

Myanmar delegation visits Hekinan coal-fired power plant

TOKYO, 5 July — A Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein visited Hekinan coal-fired power plant in Nagoya, Japan, Sunday, learning Japan's environmental friendly technology for producing electricity from coal.

The president held a meeting with the officials of the plant after visiting there, offering to share Japan's experiences and technology for producing electricity from the coal-fired plant which uses about 880,000 tons of coal from Australia and Indonesia per month.

He also invited the Chubu Company to invest in Myanmar.

To achieve economic development in Myanmar, it is important for Myanmar to produce electricity sufficiently, he said.

Myanmar cannot rely on its abundant water resources to produce electricity as hydro-power depends on the weather, the president said.

Hekinan is located in Kinuura Bay about 40 miles south of Nagoya. About 70,000 people are living around the plant.

Established on 2.08 million square meters and equipped with three generators which can produce



Hekinan coal-fired power plant in Nagoya, Japan.— PHOTO CREDIT: YHT

700 MW each, the coal-fired power plant has come into 24-hour operation since 1993.

To meet the demand of Japan, the power plant was equipped with gener-

ators which can produce 1000 MW each in 2001 and 2002.

Hekinan, the biggest power plant in Japan, produces 4,100 megawatt per day which is equivalent to

two times of power supply across Myanmar and four times of power consumption in Yangon.

The Myanmar delegation witnessed the plant's arrangements with trans-

parency for socio-economy of the local people living in the environs of the plant working agriculture and fishery for their livelihood.

Electricity produced by the coal-fired technolo-

gy makes up 25 percent of Japan's total power consumption.

After the Fukushima nuclear power plant was damaged by the tsunami (See page 3)

Garment industry bosses urged to take future industry opportunities into account in deciding minimum wage

By Ko Moe, Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 5 July — The Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar has urged employers who last week voted against a proposed minimum wage of K3,600 for an eight-hour day to take economic opportunities over the next two to three years into consideration in determining the wage.

At a press conference Sunday held by the CTUM, U Maung Maung, chairman of the confederation, called on factory owners to cooperate with workers to boost productivity instead of disputing the proposed minimum wage, suggesting that doing so would help them adapt to the country's chang-

ing situation in the next two to three years.

Garment industry bosses had offered a wage of K2,500 during the 22-23 June negotiation between employers and employees, but the two sides failed to reach an agreement during the talks sponsored by the government. More than 200 businessmen from 145 garment factories gathered

at a meeting on Thursday and promised to send their objections to the National Minimum Wage Committee within two weeks.

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

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Five companies lose seafarer recruitment and placement license, five suspended

YANGON, 5 July—The Marine Administration Department has revoked the Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services (SRPS) license office companies and suspended five others from sending seafarers to foreign companies.

According to the department, Parita, WGM, Glory Marine, Htet Su

Win and Very Smart New World Company have lost their SRPS licenses, while Asia Wave, Top Chance, Star Global, Light Oasis and Sea Rider have had their suspended.

Meanwhile, five companies, namely, Ba-than, SRS, On World, Express Way Shipping and (See page 2)

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Standard Commercial, have regained their licenses from the department.

The SRPS license took effect on 1 April, 2014, with 127 companies initially being licensed. The number of licensed companies reached 169 within a year. Myanmar has allowed only SRPS licensed companies to carry out recruitment and placement as from 1 April last year, urging people to work only

with licensed companies to be able to solve problems within the framework of the law when they arise.

With order No. 3/2013, the department has announced more than five criteria for revoking and suspending the SRPS license Myanmar has implemented the SRPS program as a step for entering into the Maritime Labour Convention-2006 which was launched on 20 August, 2012.—GNLM

57 jade lots worth euro 136.56 million sold

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July — At the 52nd Myanma Gems Emporium, here, Sunday, a total of 57 jade lots worth

euro 136.56 million out of 120 were sold at in total.

Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung

viewed sales of jade lots though competitive bidding system in the afternoon.

Local and foreign gem merchants checked No 8849 to 8943 jade lots to be sold at competitive bidding system on 6 July.—MNA

Yangon Region murder cases down, robberies up in first half of year

YANGON, 5 July — Yangon Region's murder rate fell in the first half of 2015, but robberies increased, according to police.

The Yangon Region Police Office said there were 87 murder cases in the first six months of 2015, down from 102 cases in the same period last year.

Twenty-three robberies were recorded in the first half of this year, up from 18 for the same peri-

od last year.

Mingaladon Township topped the list of murder cases with eight followed by Hlinethaya and Twantay with seven cases each, according to the police.

Rape cases decrease slightly, from 79 to 73 cases, while burglaries dropped from 13 cases to 7.

Yangon Region recorded a total of 186 murder cases and 48 robberies for 2014.—By Ko Moe

Free surgery for children with cleft lip and palate

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 5 July — Over 100 children will receive free surgery for cleft lip and cleft palate at Yangon General Hospital from 6 to 11 July under the arrangement by Myanmar-Singapore Friendship Medical Mission.

A Singapore-based charity called Smile Mission Ltd will conduct surgical operations. It has 60 healthcare providers from Singapore, Myanmar, the Philippines, India, Japan,

the US, England and Mongolia.

The programme was organized by the Ministry of Health in partnership with Smile Mission Ltd and Myanmar Brewery Ltd, a local top beverage manufacturer.

"Our programme is aimed at bringing a better future for the children," U Kyaw Kyar, chief operating officer of the beverage manufacturer, said at the opening ceremony of the

5th Myanmar-Singapore Friendship Medical Mission on Sunday.

He added that the beverage company has plans to continue its free cleft lip and palate surgical services in cooperation with its partners.

Cleft lip and cleft palate are congenital defects affecting one in 700 births. More than 170,000 children worldwide are born with these conditions, which present them with difficulty in eating, breathing and speaking.

"I hope the programme

will enable my three-year-old son to lead a better life in society," said Daw Mya Mya, 35, from the Ayeyawady Delta region.

Initiated in 2001 in Myanmar, the Myanmar-Singapore Friendship Medical Mission has helped more than 400 children undergo cleft lip and palate surgery.

Since its establishment in 1982, the Smile Asia has provided free surgery for 150,000 children and young adults from 50 countries born with cleft lips and cleft palates.—GNLM

Garment industry bosses urged ...

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The garment industry bosses also suggested the government bear some of their burden by making arrangements for the construction of workers' housing quarters and for ferry services for workers, and by giving tax breaks to garment businesses and assisting in the logistics of the garment industry.

The government's minimum wage body issued a notification on the minimum wage proposal on 29 June and has invited proposals from organizations or individuals for protesting and amending the proposed minimum wage to the committee within two weeks.

On behalf of garment workers, Ma Tin



Female workers at the production line of a garment factory.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Moe Khaing, secretary of the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone garment workers association, expressed understanding of the garment factory employers' position in a letter sent to

Korean factory owners. She invited the employers to accept the proposed minimum wage, urging them to be in tune with the current reforms of the garment industry.

She also urged the employers to consider the plight of the workers as the government has already expressed its commitment to sustainability of the factories.—GNLM

Strengthen tax authorities to increase revenue, IMF urges



A small container yard is seen on the riverside in Hlinethayar Township, where some of Yangon's industrial zones are located. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

YANGON, 5 July — Myanmar needs to strengthen its taxation authorities in order to broad-

en its tax base and increase overall revenue, according

By Ye Myint

to an official of the International Monetary Fund.

By increasing its revenue and realigning its spending priorities, the government can create "fiscal space," or freedom to control its finances, Ms Yu Ching Wong, IMF resident representative in Myanmar told The Global New Light of Myanmar via email on Friday.

Expanding the reach of the country's Internal Revenue Department and Larger Taxpayers Office will improve tax compliance, Ms Wong said, adding that tax incentives should be minimized.

The IMF said the

question of whether tax rates for higher income earners need to be changed is for the government and parliament to decide.

"We don't have a view on tax rates on individual groups of people," she said.

In Myanmar, those earning above K30 million per year are taxed at the top rate of 25 percent while those making between K2 million and K5 million are taxed at the basic rate of 5 percent.

Mr Yongzheng Yang, who led an IMF team on its recent mission to Myanmar, said minimization of tax incentives is among the government's options on the revenue side, noting Myanmar's very low reve-

nue-to-GDP ratio.

"On the expenditure side, transfers to regions and states should be conditional on their implementation capacity and spending responsibilities," he added.

On reprioritization of expenditure, the IMF mission chief stressed the need to reevaluate costly projects, but recommended increasing spending on health, education and infrastructure.

Daw Khin Yamon Aung, director of the Internal Revenue Department middle taxpayers' office (1) said the IRD has set a K4,500 billion revenue target for this year, equivalent to last year's receipts.

GNLM

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Malawi

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika of the Republic of Malawi, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Malawi, which falls on 6 July 2015.—MNA

Myanmar delegation . . .

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in March, 2011, the demand of power from coal-fired plants has reached 30 percent of the country's total consumption.

Further seven coal-fired power plants are under construction to fulfill the demand in the future.

It is estimated that to fulfill 26 percent of the country's total consumption in 2030, further 45 coal-fired power plants need to be constructed.

Japan makes use of the most modern technologies in its coal-fired power stations to ensure low carbon emission.

Myanmar has a coal-fired power station in Shan State. Built in 2005, the station generates 120 megawatts of electricity, with a feasibility study being made on 11 power stations.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed on the construction of a 300-megawatt power station in Yangon Region and a 50-megawatt power station in Taninthayi Region with ethnic investments.

In addition, foreign firms have agreed to invest



President U Thein Sein presents gifts to staff of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attache office and Myanmar students in Japan.—MNA

in nine power stations with the capacities of generating power ranging from 270 megawatts to 2,640 megawatts across the country.

On completion, these coal-fired power stations will generate over 9,000 megawatts of electricity, a basic ingredient for industrial development and high standards of living.

Before his visit to Hekinan, President U Thein Sein held talks with Chairman of CP Company Mr Dhanin Chearavanon and Chairman of Itochu Corporation Mr Masahiro Okafuji over exporting value-added agricultural products to Japan.

At 9.30 am, the president held a meeting with

Chairman of Mitsubishi Company Mr Ken Kobayashi over development of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, development of TadaU International Airport and Yangon Railway Station Complex Project.

President U Thein Sein and his entourage left Hekinan in a motorcade

for Nagora Station on Sunday afternoon, proceeding to Kyoto Station in the evening and then to the Kyoto State Guest House, where they would put up.

At the guest house on

the same evening, the president and his entourage were hosted to a dinner by the local government and traders.

President U Thein Sein addressed the dinner.

MNA

5th RBE train launched with air-conditioned coaches

YANGON, 5 July—The runs of air-conditioned RBE train which will be 5th of its kind along Yangon circular railroad was held at Yangon Railway Station, here, on Sunday, with Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay and Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung in attendance.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister for Rail Transportation replied to queries raised by media.

The train with five new RBE coaches imported from Japan can give 386 seats to passengers. Ticket price is K300 per passenger. The train will stop over at all stations along the circular railroad. For ensuring convenience and security of passengers, each coach has been equipped with two CCTVs, four air-conditioners, seven fans and

16 fluorescence lamps in addition to special seats for pregnant women and those with disabilities.

The train with new coaches runs along Yangon circular railroad and

Yangon-Hlawga section 12 times a day.

The ministry manages running of 24 trains for 225 times a day so as to transport about 80,000 passengers daily in Yangon City.

The union minister instructed officials to maintain the Yangon Railway Station, manage runs of trains on time and ensure safety of passengers from accidents.—MR



Union Minister U Than Htay and Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung present gifts to passengers on board the air-conditioned train.—MNA

Union FM sends message to Malawi

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. George Thaputula Chaponda, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Malawi, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Malawi, which falls on 6 July 2015.—MNA

Border affairs minister inspects relief tasks in Rakhine flood

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win looked into relief and rehabilitation works in inundated areas in Rakhine state Thursday.

The Union minister visited Sakhanmaw village in An Township which was se-

riously devastated by flood and provided relief items to the victims who are temporarily sheltered at the village's monastery.

On Friday, Lt. Gen Thet Naing Win inspected repair works at the tarred road in An Township.

MNA

Hlinethaya gets new medical clinic

YANGON, 5 July — A medical clinic was opened in a township of former capital Yangon on Sunday, according to officials.

The clinic named Social security-Carewell was opened in Hlinethaya in co-operation between Carewell Medical Centre and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

The new medical centre was aimed at providing more health care to work-

ers, Deputy Minister Daw Win Maw Tun said, adding that plans are under way to open similar clinics.

The clinic will provide treatment and share health knowledge. It is open every day except Sunday. It now sees over 200 visits.

The ministry has opened 93 social security clinics, with the Social Security Board having over 800,000 registered employees.—Zaw Gyi

Education officials clarify methods to promote basic education



KYAUKME, 5 July—A meeting on basic education promotion for 2015 was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Kyaukme, northern Shan State, on 4 July, with a speech by District's deputy commissioner U Soe Naing.

Retired professor Dr Daw Ma Ma Lay read out

the paper on basic education law (draft), Director-General U Win Maw Tun on technical and vocational education law (draft) and Dr Daw Tin May Tun on private education law (draft). State Hluttaw MP, the chairman of the township development supporting committee, headmasters and local residents participated in the discussion.

The district education officer made a concluding remark.

Myint Aung (KaMa)

Middle and high school teachers get English proficiency skills

MANDALAY, 5 July—Under the supervision of Mandalay Region government, Amarapura partner education service training school conducted the English proficiency course for teachers from Basic Education Middle and High

Schools at the hall of No 16 BEHS in Chanayethazan Township on 4 July.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint stressed the need for teachers to pursue classroom management and creative thinking at

the training to be able to realize student approach teaching system.

Chief Executive Officer U Win Pe Maung of the school spoke about teaching knowledge test while CEO of Ooredoo Mr Ross Cromack explained

purpose of conducting the training for the teachers.

Altogether 458 basic education teachers attended the course.

Last year, 171 teachers attended the course and received the completion certificates from Cambridge University.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Sanitation prevents mosquito-borne diseases

TATKON, 5 July—The preventive activities of mosquito-related diseases were held at the offices

in the combine office of Township General Administration Department in Tatkon recently.

Township Administrator U Kan Saw Hlaing and Deputy Township Administrator U Thiha Zaw supervised spraying at the offices of different departments, meeting rooms and water tanks.

Staff from the combined office participate in sanitation tasks at the department every Friday.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)



Offspring of district GAD staff receive stipends, notebooks

MYAWADY, 5 July — A ceremony to provide stipends and notebooks to offspring of staff was held at Myawady District General Administration Department, Myawady, Kayin State, on 4 July.

District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo presented prize to five-distinction winner Ma Hnin Oo Lwin in the matriculation examination and stipends and notebooks to students at the basic education high school level while Daw Phyu Phyu Win, wife of the deputy commissioner, gave cash assistance and

notebooks worth K499,000 to 20 offspring of staff of the district department.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Collegian footballers to be trained for 18th ASEAN university games

MANDALAY, 5 July—A coordination meeting on inter-university/college football tournament in 2014-15 academic year took place at the hall of Higher Education Department (Mandalay Branch), here, on 4 July.

Deputy Director-General Dr Zaw Win of High-

er Education Department said that selected university football team will be formed from outstanding players from the tournament to be able to take part in the 18th ASEAN Inter-University Games in Singapore.

Rectors and principals of universities in Upper

Myanmar participated in the discussion.

The inter-university/college football tournament for 2014-15 academic year will be held in Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Mandalay, Monywa, Magway and Nay Pyi Taw Zones.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar, India eye tourism development



MANDALAY, 5 July — The 8th International Tourism Conference, jointly organized by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Mandalay-based Indian Consulate-General, was held at the convocation hall of Mandalay College in Amarapura Township on 3 and 4 July.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn spoke about arrangement for development of Myanmar's tourism industry, extended construction of hotels for providing accommodation to the tourists and cooperation between Myanmar and SEA countries in tourism industry while Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing extended greetings.

Indian Consul-General Dr N Nandakumar explained further cementing friendly relations between Myanmar and India and promotion of tourism industry, Mr Tapir Gao of Indo-Myanmar tourism promotion committee, aviation among major cities in South Asia and Mr Shri R K Shivachandra of Indian Tourism Board, arrangements for extending package tours to Bodh Gaya in India.

The deputy minister presented Myanmar's tourism guide books to attendees.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Electricity improves livelihoods of residents in rural area of Ingapu Tsp



INGAPU, 5 July — Electricity Supply Enterprise has built a 200KVA transformer and a 2.8-mile-long power line for electrification of Jaketaw-Alesu village in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawday Region.

one-mile 400-volt power line for the village, spending K3.1 million from the tender fund in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Thanks to their efforts, residents in Jaketaw and Alesu villages extend their works with the use of electricity.

Ingapu Township RDD

Hinthada Tsp to sink 25 wells in rainy season

HINTHADA, 5 July — Rural Development Department in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, is carrying out supply of potable water to the rural areas.

The township department adopted a plan to sink 25 tube-wells and

artesian wells in the township in 2015-16 fiscal year.

The department will assign Gongyishin, Sitha Shwethway, Htoo Myat Ayeya and Ever Palace companies to sink the wells in this rainy season.—*Hinthada Township RDD*



Myawady District WAO honours district religious association

MYAWADY, 5 July — Myawady District Women's Affairs Organization held the prize presentation for winners in religious recitation contest in five wards in the Myawady, Kayin State recently.

Chairman of District

WAO Daw Phyu Phyu Win and officials presented prizes to District religious association that stood first in the Kayin State religious recitation contest. Later, officials gave uniforms to WAO members.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*

Myanmar's sesame hopes for good price in Chinese market



YEDASHE, 5 July — Pre-monsoon sesame plantations are being harvested in Yedashe Township, Bago Region.

Local farmers cultivate sesame on the largest acres of farmlands apart from paddy, sugarcane and beans along the banks of Sittoung River.

They grow sesame and groundnut before summer paddy.

This year, most of the sesame plantations may boost production of per-acre yield due to favourable weather.

"At present, we sell sesame K30,000 per basket in the market. The Chinese

market is still monopolized by sesame from Vietnam. If sale of Vietnam's sesame is down, Myanmar's sesame will get good prices," an oil mill entrepreneur in Swa said.

Now, black sesame is more marketable than Baygyar strain sesame.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

Health staff vaccinate children, pregnant women

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July — Health staff of Pobbathiri Township Public Health Department vaccinated infants and pregnant women in wards of the township on 4 July.

In line with the instructions adopted by the Ministry of Health, they carried out regular vaccinations for infants with BCG, Penta, OPV, measles and expectant mothers with anti-tetanus vaccines.—*Shwe Ye Yint*



Myawady District Women's Affairs Organization serves lunch to female trainees of tailoring and bikery courses at Vocational Training School for the Women in Myawady, Kayin State, on 3 July.

TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)

Mekong states aim to maintain balance between Japan, China

TOKYO, 5 July — Leaders of Japan and five South-east Asian countries along the Mekong River did not mention China's controversial artificial island building in the South China Sea in their document issued on Saturday, as most of the five are obviously reluctant to antagonize Beijing by siding with Tokyo.

In an apparent attempt not to provoke China, the leaders of all five Mekong states but Vietnam skirted the issue in a post-summit joint Press conference. Among them, only Vietnam is a party to territorial disputes in the South China Sea, the vast majority of which is claimed by Beijing.

In the joint document, the Japan-Mekong leaders said, "Both sides noted concerns expressed over the recent development in the South China Sea, which will further complicate the situation and erode trust and confidence and may

undermine regional peace, security and stability."

The "recent development" is a veiled reference to China's large-scale land reclamation in the hotly contested Spratly Islands in what is seen by other claimants and third-party countries such as Japan and the United States as an attempt to force changes in the status quo.

The language in the sentence is weaker than the chairman's statement issued after an ASEAN summit in Malaysia in late April. It read, "We share the serious concerns expressed by some leaders on the land reclamation being undertaken in the South China Sea, which has eroded trust and confidence and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea."

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations groups the five Mekong states — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and

Vietnam — plus Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Along with China and Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan are other claimants in the South China Sea.

Advocating an Asia ruled by international law, not the use of force and coercion, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has opposed China's muscle-flexing in asserting territorial claims in the South China Sea as Tokyo is embroiled in a row with Beijing over a group of Japanese-administered, Chinese-claimed islets in the East China Sea.

China has rejected US, Japanese and other third-party intervention in the South China Sea issue and repeated its preference to negotiate bilaterally with other claimants in an apparent attempt to overwhelm them with its economic might.

Japan and China have also grown in rivalry in re-

gional finance, with Beijing boosting its clout with a raft of loans and aid for infrastructure in developing Asian economies, as well as the planned launch of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with authorized capital of \$100 billion.

While hailing Japan's pledge Saturday of fresh aid worth 750 billion yen, or \$6.1 billion, to the Mekong states in the three years from 2016 to promote regional stability and "quality growth," South-east Asian analysts said ASEAN does not wish to become "a theater for major power rivalry." The group prefers to maintain good relations with major powers including Japan, China and the United States, and is more concerned about economic development, they said.

Of the Mekong states, all but Thailand are less-developed in ASEAN, and "It's very important for Japan to help these four

countries to narrow the development gap with the rest of ASEAN so that we can have a more cohesive ASEAN," said Rizal Sukma, executive director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta.

Part of the new Japanese aid to the Mekong region will be covered by a five-year, \$110 billion "high-quality and innovative" infrastructure investment initiative for Asia that Abe advocated in May.

"It is in the interest of both Japan and China to help ASEAN become a coherent entity, to become a regional organization that is neutral, in a sense that it does not take sides between rivals, a rivalry between the United States and China, and Japan and China," Sukma told *Kyodo News* during a recent visit to Tokyo.

"It is in the interest of everybody to make sure that Southeast Asia will not become a theater for major

power rivalry," he said.

Asked how the Mekong states view Abe's investment initiative for Asia and the AIIB, Sok Siphana, adviser to the government of Cambodia, said the two "complement each other."

"Maybe Japan and China view it differently, but for Mekong countries, we find demand for infrastructure is so much that Japan alone cannot do it, the Asian Development Bank alone cannot do it. So China can complement," he said. "We want to have our two big friends to help us grow."

In a sign of China's carrot-and-stick diplomacy to manipulate smaller countries, ASEAN foreign ministers failed to issue a customary post-meeting statement in July 2012 for the first time in the bloc's 45-year history as rotating chair Cambodia refused to be drawn on Beijing's actions in the South China Sea.—*Kyodo News*

Japan pledges \$11 mil to Laos for dud bomb removal, development

TOKYO, 5 July — Japan will provide grant aid totaling \$11 million to help Laos speed up the removal of unexploded bombs left over from the Vietnam War and prepare for hosting ASEAN meetings next year, according to an accord they signed on Saturday.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lauded the agreement at a joint press conference with Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong after witnessing the signing of the deal in Tokyo on the fringes of a summit meeting of Japan and five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River. Of the deal, \$6.9 million is for the efforts to remove duds, and \$4.1 million mainly for the country to serve as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2016.

"Many unexploded ordnance remain in Laos and this is blocking the economic and social development. I strongly hope that efforts to remove duds will be accelerated," Abe said.

Japan's latest aid will also develop the land after removal of the duds and by doing so, help in efforts to rebuild the economy and



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong shake hands before their talks in Tokyo on 4 July, 2015.

KYODO NEWS

alleviate poverty in Laos, Japanese officials said. Thongsing said at the news conference he remains thankful for Japan's financial aid which continues to play a "vital role" in his country's economy and social development.

Abe and Thongsing also reaffirmed their cooperation in pushing for the infrastructure development of Laos, which is one of the least-developed countries in the 10-member ASEAN.—*Kyodo News*

Malaysia's opposition demands emergency debate on PM after graft allegations

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 July — Two of Malaysia's main opposition parties on Sunday demanded an emergency sitting of parliament to discuss Prime Minister Najib Razak's future as tensions mounted over a report that linked him to probes into alleged corruption involving state fund 1MDB.

A Wall Street Journal (WSJ) report published on Friday said that investigators had traced nearly \$700 million to bank accounts they believed belonged to the prime minister.

Reuters could not independently verify the report.

Najib denied taking any money from the debt-laden state fund or any other entity for personal gain.

However, the pressure was back on him on Saturday after the country's attorney-general said he had received documents from a task force investigating 1MDB that were "connected to allegations" that money was transferred into Najib's account.

"With the attorney-general's confirmation, the WSJ allegation against Najib has assumed an even more serious character and import, sparking a political and government crisis of the first magni-



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak

tude never seen in Malaysia's 58-year history," Lim Kit Siang, the opposition Democratic Action Party's (DAP) parliamentary leader, said in a statement.

Members of Najib's party, the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), have closed ranks behind the prime minister, who had already been on a back foot over the mismanagement of 1MDB and his handling of the economy.

However, the DAP and opposition People's Justice Party (PKR) sought to stoke the furore, urging the speaker of parliament's lower house to call an emergency sitting on Tuesday.

DAP lawmaker Charles Santiago said he and 72 others, including representatives of political parties and non-governmental organizations, had also lodged a police report.

"We have asked that the police investigate the WSJ's assertion that bil-

lions were deposited in Najib's personal account and take necessary actions," he told *Reuters*.

1MDB, whose advisory board is chaired by Najib, has debt of nearly \$11.6 billion. Even before the WSJ report it was the subject of separate investigations by the central bank, auditor general, police and the parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail said on Saturday that a task force made up of members of the anti-corruption commission, police and central bank had raided offices of three companies linked to the state investor.

The Wall Street Journal, citing documents from a government probe, said there were five deposits into Najib's account.

It said the two largest transactions, worth \$620 million and \$61 million, were made in 2013 from a company registered in the British Virgin Islands via a Swiss bank.

1MDB has described the allegations as "unsubstantiated", saying it never provided funds to the prime minister. Najib has accused former premier Mahathir Mohamad, an ally-turned-critic, of fanning allegations he described as a lie.—*Reuters*

Two killed, six injured in N Philippine helicopter crash

MANILA, 5 July — A private helicopter crashed in a mountainous area in northern Philippine province of Batangas before noon on Sunday, killing two persons and injuring six others, authorities said.

The helicopter operated by Malate Tourist Development Corp crashed in Mt. Macolot in Pinagkaisahan village, Cuenca town at around 11:00 am local time, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said.

The fatalities were the pilot and the businessman who reportedly owned the ill-fated helicopter, police said.

Those injured were immediately brought to nearby hospital for treatment.

CAAP said that authorities are still investigating the cause of the incident, which took place while some areas in northern part of the Philippines are being battered by tropical storm Egay.

Xinhua

Despite progress in Iran nuclear talks, dispute over UN sanctions persists

VIENNA, 5 July — Iran and world powers made progress on future sanctions relief for Iran in marathon nuclear talks on Saturday, but remained divided on issues such as lifting United Nations sanctions and the development of advanced centrifuges.

Diplomats close to the negotiations said they had tentative agreement on a mechanism for suspending US and European Union sanctions on Iran.

But the six powers had yet to agree on a United Nations Security Council resolution that would lift UN sanctions and establish a means of re-imposing them in case of Iranian non-compliance with a future agreement.

“We still haven’t sorted a Security Council resolution,” a diplomat close to the talks told *Reuters*. “We don’t have Iran on board yet.” Senior Iranian and Western diplomats echoed the remarks. Some of the toughest disputes, including the question of easing UN sanctions, were likely to be left for foreign ministers when they arrived in the Austrian capital on Sunday, officials said.

“Even if and when issues get resolved at an experts level, there will remain some open issues that can only be decided by ministers,” a senior US official told reporters.

Iran is in talks with the United States, 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.

The negotiators missed



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

a 30 June deadline for a final agreement, but have given themselves until 7 July. Foreign ministers not in Vienna are expected to rejoin their counterparts in a final push for a deal beginning on Sunday.

Iran issued a warning about consequences of a collapse in the talks.

“The other side has tried all kinds of pressure against Iran and if it intends to test these pressures again, as (President Hassan) Rouhani has said, Iran’s response would be actions harder than what the other side imagines,” said Iran’s nuclear spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi, quoted by Iranian news agencies.

All sides say a deal is within reach. But there are other sticking points in addition to sanctions and future monitoring mechanisms. One is a stalled UN investigation into the possible military dimensions of past Iranian nuclear research suspected of being linked to weapons development.

Another is Iran’s demand to continue research and development work on advanced centrifuges, machines that purify uranium

for use as fuel in power plants or weapons.

UN International Atomic Energy Agency director-general Yukiya Amano on Saturday said he 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 cooperated.

“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,” he said ahead of meetings with some members of the six-power group.

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 the six powers succeed in agreeing on a nuclear accord in Vienna, diplomats close to the talks say. Amano was in Teheran on Thursday for meetings with Rouhani and other top Iranian officials to discuss the stalled IAEA investigation into Teheran’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.

US 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.

Kerry and Zarif met twice on Saturday, US officials 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 emerging compromise relates to Iran’s stockpile of low-enriched uranium. 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 reached 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*

Top Japan, US military officers to meet in mid-July

WASHINGTON, 5 July — The top officers of Japan’s Self-Defence Forces and the US military will meet in mid-July in Washington and likely agree to strengthen their alliance amid China’s growing maritime assertiveness, sources close to bilateral relations said on Saturday.

Gen Katsutoshi Kawano, chief of the SDF’s Joint Staff, and Gen Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected to hold a strategic dialogue on 16 July at the National Defence University, the sources said.

It will be the second such dialogue between the two countries following one in April last year, and the top uniformed officers will discuss a broader range of issues than their normal talks. Seeking to secure stability in the Asia-Pacific region, the officers will discuss specifics after the countries updated in April their defence cooperation

guidelines for the first time in nearly 20 years.

The move comes as China’s growing assertiveness at sea and in the air is fanning concerns in the region.

The new guidelines expand the scope of SDF operations in the framework of the alliance.

During his stay in Washington, Kawano is also expected to deliver a speech at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and meet US congressional staff, the sources said. China’s forceful assertion of its claims to ownership of disputed islands and reefs in the South China Sea have drawn international criticism.

Japan, for its part, is in a territorial row with China in the East China Sea, where Chinese vessels have repeatedly intruded into Japan’s waters around the Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed islands.

Kyodo News

ROK official falls to death in NE China

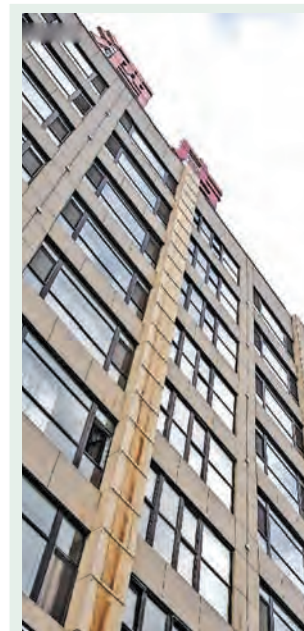


Photo taken on 5 July, 2015 shows the hotel from which a South Korean official fell off in Ji'an City, northeast China's Jilin Province. Investigations showed that the South Korean official was Choi Doo Yeong, president of Local Government Officials Development Institute of South Korean who came to China with Chung Chae-gun, vice minister of government administration and home affairs, to deal with a bus crash that killed 10 South Korean nationals in Jilin. XINHUA

China arrests man for suicide ‘rumours’ amid stock market rout — state TV

BEIJING, 5 July — Chinese authorities have arrested a man who allegedly spread rumours about people in Beijing jumping off buildings in response to a stock market crash, state television reported on Sunday.

The 29-year-old man, surnamed Tian, was detained for “disorderly behaviour”, China Central Television said. He alleged wrote on social media on 3 July that “there are people, because of the stock

market crash, who have jumped off buildings in Beijing’s Financial Street,” a commercial development in downtown that houses many financial institutions.

The post in question could not be found on Sunday, and may have already been deleted by censors, who strictly control what can be said on Chinese social media.

China’s Shanghai Composite Index has lost around 30 percent of its value over the past three

weeks, a dramatic end to an equally breathtaking rally that saw it more than double in just seven months, fuelled by official interest-rate cuts.

The government, regulators and financial institutions are now waging a concerted campaign to prop up the nation’s two main share markets, amid fears that a meltdown would rock the financial system and inflict heavy losses across an economy where annual growth is al-

ready running at a 24-year low.

On Saturday, China froze new share offers and set up a market-stabilisation fund.

In 2013, authorities unveiled tough new measures to stop the spread of what the government calls irresponsible rumours, threatening three years in jail if unsubstantiated social media posts are reposted 500 times, or viewed 5,000 times.

Reuters

CHANGCHUN, 5 July — An official from the Republic of Korea (ROK) has died after falling from a hotel in northeast China early Sunday morning, local authorities said.

The police in Ji’an City, Jilin Province, received the report at 3:13 am according to the city’s publicity office.

Investigation shows that the dead was Choi Doo Yeong, president of Local Government Officials Development Institute of the

ROK. Choi came to China with Chung Chae-gun, vice minister with the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, to deal with a bus crash that killed 10 ROK nationals.

A bus, carrying 26 ROK tourists and a Chinese tour guide, fell off a bridge on Wednesday afternoon in Jilin. Eleven people, including 10 ROK passengers and the Chinese driver, were killed. The injured are still receiving treatment. —*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 6 July, 2015

Plants play crucial role in natural disaster reduction

By Aung Khin

Forest area in Myanmar was 31,773,000 ha, or 48 percent of the country in 2010, with losing just over 1 percent of its forest cover every year since 1990, according to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization' report in 2011.

The country's rapid economic transition has undoubtedly puts new, alarming strains on forests and biodiversity. Meanwhile environmental experts have concerns of possible rapid development would pose a grave risk to the

country's natural resources.

Although the government is taking steps to ensure a sustainable with the supports of international organizations, poverty has also contributed into the country's deforestation by illegal logging.

Another cause of deforestation in Myanmar is forest fire. NGOs have reported Myanmar has lost up to 10 tons of forest fuel due to forest fire. As a result, every 30 to 70 tonnes of top forest soil are destroyed in the country.

Deforestation has consequences of cyclones, landslides, earthquakes, tsunami, fire and drought. They in turn also threats to environment of the country. Green house gases including carbon dioxide are emitted from deforestation, causing to rise global temperature, climate changes and soil erosion.

Planting ceremony is celebrated in Myanmar in July. Its objectives are to raise the awareness of community on the value of trees, to raise aware-

ness of the younger generations on the value of trees. However, new generation has noticed the impacts of deforestation. Law enforcement should be tighten to prevent illegal logging. Environmental conservation can protect community from suffering natural disasters. It can also keep up the weather condition fine and better.

Therefore, environmental conservation efforts should be promoted to ensure a greener and pristine Myanmar.

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

Peace is for all mankind

Tommy Pauk

Pace is demanded by entire mankind in the world except those who are neo-barbarians as well as scoundrels in the world. Why are modern-aged people asking for peace in the world? This is because we humans cannot enjoy and feel complete peace on earth due to injustice, conflicts, extremism, terrorism, hate crimes, racism, etc. The citizens of war-ravaged countries are longing for peace. Unless there are militarization, wars, violence, conflicts, acts of extremism, acts of terrorism and hate crimes, global people can live and move happily and safely. Man makes peace, but man even makes wars or devastations as well. Nowadays, unfortunately, the people from some regions in the world cannot enjoy peace and they are in utter despair. Miserably, people in these regions are struggling for survival against chaos and devastation. As peace is missing, the people lose happiness and security. Where there is no peace, the people concerned have no hope for their livelihood.' The phrase, 'no peace' defines that a dangerous or unpleasant situation which threatens the survival of the people concerned.

Moreover, any form of warfare causes destructions and losses of human lives. The evil of war usually destroys the human settlement or infrastructure and natural environment too. The innocent people become war victims and their settlements turn to battle fields. As a result, they

lose peace for their lives until the war is ended. When peace is lost, the society concerned is affected with huge detriment. That is why the peaceniks or doves or pacifists usually lead and participate in anti-war demonstrations around the world.

Sporadic gunfire or violence or terrorist attack occurs worldwide. The ordinary people are worried about the potential danger of terrorist attack which might appear in their daily life activities. The respective governments in some regions or continents are also threatened by terrorists or brutal extremists. Local people of the targeted nations have always been put on red alert following the bomb blast or terrorist attacks. Generally, the locals concerned are not secure while moving in the public areas and even they are not firmly protected. In fact, either a female terrorist or a male terrorist is in disguise of an ordinary dress or casual dress so that nobody can identify whether he or she is a terrorist or a suicide bomber. They usually use various tactics to attack the targeted structure or building or people on any occasions. Sometimes they kidnap the innocent people such as girl students, shoppers, social workers, foreign aid workers and journalists. Unfortunately, nobody could avoid the sudden catastrophe and they become the victims of terrorist attacks. Multinational journalists were decapitated by the terrorists callously and barbarically. They deliberately neglect and insult the advanced civilization.

Mosques, churches,

tourist resort sea-beach, shopping centers, markets, colleges and even schools are targeted by terrorists. They kill unarmed innocent people in these places cravenly. The terrorists make innocent people suffer physical wounds as well as mental trauma whenever they escape from killing ground. The public places are not guaranteed to be safe so the people in countries in some regions are at risk of terrorist attack whenever they are being at public places. Violence or terrorist attacks take place anywhere regardless of public areas or religious places savagely.

Apart from the danger of terrorism and extremism, people under the oppressions of the despotic rulers feel desperate, and miserable. Their lives are stressful and insecure too. In this situation, the citizens concerned cannot enjoy peace of mind, and the atmosphere is not peaceful. The domestic conflicts, disagreement and injustice are overwhelming in the societies ruled by despots.

In this 21st century, very few nations are considered peaceful nations in the world because most of the nations encounter the man-made disasters or conflicts endlessly. The peace-loving nations try to get on well with other nations and the respective people have unity among them in those nations. They do live in peace and harmony. Notably, there is no domestic violence or conflicts. In addition, they exercise peaceful-coexistence among different nations in the world. Their efforts in maintaining peace internally and externally are rather

commendable in deed.

Lots of domestic problems are being solved by means of holding peace talk or peace negotiation for maintaining genuine peace in some nations. Actually, they must not only talk, but also work for restoring genuine peace. If one nation has militarized some area of another nation, the UN peace-keeping forces are sent to drive out the military troops of the invader. Since the United Nations appeared for preventing wars and maintaining the global peace, all the nations in the world are obligated to fully comply the United Nations Charter by any means. The prevalence of global peace is important for any societies in the world. Normally, hostilities, hegemony, injustice, extremism, terrorism and animosity destroy the existence of peace in human society indeed.

The following is an extract from the internet news, describing Global Peace Index for 2015.

("The nonprofit Institute for Economics and Peace released its Global Peace

index for 2015, which ranks 162 nations around the globe based on factors like the level of violent crime, involvement in conflicts and the degree of militarization.")

According to the nonprofit institute for Economics and Peace, the thinly populated island in the midst of the North Atlantic—**Iceland has retained its place as the most peaceful country in the world.**

Six out of the top 10 most peaceful countries were European, with Denmark and Austria holding the second and third spots.

"Europe maintained its position as the most peaceful region in the world, supported by a lack of domestic and external conflicts."

The United States is in the bottom half of the index, scoring badly in terms of militarization, homicides and fear of violence. Its ranking

improved somewhat from a year earlier, though, rising from 101st place to 94th.)

Despite having peace treaty or peace negotiations, fighting or gun battle continues between two groups in some nation. This happens due to lack of mutual trust and both sides cannot make permanent peace in that area. The domestic armed conflicts transform the local people into internally-displaced people. Anxiously, they want peace, rehabilitation and humanitarian aids. They do not want to be refugees any longer. We, the common people want to enjoy peace of mind and have peaceful environment or society. In conclusion, those who threaten and destroy the peaceful situation or peaceful state are our common enemies in deed. The prevalence of peace in the world is our ultimate aspiration!!!

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

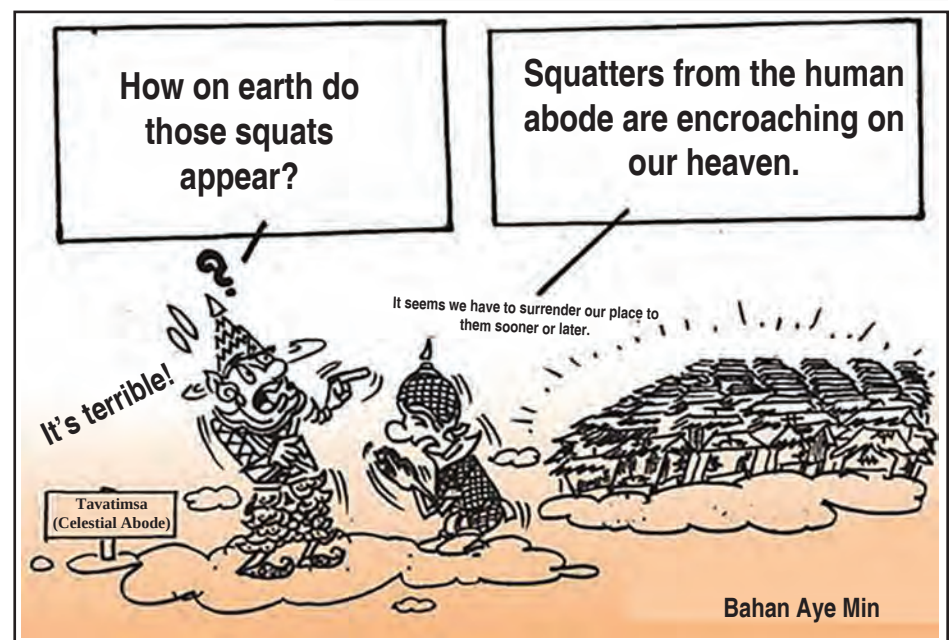


PHOTO GALLERY

Images of President U Thein Sein's Japan visit



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at dinner hosted by Kyoto Prefecture government, city government and Chamber of Merchants.—MNA



An aerial view of Hekinan coal-fired power plant.—MNA



*President U Thein Sein views Hekinan coal-fired power plant.
MNA*



*President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Mitsubishi Company Mr Ken Kobayashi and party.
MNA*



*Photo shows stockpiles of coal at Hekinan coal-fired power plant.
MNA*



President U Thein Sein meets CP Company President Mr Dhanin Chearavanont.—MNA

Greece votes in referendum with future in euro in doubt

ATHENS, 5 July — Greece votes on Sunday on whether to accept more austerity in exchange for international aid, in a high-stakes referendum likely to determine whether it leaves the euro-currency area after seven years of economic pain.

Staged against a backdrop of shuttered banks and threats of financial apocalypse, the vote is too close to call and may not produce the clear mandate for negotiations that Athens' creditors seek.

Greeks are split on whether to accept an offer by creditors that Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras calls a "humiliation" and is urging people to reject. Investors and European policymakers say a rejection would set Greece on a path out of the euro, destabilising the global economy and financial markets.

"On Sunday we should all send a message of democracy and dignity to the world," Tsipras told tens of thousands of Greeks rallying for a 'no' vote before campaigning ended.

Voting on whether to accept more taxes and pension cuts would be divisive in any nation, even at the best of times.

In Greece, the choice is faced by an angry and exhausted population who, after five years of crippling

austerity, have now suffered through a week of capital controls imposed to prevent the collapse of the nation's financial system.

Pensioners besieging bank gates to claim their retirement benefits, only to leave empty-handed and in tears, have become a symbol of the nation's dramatic fall over the past decade.

Eleven years ago, in the early morning of 5 July, 2004, Greeks poured into the streets, united in celebration of their country's victory in the European Cup soccer tournament. Today, Greece is divided — and scared — as rarely before.

"There is an atmosphere of fear. You can just feel it," said Sarafianos Giorgos, a 60-year-old teacher in Athens, who says he will vote in favour of the creditors' proposals.

Polls open at 7 am local (0500 BST) and shut at 7 pm, with the first official projection of the result expected at 9 pm.

Four opinion polls published on Friday showed the 'Yes' vote marginally ahead. A fifth put the 'No' camp 0.5 percentage points in front. All were well within the margin of error.

Anxious Greeks rallying for a 'Yes' vote agree Greece has been handed a raw deal but say the alternative, a collapse of the

banks and a return of the old drachma currency, would be worse.

Those pledging to deliver a rousing 'No' to tax hikes and pension cuts in return for more loans say Greece cannot afford more of the austerity that has left one in four without a job. They agree with Tsipras that Europe is "blackmailing" Greece. "As a Greek woman, I am embarrassed at those who are going to vote 'Yes' for fear of leaving the euro. They are asking us to accept unending slavery. I am offended," said Tenekidou Ermioni, a 54-year-old teacher.

Greeks are likely to face more financial and political turmoil in the days and weeks ahead.

"All in all, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' early exit from office is still more likely than Grexit," wrote Wolfgang Piccoli of Teneo Intelligence.

"Regardless of Sunday's result, significant levels of political volatility are here to stay."

Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis promised Greeks on the eve of the vote that European creditors would immediately have to grant Athens better terms, including massive debt relief and less austerity, if they voted 'No'. EU ministers and officials have warned that his pledge is a cruel illusion.



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras looks at his ballot before voting at a polling station in Athens, Greece on 5 July, 2015.—REUTERS

If Greeks vote 'Yes' to the bailout, both Tsipras and Varoufakis are expected to resign — triggering a new chapter of uncertainty as political parties try to cobble together a national unity government to keep talks with lenders going until elections are held.

European creditors have said a 'Yes' vote will resurrect hopes of aid to Greece. But capital controls, and default last week to the IMF, have undermined Greece's economic standing and creditworthiness, so a new bailout package would probably entail harsh-

er terms than those on offer even last week.

A 'No' vote would bring even greater uncertainty, and the prospect of a sudden financial collapse.

European policymakers have openly warned such a result would be read as a rejection of talks with creditors and the euro, leaving Greece to fend for itself without any realistic prospect of funds to avoid bankruptcy.

Much would depend on the European Central Bank, which will review on Monday morning its policy on emergency liquidity, which Greek lenders rely on.

The ECB could decide to freeze the liquidity or cut it off altogether if Greeks vote 'No', or if Athens subsequently defaults on a bond redemption to the ECB on 20 July.

There is concern that an inconclusive result might sow further confusion, and possibly lead to violent protests, rather than sending a clear signal about Greek intentions.

"The nightmare result would be 51-49 percent in either direction," a senior German official said. "And the chances of this are not insignificant."—Reuters

Fidel Castro, 88, visits cheese-makers in rare public appearance



Former Cuban President Fidel Castro

HAVANA, 5 July — Former Cuban President Fidel Castro, 88, visited 19 cheese masters for four hours on Friday in a rare trip outside his Havana home, official media reported on Saturday.

The photos showing the leader alive and well came out three days after his younger brother and current president, Raul Castro, announced a formal agreement with the United States on restoring diplomatic relations after a break of 54 years.

It was Fidel Castro's first reported public appearance in three months. That previous encounter,

with visiting Venezuelan students, was his first in more than a year. Official media showed images of Castro seated at a panel in an auditorium at a research institute belonging to the Food Industry Ministry. He wore a white wind-breaker, a plaid shirt and gray pants.

Fidel Castro stepped down due to illness provisionally in 2006 and definitively in 2008, handing off to Raul, 84. Fidel writes an occasional newspaper column and receives dignitaries at home. Whether he maintains a role in policy-making is unknown.

Reuters

US-Australia military drill starts, joined by Japan, NZ

DARWIN, 5 July — A major military drill by the United States and Australia started on Sunday, joined by Japanese and New Zealand forces for the first time.

The Talisman Saber, one of the largest exercises held in Australia biennially involving some 30,000 air, sea and ground forces, will be held through 21 July in northern and eastern

parts of Australia.

The participation by Japan and New Zealand in the exercise is seen as an effort to bolster cooperation between the four countries amid China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Japan has dispatched some 40 members of its Ground Self-Defence Force, including those from the Western Army

Infantry Regiment, a unit based in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, specializing in defence of remote islands. They will engage in landing operations and firing practice with US Marines.

New Zealand forces will join the Australian troops in the exercise.

In 2013, the GSDF took part in the Talisman Saber as an observer.—Kyodo News

A US Marine Corps' Osprey transport aircraft is present at the opening ceremony for a joint military drill by the United States and Australia in Darwin, Australia on 5 July, 2015. Japanese and New Zealand forces joined the biennial drill for the first time.

KYODO NEWS



Egypt says 25 militants killed in air strikes as Sisi inspects troops

ISMAILIA, 5 July — Egyptian warplanes killed 25 Islamist militants in North Sinai on Saturday, security sources said, as the Egyptian president visited the province after a major escalation of the conflict there.

The sources said the air strikes hit militant targets near the town of Sheikh Zuweid, destroying weapons and explosives caches.

They also said security forces had found about half a tonne of explosives in a tunnel on the border between the Sinai and Gaza.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi inspected soldiers and police in El-Arish, the provincial capital, on Saturday, the presidency said in statement.

Sisi, dressed in military garb for the first time since becoming president just over a year ago, told troops at least 200 militants had been killed in the fighting in recent days, but added: "For me to say that things are under control is not enough, things are totally stable. "I tell Egyptians ... the size of forces here (in Sinai) is one percent of Egypt's army."



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi speaks during a meeting with members of the Egyptian armed forces, after travelling to the troubled northern part of the Sinai peninsula to inspect troops, in this 4 July, 2015 handout picture courtesy of the Egyptian Presidency.

REUTERS

Militants launched a coordinated assault on military checkpoints in North Sinai on Wednesday, leading to day-long fighting which left more than 100 militants and 17 soldiers dead, the army said.

Egyptian air strikes killed 23 Islamist militants the next day, security sources said. Hours after Sisi's speech in El-Arish, Sinai Province said in a statement posted on Twitter it had attacked two army vehicles with two bombs in the area

of Sheikh Zuweid.

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the statement. Security and medical sources said two people had been killed and one wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade, fired at security forces, hit a house in Sheikh Zuweid. North Sinai is the epicentre of an insurgency in which an Islamic State-affiliated group called Sinai Province is most active. The Sinai Peninsula borders the Gaza Strip, Israel and the Suez Canal.

Afghanistan to investigate killing of police personnel near Kabul

KABUL, 5 July— Afghan president on Sunday ordered an investigation into a Taliban deadly attack which killed more than 20 police personnel in eastern Wardak Province.

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani issued a decree and assigned a high-ranking delegation to visit Jalrez district of Wardak province with Maidan Shar as its capital, 34 km west of Kabul.

Police (ALP) forces were killed and wounded, said an official statement issued here.

On Thursday, over 20 ALP members and two civilians were killed and two dozen police wounded after Taliban militant attacked security checkpoints in Jalrez district of Wardak province with Maidan Shar as its capital, 34 km west of Kabul.

The delegation was tasked to study in close

coordination with provincial officials all factors and motives which led to the bloody incident and report to the president in earliest time, according to the statement.

The government established the ALP, or community police, in 2010 to protect villages and districts where army and police have limited presence.

The provincial council members blamed the provincial officials and secu-

The insurgency, aimed at toppling the Cairo government, has intensified since the army ousted Islamist president Mohamed Mursi after mass protests against his rule in 2013.

Government officials have accused Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood of being linked to the recent Sinai attacks and a Cairo bomb that killed Egypt's top public prosecutor on Monday. The Brotherhood denies any involvement in violence.

"There is a clear coordination and synchronization in all of the attacks recently carried out between the Brotherhood and its allies and affiliates," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

On Friday, Sinai Province said in a statement posted on Twitter by supporters it had launched three Grad rockets towards "occupied Palestine". Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of the statements.

An Israeli military source said the rockets landed in Israel without causing any casualties and had been fired from Sinai.—Reuters

Tunisia's president declares state of emergency after hotel attack



A plaque dedicated to those killed in a recent attack by an Islamist gunman, is seen at the beach where the attack took place during a minute's silence in Sousse, Tunisia on 3 July, 2015. —REUTERS

TUNIS, 5 July— Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi declared a state of emergency on Saturday, saying the Islamist militant attack on a beach hotel that killed 38 foreigners had left the country "in a state of war".

Last week's attack, three months after the deadly Islamist assault on the Bardo museum in Tunis, has shocked the North African country emerging into a democracy following its 2011 "Arab Spring" uprising.

Tunisia's emergency laws temporarily give the government more executive flexibility, hand the army and police more authority, and restrict certain rights such as those dealing with public assembly and detention.

"Due to the terrorism risk, and the regional context, and spread of terrorism, we have declared a state of emergency," Essebsi said in a televised address.

"The continued threat we face leaves the country in a state of war, where we have to use all measures necessary." A Tunisian

gunman, said to have been trained in a jihadist camp across the border in Libya, opened fire killing foreign tourists, mostly Britons, in the resort of Sousse on 26 June. The beach massacre struck a huge blow to Tunisia's tourism industry, prompting thousands of holidaymakers to leave and causing an estimated \$500 million in losses for a sector that makes up seven percent of the economy. Authorities have moved to close down 80 mosques they said were operating illegally or spreading extremism which officials say helps recruit young Tunisians to Islamist militancy.

Tunisia last had a state of emergency during the 2011 uprising against autocrat Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. That revolt followed years of upheaval between secular and Islamist parties in one of the Arab world's most secular countries.

Tunisia has since been hailed as a model of peaceful democratic transition in the region. But it has also struggled with the rise of Islamist movements, some opposed to democracy and bent on violence.—Reuters

Iraqi jets drop leaflets over Mosul promising to recapture city

BAGHDAD, 5 July— Iraqi jets dropped leaflets over Mosul telling residents that Islamic State fighters would soon be driven from the northern city, saying details of the operation would be broadcast on a new radio station.

The city has been under Islamic State control since the Islamist militants took over in June last year, sweeping through most of Iraq's Sunni Muslim provinces towards Baghdad.

The Shi'ite-led government has promised a

military offensive to retake Mosul but progress has been slow, in part because of Islamic State gains elsewhere. In May, they drove the army out of the city of Ramadi, capital of the western province of Anbar.

"The solution, with God's help, is close," said the leaflets, which were issued in the name of the Iraqi army and were dropped over Mosul on Friday. "Your armed forces are at the gate, cooperate with them." Despite that promise, there has been no sign

of an imminent military operation against Islamic State in Mosul.

The leaflets also promised a new radio station, Mosul FM, would start broadcasting soon and urged residents to carry a small radio with them at all times to receive instructions about the battle for Mosul. Mosul residents contacted by telephone said Islamic State fighters were deployed in the areas of the city where the leaflets were dropped, telling passers-by to stay away.—Reuters



A sign (in white) by the Islamic State is seen in the city of Mosul on 21 July, 2014.

REUTERS

Suga apologizes to Okinawa for LDP colleagues' remarks



Okinawa Gov
Takeshi Onaga

TOKYO, 5 July — Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga apologized to Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga in their talks on Saturday in Tokyo for recent remarks by some ruling party colleagues calling for pressure to be put on local newspapers critical of the government's security policies, Ogana said.

Onaga and Suga also agreed to continue dialogue,

as the central and local governments remain at loggerheads over relocation of a key US military base in the prefecture, the governor told reporters after the meeting at a Tokyo hotel.

"It was good" that Suga offered an apology, Onaga said, adding, "It will serve as a basis for our several rounds of talks down the road."

At a 25 June meeting of junior members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party loyal to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, one of them and a featured speaker said the two major Okinawa papers have been "taken over by left-wingers" and should be "destroyed."

The locally opposed Japan-US plan to relocate US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma within Okinawa was not discussed in the talks, Onaga said, in an apparent bid to avoid further deterioration in their relationship.

"The next talks and onwards will be severe," said Onaga, who assumed the post last December with a pledge to block the base relocation plan, seeking that the base be moved outside the prefecture to lessen its base-hosting burdens.

Despite staunch local opposition, the central government plans to start construction of the replacement facility this summer.

But the plan could lag if Onaga, based on a report to be released during this month by an external committee he has set up, retracts the approval given by his predecessor to the start of landfill work for the relocation.

The meeting between Onaga and Suga, who doubles as minister in charge of reducing Okinawa's base-hosting burdens, follows their first meeting on 5 April in Okinawa.

Kyodo News

Hillary Clinton accuses China of hacking US computers

GLEN, 5 July — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton accused China on Saturday of stealing commercial secrets and "huge amounts of government information," and of trying to "hack into everything that doesn't move in America."

Clinton's language on China appeared to be far stronger than that usually used by President Barack Obama's Democratic administration.

Speaking at a campaign event in New Hampshire, Clinton said she wanted to see China's peaceful rise.

"But we also have to be fully vigilant, China's military is growing very quickly, they're establishing military installations that again threaten countries we have treaties with, like the Philippines because they are building on contested property," said



Former United States
Secretary of State and
Democratic candidate for
president Hillary Clinton
speaks to supporters
during a campaign
event in Hanover, New
Hampshire, on 3 July,
2015.—REUTERS

Clinton, who was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

"They're also trying to hack into everything that doesn't move in Ameri-

ca. Stealing commercial secrets ... from defense contractors, stealing huge amounts of government information, all looking for an advantage," she said.

Clinton is the front-runner to win the Democratic nomination for the November 2016 presidential election.

Asked about the remarks, a White House official declined to comment.

In the most recent case involving suspicions of Chinese hacking, Obama administration officials have said China is the top suspect in the massive hacking of a US government agency that compromised the personnel records of at least 4.2 million current and former government workers.

China has denied hacking into the computers of the US Office of Personnel Management.

Reuters

German eurosceptic party founder ousted by eastern rival

ESSEN, (Germany), 5 July — The founder of the eurosceptic Alternative for Germany (AfD) lost a leadership vote on Saturday to his rival, heralding a new focus on immigration for a party set up to oppose the euro.

Frauke Petry, a 40-year-old businesswoman who represents the AfD in the assembly of the state of Saxony, won 60 percent of the vote at an extraordinary party conference.

After his defeat, Bernd Lucke left open his future in the party he founded. He had wanted the AfD to focus on economic issues rather



Bernd Lucke, founder and co-chairman of the
eurosceptic Alternative fuer Deutschland (AFD) party
receives applause during his key-note speech at the
AFD party congress in Essen, western Germany,
on 4 July, 2015.—REUTERS

than immigration.

An acrimonious feud between the two rivals, who

had said they could not work together, had hit the AfD's ratings and left it flounder-

ing at a time when it could have capitalised on anger over Greece's debt crisis.

"Please give me a few months' time to lead this party back on track," a smiling Petry said.

Petry belongs to the AfD's national conservative wing and has flirted with the anti-Islam PEGIDA movement, which drew up to 25,000 people to rallies earlier this year.

Her supporters have criticised Lucke for distancing the AfD from anti-Islam protests and expressed concern about the "erosion of Germany's sovereignty and identity".

Amid booing from opponents and cheering from supporters, Lucke said in a speech to the conference before the vote that the row had hurt the party.

"We publicly argued ourselves to shreds," he said.

"This has cost and is costing our party and I deeply regret that ... Our opponents in the old parties are feasting on it."

Turmoil in the AfD suits Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, who had lost some support to the AfD. On Saturday Lucke blamed Merkel for wasting Germans' money

on Greece.

Founded in 2013 as an anti-euro party, the AfD fell just short of the 5 percent threshold needed to enter parliament in the federal election that year. Since then it has won seats in the European Parliament and five state assemblies.

It has risen to about 9 percent in opinion polls, but in recent weeks has slipped back to about 5 percent.

Until now the party has had three co-leaders, including both Petry and Lucke. Under the party's rules Petry will take over as the sole chairman at the end of the year.—Reuters

US spies on more Brazilian officials: report

BRASILIA, 5 July — The United States spied on the communications of dozens of senior Brazilian officials other than President Dilma Rousseff, local media reported on Saturday. Wikileaks published 29 phone numbers monitored by the US National Security Agency (NSA), including some Brazilian ministers, diplomats, and "important figures".

The relations between Brazil and the US turned tense in 2013 when former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed that the US had spied on the Brazilian president. Rousseff canceled her state visit to the US in late 2013.

Rousseff visited the US in late June, saying "some things have changed" since the spying revelations due to assurances from Obama and the US government that they would no longer engage in intrusive acts of spying on friendly countries. Obama said that Rousseff's visit to the US "marks one more step in a new, more ambitious chapter" in the relations between the two countries.

Wikileaks reportedly has also revealed, during the last two weeks, new information on US spying on some senior German government officials, former and current French presidents and leading financial figures.—Xinhua

Rockets land in Israel, Egypt's IS affiliate claims responsibility

JERUSALEM / CAIRO, 5 July — Militants in Egypt's Sinai peninsula fired rockets into southern Israel on Friday in an incident that caused no casualties but appeared to be linked to fighting between Islamist insurgents and Egyptian security forces.

Islamic State's Egypt affiliate, Sinai Province, said in a statement posted on Twitter by supporters that it had launched three Grad rockets toward "occupied Palestine". Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of the statement.

An Israeli military source earlier said the rockets had been fired from Si-

nai, which borders Israel, the Gaza Strip and the Suez Canal.

Israeli police said they had so far found remnants of two rockets in an open area. No damage or casualties were reported.

It was possible the launch was linked to the fighting in Sinai, the military source said, where militants of the Sinai Province group launched their biggest assault in years against Egyptian security forces on Wednesday.

Dozens of people have been killed in the past few days of clashes and air strikes in the desert region.

The Israeli military on Friday closed a southern

highway, part of which runs along the Egyptian border, as a safety precaution.

Egyptian security sources earlier told Reuters they were investigating the reports and said there was no immediate evidence a rocket was launched from Egyptian territory.

Militants, including those from Sinai Province — formerly known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis — have fired rockets into Israel from Sinai on several occasions in the past.

Israel has accused Hamas, the Islamist group which controls Gaza, of helping Islamic State in Sinai, an allegation Hamas denies. An Egyptian securi-

ty source said some Hamas members were involved in the Sinai battles, but that there were no wider organizational ties between the groups. Hamas, an Islamist group that seized power in Gaza in 2007, has faced its own threats from Salafist and Islamic State-linked militants.

On Tuesday Islamic State militants released a video threatening to turn Gaza into another "fiefdom", as in parts of Iraq and Syria. It also said in the video that it will uproot "the state of the Jews" (Israel) and secular Palestinian movement Fatah, headed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AYA Bank and OCBC Bank on 2nd July 2015

AYA Bank alongside with 6 other local bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OCBC Bank to enhance better cooperation in particular are of activities with the focus to create new business opportunities as well as mutual enrichment in the way of know-how and joint business activities.

The key areas of business operation opportunities will be focused on area like transaction banking which covers cash management and trade financing as well as collaboration on foreign exchange interband market and joint project financing in Myanmar. In addition, both sides are also exploring in area such as talent training and development would be mutually beneficial to both parties.

Economic growth in Myanmar is forecasted to accelerate to 8.3% in Fiscal Year 2015 and remain close to this pace in Fiscal Year 2016 as it is propelled by investment stimulated by structural reform, an improved business environment, and Myanmar's gradual integration into the subregion of Southeast Asia. Alongside with the continuous liberalization of the Myanmar financial market, the recent entry of the foreign banks will deepen the financial market sector into this growing economy. With the collaboration, OCBC Bank and AYA Bank will embark on a new era of strategic partnership.

Union Financial Centre (Yangon)
Date: 2nd July 2015

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin and Chin States and isolated to scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, 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.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.



The first-ever in-train wrestling match is held in Yamagata Prefecture, northern Japan, on 4 July, 2015. Around 50 fans were aboard to see famous masked wrestler the Great Sasuke and nine others grappling for about 40 minutes.—KYODO NEWS

Colombia peace process now at lowest ebb — government

BOGOTA, 5 July — Colombia's peace negotiations with leftist FARC rebels have hit a critical low as the group steps up violent attacks and the government could walk away from the process unless the group shows more commitment, the government's top negotiator said.

The government has been in Cuba-hosted talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC since late 2012 to end a 50-year war. Deals have been reached on most of the agenda, but the process is now under unprecedented strain.

"The peace process is at its worst moment since we began talks ... I want to tell the FARC in all seriousness, this could end. Some day, it's probable that they won't find us around the table in Havana," Humberto De la Calle told local journalist and writer Juan Gossain, in an interview distributed to the press.

The FARC unleashed a wave of bomb attacks on oil pipelines in recent weeks, rupturing them close to rivers and causing an environmental disaster that is expected to take two decades to clean up and has already reached the Pacific coastline.

Optimism that had grown over the peace talks, boosted by the FARC's agreement to clear landmines, was shattered after the FARC ambushed and killed 11 soldiers in the southwest in April. That led the government to resume air raids of FARC jungle bases in turn prompting the rebels to abandon a unilateral ceasefire.

The FARC's insistence the government agree to a bilateral ceasefire even as its negotiators flatly reject the idea some members should pay jail time for the group's worst crimes, have also driven a rift between them and dimmed prospects for a deal.

De la Calle said the government was prepared to consider a bilateral ceasefire before a deal is signed, if the FARC accepts judicial responsibility for the violence it has perpetrated and only if it also abstains from extortion and the drug trade.

In a conciliatory move on Friday, the FARC leadership in Havana said they were seeking to "de-escalate" the conflict after weeks of attacks in which several army troops and police were also killed. The group's numbers are falling and all-out war is no longer seen as a realistic option.

Even if the peace process survives, its biggest obstacle may prove a sceptical Colombian public which will approve or reject any peace deal in a referendum. Its support has faded as talks drag on.

"The harsh truth is that Colombians don't believe in the peace process," De la Calle said.—Reuters

UK's Osborne to hit BBC to fund welfare cuts — Sunday Times

LONDON, 5 July — British finance minister George Osborne plans to launch a 650 million pound raid on the BBC to help cover the country's benefits bill, forcing the corporation to meet the cost of free television licences for the over-75s, the Sunday Times said.

It quoted senior government sources as saying a deal is close that will force the BBC to take on the cost of the 4.5 million licences — worth 145.50 pounds each — from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The move, it said, is part of a package of 12 billion pounds of welfare cuts, widely expected to be unveiled in a budget bill on Wednesday.

In return, the paper said, the BBC will be allowed to make up some of the lost revenue by charging for use of its iPlayer and other on-line catch-up services to try to stem the loss of licence fee revenue caused by people turning to the Internet and abandoning their televisions.

That will return at least 150 million pounds to BBC coffers, the paper added, but the 650 million pounds benefits bill represents the loss of around a fifth of the corporation's annual 3.7 billion



A pedestrian walks past a BBC logo at Broadcasting House in central London on 22 October, 2012.

REUTERS

pounds licence fee income.

The details, including the timing of the change, are still under negotiation but it is likely to be phased in after 2017, when the number of over-75s claiming a free licence will have risen further, the paper said.

It also reported that Osborne will announce that wealthy people living in social housing will have to pay their own way from 2017.

Although budget plans are kept under strict wraps ahead of delivery, Prime Minister David Cameron on Saturday outlined plans to accelerate house-building over the next five years and raise the inheritance tax threshold on family homes to the psychologically important 1 million

pound mark.

The plans include steps to build discounted homes for first-time buyers, unlock public land for new homes and back small builders with planning changes.

Cameron and Osborne were writing in the Times newspaper ahead of next Wednesday's budget, which will be the first time the newly elected Conservatives have been able to present a financial agenda free of the constraints of their previous, left-leaning Liberal Democrat coalition partners.

They have already said they plan to reduce borrowing faster this year and cut the annual welfare bill by 12 billion pounds (\$18.7 billion).—Reuters

Death toll in east China factory collapse rises to 11

HANGZHOU, 5 July — Eleven people have been confirmed dead in a factory building collapse in east China's Zhejiang Province as of Sunday afternoon, local government said.

Three others are missing. Another 33 were injured in the collapse, four of whom were seriously hurt.

According to the local police, 51 people were working in a shoe factory in Folang Village, Wenling City when the building collapsed at around 4 pm Saturday.

Nine narrowly escaped. Rescuers pulled 42 out of the rubble and sent them to the hospital as of 1:30 am, nine of whom died despite treatment.

After verification, five of the injured were not employees of the company. Two bodies were later retrieved from the ruins Sunday afternoon, leaving three missing as of now.

Local authorities have dispatched 53 firefighting trucks, 302 rescuers and five sniffer dogs. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Xinhua

Pop star Ricky launches 10-minute “shake-up” drive to tackle childhood obesity

LONDON, 5 July — British pop star Ricky Wilson of the band Kaiser Chiefs was recruited by health officials on Thursday to help tackle a growing obesity and fitness problem in British children.

A damning report released on Thursday revealed that 80 percent of five to 15-year-olds don't meet a target of completing 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

Moreover, the new study shows physically active children are happier and have more confidence.

Health and fitness experts at Public Health England have devised a winning formula for this age group: a series of 10-minute exercise shake-ups as an alternative to an hour-long stint.

Wilson, a fitness fan who is also a judge on the popular television series *The Voice*, joined children at London's Marion Richardson Primary School to help launch Thursday's Change4Life Campaign by joining in a 10-minute “shake-up” game.

Wilson commented: “Since taking up a much more active lifestyle, the benefits I've gained have been endless, it has helped

with everything from singing to performing and even just getting out of bed or going to the shops.”

The campaign coincides with the publication of a review by the British Heart Foundation following a study from Oxford and Loughborough universities identifying the direct benefits physical activity has on children in terms of physical, social and emotional development.

In England, 79 percent of boys and 84 percent of girls aged five to 15 do not do the recommended 60 minutes of exercise each day.

Experts say the worrying gap between boys and girls' activity levels can be seen from as early as seven years old, and is often attributed to confidence issues and insecurities in body image for young girls.

Public Health England said on Thursday: “Over a third of British children are overweight, yet 79 percent of parents with an overweight child do not recognize that they are, and of those that do, 41 percent do not realize it is a health risk.”

Professor Kevin Fenton, national director of health and well-being at

Public Health England, said: “Levels of childhood obesity are unacceptably high.”

“This latest review reinforces the essential health and well-being benefits of being physically active. Breaking up the 60 minutes of physical activity children need each day into 10 minute bursts will be more appealing and manageable for children and parents alike,” said Fenton.

Government Public Health Minister, Jane Ellison, said: “Exercise is really important for children, and it's vital we encourage them to form healthy habits to last throughout their life. The 10-minute shake up program is great for introducing children to manageable, bite-size chunks of activity, and, best of all, it's fun.”

The exercises are made up of games using animation characters from Disney's *Frozen*, *Toy Story*, *Monsters* and *Big Hero 6* with the aim of inspiring children to do as many 10 minute shake ups as they can each day.—*Xinhua*

Not jealous of Calvin-Swift's relationship: Rita Ora

LOS ANGELES, 5 July — Singer Rita Ora says she does not feel jealous of ex boyfriend Calvin Harris and singer Taylor Swift's relationship.

The 24-year-old “How We Do” hit-maker, who broke up with the Scottish DJ last June, after dating for a year, said she is dealing with his new relationship without any “jealousy vibe,” reported *E!* Online.

“I am a girl's girl. I'm not going to have that first instinct of jealousy vibe,” Ora said. The “RIP” hitmaker said she values the time she spent with Harris, however, the relationship was “not meant to be”.

“It was a period of my life that I will value forever. But some things are just not meant to be. I don't want to make this just about him. Musically, it was an amazing experiment and let's just leave it at that.

“I would rather it had been private. But I'm not private and nor is my job,” Ora said.

PTI



Rita Ora



Amanda Seyfried

I rarely give my best in films: Amanda Seyfried

LONDON, 5 July — Actress Amanda Seyfried has revealed she “rarely” gives her best in movies and finds working on stage much harder.

The 29-year-old “Mean Girls” star, who is currently starring in off-Broadway show “The Way We Get By”, said she works harder on stage as it is difficult to hide “laziness” in theatre, reported *Marie Claire* magazine.

“You can hide laziness in film, you can't hide on stage. You don't want to do that to people who have spent USD 100-400 on a ticket. You want to tell the story.

“I don't want to give anything but my

best, and in films I rarely give my best,” Seyfried said. The “Dear John” actress said working in theatre is “tough” and requires a lot of sacrifices.

“It's making me re-evaluate my ideas about where I thought I wanted my career to go. The theatre world is tough and you have to be willing to sacrifice a lot.”

“Nobody has a personal life. It's hard to focus on anything else. I don't have time for hobbies, I barely have time for the gym and every meal I have is at the theatre.

“When I do movies, I usually knit. I also paint, but between these shows I'm either napping or meditating,” she said.—*PTI*

Bradley Cooper appeals his fans to be Bone Marrow Donors



Bradley Cooper

LONDON, 5 July — The “American Sniper” actor, Bradley Cooper, urged his fans to become bone marrow donors after being moved by the plight of a cancer patient.

The 40-year-old actor was introduced to cancer patient Anthony Michaels who has beaten cancer three times since he was first diagnosed in 2011 and is now undergoing radiotherapy on a spine tumour after chemotherapy proved ineffective, though a bone marrow transplant is his best chance of survival, reported *Female first*.

Cooper, who was introduced to Anthony by Delete Blood Cancer DKMS said “Anthony just has the gift of positivity and gratitude”. “The Hangover” star said “he understands the importance of life that we tend to forget on a daily basis. But I have the feeling he was like that his whole life not just when he was plagued by this horrible disease.

“I think when it's not personal and you can't relate to it, you tend to not take action. But I dare anybody to read Anthony's story and not care about him right away.”

The hollywood actor whose dad died of cancer four years ago admits that not helping Anthony wasn't an option for him. “Anthony just has a genuine love of every moment that he's alive and I find that to be very compelling And especially heartbreaking because he's afflicted with essentially terminal disease.” Actor said.

The 24-year-old Anthony Michaels was very impressed with the “Silver Linings Playbook” star's ‘selfless’ attitude. “He was a real humble guy and he was very easy to talk to as i didn't think he was going to be as selfless as he was so it was a nice surprise to say the least.” he said.—*PTI*

Ed Sheeran to make an acting debut

LONDON, 5 July — Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is reportedly all set to make his acting debut.

The 24-year-old “The Thinking Out Loud” hit-maker has decided to do a role on a TV show, reported *Daily Mirror*.

Sheeran has got a role

in one of his friend's projects and it is set to come out after this month. “I have an acting job coming out after July. I can't say too much about it because the pilot just got picked up, which is good, but it's a TV show,” he said.

The singing sensation, who wished to star in the hit

series “Game of Thrones”, will make his debut with a TV show which is also a “gruesome” show.

“It's a medieval TV show and it's really, really dark. It's gruesome and it's going to be fine because my friend wrote it,” said Sheeran.—*PTI*

Chris Brown shelves plans to move to LA

LOS ANGELES, 5 July — Singer Chris Brown has reportedly shelved plans to move his daughter Royalty and her mother Nia Guzman to Los Angeles.

The 24-year-old “Loyal” hitmaker previously expressed a desire to have his daughter Roy-

alty move to the county with her mother but has since shelved the idea as he doesn't want to see the 31-year-old model on a daily basis, reported *Hollywood Life*.

“At one time Chris was really into moving Nia out here so he could

be closer to Royalty. Now, that's not his priority,” a source said.

“He doesn't want to see Nia on a daily basis like that. The only reason he ever wanted to bring her here was so that he could see Royalty as often as possible.”—*PTI*

GENERAL

America celebrates 4 July with hot dogs and barbecues amid tightened security

NEW YORK, 5 July — Americans marched in star-spangled parades, ran relay races, gathered for fireworks shows and crowned a new world hot dog eating champion as they celebrated Independence Day in traditional style on Saturday.

Possible security threats, wildfires in the West and rainy weather on the East Coast apparently did little to dampen the spirits of celebrants decked out in red, white and blue from their headbands to their shoelaces.

Crowds at Boston's Old State House erupted in applause and cannons shot out tri-colour confetti after the annual July Fourth reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Later, thousands flocked to the Charles River Esplanade for the annual Boston Pops concert and fireworks. Krystle O'Brien, 27, wore an American flag cowboy hat and passed out glowsticks.

"It's a good day for Boston," she said. "There's so much history here, we can celebrate this freedom."

In Maplewood, New Jersey, Meskie Hyman, 11, exuded patriot pride in a star-spangled shirt and a hairband with two American flags that fluttered under cloudy skies.

"I love that it's a free country and we have the right to speak. It lets us see everyone's potential and find our heroes," she said.

The crowd in Washington, DC watched a parade of brass bands, law enforcement motorcycle units, high school drum majorettes,



Violinists play patriotic songs during the Independence Day Parade in Fairfax, Virginia on 4 July, 2015. — REUTERS

antique cars and police and military detachments.

The National Mall, an open area west of the Capitol and site of a fireworks display expected to draw hundreds of thousands, was soggy from steady rain that had stopped by the time the parade started.

Kearston Andrews, 26, travelled with her family from near Gainesville, Florida, unworried about security. The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation issued an alert this week asking local authorities and the public to remain vigilant for possible threats following recent calls for violence by leaders of radical Islamist group Islamic State.

In New York City, the nation's biggest police force assigned about 7,000 officers and nearly all its counterterrorism personnel to handle security around Independence Day events.

No incidents were reported as of late Saturday,

but tens of thousands of spectators crowded onto the banks of Manhattan's East River to watch fireworks shot from barges.

Even after promising an increased presence at weekend events, Massachusetts State Police maintained a holiday spirit, tweeting with a colloquial Boston phrase early Saturday "Have a wicked safe 4th of July!"

In a stunning upset on Coney Island, 23-year-old newcomer Matt Stonie grabbed the famed mustard-colored champion's belt after gobbling 62 hot dogs in 10 minutes in the annual Nathan's International Hot Dog Eating Contest.

Stonie, of San Jose, California, ousted long-time champion Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, who still holds a world record of 69 franks eaten in 2013. Miki Sudo hung onto the women's title, downing 38 hotdogs in 10 minutes.

On the US West Coast, which is battling wildfires,

communities in Washington state and Oregon restricted or banned fireworks for fear of more blazes. Cupertino, California, and Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, also canceled fireworks shows.

In downtown Los Angeles, thousands of revelers poured into Grand Park to enjoy music and food before a fireworks show.

"I'm Mexican, so I'm thankful to be born here, and being able to celebrate your heritage but mix with the diversity of other cultures too," said Erica Moussa.

A celebration in Austin, Texas featured country music legend Willie Nelson at an all-day picnic replete with music and drinking.

And in Oklahoma, the record to beat at the "Watermelon Seed Spittin' World Championship" in Pauls Valley, about 60 miles (100 km) southeast of Oklahoma City, was 66 feet, 11 inches (20.41 metres), set in 1989 by Jack Dietz of Chicago, organizers said.—Reuters

40th Carifesta Parade held in Montreal, Canada



A dancer takes part in the 40th Carifesta Parade in Montreal, Canada, on 4 July, 2015. The parade has been held each year celebrating Montreal's Caribbean community with colourful costumes and traditional music.

XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

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

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(6-7-2015, Monday)

- | | |
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| <p>6:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw <p>6:25 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Exercise <p>7:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Entertainment <p>8:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News <p>9:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary (ASEAN) <p>10:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Talks <p>11:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV's Youth Programme <p>12:00 noon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report <p>1:10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gitadagale Phwintbar ohn <p>2:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance <p>3:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Line News | <p>3:45 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Talks <p>4:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / Weather Report <p>4:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Law) <p>5:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News <p>5:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) <p>6:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio Economic Scenes <p>7:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News <p>7:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary <p>8:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report <p>9:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News • Hluttaw Image • TV Drama Series |
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A snowfall hits La Paz, Bolivia, on 4 July, 2015. The cities of La Paz, El Alto and Oruro were affected by a heavy snowfall on Saturday.—XINHUA

Cheeky Sanchez penalty clinches Chile's first Copa

SANTIAGO, 5 July — Chile won the Copa America for the first time on Saturday when a cheeky penalty from Alexis Sanchez clinched a shoot-out victory over Argentina and glory for the host nation's golden generation in front of their own fans.

The two sides were deadlocked 0-0 after 90 minutes and when another half an hour of extra time failed to produce a goal, the contest was destined to be decided by penalties. Lionel Messi stepped up to score Argentina's first spot kick but, as the first three Chileans converted unerringly, Gonzalo Higuain and Ever Banega missed.

That left the stage set for forward Sanchez, who made up for a quiet game by dinking the ball into



Chile players celebrate with the Copa America trophy after they defeated Argentina in their Copa America 2015 final soccer match at the National Stadium in Santiago, Chile, on 4 July, 2015. —REUTERS

Sergio Romero's net to send the capacity crowd at Santiago's National Stadium into raptures.

“Our whole idea was to win something, we knew

that this was the moment,” goalkeeper Claudio Bravo told reporters.

“This is a privileged generation and now it is time to enjoy it. We are not used to winning anything so this is an exception.” Chile had beaten Argentina just once in 38 competitive matches before the final and were outsiders to take the trophy for the first time in the 99-year history of the tournament.

Few sides were able to handle their fast-paced football, however, and they won four of their five games on their way to the deciding match, scoring 13 goals and delighting their home fans.

“This is something so nice for all the Chilean people,” midfielder Arturo Vidal told reporters after the whistle.

“We Chileans needed a triumph, something like this Cup, today we took

an incredible step, we're America's best.” The final itself was a poor game with neither side able to create many chances.

With Messi uninspired and Sanchez faltering, the teams attempted just 19 shots between them — less than all but one of the Copa America finals contested since 1993.

Higuain came closest to breaking the stalemate for Argentina in the last minute of regulation time.

Messi sent Ezequiel Lavezzi through on the left and he crossed to Higuain at the far post but the striker could only put the ball in the side netting. Sanchez had one great chance to steal the game for Chile in extra time but blazed over with just the goalkeeper to beat.

Reuters

Williams penalty gives England third place

EDMONTON, 5 July — Fara Williams struck an extra-time winner from the penalty spot as England defeated Germany 1-0 to claim third place in the Women's World Cup on Saturday.

The Lionesses gained some consolation for their heartbreaking loss to Japan in the semi-final as they produced a gritty display to beat the twice world champions for the first time.

A fiercely competitive game, scoreless after 90 minutes, was decided three minutes into the second period of extra time when England sub Lianne Sanderson was pulled down in the box by Tabea Kemme and Williams coolly slotted home.

The third place finish, behind United States and Japan who meet in the final on Sunday, is the best by an England team at a women's World Cup.

It also marks the best

finish by an England team of either gender since the men's team won the World Cup in 1966.

“These players are just incredible. Now it's time for a massive celebration,” said England coach Mark Sampson.

Germany, who had won 18 of the previous 20 meetings between the teams, started strongly and forced England keeper Karen Bardsley into action early with a powerful first minute header from forward Lena Peterman. An injury time own goal from Japan had doomed England in the semi-final and there was almost more self-inflicted damage when a header from Jo Potter flew past Bardsley only for skipper Steph Houghton to produce a brilliant clearance on the line.

Bardsley was outstanding again in the 53rd minute to keep out a superb volley

from Sara Dabritz and then Kemme shot just wide after a powerful run in from the left flank.

England finished strongly, though, camping deep in the German half and keeper Nadine Angerer did well to save bravely at the feet of substitute Eniola Aluko.

Germany dominated the first period of extra-time but the Lionesses found a second wind and the decisive penalty was reward for their pressure.

Germany coach Silvia Neid, who will stand down next year, said she had no complaints about the penalty or the result. “We fought, we worked very well and had chances but if you don't score you aren't going to win. The penalty was justified, we were very naive. It is sad but it is reality but England won and deserved to win,” she said.—Reuters



England pose with their medals after their victory over Germany in the third place match of the FIFA 2015 Women's World Cup at Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta, CAN, on 4 July, 2015. England defeated Germany 1-0 in extra time.—REUTERS

Jankovic sends Kvitova tumbling out of Wimbledon

LONDON, 5 July — A woman who once fumed she “needed a helicopter” to go on a Wimbledon court she called a “parking lot” could not have been happier with her surroundings on Saturday as Jelena Jankovic sent holder Petra Kvitova spinning out.

A tournament still reeling from the second-round exit of Rafa Nadal 48 hours earlier, and the near-exit of Serena Williams 24 hours ago, suffered its biggest shock of this year's championships as Jankovic emerged from the tennis wilderness to deliver the most unexpected of knock-out punches.

The Serbian, who had fallen in the opening round at three of the four previous grand slams, announced her return to the big stage with a heart-stopping 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 third-round victory over the second-seeded Czech that left Centre Court buzzing.

“Oh my God! I am overwhelmed and so excited. My heart is still pumping,” said the 28th seed whose reign as world number one in 2008 feels like a lifetime ago.

“I have played so poorly the last couple of years and playing on Centre Court against the defending champion was unbelievable. The crowd was really great.

“Playing on grass is so difficult for me, it does not come naturally. I'm glad I was able to win against a two-time Wimbledon

champion. It was amazing.”

While Jankovic was rolling on to her back in delight, and showed her appreciation to the crowd by shaping a heart with her fingers, the men's favourites made serene progress.

A 147 mph howitzer that whistled past Roger Federer's ears provided one of the few hair-raising moments in the men's draw when grand slam champions old and new safely planted themselves into the second week of the championships.

Sam Groth bombarded Federer's half of the court with 21 aces, and one missile clocked a fraction short of Taylor Dent's 2010 Wimbledon record of 148 mph, but it takes more than a “freaky serve” to flatten a seven-times Wimbledon champion. In fact the Australian did not even come close to earning a break point as Federer eased into week two for the 12th time in 13 years with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-2 third-round victory. “I've played three matches now, no breaks faced, it's great,” summed up the 17-times grand slam champion.

Andy Murray also dropped his first set at this year's event and needed on-court treatment for a sore shoulder before advancing to a fourth round showdown with big-serving Ivo Karlovic with a 6-2, 6-2, 1-6, 6-1 win. Joining them in the fourth round was the newest member of the

grand slam club, US Open champion Marin Cilic.

But, unlike Federer, the Croatian ninth seed had to face loads of breaks as he survived his second successive five-set thriller at Wimbledon. A match between two missile-serving giants had the potential to go on and on, but luckily for Cilic he only needed 15 minutes and two games on Saturday to complete a 7-6(4), 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-7(4), 12-10 win over John Isner that was suspended at 10-10 on Friday. A contest that had featured 437 points, 159 winners and 72 aces, ended tamely with an Isner double fault after four hours 31 minutes. “It sucks,” summed up the American loser.

Dustin Brown and his waist-length dancing dreadlocks also took their final bow at Wimbledon as Nadal's conqueror was beaten 6-4, 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-3 by Serbia's Viktor Troicki.

Karlovic hurled down 41 aces in a 7-6(3), 4-6, 7-6(2), 7-6(9) win over French 13th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

However, it was Kvitova's sensational demise that appeared to flummox everyone, including the 2014 champion.

“I'm not really sure what happened out there,” said the left-hander.

No one saw the defeat coming after Kvitova had whipped her first two opponents for the loss of just three games in total.

Reuters