China and India.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen shake hands before their talks in Tokyo on 4 July, 2015. Hun Sen later expressed his support for the Japanese Self-Defense Forces' greater involvement in UN peacekeeping operations to contribute to global peace and security. —KYODO NEWS

"The Mekong region, which has vast infrastructure demands, is one of the priority areas," Abe said at a joint press conference with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Myanmar President U Thein Sein, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

"Japan will contribute to peace and stability in the Mekong region and walk side by side with Mekong countries to achieve together high-quality growth," Abe said after the Mekong-Japan summit, the seventh of its kind since it was first held in 2009.

Prayut said that while the Mekong region is a dynamic economic area, there is still "room for huge growth in economy, trade, investment and tourism."

The new strategy is in line with the Japanese premier's investment initiative announced in May to provide \$110 billion to promote "quality infrastructure" in Asia over the next five years.

With most nations in the Mekong region lagging behind in development, the region is a good case for Abe's investment initiative, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Speaking at the same news conference, Thongsing of Laos hailed the new

strategy as the "cornerstone of stronger cooperative ties between Japan and Mekong nations."

Pushing for infrastructure development in Laos, which is one of the least-developed members of ASEAN along with Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam, is vital to the launch by year-end of the ASEAN Economic Community, in which barriers to the flow of people, goods and money across ASEAN member states' borders will be lowered.

Japanese government data show that, as of 2013, per capita gross domestic product was \$2,073 in Vietnam, \$1,628 in Laos, \$1,103 in Myanmar and \$1,018 in Cambodia, compared with \$5,390 in Thailand. The average for ASEAN countries — also comprising Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore — is about \$3,839.

The document called for stronger intraregional connectivity and cited initiatives such as a Thai-Myanmar project to develop, together with Japanese aid, the Dawei Special Economic Zone in southeastern Myanmar.

The document also underscored the importance of working together on water resources and disaster management as many of the Southeast Asian countries are prone to disasters.

In the document, Abe and the leaders said regional stability is vital to regional development and prosperity, and reaffirmed the importance of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and peace building in the Mekong region.

"Peace and stability in the Mekong region, which is a strategic point for land and sea transportation, is extremely important for Japan," Abe said at the summit.

At a time when China's muscle-flexing in the South China Sea has sparked concern among Japan and ASEAN members, particularly Vietnam which has overlapping territorial claims in the contested Spratly Islands, Abe and the Mekong leaders said they will continue to uphold freedom of navigation and overflight, and the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes.

At the news conference, Dung called for concerned parties to exercise restraint and not complicate the situation, saying, "Changing the status quo by force should not be done."

They also called for the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct, the document said, referring to a legally binding regional code of conduct designed to reduce territorial and maritime rows in the South China Sea.

Kyodo News

Singapore Botanic Gardens declared UNESCO World Heritage Site

SINGAPORE, 4 July — The Singapore Botanic Gardens is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site after it was inscribed at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn, Germany, local TV Channel NewsAsia reported on Saturday.

The decision was met with cheers from a jubilant

Singapore delegation, led by Culture, Community and Youth Minister Lawrence Wong.

The 156-year-old Singapore attraction joins more than 1,000 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in some 160 countries. It is the third Botanic Gardens to be listed as a World Heritage Site after Kew Gar-

dens in England and the Padua Gardens in Italy and Singapore's first World Heritage Site.

The inscription comes almost five years after a feasibility study by the authorities found that the Botanic Gardens is Singapore's best candidate to achieve UNESCO World Heritage status.

Singapore officially submitted the gardens' nomination dossier to UNESCO in January last year.

In September last year, a technical assessor from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) visited the Gardens. In May, ICOMOS recommended the gardens to be inscribed

as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, saying it is an "exceptional example of a British tropical colonial botanic garden in Southeast Asia".

Still, the final decision was made by the 21-member UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Before he left for Bonn, Minister Wong said he was optimis-

tic about the bid, adding that the World Heritage status would strengthen conservation efforts at the gardens.

The Botanic Gardens spans 74-hectares and includes the National Orchid Garden which has over 1,000 orchid species and 2,000 hybrids on display.

Xinhua



A staff member controls an unmanned aerial vehicle to spray pesticide in Shanfeng Village of Duchang County in Jiujiang City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 2 July, 2015. —XINHUA

Vietnam's Hanoi stock market recovers amid information on lifting of foreign ownership limit

HANOI, 4 July — Vietnam's capital Hanoi stock market stopped the falling trend in the past two weeks amid the recent move of Vietnamese government in lifting foreign ownership limit at publicly listed companies.

Analysts said the lifting of foreign ownership limit is expected to help attracting more investment, thus improving market liquidity. The new decree, 60/2015/ND-CP, signed by Vietnamese Prime Minister late last week, will take effect from 1 September, 2015.

As of Friday, the HNX-Index, the benchmark of the Hanoi Stock

Exchange, gained 2.18 points or 2.55 percent against last Friday's closing session. Compared to the last trading session in 2014, the HNX-Index posted an increase of 4.72 points or 5.69 percent. During the week, the index witnessed three ups and two downs, ranging from 84.94 points on Tuesday to 87.7 points on Friday. By comparison, in the previous week, the HNX-Index fluctuated between 85.52 points and 87.09 points. On Friday, the Hanoi bourse closed at 87.7 points, up 0.94 points, or 1.08 percent, against the previous trading session. A total of some 57.577

million shares worth over 710.202 billion Vietnamese dong (32.88 million US dollars) were traded at the Hanoi Stock Exchange on Friday, an increase of 27.2 percent in volume and 25.28 percent in value against the previous trading session. Prices of 101 stocks went up, 81 stocks fell down, while 66 stocks remained unchanged.

Foreign investors accelerated their buying during the week. From Monday to Friday, foreign investors bought over 9.693 million shares while sold out over 4.922 million shares on the Hanoi bourse. —Xinhua

Report on past Iran nuclear work could be ready by year end — IAEA

VIENNA, 4 July — The UN nuclear watchdog could issue a report on its investigation into past Iranian research suspected of being linked to nuclear weapons development by the end of the year if Teheran cooperates, the agency's chief said on Saturday.

"With cooperation from Iran, I think we can issue a report by the end of the year on the assessment of the clarification of the issues related to the possible military dimensions," International Atomic Energy Agency director-general Yukiya Amano told reporters.

Answering the IAEA's so-far unresolved questions about the possible military dimensions (PMD) of past Iranian nuclear research will be a condition for easing some sanctions on Iran if Teheran and six powers succeed in agreeing on an historic nuclear accord in Vienna, diplomats close to the talks say.

Amano was in Teheran on Thursday for meet-

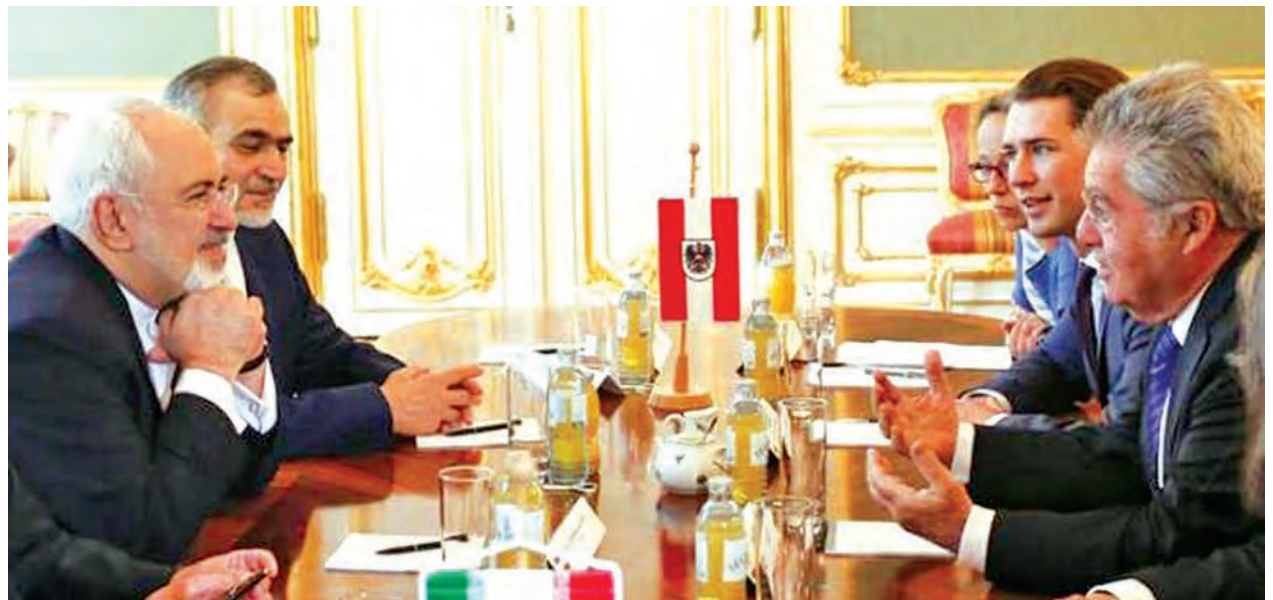
ings with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and other top Iranian officials to discuss the stalled IAEA investigation into Tehran's past nuclear work.

He said that during his trip progress had been made in moving his investigation forward but more work would be needed, echoing a statement the IAEA issued on Friday.

Iran is in talks with the United States and five other powers — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — on an agreement to curtail its nuclear programme for at least a decade in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

All sides say a deal is within reach. But there are several difficult sticking points, one of which is the IAEA's stalled investigation into the PMD. Others include access to Iranian sites and the timetable for lifting sanctions.

The negotiators missed a 30 June deadline for a final agreement, but have given themselves until 7 July, and foreign



Austrian President Heinz Fischer (R) and Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz (2nd R) attend a bilateral meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif (L) in Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria, on 3 July, 2015.—REUTERS

ministers not already in Vienna are due to return on Sunday for a final push.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi have remained in Vienna. Senior officials from Iran and the six powers have continued meeting to try to finalize an agreement.

US Energy Secretary

Ernest Moniz and Iranian nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi also met on Saturday, a US official said.

Western and Iranian officials said there were signs of a compromise emerging on one of the major sticking points: access to Iranian sites to monitor compliance with a future agreement.

Another potential compromise emerging re-

lates to Iran's low enriched uranium stockpiles. Western and Iranian diplomats said Teheran was considering shipping most of the stockpile out of the country, something Teheran had previously ruled out.

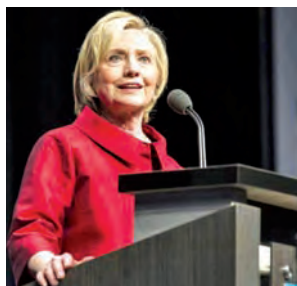
Regarding the PMD issue, Western diplomats said they were not demanding a public confession that Iran had conducted research into building a

nuclear warhead, but that the IAEA had to be satisfied it knew the full scope of past Iranian activity to establish a credible basis for future monitoring.

A preliminary agreement clinched on 2 April in Lausanne, Switzerland said the PMD would have to be addressed under any final accord between Iran and the six powers.

Reuters

Clinton says hopes Iran talks yield deal in the next week



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton

HANOVER, (NH), 4 July — Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton said on Friday she hoped 18 months of nuclear talks between Iran and major powers would yield a deal in coming days to curb Iran's nuclear programme.

The groundwork for the talks was laid when Clinton was US Secretary of State and she had not commented

recently on the negotiations as she seeks the Democratic Party nomination to run in the November 2016 presidential election.

"I so hope that we are able to get a deal in the next week that puts a lid on Iran's nuclear weapons programme," Clinton told a rally on the Dartmouth College campus in Hanover, New Hampshire. She said that even if a deal were reached, there would be more work to be done.

Iran is in talks with the United States and five other powers — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — on an agreement to curtail its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

A self-imposed 30 June

deadline passed without a deal and negotiations continue in Vienna, with a new 7 July target date.

Republican presidential candidates and Republican lawmakers have been critical of the negotiations, saying the administration of President Barack Obama, a Democrat, has made too many concessions to Iran.

The administration has also come under pressure from Israel not to make a deal with Teheran. Israel's opposition could influence the way Jewish voters in the United States contribute to campaigns and also vote in the election.

The Republican-led US Congress will review any final deal, with congressionally mandated sanctions remaining in place if the

House and Senate disapprove.

Clinton said in early April before announcing her candidacy that "getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial."

She has also said in the past that no deal would be better than a bad one.

A good deal would be one that "verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon" and "imposes an intrusive inspection programme with no sites off limits," Clinton has said.

A major sticking point has been access to inspect Iranian sites for compliance. Western and Iranian negotiators said on Friday there were signs a compromise is beginning to emerge on the issue.—*Reuters*

Putin calls for revision of Russia's national security policies

MOSCOW, 4 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday urged adjustment of the country's national security strategy to let Russia be better positioned in countering new external challenges and threats, according to an online statement of the Kremlin.

"First of all, it is necessary to quickly analyze the whole spectrum of potential challenges and risks in sectors of politics, economy, information and so on. Based on these analyses could we make adjustments to Russia's national security strategy," said Putin, while presiding and addressing a security council meeting held in the day.

Putin said Russia would continue to carry out exchange and cooperation with different countries on the basis of mutual respect and taking each other's interests into consideration but with a prerequisite of no endangering of Russia's sovereign rights and security.

He also pledged Russia is committed to advancing economic integration of nations on the Commonwealth of Independent States and

to advocating improved cooperation with members on BRICS, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and with member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The West has failed to split the Russian society using sanctions, claimed Putin, who stressed the countermeasures adopted by his government have played an active role in stabilizing domestic economy, finance, and employment in Russia. He said Russian enterprises have learnt to expand business under unfavourable circumstances, coupled with a steady growth of important strategic sectors, and a good implementation of important projects that have a bearing on the livelihood of the people. Russia extended the import ban on certain food products from the United States, the European Union, Canada, Australia and Norway in late June, in response to the renewal of anti-Russian sanctions imposed by western countries over Moscow's alleged intervention in the Ukraine crisis, an accusation Russia has vehemently denied.—*Xinhua*

Vietnam's top leader to make historic US visit, meet Obama next week

HANOI, 4 July — Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong will pay a historic visit to Washington next week for talks with US President Barack Obama next Tuesday in the US capital, the two sides announced on Friday.

Trong will be in the United States from 6 to 10 July, in what will mark the

first-ever visit by a leader of Vietnam's ruling party.

The White House press office said Obama will welcome him there Tuesday for talks covering such issues as defence cooperation, human rights and the Trans-Pacific Partnership currently being negotiated by 12 countries.

"The president looks forward to discussing with

General Secretary Trong ways to strengthen further the US-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership reflecting on the accomplishments of the past 20 years since normalization of bilateral diplomatic relations," it said in a statement.

On Thursday, Trong met in Hanoi with visiting former US President Bill

Clinton, who in November 2000 became the first US president to visit Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Trong thanks Clinton for his contributions to removing US trade embargos against Vietnam and normalizing and boosting relations with it.

Kyodo News

President U Thein Sein at 7th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo, Japan



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Myanmar President U Thein Sein, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung pose for photo with footballers from Mekong sub-region countries.—MNA



President U Thein Sein seen together with Japanese Prime Minister at the joint press conference.—MNA



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at dinner hosted by Japan- Myanmar Association.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Dr Nobuhiro, President of NEC Corporation of Japan.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Mr Kazuo Ohmori, Chairman of Sumitomo Corporation.—MNA

PHOTO GALLERY

President U Thein Sein at 7th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo, Japan



Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seen at the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit on 4 July.—MNA



7th Mekong-Japan Summit in progress on 4 July.

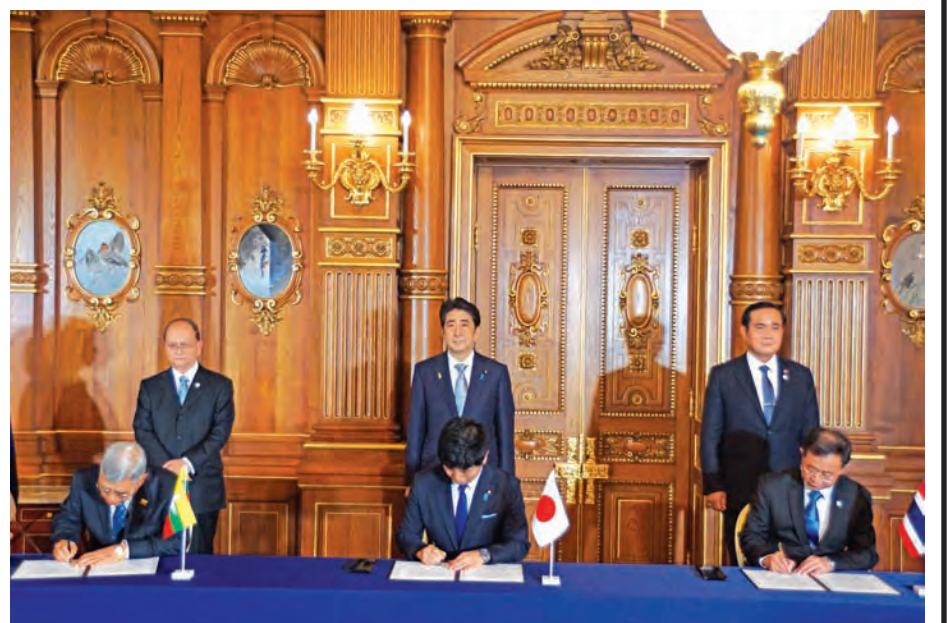
MNA



Myanmar President U Thein Sein (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before their meeting in Tokyo on July 4, 2015. (Pool photo)(Kyodo)



Myanmar President U Thein Sein, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha seen at signing ceremony of memorandum of intent on the Dawei special economic zone.—MNA



Myanmar President U Thein Sein, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha witness signing of memorandum of intent on the Dawei special economic zone.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 5 July, 2015

Like tracks and trains, workers and owners are interdependent

By Aung Khin

If employers are railway tracks, workers are locomotives. Both the tracks and locomotive play crucial roles in reaching a certain destination. Without a track, trains cannot move, and without engines, the tracks have no use.

The Myanmar government has introduced its first-ever minimum wage of K3,600 (US \$3.2) per day for all workers, following a year of negotiation between the government, employers and labour representa-

tives. However, the country's garment business owners have objected to the proposed rate, vowing to take the issue up with regional authorities and threatening to close around 100 factories.

Garment industry entrepreneurs wanted to set the rate at K2,500, while workers demanded K4,000 per day. Owners have complained about the impact on access to international markets. Some government factory owners are reportedly planning to reduce their overtime rates from double pay to time-and-a-half if the Parliament adopts the proposed minimum wage.

ASEAN countries have increasingly been following the strategy of China, which has raised minimum wage levels and enacted new labour laws with greater protection of workers' rights. The strategy is aimed at combating inflation and preventing labour unrest.

A suitable minimum wage needs to be set to ensure workers can meet their living costs. Myanmar's minimum wage is one of the lowest in Southeast Asia.

Myanmar's garment industry needs to have access

to international markets. Capable owners should seek market strategies that allow them to pay a reasonable minimum wage compared with neighbouring countries. The government should also support them with better infrastructure such as electricity and logistics.

As Myanmar is moving toward democratic reform, all parties must maintain ethical conduct and remember their reliance on one another – like locomotives and rail tracks – for everyone's benefit.

Write for us

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

Myanmar students seek learning opportunities in China



By Aye Min Soe

KUNMING, 4 July —
For Myanmar university

students with an interest in Chinese language and culture, a growing number of scholarships and exchange

programmes are providing opportunities to study in the neighbouring economic power.

There are currently around 100 Myanmar students attending Yunnan Normal University (YNNU) in Kunming, Yunnan Province.

Most are from Chinese language schools in Myanmar and have won scholarships from the university, according to Sai Kham Par, a third-year student of Chinese language and culture from southern Shan State.

International Economy and Trade is reportedly the favourite subject for Myanmar students attending the university.

About 40 of them are enrolled at Yangon University and studying at YNNU under an exchange pro-

gramme. Additionally, a number of Yangon University faculty members are doing doctorate studies there.

In 2014, more than 2,200 international students attended the university and at present YNNU has 1,705 international students from all over the world, more than any other university in the province.

Nearly 2,500 students learned foreign languages from Southeast Asian countries at the university last year. Thai language is the most popular Southeast Asian language, followed by the Myanmar language.

YNNU is a higher institution co-funded by the

Ministry of Education and Yunnan Provincial Government, and also one of the 100 universities funded by the National Key Project for the Quality Enhancement of the Higher Institutions in Central and West China.

In the 77 years since its establishment, YNNU has seen more than 200,000 students graduating and contributing to different fields in China.

For the first time this year, China surpassed Japan to have the highest number of universities listed in the Asia University Rankings compiled by the Times of London.

GNLM

LINE instant messaging app officially launches in Myanmar



Celebrities Aung Ye Lin and Khin Wint Wah together with officials from LINE Myanmar at launching of LINE messaging services in Myanmar.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

YANGON, 4 July—Japan's LINE Corporation officially launched its instant messaging application Friday in Myanmar, enlisting local celebrities in a TV commercial to promote the mobile app.

The official introduction of the LINE app follows

a soft launch in March, with the response from local users indicating strong demand for the app, according to LINE Myanmar's General Manager Mr Darin Hwang.

"We have selected Myanmar as the next market for new transition as we see

that the country has the highest growth at 309 percent after its soft launch in March," Mr Hwang said.

"This year, LINE will establish partnerships with local businesses, corporations and well-known personalities to grow its local content and provide great

experience for users."

LINE will cooperate with Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), the country's leading mobile operator, to promote the app, he said.

LINE is one of the world's popular mobile messaging applications. Launched in Japan in mid-2011, LINE has attracted millions of users in 230 countries including South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia.

The app has over 180 million active monthly users and around 70,000 users per hour worldwide, according to LINE Myanmar. It offers free messaging, voice calls, video calls and group chats.

The company is currently running a competition to give away 30 Samsung Galaxy S6 phone to subscribers.

Further information is available online at www.facebook.com/LineMyanmar.Official.—GNLM

Nobody buys the apartments in advance.

So, my apartment block is like an unfinished painting!



Hla Htut Oo

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(3-7-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 735,800 per tical: Selling K 737,000

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1131: Selling K 1133

SGD Buying K 840: Selling K 843

Euro Buying K 1,250: Selling K 1,256

ARTICLE

Contributing To The Nation Building Endeavour

Kyi Mun

In the historically necessary democracy building in Myanmar, we should not hesitate even a little bit to involve ourselves in the great national movement. We must participate in it by ardently contributing to it as much as we can. As true citizens, we can participate in the great national movement for democracy in the following manner:

- C for Commitment**
- O for Objectives**
- N for National Unity**
- T for Total Democracy Building**
- R for Revolutionary Ideas**
- I for Integrity-driven**
- B for Bold & Brave Movement for Democracy**
- U for Unique Historical Experience & Culture**
- T for Total Participation By the People**
- I for Inspiration**
- N for National Economic Modernization**
- G for Going All-out for Establishing Democracy**

* COMMITMENT

We should be strongly and passionately committed to participating in building democracy in Myanmar. According to our Character, Competence, Conviction, Courage and Caring, we have got to involve ourselves in the great movement for democracy building in Myanmar. In participating in it, commitment is quite essential. We should have a tremendous DESIRE to participate in building democracy in the following way:

- * **To be strongly DEDICATED**
- * **To be fervently EARNEST**
- * **To be genuinely SINCERE**
- * **To be highly INTEGRITY-DRIVEN**
- * **To be deeply RESPONSIBLE**
- * **To be entirely ENERGETIC**

* OBJECTIVES

In the tremendous movement for nation building, we must have the following national objectives:

- ✓ **Political Freedom, Security & the Rule of Law**
- ✓ **Economical Development & Modernization**
- ✓ **Educational Advancement & All-round Development**
- ✓ **Technological Advancement & Modernization**
- ✓ **Military Might & Preparedness**
- ✓ **Socio-Cultural Protection, Advancement & Consolidation**
- ✓ **Environmental Protection, Rejuvenation and Renewal**

* NATIONAL UNITY

In nation building, national unity is primary and of paramount importance. Racial and ethnic understanding, tolerance and unity must be solidly, comprehensively and sustainably established, based on the genuine democratic principles. In establishing national unity, under-

standing, tolerance, maturity, compromise and proactive view are fundamental prerequisites.

* TOTAL DEMOCRACY BUILDING

At one time, two bricklayers were working at their worksite. At that time, an acquaintance passed by them. The man asked the first bricklayer: **“What are you doing, my friend.”** And the first bricklayer answered: **“I’m building a wall.”** And then, the man asked the second bricklayer: **“What are you doing, my dear.”**, and the second bricklayer answered: **“I’m building a cathedral.”** Likewise, **our vision should be building a great and grand cathedral of democracy in Myanmar!**

* REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

In contributing to the nation building endeavour, we should clearly focus our attention on the following Pros & Cons:

To Focus On

- Active View
- Dynamic View
- Transformational View
- Positive Attitude
- Proactive Attitude
- Revolutionary Ideas
- Strategic Perspective

To Disregard

- Passive View
- Static View
- Status quo View
- Negative Attitude
- Reactive Attitude
- Reactionary Ideas
- Myopic Perspective

* INTEGRITY-DRIVEN

In contributing to nation building, integrity, altruism and self-sacrifice must come first. All the people, endeavoring to add value to the nation building struggle, must have sterling character and a heart of gold. All the contributing people have got to show revolutionary spirit and patriotic fervor. Everyone of us should: **“GIVE ALL TO LOVE, OBEY THY HEART.”**

* BOLD & BRAVE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

Democracy is a matter of the entire people and the entire nation. Throughout the length and breadth of Myanmar, mass movements for building democracy must be held continuously for awareness and for participation. Establishing democracy is a most important national affair. So, outreach, impact and sustainability must be ensured to be maximum and positive in character. In nation building, we must bear in our minds: **“Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid”**; and, **“If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can remove the mountain.”**

* UNIQUE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE & CULTURE

In contributing to the nation building effort, the importance of the uniqueness of the historical experience and culture must be taken into consideration. There is no such thing as ONE SIZE FITS ALL in nation building and establishing democracy. Strategically, we must be NATIONALIST, and tactically we have got to be INTERNATIONALIST. In other words, nationalism is the INFRASTRUCTURE and the Internationalism is the SUPERSTRUCTURE. Democracy must be established in Myanmar with national and historical characteristics. Democracy must be fortified with refinement, culture, prudence and wisdom on the one hand, and it must be tempered by restraint, humility, plain living & hard strug-

gle, diligence & frugality, simple living & high thinking on the other.

* TOTAL PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE

In contributing to nation building, it is very important for the broad masses of the people to participate with might and main. For the people’s active involvement, People’s Participation Programs should be devised and executed. Democracy, in fact, must be broad-based, people-centered and long-lasting. All the classes and strata of the people must be educated about democracy and its rights and responsibilities.

* INSPIRATION

In contributing to the nation building endeavour, inspiration on the part of the people is very important. People must be inspired or motivated to wholeheartedly participate in the noble task of nation building. People must be, for the most part, intrinsically motivated to passionately contribute to the national reconstruction. Besides this, there must be short-term wins or benefits for the people, as well as the long-term strategic victories. The hearts of the broad masses of the people must be touched and awakened to the necessity of establishing democracy in Myanmar.

* NATIONAL ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION

In contributing to the nation building endeavour, economic development and modernization must be expedited, as it is very important to successfully solve the problem of unemployment as well as to raise the living conditions of the broad masses of the people to the more or less decent levels. Economic development must be given urgency among the top priorities in the nation building agenda. The broad masses of the people must be provided with economic security as well as the political security.

* GOING ALL -OUT FOR ESTABLISHING DEMOCRACY

In the patriotic task of nation building, it is imperative to go all-out on the part of all the sectors of the national economy, such as political, economical, technological, socio-cultural, educational, ecological development and modernization. We all must go all-out and give all we have got to make a triumphant success of the national reconstruction. We all must aim high and give every bit of ourselves, holding nothing back.

* CONCLUSION

In the great endeavour of our national reconstruction and modernization, all the Myanmar citizens must involve themselves wholeheartedly with all their minds, with all their soul, and with all their strengths in order to win beautifully and speedily in the urgent task of catching up with the more developed economies in the region. We must never be apathetic, complacent and myopic in our historically important task of the national rejuvenation and modernization. All the people of the whole nation must rise up as one man and shape and build democracy in Myanmar without fail.

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

Youth Information Corner to be opened in Nay Pyi Taw



By KhaingThandaLwin

YANGON, 4 July— With the aim of improving the lives of young rural people, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association plans to open a “Youth Information Corner” in mid August in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, Dr May Malar of

Front view of Youth Information Corner which will be opened next month in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MMCWA

the MMCWA said Thursday.

The corner will be located within the compound of the MMCWA headquarters in Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, and is set to open on 15 August following International Youth Day, which falls on 12 August.

The corner is aimed at nurturing youths under 24, especially those out of school, with programmes to increase their knowledge and understanding of sexual and reproductive health, human trafficking and substance abuse.

The information corner will offer counselling services to individuals and groups with the aim of helping youths find solutions to their problems they face, Dr May Marlar told The Global New Light of Myanmar in an interview.

The youth information corner will also be equipped with Internet access, an IEC corner, sports and art facilities, she added. The MMCWA has future plan to conduct vocational training for young people in order to help reduce unemployment.

GNLM

Greek minister — Europe can't afford to let Athens go under

ATHENS, 4 July — Europe will lose a trillion euros if it allows Greece to go under, the country's finance minister said on Saturday, accusing creditors of 'terrorising' Greeks into accepting austerity in a referendum on bailout terms.

After a week in which Greece defaulted, closed its banks and began rationing cash, Greeks vote on Sunday on whether to accept or reject tough conditions sought by international creditors to extend a lending lifeline keeping the country afloat.

Their decision could determine Greece's future as a member of the single currency.

Addressing a crowd of over 50,000 in central Athens, left-wing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras urged them to spurn the deal, rejecting warnings from Greece's European partners that this may bring an exit from the euro and even greater hardship.

A slew of opinion polls on Friday gave the "Yes" camp, which favours accepting the bailout terms, a slender lead but all were within the margin of error and pollsters said the vote was too close to call. Only one had the "No" vote advocated by the government winning.

Tsipras' finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, said there was too much at stake for Europe to cast Greece adrift. "As much for Greece as for Europe, I'm sure," Varoufakis told the Spanish newspaper El Mundo. "If Greece crashes, a trillion euros (the equivalent of Spain's GDP) will be lost. It's too much money and I don't believe Europe could allow it."

"What they're doing with Greece has a name: terrorism," said Varoufakis. "Why have they forced us to close the banks? To frighten people. And when it's about spreading terror, that is known as terrorism."

Athens' 18 partners in the euro zone say they can easily absorb the fallout from losing Greece, which accounts for barely 2 percent of the bloc's economic output. But it would represent a massive blow to the prestige of Europe's grand project to bind its nations into a union they said was unbreakable.

"For Europe, this would be easy to manage economically," Austrian Finance Minister Hans Joerg Schelling said in an interview with online newspaper Die Presse. For Greece, however, "it would indeed be considerably more dramatic."

Schelling said Greece would need humanitarian aid in case of a Grexit but described fears of widespread poverty as exaggerated and part of "a propaganda war".

Capital controls imposed by the government this week have driven home for many Greeks the



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras delivers a speech at an anti-austerity rally in Syntagma Square in Athens, Greece, on 3 July, 2015. — REUTERS

catastrophe they face if the country exits the euro and is forced to turn to a new, heavily-devalued currency.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble of Germany, Greece's biggest creditor and toughest

critic, appeared to suggest Greece may be left without the euro currency "temporarily".

"Greece is a member of the euro zone. There's no doubt about that. Whether with the euro or

temporarily without it: only the Greeks can answer this question. And it is clear that we will not leave the people in the lurch," Schaeuble told top-selling newspaper Bild in an interview.

Reuters

After Tunisia attack, sun-seekers switch to Spain, Bulgaria and Greece

BERLIN, 4 July — Fearing for their safety in Tunisia after a gunman killed dozens of tourists,

sun-seeking Europeans are switching to destinations such as Spain, Bulgaria or even Greece for holidays

this year.

Tunisia's tourism industry had been recovering after the Arab Spring unrest, and had become a popular lower-cost beach holiday spot for Europeans.

Last year, 2.8 million travelled there, rebounding back towards 3.8 million level seen in 2010 before the uprising, according to official statistics.

But last week's attack — in which 38 people were killed by an Islamist gunman at a beach hotel, mostly Britons — added to security fears raised after a massacre at the Bardo museum in March, when two gunmen opened fire on

tourists. Now many tourists who had planned or booked Tunisian trips are looking elsewhere. Long-haul destinations are unlikely to pick up tourists originally destined for Tunisia, said travel analyst Angelo Rossini from market research firm Euromonitor.

Destinations like the Maldives, the Caribbean and Mexico are typically more pricey and target a different customer segment.

Instead the biggest beneficiary is expected to be Spain, Rossini added. Spain targets a similar type of tourist to Tunisia — those seeking a value-for-money all-inclusive holiday.

However, those switching may have to pay a premium as the holiday season is already under way and people typically book months in advance.

"It's clear that some tourists will now change Tunisia for continental Spain or the Canary Islands, but they will have to pay more," said Juan Molas, chairman of the Spanish Hotel Federation Cehat.

Molas also said Bulgaria and Turkey, which have lost a lot of their customers from Russia due to the economic crisis there, could prove to be popular, good-value alternatives to Spain.

However some industry experts said Westerners staying away from Tunisia for security reasons may be unwilling to switch to countries such as Turkey, which borders war-torn Syria, and Egypt, where there has been social and political unrest in recent years.

"After the incident in Tunisia, Turkey, as a Muslim nation, may be even more negatively impacted, because all of these types of events keep occurring in Muslim nations," said Timur Bayindir, head of the Touristic Hotels & Investors Association (TUROB) in Turkey.

Reuters



A group of tourists pose for a picture in front of the temple of the Parthenon atop the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, on 2 July, 2015. — REUTERS

Israeli PM blasts UNHRC for endorsing Gaza war crimes report

JERUSALEM, 4 July — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday slammed a decision by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to endorse a report accusing Israel and Hamas in war crimes during last summer's war in the Palestinian enclave.

"The UNHRC is not interested in the facts and is not really interested in human rights," Netanyahu charged in a statement released by his office.

He accused the UNHRC for condemning

Israel "for no fault of its own, for acting to defend itself from a murderous terrorist organization." He added that Israeli soldiers "act in accordance with international law."

The resolution to back the report was adopted with strong European support, with 41 council members, including Germany, France, and Britain, voting in favor of the report, while only the United States voting against. India, Kenya, Paraguay, Ethiopia, and Macedonia abstained.

According to the

UNHRC's Independent Commission of Inquiry report, 1,462 Palestinian civilians, a third of them being children, and six Israeli civilians were killed during the 51-day fighting in Gaza from July to August 2014.

The commission said that Israel's indiscriminate fire inflicted "massive and unprecedented harm" to the people of Gaza.

"Hundreds of Palestinian civilians were killed in their own homes, especially women and children," the report said.

Xinhua

President declares emergency in western Venezuela due to massive floods

CARACAS, 4 July — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has declared a state of emergency in the western state of Apure after massive floods have left over 40,000 people affected due to heavy rains over the last two weeks.

In a telephone call to state television, Maduro said that after a thorough assessment with envoys to the area, he decided to declare an emergency in that location, particularly the town of Guasdalito, which has been the hardest hit.

"These have been the worst floods in the area in the last 20 years and we have been able to control the emergency by evacuating thousands of families to safe zones," he said.

He approved an immediate fund of over 47 million US dollars for relief duties, emergency rescue teams and initial recovery of the region.

"In the first instance we have provided emergency assistance to all those affected and assessed the damages to focus now on an overall plan of re-

covery once it stops raining and the floods finish," Maduro said.

According to local authorities, the Arauca and Sarare rivers have overflowed and caused damage by flooding hundreds of houses, banks, schools and businesses.

The Venezuelan states of Apure, Tachira and Barinas have been hit hard with heavy rains in the last few weeks due to a tropical trough that has also affected the southeastern part of Colombia.

Xinhua

WORLD

Saudi-led air strikes on Yemen cities kill 16 — Houthis

SANAA, 4 July — Saudi-led air strikes killed at least 16 people in Yemen on Friday, the country's dominant Houthi militia said, and the European Union and United States appealed for a pause in the war to enable aid deliveries to stricken civilians.

An Arab coalition has been bombarding Iran-allied Houthi forces and allied army units since March in a campaign to restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

Houthi sources said six people including a woman and a child were killed and six wounded in a dawn air strike on the al Jaraf neighbourhood of the capital Sanaa.

The Houthi-controlled *Saba* news agency reported 10 people were killed by Saudi-led aerial attacks on a building in Bayt al-Faqih city in the southwestern province of al Hodeida.

Eight Houthis were also killed in an explosion at the public library in the Red Sea port city of Hodeida used by members of the group, local officials said. But the exact cause of the blast was disputed, with one report saying it was caused by an

air strike while another said it was a car bomb.

Air strikes were also staged against Faj Attan mountain overlooking Sanaa, home to a military base and a weapons depot that had been a frequent target in the course of the three-month-old war in the Arabian Peninsula country.

In the dawn attack, warplanes also hit the ministry of communications building, *Saba* reported, setting it on fire and destroying nearby buildings.

Warplanes returned for another raid on Sanaa around noon, but there was no immediate word on casualties or damage.

The Houthis captured Sanaa last September, pushing Hadi's government aside and then began expanding south and westwards. The president eventually fled the port of Aden in March after the Houthis advanced on his southern stronghold.

The United Nations on Wednesday designated the Yemen war as a Level 3 humanitarian crisis, its most severe category.

On Thursday, the US State Department called for a humanitarian pause in the conflict



Smoke billows from the site of a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's capital Sanaa, on 2 July, 2015.—REUTERS

during the current Muslim holy month of Ramadan to allow international aid groups to deliver urgently needed food, medicine, and fuel.

The EU said on Friday it supported UN efforts to secure a lasting, predictable and sustainable humanitarian ceasefire and demanded that Saudi-led forces ease restrictions on entry of ships to Yemeni ports.

"Such a pause should allow the urgent delivery of humanitar-

ian assistance and essential supplies, including fuel, food and basic commodities," a statement by EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and EU humanitarian and crisis management commissioner Christos Stylianides said.

Both sides largely observed a five-day humanitarian truce brokered by the United Nations in May to allow in "lifeline" fuel and medicine to civilians trapped in conflict zones.

Elsewhere on Yemen's battlefields on Friday, a drone targeted an army base held by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in southeastern Yemen in the early hours, killing four suspected militants, witnesses said.

The base is near Mukalla, the Hadramout provincial capital which had been the target of several drones attacks in recent weeks including one that killed AQAP leader Nasser al-Wuhayshi.

The United States acknowledges using drones to combat AQAP in Yemen as part of its global counter-terrorism effort, but does not comment publicly on individual attacks.

AQAP's several thousand fighters are seen by Washington as a serious anti-Western threat that could exploit the chaos of Yemen's war to expand and recruit.

AQAP has carried out attacks on the Houthis, seen as a foe due to their Iranian alliance and adherence to a form of Shi'ite Islam, but has not become a leading combatant in the conflict.—Reuters

Syrian army bombards rebels trying to seize Aleppo



A man walks with the aid of a crutch past damaged buildings in the old city of Aleppo on 27 June, 2015.

REUTERS

BEIRUT, 4 July — Syrian government forces carried out heavy air strikes on rebel positions in and around the northern city of Aleppo on Friday, aiming to repel a major Islamist-led offensive on areas controlled by President Bashar al-Assad.

Thursday's attack, the most intense insurgent offensive in Aleppo in three years, aimed to build on recent advances against Assad by an array of groups fighting on separate fronts, including Islamic State and rebels backed by his regional foes.

Aleppo, 50 km (30 miles) south of the Turkish border, was Syria's most populous city before the country's descent into civil

war. It has been partitioned into zones of government and insurgent control since 2012.

Aleppo is of vital importance to Assad, and losing it would further entrench a de facto partition of Syria between western areas still governed from Damascus and the rest of the country run by a patchwork of militias.

Fighting between the insurgents and government forces in Aleppo raged into the early hours of Friday, and Syrian air and army strikes on rebel emplacements were continuous, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a group monitoring the war, said.

A Syrian military source said the attack had

been repulsed and heavy casualties had been inflicted on the insurgents. He added that the air force and artillery had been used to target the rebels, who he said had used heavy weapons in their attack.

Later, state television showed scores of bodies of armed combatants, saying the army had killed at least 100 insurgents in the counter-offensive.

The Observatory's Rami Abdulrahman said earlier rebel forces had seized some buildings from government control on the northwestern city outskirts of Jamiyat al-Zahra. He later said the insurgents were making headway in a part of western Aleppo that would get them closer to the heart of the city.

At least 35 insurgents were killed in that area, including a dozen Syrians and many others of central Asian origin, Abdulrahman said. The Syrian war has drawn foreign fighters from across the Muslim world, including jihadists from central Asia.

Air strikes were also reported near the town of Azaz in the north of Aleppo, just over the border from Turkey.

Reuters

Civilian killed at Cairo protest on anniversary of Mursi ousting

CAIRO, 4 July — A civilian was killed on Friday during a protest rally in Cairo in support of Egypt's former president Mohamed Mursi, security sources said, on the second anniversary of the army's overthrow of the Islamist leader.

Supporters of Mursi's now-banned Muslim Brotherhood said interior ministry forces had opened fire at the protest. The ministry was not immediately available for comment.

The security sources said the person had been shot dead and that two other people had been wounded. A health ministry spokesman confirmed the death, which he said

had occurred at a rally in the southern Cairo district of Dar al-Salaam. He did not elaborate.

Egyptian authorities have cracked down hard on the Brotherhood since the army overthrew him on 3 July, 2013, following mass protests against his one-year rule.

Last month a court sentenced Mursi, Egypt's first freely elected leader, to death along with fellow leaders of the Brotherhood. Thousands of alleged supporters of the movement are also in jail, many serving lengthy sentences.

The Brotherhood maintains it is committed to peaceful activism, but the government has labelled it a terrorist organization

and does not distinguish between it and other militant groups based mainly in North Sinai.

On Friday, a branch of the pro-Brotherhood 'National Coalition to Support Legitimacy and Reject the Coup' said on its Facebook page a man had been shot dead in Cairo when interior ministry forces "opened fire with live ammunition and bird cartridge".

Two people, including a soldier, were wounded by birdshot at a separate demonstration involving dozens of Brotherhood supporters in the Nile Delta province of Menoufia, the state news agency MENA reported.

Reuters

Car bombs explode in Libya's Derna, at least six killed

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 4 July — At least six people were killed and 10 others wounded when several car bombs exploded in the Libyan city of Derna, a medical source said on Friday.

Derna has been caught

in fighting between Islamic State militants, rival Islamist fighters and armed forces with the country's internationally recognized government.

The eastern port city is just one front in a multi-sid-

ed conflict in the North African country, where two rival governments and various armed groups are fighting for control four years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Reuters

France's Hollande says ready to hold new summit on Boko Haram



French President Francois Hollande in Lyon, France, on 1 July, 2015.—REUTERS

YAOUNDE, 4 July — French President Francois Hollande said on Friday he is ready to organize a new summit of nations fighting Boko Haram, a militant group that has suffered defeats in recent months in its campaign to forge an Islamist state in northeastern Nigeria.

Hollande was speaking after talks in the capital of Cameroon with President Paul Biya. Cameroon is part of a regional group of

nations including Nigeria, Niger and Chad that began a campaign against Boko Haram this year.

"Nigeria and Cameroon need to have the best relations ... to work together. This corresponds well with the spirit we had at our last summit in Paris to take important decisions about Boko Haram, whose threat is getting stronger," Hollande said.

"I am ready to gather anew, as soon as the pres-

idents give me a date, this conference so that we can better act together," Hollande said. The Paris summit was in May 2014.

Earlier this year, Boko Haram occupied large parts of northeastern Nigeria and was increasingly mounting attacks on neighbouring states, prompting the regional leaders into action to reverse gains made by the six-year insurgency.

Operations carried out by regional forces have pushed the militants from most of their positions and Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has vowed to crush what remains of the group. The militants have hit back and suspected insurgents attacked the outskirts of a state capital in northeastern Nigeria on Friday, escalating attacks after a week in which more than 150 people were killed.

Reuters

Turkey's Erdogan moots possibility of snap election

ANKARA, 4 July — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Friday raised the prospect of a snap election if coalition talks fail after his ruling AK Party fell short of a majority in a 7 June parliamentary poll.

Erdogan is expected next week to mandate Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, the AK Party leader, to form a coalition government but it remains unclear whether he will be able to build enough

support for a stable parliamentary majority.

"The formation of a coalition with a majority in parliament is my desire," he told a gathering of supporters.

"(But) if a government cannot be formed ... our people will provide the solution again. If the parliament cannot solve it, it is our people who will. Nobody should hesitate to go back to the people," he said, citing "se-

rious issues" facing Turkey.

Party officials have privately said Erdogan may see a snap election as the best way for the AK Party to regain its majority and push constitutional changes he favours that would introduce a strong executive presidency in Turkey.

Some political analysts say the early election option looks unlikely, however, after an opinion poll last week showed voters would be unwilling to change their vote.

While a coalition with the right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) would make sense ideologically, AKP officials say their top brass is leaning toward an alliance with the centre-left CHP.

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said on Thursday a coalition that best serves Turkey's economy should be the priority in the coalition talks.—Reuters

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan greets parliamentarians as he arrives at the Turkish parliament to watch a swearing-in ceremony in Ankara, Turkey, on 23 June, 2015

REUTERS



Ecuador, first stop on Pope tour, highlights environment exhortation

QUITO, 4 July — It is one of the most biodiverse nations on earth, boasting Amazon rainforest, Andean mountains and the Galapagos Islands, where Charles Darwin formulated his theory of evolution.

Yet with a heavy reliance on oil and mining, Ecuador, where Pope Francis begins his South America tour this weekend, is a prime example of tensions between politics, business and the environment at the heart of last month's landmark encyclical.

In the first papal document dedicated to the environment, the Argentine-born pontiff urged world leaders to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" and reverse mankind's degradation of the planet.

"This century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems," warned the Pope, who arrives in the capital Quito on Sunday on the first stop of a tour also including Bolivia and Paraguay.



Pedestrians are reflected in a shop window which shows an image of Pope Francis in La Paz, on 1 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Ecuador's leftist leader, Rafael Correa, who won election in 2006 in part on a promise to preserve the country's unique biodiversity, is under fire from environmentalists who say he gives a greater priority to business.

Though activists are not scheduled to meet him, they hope the Pope's mere presence, and recent international public attention over his encyclical, will strengthen their causes: from halting oil exploration in the Yasuni jungle to blocking a new law

they believe will overcommercialize the Galapagos.

"The encyclical is without precedent," enthused Kevin Koenig, Quito-based Ecuador program director for Amazon Watch, a group dedicated to protecting ecosystems and indigenous rights.

"It's our hope that in his visit to Ecuador, the Pope will be able to inspire Correa to do a better job of protecting the environment here."

Anti-Correa protesters, who have been on the streets in recent weeks to complain

about tax increases and alleged autocracy in government, may also raise the environmental banner to try to embarrass the president during Francis' visit.

One of the poorest nations in South America, the small Andean country of 15 million people encapsulates tensions replicated across the Pope's native, resource-rich continent.

Colonizers first ventured through South America on a quest for gold and silver half a millennium ago. Riches including oil and copper still drive the region's economies today.

OPEC member Ecuador relies on oil for half its foreign income, according to the World Bank, and produces about half a million barrels per day. That sustains steady economic growth that has fueled welfare development, but has also meant drilling around important environmental sites.

Some scientists think the number of all types of species in Ecuador could be around a million, more than

a tenth of the world's total.

Ecuador is home to 2,308 threatened species — including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and plants — far more than any other country, according to the latest data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Endangered species include the white-bellied spider monkey, the giant otter and a tree, Rollinia heliosoides, of which there is thought to be only one living example in the world.

Perhaps nowhere has the environmental debate raged more than in Ecuador's eastern Yasuni park, a 9,820-square-kilometre (6,100-square-mile) swathe of rainforest on the equator.

"Eastern Ecuador is likely the most species-diverse place on the planet," said Kelly Swing, professor of tropical ecology at Quito's San Francisco University.

However, about 846 million barrels of oil lie under Yasuni's soil, one-tenth of the country's total proven

reserves.

Challenging the world to save Yasuni, Correa in 2007 asked wealthy countries to donate \$3.6 billion to offset revenue lost by not drilling there.

But the initiative brought in less than 4 percent of the requested amount so Correa scrapped the plan six years later and authorized drilling, saying the world had failed Ecuador.

Oil spills in the country's northeastern jungle decades ago are the subject of one of the world's biggest environmental lawsuits.

Local plaintiffs, including environmental groups, continue to battle Chevron Corp in international courts, seeking billions of dollars for damage they allege was caused by Texaco, which Chevron later acquired.

As well as oil, a nascent gold and copper mining sector is hoping to attract \$5 billion of investment over the next five years. Environmentalists worry this could scar the landscape.

Reuters

UNESCO lists Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains as world heritage

KINGSTON, 4 July — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park as world heritage on Friday. This marks the first World Heritage site for Jamaica and the first mixed — cultural and natural — site for the Caribbean sub-region, according to the Ministry of Youth and Culture of Jamaica. The Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park is located in the eastern part of Jamaica. Blue Mountain is known as the home of the Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee, which is among the most expensive coffees around the world, while John Crow Mountain is famous for the anti-colonialism history. The organized anti-colonialism movement of Jamaica dated back to 1600s when escaped African workers settled in John Crow Mountain. After more than 80 years of warfare, a peace treaty was drawn up in 1739 between residents and British colonists. According to the treaty, residents were allowed to stay in tax-free land in different parts of Jamaica known as Moore Town Maroons.

"Our history, in particular, the struggles and defiance of our Maroon people helped to mould us into being distinctly Jamaican," Minister of Youth and Culture Lisa Hanna told the World Heritage Committee at the UNESCO's 39th session in Bonn, Germany, on Friday. "To this end, we want the world to not only drink our Blue Mountain Coffee but also see the outstanding universal value of the Blue and John Crow Mountains," she said. Currently, there are 1,011 sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List, among which only 32 are mixed sites with both cultural and natural significance.—Xinhua

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (106N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, scattered in Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h.



Tents are erected in quake-hit Pixna Township of Pishan County of Hotan Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 4 July, 2015. A 6.5-magnitude earthquake rocked Pishan County of Hotan Prefecture at 9:07 am (0107GMT), with the epicenter recorded at 37.6 degrees north and 78.2 degrees east, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC). Relief materials are being carried to the quake-hit regions.—XINHUA

Switzerland on alert as European heatwave persists

GENEVA, 4 July — World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced on Friday that the heatwave affecting parts of Western, Central and Eastern Europe since 27 June will continue unabated over the coming days.

According to WMO, the European heatwave is atypical not only for its early arrival in the summer period, but also because of its extensive geographical reach.

Many countries and regions have witnessed abnormally high temperatures, such as in parts of the Iberian Peninsula (43 degrees

Celsius) where the heatwave began, areas of France (40 degrees Celsius), Germany (38 degrees Celsius), Italy and England (36 degrees Celsius). Given the consistently high temperatures raging across much of Europe combined with prevailing dry conditions, parallels with the 2003 heatwave which killed some 70,000 people are being drawn, though WMO highlighted that Europe is much better prepared in terms of heat-health action plans.

In light of these severe weather trends, Switzerland's Federal Office of Me-

teorology and Climatology (Meteoswiss) has issued a level 4 alert (out of a maximum of 5) for the coming days, while Western Poland has also been placed on red alert. On the other side of the spectrum, while South and Central Europe continue to suffer from extreme temperatures, Northern Europe is experiencing one of its coolest summer beginnings on record. Meteoswiss recommends avoiding physical efforts, while trying to keep cool and drinking at least 1.5 liters of water a day to reduce the risk of experiencing heatstroke.—Xinhua

Vucic: ZSO needed for safer future of children in KiM

BELGRADE, 4 July — The setting up of the community of Serb municipalities (ZSO) should make it possible for the Serb children in Kosovo-Metohija (KiM) to feel safer, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Friday.

There should be institutions to which Serbian children in KiM can turn to for help when it comes to protection of their rights, Vucic said, expressing sat-

isfaction about receiving at his office children from the Serb municipalities of Klokot and Vitina, who are on a two-day visit to Belgrade. The prime minister said that he was happy to see the young ones visiting their country's capital city, and promised that the government would do whatever it could to see the Serb children in Kosovo get a chance to live like all other children of Europe.

"We will always do our best to do the little that we can do for them, and we will regard that part of (our country) as Serbian territory, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia," said the prime minister. Vucic said that he hoped that a visit like today's would be organized for children from other parts of Kosovo, who perhaps lived in even more difficult conditions.

Tanjug

Hot, dry weather blamed for large number of fires across Alaska

LOS ANGELES, 4 July — The US state of Alaska appears to be on the track to have one of its worst fire seasons on record due to hot and dry conditions, with more than 2.2 million acres (890,308 hectares) having been burned.

Newly released data from the Alaska Interagency Coordination Centre show that wildfires in the state had consumed 2,253,575.8 acres already. Many fires in remote areas are unstaffed.

This year has seen an unusually high number of wildfires burning simultaneously across the tundra and forests of Alaska, and an exceptionally large number of homes and buildings have been damaged or threatened by the flames so far this year.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Division of Forestry said that "the amount of acreage burned in Alaska during June of 2015 shattered the previous acreage record set in June of 2004 by more than 700,000 acres."

NASA's Aqua satellite

captured this image of the fires. Clouds obscure much of the image on either side of the dozens of fires and most probably have hidden other fires from being detected but a large swath of fires can be seen in this image with the requisite smoke from those fires drifting northward.

Wildfires are a common occurrence in the state, but this year's fires started earlier than normal and have escalated quickly.

It has been an unusual fire season for the state, mostly due to a light winter snowpack and little rain in the spring left dry ground particularly vulnerable to fires that break out when lightning strikes, NASA said in a statement.

Hot and dry conditions in Alaska have been toppling records over the past few months, many of which have been held for decades.

It was the warmest June on record in many places, including Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, and Barrow, the northernmost city in the entire United States.

In May, Alaska saw a 90-degree day earlier in the season than ever recorded. The months also went down in the annals of weather history as the warmest May on record for the entire state.

A lack of snow over the winter has earned a new record for Alaska's largest city. The National Weather Service says Anchorage received 25.1 inches of snow over the winter, compared with the normal 74.5 inches. It also became clear that dozens of cities across the Lower 48 had snowier winters than Anchorage.

The Alaskan summer of 2004 was unusual. It was the warmest summer on record, the most lightning strikes were recorded, wildland fires burned the largest acreage in recorded Alaska history. Heat, dry conditions and lightning strikes combined to produce a staggering 6,590,140 acres burned — "more than 8 times the 10 year acreage average," according to the state's Division of Air Quality.

Xinhua



People participate in marathon and walkathon organized for a restoration campaign of the quake-hit Kastamandap temple at Basantapur in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 4 July, 2015. The 5km marathon and 1km walkathon was organized to raise the awareness of rebuilding and restoring heritage sites after earthquakes. —XINHUA

Arctic Monkeys, Duran Duran honoured at Silver Clef Awards

LONDON, 4 July — From heavy metal rockers Iron Maiden to classical singers Il Divo, musicians of all kind were honoured at the O2 Silver Clef Awards on Friday, gathering for the annual luncheon that raises money for a British musical therapy charity.

British rock band Arctic Monkeys scooped the “Best Live Act” award, winning the sole public vote of the event, which was held in London. Soul songstress Gladys Knight, pop star Rita Ora, rock group Duran Duran, heavy metal band Iron Maiden, producer and DJ Mark Ronson and classical singers Il Divo were among the winners of this year’s awards.

“(Music) is an emotional medium. You can try to analyze it until you are blue in the face but it just gets re-



Musical group The Arctic Monkeys arrive at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

sults,” Iron Maiden vocalist Bruce Dickinson said.

The ceremony, established in 1976, raises

money for the British charity Nordoff Robbins, which uses music therapy to help children and adults.

Past winners include U2, Coldplay, the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney.—Reuters

Rapper Sean Combs avoids assault charges in UCLA kettlebell incident



Sean “Diddy” Combs arrives at The Weinstein Company & Netflix after party after the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California, on 12 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 July — Rapper Sean “P Diddy” Combs will not face assault charges stemming from an incident involving a kettlebell weight at the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles city officials said on Thursday.

Combs, 45, was arrested on charges of assault with a deadly weapon last month by campus police, and held in jail.

Media reports said Combs was involved in an altercation with UCLA’s football coach at the campus’ athletic facility. The rapper’s son, Justin Combs, is on the college football team.

The case has been referred to the Los Angeles City Attorney’s office to determine if Combs will face a misdemeanor charge, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office said. UCLA’s football coach, Jim Mora, called the encounter “an unfortunate incident for all parties involved,” in a statement following Combs’ arrest.

Grammy-winning Combs, also known as Puff Daddy and Diddy, is also an actor, entrepreneur and the founder of Bad Boy Records. Forbes estimated his earnings at \$60 million last year.—Reuters

Musical version of ‘James Bond’ on its way?



LONDON, 4 July — Merri Saltzman, the daughter of “James Bond” producer Harry Saltzman, has reportedly secured the rights to a Bond stage show.

The show, “James Bond: The Musical”, will include music and lyrics from Jay Henry Weisz, while Dave Clarke has written the story, reported *Digital Spy*.

The musical will have

an original plot, including several Bond villains, along with some new ones.

While production and casting details have not yet been announced, the show will apparently debut in late 2017 or early 2018 in Las Vegas.

The next Bond movie, “Spectre” starring Daniel Craig, is scheduled to release on 6 November.—PTI

Japanese pop star Hikaru Utada gives birth to baby boy

TOKYO, 4 July — Japanese pop star Hikaru Utada said on her official website on Friday that she had given birth to a baby boy.

“Our baby has arrived! He’s a calm little boy who drinks and sleeps well,” she wrote on the website.

She also revealed that she had been working on a new album during her pregnancy. “It is going to take some more time before it’s completed, but I’m eager to start working on it again. Stay tuned!” she said.

After ending her first marriage in 2007, Utada married an Italian man last year.

In 2010, she decided to suspend musical activities for an indefinite period from 2011 to focus on “human activities.”

Kyodo News

Jada Pinkett Smith on being the feminist force of ‘Magic Mike XXL’

LOS ANGELES, 4 July — From playing the villainous, manipulative Fish Mooney on Fox’s Batman origins TV series “Gotham” to an empowering erotic club owner in “Magic Mike XXL,” Jada Pinkett Smith is no stranger to taking on strong female characters on screen.

Smith, 43, told *Reuters* how she helped carve her role in “XXL” — one originally intended for actor Jamie Foxx — as the film’s feminist force, and whether her husband, actor Will Smith, will see the film as it comes out in theaters this week.

Below are excerpts.

Q: How do you think “XXL” reinvents male entertainment?

A: Somebody brought up a really good point that usually male strippers would be dressed up as police officers, firemen, so [male entertainment] has this very authoritative feel, instead of getting to understand what are those desires and fantasies that women want to explore with their imagination? So you would hope that maybe strip clubs would get more on that page.

Q: How was your experience collaborating with “XXL” director Greg Jacobs and screenwriter Reid Carolin as they developed your character?

A: They were so open, that was the biggest gift. Reid and Greg, I worried them to death about all kinds of stuff.

It was just like this beautiful exchange back and forth and that happened until

the last day of shooting because Reid would come up with a basic idea for a scene and then he and I would sit down together, “This line is great, let’s try to go here.”

Q: It’s nice to see a more pro-female perspective presented here, you come out as a woman being lit up in the best way.

A: Yes, and that’s how it should be. That’s really what the energy of eroticism should offer, right? In its most authentic, pure state, so I couldn’t agree with you more, it’s such an exhilarating film in that way that can open up a lot of different channels.

Q: Have you seen the film with your family or with your husband yet?

A: No, not yet. That’s going to be fun, Will can’t wait. He can’t wait. He’s like, “Oh babe, I saw the trailer. This is so perfect for you, I cannot wait to see you in this.”—Reuters



Actress Jada Pinkett Smith poses at the European premiere of ‘Magic Mike XXL’ at Leicester Square in London, Britain on 30 June, 2015. REUTERS

GENERAL

FIFA's Webb charged in Cayman Island's corruption case

ZURICH, 4 July — Suspended FIFA vice-president and CONCACAF president Jeffrey Webb, already facing charges in football's global bribery scandal, has now been charged in a health-care fraud case in his native Cayman Islands, local media reported on Friday.

Cayman authorities have issued an arrest warrant for Webb and are expected to seek his extradition, reported Cayman 27 television.

Webb is currently detained in Switzerland after being arrested and indicted by the FBI last month and already faces an extradition request from the United States in relation to the football corruption charges brought by the Department of Justice.

Webb was one of seven powerful figures arrested in Zurich on 27 May two days before FIFA's annual congress, stunning world football. The charges by US prosecutors include al-

legations that millions of dollars were paid in bribes in FIFA's selection process to host men's World Cups and other major tournaments.

Webb's close associate Canover Watson, also a football official in the Cayman Islands and the Caribbean Football Union, was arrested last year on five charges including fraud, money-laundering relating to the CarePay card swipe payment system at the Cayman Health Services Authority.

"The Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission can confirm that in connection with the ongoing investigation into the CarePay project, further charges have today been laid at Court in relation to Canover Watson, Jeffrey Webb and Miriam Rodriguez," said a Cayman Islands Anti-Corruption Commission statement, according to Cayman 27 television station's website.

"A warrant for Mr Webb's arrest has today



FIFA President Joseph "Sepp" Blatter (R) gestures next to CONCACAF President Jeffrey Webb during a news conference at the CONCACAF congress in Panama City on 19 April, 2013.—REUTERS

been issued. We understand that he is currently being detained by the authorities in Switzerland. It is anticipated that proceedings will be instigated for his extradition to answer these charges," the statement added.

The report said that Webb faces two charges of conspiracy to defraud and one charge of breach of trust, as well as 'conspiracy to convert criminal property'.

The 50-year-old Webb

was elected as head of CONCACAF, the confederation governing the sport in North and Central America and the Caribbean, in 2012. Before the FIFA scandal he was viewed as a potential successor to FIFA President Sepp Blatter.

The Cayman Islands Anti Corruption Commission did not immediately respond when contacted for comment.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(5-7-2015 07:00 am~ 6-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * "Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1) | * Will you feed the pigeons |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(5-7-2015, Sunday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:30 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Head Line News |
| 6:25 am | 3:45 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Documentary |
| 7:35 am | 4:00 pm |
| • Business News | • News |
| 8:00 am | 4:30 pm |
| • News / International News | • Head Line News |
| 9:35 am | 5:00 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • News / Weather Report |
| 10:30 am | 5:35 pm |
| • Head Line News | • People's Talks |
| 10:35 am | 6:15 pm |
| • Performance with Song | • Documentary |
| 11:35 am | 6:30 pm |
| • Amazing World | • Head Line News |
| 12:00 noon | 7:00 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • News |
| 12:35 pm | 7:30 pm |
| • Round Up of The Week's International News | • Head Line News |
| 3:00 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • News / International News | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| | 8:35 pm |
| | • Documentary |
| | 9:00 pm |
| | • News |
| | • Tasty Trip |
| | • Sing & Enjoy |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(5-7-2015, Sunday)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 9:30 am |
| • Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe | • Myanmar Movie |
| 6:20 am | 3:50 pm |
| • Myanmar Video | • MYANMAR NATIONAL LEAGUE (2015) |
| 8:10 am | (Yadanarbon FC Vs Yangon United FC) |
| • Fashion (Music) | |
| 8:25 am | |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | |

Restored World War Two Spitfire to be auctioned for charity



People look at a Mk.1 Spitfire, donated by American entrepreneur and philanthropist, Thomas Kaplan, on display outside the Churchill War Rooms in London, Britain on 3 July, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 4 July — A restored World War Two Spitfire which was shot down over northern France in 1940 is expected to raise about \$3 million for charity

when it goes up for auction in London next week.

The wreckage of the Vickers Supermarine Spitfire Mk.1A was recovered in 1980 from a beach at Calais,

northern France.

It had crash-landed there after it was shot down on 24 May, 1940, during the evacuation of Dunkirk and over the years was washed over by tides, sinking deeper into the sands, auctioneer Christie's said.

It is one of two remaining Mk.1 models restored to the original specification and that can still fly, Christie's said.

The Spitfire will be put up for auction next Thursday with an estimate of 1.5 million pounds to 2.5 million pounds.

It is being sold by art collector Thomas Kaplan, who will donate the proceeds to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and wildlife charity Panthera.

"It is arguably one of the most beautiful pieces of technology ever created," Kaplan said at the Churchill War Rooms museum in London, where the plane was exhibited.

"It is as graceful as any piece of modernist design."

The sale will also commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of France and the Battle of Britain, the air war between the RAF and the German Luftwaffe in the summer and autumn of 1940.

"The spitfire is in a way the most iconic symbol of the Battle of Britain and the Battle of Britain was really one of the most pivotal turning points in modern history," Kaplan said.

Reuters

Berlin says utilities can't dodge responsibility for nuclear waste

BERLIN, 4 July — German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said on Friday that if the provisions by utilities for shutting down nuclear power plants were not sufficient, the government needed to discuss asking the companies to make further payments.

Gabriel also said that Berlin wanted to rule out quickly by law the possibility for utilities to reduce their financial liability regarding the de-nuclearization of the

country.

Germany's four nuclear

operators — E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall —

have set aside around 36 billion euros (\$39.99 billion) in provisions for shutting down nuclear power plants and building a safe disposal site for highly radioactive waste.—Reuters



A German police officer uses a Geiger counter to measure the radiation of a Castor container on a transport train, during a stop in Neunkirchen near Saarbruecken on 25 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

Guerrero on target as Peru clinch Copa third place again



Peru's Jose Reyna (L), Paolo Guerrero and Claudio Pizarro (R) pose with their medals after defeating Paraguay in their Copa America 2015 third-place soccer match at Estadio Municipal Alameda Ester Roa Rebolledo in Concepcion, Chile on 3 July, 2015.

REUTERS

CONCEPCION, (Chile), 4 July — Striker Paolo Guerrero scored his fourth goal of the Copa America on Friday as Peru beat Paraguay 2-0 to finish in third place for the second consecutive edition of the tournament.

Guerrero swept home a right foot shot in the 89th minute to seal a deserved victory for Peru.

He also set up his side's opening goal in the 48th minute, heading down a Christian Cueva corner for midfielder Andre Carrillo to score.

Guerrero has now scored seven of Peru's last 10 goals at the Copa America.

He scored a hat-trick against Bolivia in the quarter-finals and did the same against Venezuela in Peru's final match of the 2011 Copa, when Peru also finished third. His goal on Friday left him as joint top scorer in the tournament alongside Chile's Eduardo Vargas.

The hosts face Argentina in Saturday's final, seeking their first title in the 99-year-history of the competition.—Reuters

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, (WV), 4 July — Tiger Woods mixed some good shots with a couple of terrible drives as he carded a one-under-par 69 in the second round of the Greenbrier Classic in West Virginia on Friday.

A day after shooting his best score in 16 months, a 66, Woods reverted to mediocrity and ended the day equal 26th, four strokes behind pace-setters Jhonattan Vegas and Scott Langley at the Old White TPC in White Sulphur Springs.

The 14-times major champion made four bird-

Woods slumps back into mediocrity at Greenbrier

ies on the rain-softened course, but three bogeys on the back nine demonstrated that his swing issues have not been resolved as he looks towards this month's British Open at St. Andrews.

Woods, who four weeks ago shot the worst score of his decorated career, an 85 at the Memorial tournament, did not speak to the media.

But he was clearly

frustrated by two particularly poor tee shots. He sprayed his drive at the par-four 13th so far right it almost went out-of-bounds.

Later, at the par-five 17th, he pushed his tee shot into a water hazard, a swing that prompted him to smash his driver into the turf in frustration.

He subsequently saved par after taking a penalty stroke and dropping his

ball far closer to the hole than the point where the ball entered the hazard and where, it appeared from television replays, he should have dropped.

A PGA Tour media official told Reuters that rules officials would not review the incident, however.

Venezuelan Vegas (65) and American Langley (69) head a crowded leaderboard at nine-under 131, one stroke ahead of seven others including Englishman Greg Owen.

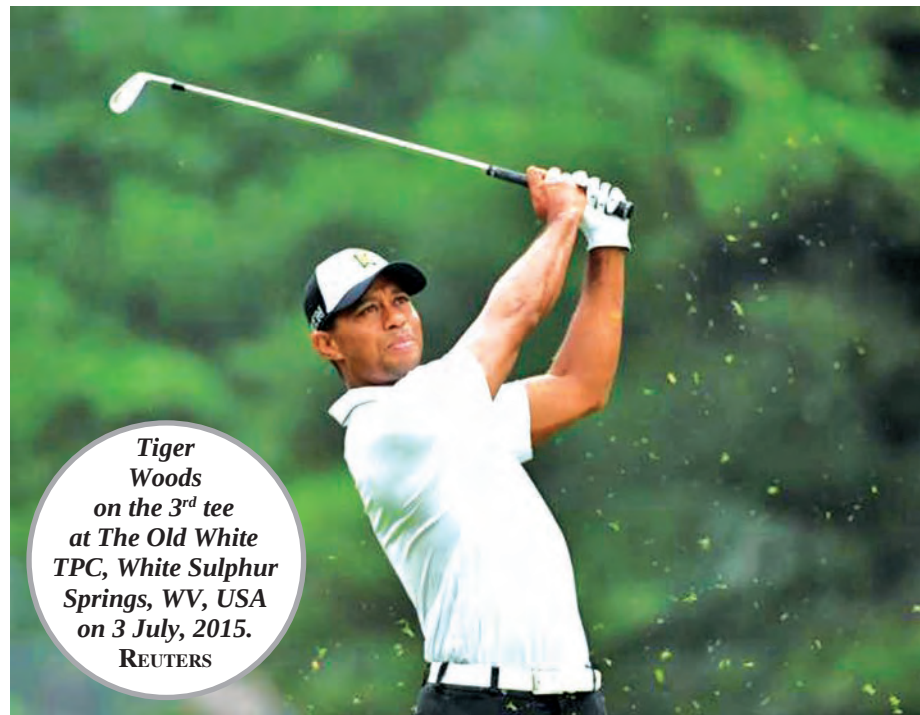
"I'm feeling great, playing great," said Vegas, the 2011 Bob Hope Classic champion. "I've just got to keep going. I just haven't been able to put it all together."

Langley, who led overnight after a first round 62, was frustrated by his putter for much of the day but satisfied in the end to break par.

"I wasn't really sharp off the tee and left a lot of putts short but overall it was a solid score," he said.

Only seven strokes separate the 78 players who made the cut.

Reuters



Tiger Woods on the 3rd tee at The Old White TPC, White Sulphur Springs, WV, USA on 3 July, 2015.

REUTERS

Serena survives, Djokovic, Sharapova ease through

LONDON, 4 July — The needle on the Wimbledon Richter scale sat poised and ready but Serena Williams dug deep into her battle-hardened playbook to ensure there was no earth-shuddering shock at the hands of scurrying Briton Heather Watson on Friday.

With the shockwaves of Rafa Nadal's exit at the hands of maverick journeyman Dustin Brown 24 hours earlier still rippling around the All England Club, Williams stood on the brink of an even more astonishing reverse.

The five times champion was two breaks down in the third set to her 59th-ranked foe and at one stage stood two points from defeat before normal order was restored and Williams clinched a 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 win.

"The older I get, I think the tougher I get upstairs," Williams told reporters after disappointing the frenzied British crowd to tee up a fourth round clash with sister Venus.

"I think every year,

maybe this time next year I'll be probably even stronger." The astonishing finale to the Centre Court action had shaken up an otherwise routine day at SW19 where Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova had imposed their own brutal authority on their battered opponents.

Djokovic dispatched a beleaguered Bernard Tomic 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 and Sharapova polished off Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu also in straight sets in their third-round matches.

Neither of the defeated duo, however, showed a fraction of the fight on display from 23-year-old Watson.

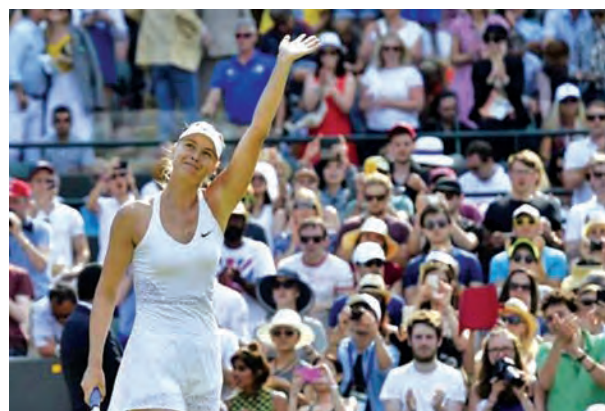
When Serena hits top gear, her opponents have a habit of rolling over, but the Briton overcame the disappointment of being steamrollered in the first set to rebound in the second, forcing Williams into a string of wild shots.

She reeled off six games in a row to clinch the second set and take a 3-0 lead in the third and served for the match at 5-4

having appeared to tame the Williams fightback.

Twice in the next game she was two points from the match, but Williams took her chances and after engineering a 6-5 lead, the American claimed victory on her third match point to leave Watson reflecting on a positive display but gut-wrenching result.

"I gave myself the opportunity to beat her. I didn't take it this time," she said. "But I'm really glad I was in that situation because I can learn from it."



Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates after winning her match against Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 3 July, 2015.—REUTERS

The other top seeds had a far less testing day.

Djokovic has yet to drop a set and has barely broken sweat in reaching the last 16 and at times in his victory over Tomic his gymnastic defence was at its jaw-dropping and ligament-stretching best.

When the Serb is scrambling from left to right on the baseline and retrieving everything that comes back on to his side of the net, you half expect his battered opponent to throw in the towel.



Serena Williams of the USA celebrates winning a game during her match against Heather Watson of Britain at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 3 July, 2015.—REUTERS

To Tomic's credit, he scrapped and battled to the bitter end but the 27th seed looked a relieved man to escape from a sun-baked Centre Court when Djokovic, chasing a third Wimbledon title, smacked down his 15th ace to close out the match.

Such was Djokovic's dominance, his opponent might have suspected the world number one of having an extra limb — and not the prosthetic one he was handed to sign by an eager fan at the end.

"This gentleman gave me his artificial leg and my signature will make him feel better," he quipped, before giving his future opponents a warning as to his current form.

"I was hoping I could play better and better as the tournament progresses and that is what is happening. As we are moving on, I feel more confident."

It was a similarly one-sided story on Court One where Sharapova eased past Begu 6-4, 6-3.

Reuters