

Vice president joins ceremony to mark 65th anniversary of Myanmar-Sino diplomatic relations

YANGON, 8 June— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and his wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attended the ceremony to mark the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China on Tuesday evening.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan and his spouse Ms Ruan Wei hosted the ceremony held at the Novotel Yangon hotel with attendance of General Hla Htay Win, the Chief of General Staffs (Army, Navy and Air) of the Defence Services.

In the morning, Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Yangon Orthopaedic Hospital to inspect its medical services and facilities.

The vice president was accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and Yangon Region government ministers.

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Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife and Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and wife enjoy reception to mark 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China.—MNA

Upper House passes boat people motion in landslide

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Myanmar's Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) overwhelmingly passed a motion Monday to "adopt a decisive policy for the detained boat people from a neighbouring country."

The motion, tabled by a lawmaker from the ruling party and submitted to the Amyotha Hluttaw on 2 June, was adopted by 136 votes to 4.

Of 208 boat people who were discovered in a boat in the Bay of Bengal on 21 May, 150 were deported to Bangladesh on Monday after having been identified as citizens of the neighbouring country, ac-

ording to Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs.

Meanwhile, a further 50 people from the boat, along with 734 found aboard another vessel off the coast of the Ayeyawady Delta in late May, are being scrutinized to determine their origins, he added.

Based on humanitarian grounds, investigating the origins of the boat people and giving them temporary shelter is in the interests of the Myanmar people and the Myanmar government has adopted a policy to settle the boat crisis, said Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (See page 2)

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 8 June—An ancient Pyu stone inscription was found in Thazi Township in Mandalay Region in May, Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu of the Ministry of Culture said at a press conference Monday at the National Museum here.

The inscription including eight lines of Pyu language was uncovered at the foot of a mountain about 3 miles east of Hsin Village in Okpo Village-tract in Thazi Township.

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Stone inscription experts view ancient Pyu inscription found in Thazi Township.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Ancient Pyu stone inscription discovered in Thazi Township



Press Release

Myanmar hands over verified Bangladeshi nationals among those rescued by Myanmar Navy

1. On 8 June 2015, Myanmar officially handed over 150 persons who are verified as Bangladeshi nationals among the 208 boat people rescued by the Myanmar Navy on 21 May 2015. A seven-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Commanding Officer of No. 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox's Bazar Lt-Col Khandaker Saiful Alam arrived at Taung Pyo (Let We), where the handing over ceremony took place at 11 am

today. The handing over of the 150 Bangladeshi nationals were completed at 13 :30 hrs after the inspection process and signing of official document. Lt-Col Khandaker Saiful Alam received 150 Bangladeshi nationals who were handed over by Police Colonel Myo Swe, Deputy Regional Commander of Police Border Guard of Myanmar. The Bangladesh delegation accepted the 150 boat people and left for Bangladesh at 15: 10 hrs. Colonel Mohammad

Khalequzzaman, Sector Commander, Border Guard of Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Consul, Consulate of Bangladesh in Sittwe were also presence as observers.

2. Myanmar and Bangladesh authorities have continued verifying the rest of the 208 boat people and over 700 boat people who were rescued on 21 and 29 May 2015 respectively. The remaining boat people will be handed over to the country of origin after completion of the verification process.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
8th June 2015**

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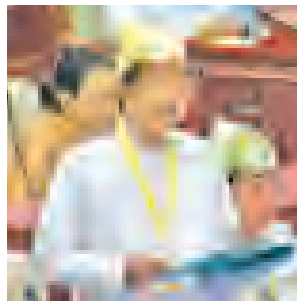
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Pyithu Hluttaw

Govt negotiates ODA loan for water supply in Yangon townships



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — The government is negotiating an official development assistance loan from Japan to supply fresh water to wards on the far bank of



Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein.

MNA

the Kyimyindine and other townships in Yangon, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win told the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Monday.

On completion of the first phase of the project, the government will be able to distribute 60 million gallons of drinking water to the designated areas, the deputy minister added.

The government distributed 3.5 million gallons of water to the wards on the far bank of Kyimyindine last summer, according to the deputy minister.

In response to another raised at the session, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein, said it is impossible to return the Sein Brother Building on

Pansodan Street and warehouses on 36th Street to its former owner, because the buildings were confiscated by the state in 1986 and the privatization committee has decided to maintain them as public property.

The buildings were also the subject of a civil suit, according to the deputy minister. In response to a question about upgrading schools, Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin said that some schools cannot be upgraded into middle and high schools as they fail to meet the set criteria. —MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw raises questions on underground water, farm oxen



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Representatives at the Amyotha Hluttaw raised questions on underground water and slaughtering of farm oxen, as well as discussing the emergency motion on boat people at the Monday session.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said research for the utilization of underground water for the whole country is a comprehensive task that should be carried out under the guidance of a national-level water resources management committee, and his ministry



Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han.

MNA

will cooperate with others concerned.

Concerning the question on farm oxen, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han said development affairs committees around the country permit slaughtering of oxen in accordance with rules and regulations, and action is taken against those who export or kill more oxen than permitted.

Representatives later discussed the motion urging the union government to adopt a firm policy on boat people.

MNA

Myanmar hands over boat people to Bangladesh

TAUNGPYO (LETWE), 8 June — Boat people already verified as Bangladesh na-

tionals were handed over to Bangladesh officials at a flag raising meeting

held in Taungpyo (Letwe) on Monday.

The boat people were

rescued by Myanmar Navy at sea near Thinbawkway Village in Maungtaw District on 21 May.

Deputy Director U Saw Naing and officials of Maungtaw District Immigration and National Registration Department handed over the boat people to Colonel Md. Khalequzzaman of Border Guard Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar.

The two sides are negotiating for handing over of the remaining boat people as soon as possible, according to sources. —MNA

Bangladeshi boat people return home under supervision of officials. —MNA



Upper House passes boat people ...

(from page 1)

Affairs U Thant Kyaw said.

Myanmar government will share the costs for rescue and deportation of the boat people with UN agencies and international organizations, he said.

During the parliamentary meeting, Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said he rejected an offer during the recent talks on Myanmar affairs in Australia to accept about 30,000 of the boat people stranded at sea in Malaysia

and Indonesia.

The speaker also questioned the accuracy of some reporting on the crisis, saying a number of boat people arriving in destination countries had falsely claimed to be Myanmar citizens in what appeared to be a deliberate strategy.

“Who made that strategy? Who made that plan for boat people to say they are from Myanmar at every place they arrived?” U Khin Aung Myint said.

He also called for an investigation into the causes of the boat people crisis. —GNLM

U Aung Khin Soe concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bhutan.

MNA



Myanmar national archery, bowling and volleyball teams seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Singapore to take part in 28th SEA Games. —SPED

NATIONAL

Vice president joins ceremony...

(from page 1)

Dr Sai Mauk Kham said his visit was aimed at helping hospital management facilitate medical services and infrastructural development, including the construction of a new three-storey building to share medical treatments of Yangon General Hospital.

He then visited patients at the 300-bed facility which is also being used as a teaching hospital.

The vice president and officials proceeded to the Universities' Hospital in Kamayut Township in Yangon, where he examined the hospital's renovation and development plans.—MNA

UEC holds press conference on collecting preliminary voter list

YANGON, 8 June—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye on Tuesday gave a press conference on the electoral body's primary voter list collection process before 2015 general election.

During the press conference held at the Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon, U Tin Aye said the preliminary voter list need to be accurate and it can be corrected before issuing the final list, urging the media to help UEC erase the doubt on the commission's accidental mistakes on the voter list.

UEC conducted collection of preliminary voter list in Alone Township of Yan-

gon region, Tiddim Township of Chin state and Myitkyina Township of Kachin state.

U Win Kyi, a member of UEC, also explained the commission's website for checking and confirming voter lists. U Tin Aye and U Win then answered to the queries of journalists about the voter rights of the white card holders, voting access of people at IDP camps and security measures for electoral observers and journalists on the Election Day.

The event was attended by 73 responsible persons from 51 media organizations, including the members of Myanmar Press Council (Interim).—MNA

SWRR Ministry provides cash assistance to senior citizens, homes for the aged and philanthropic schools

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin provided K420,000 for Danumay Home for the Aged, K3 million for five pre-primary schools and 180 corrugated iron sheets and nails for community shelter to Chairman of the Leading Body U Htoo Ko Ko and party of Danu Self-Administered Zone in Pindaya, Shan State,

on 6 June.

The union minister attended the opening of a self-reliant pre-primary school in Hopong where she donated K600,000 and teaching aid to the school.

On 7 June, she presented cash assistance and certificates to the older persons of above 100 years and delivered an address at the opening of the volunteer youth refresher course for 2015-16 fiscal year at the city hall in

Ancient Pyu stone inscription...

(from page 1)

The meaning of the inscription has yet to be determined. Alphabets found in the inscription are estimated to have been used about 1800-2000 years ago, an expert said.

There may be other stone inscriptions at the site, however, excavation works will be done after the end of the rainy season in September or October, Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu said.

The inscription is cur-

rently being kept at a chamber in Mandalay Royal Palace, where many stone inscriptions are stored.

The inscription is believed to be from the late Sri Khestra era, Dr Maung Maung Swe, Lecturer at the Department of Myanmar-sar, Bago University, said at the press conference.

The stone inscription will be cleaned and translated in cooperation with foreign experts, some of whom will come to Myanmar at the end of this month.

Upper House speaker gives address at Australian National University

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint gave a speech Sunday at the opening ceremony of the 2015 Myanmar Update Conference at the Australian National University, saying the focus of the present government is on laying a democratic foundation for the next generation.

The Upper House Speaker said he is satisfied with international interest in the country's democratic transformation, which some western media have called the "Myanmar Spring."

In his briefing on political developments in the country, U Khin Aung Myint said Myanmar is still facing two unsolved problems—the first being civil war between the government and ethnic armed groups, and the second being public mistrust of the government as a legacy of long-term military rule.

He also said the political culture of Myanmar has been complicated by obsession with norms, radicalism and worship of personality, which are obstacles to the institutionalization of de-



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint addresses 2015 Myanmar Update Conference held at the Australian National University.—MNA

mocracy in Myanmar.

U Khin Aung Myint said the first attempt at creating a democratic transformation in Myanmar was the 1988 democracy uprising, and the second was the general election in 2010.

Quoting the oath of President U Thein Sein when taking office in 2011, the speaker said the Myanmar government had compromised with opposing political forces for the good of the country.

He also said the Myan-

mar government has opened up a top-down transformation, saying that the government has had to struggle with reform on not one but three fronts — politics, the economy and peace. The speaker said the government's economic reform involved transitioning from a closed, command-style economy toward an open-door, free-market economy, which he admitted had not been as successfully achieved as political reform. He also said the gov-

ernment's peace committee is negotiating with the National Ceasefire Coordinating Team, which includes 16 ethnic armed groups, to realize a National Ceasefire Accord, with only one main ethnic group, the Kachin Independence Army, yet to agree in principle.

The conference was also attended by the Myanmar Ambassador to Australia and diplomats. The Myanmar delegation arrived back home at the evening on 7 June.—MNA

Myanmar receives UN award for reduction of hunger

YANGON, 8 June—The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization on Monday recognized Myanmar for its progress in fighting hunger, after the country dramatically slashed the number of its citizens without enough food over a two-decade period.

Thirty countries received awards at the ongoing 39th session of the FAO Conference in Rome for halving the number of hungry people as laid out by governments at the World Food Summit (WFS) there in 1996.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing accepted the award from FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva at the ceremony on behalf of President U Thein Sein.

Myanmar reduced the number of its citizens living in hunger from 62.6

percent in 1990-1992 to 14.2 percent after 2014.

The Director-General congratulated the countries for their achievement and also urged a redoubling of global efforts to combat chronic undernourishment.

"One out of nine people on the planet still do not have enough food to conduct active, healthy and

productive lives. It is not acceptable," he said.

The year 2015 marks the completion of the monitoring period for the Millennium Development Goals which will be replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals currently being negotiated by the international community.—MNA

The certificate of Achievement Award for in fighting hunger in Myanmar.

MNA



PYINOOLOWIN, 8 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint on 6 June reviewed plans to expand the number of small power stations in Letpanhla, Zayatkwint, Twinng, Pyahnyat and Tagaung regions to supply electricity to villages in PyinOoLwin District.

The minister inspected sites in Thabeikkyin and Tagaung townships and met staff at Tagaung Township Electrical Engineer's Office.

Upon completion, the stations will supply power to Madaya, Singu, Thabeikkyin, Mogok and Tagaung townships.

*Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)*

Plans under way to build small power stations in rural areas



Local youths attend rescue course



MAWLAMYINE, 8 June — The Myanmar RESCUE Social Rescue Federation wrapped up an international-standard emergency response course for young

trainees in Mawlamyine recently.

Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung spoke on the occasion while chairman of the federation U Hla Tun presented prizes and certificates to trainees.

A total of 75 trainees from around the country attended the course from 1 to 6 June.

On 5 June, the trainees demonstrated their emergency rescue skills in a traffic accident drill in front of the Myoma police station in Sitkekon Ward, Mawlamyine.

Win Ma Ma (IPRD)

Farmers attend mechanized harvesting demonstration

AUNGLAN, 8 June — Technicians from the Agricultural Mechanization Department recently demonstrated harvesting of summer paddy with a combine harvester at the farm

of U San Lwin in Duingabo Village, Aunglan Township, Magway Region. Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Win Pe briefed local farmers on the strong and weak

points of various paddy strains and the benefits of using combine harvesters.

The ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Thein Hsint, members of the agricultur-

al coordination committee, departmental officials and local farmers.

The demonstration produced 212.66 baskets of summer paddy per acre.

Aunglan Township IPRD

University students visit organic vegetable farms in Inlay Region

NYAUNGSHWE, 8 June — Fourth year students of Yezin University of Agriculture on 7 June observed production of high yield Palethwe paddy seeds and cultivation of organic vegetables at the farm of U Win Shwe in Tilaw village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State.

Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Zaw Win Tun gave a briefing on topics including cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy, production of paddy seeds and the emergence of the organic crop market.

The students visited farmlands including a thriving tomato plantations in Ngaphechaung village in Inlay Region.—*Nay Myo Thurein*



Mandalay aims to abolish plastic shopping bags

MANDALAY, 8 June — Mandalay City Development Committee discussed becoming a plastic bag-free city during a meeting with owners of restaurants, teashops, pubs and hotels on 6 June.

MCDC member Dr Thwin Kyaw Kyaw outlined plans to eliminate the use of plastic and polyethylene bags and urged business owners to help keep the city clean by correctly

disposing of waste.

Head of Mandalay Region Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department U Swe Tint Kyu, Dr Nyein Nyein Chit of Upper Myanmar Infectious Disease Prevention Department and officials of MCDC outlined the respective environmental conservation efforts of various departments.

*Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)*

REGIONAL

PM Modi promises support for Bangladeshi investment in Gujarat



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks after signing an agreement with Bangladesh government in Dhaka on 6 June, 2015.—REUTERS

DHAKA, 8 June — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave his support on Sunday to a Bangladeshi proposal to invest \$25 million in selling Bangladeshi garments in India, the main Bangladeshi business group said.

Modi, on the second and final day of a state visit to India's eastern neighbour, had promised on Saturday to help to reduce India's huge trade surplus with Bangladesh.

In a meeting on Sunday, the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry told Modi it was seeking 50 acres of land either free of cost or at a nominal price in Gujarat.

"We told him that we want to set up warehouses and retail shops, and for that we will invest \$25 million. The purpose is to sell and distribute our garments products directly," said Matlub Ahmed, president of the Chamber.

"If we get this facili-

ty, then our sell will rise to \$1 billion from the present \$300 million in the next three years."

After the meeting, he told *Reuters* that Modi had promised "all cooperation and support" for the proposal.

Bangladeshi exports were worth \$24 billion in the fiscal year that ended in June 2014.

The textile industry is an important contributor to the economy, with duty-free access to Western markets having helped to make Bangladesh the world's largest apparel exporter after China.

But the industry, which supplies many Western brands such as Walmart, Tesco and H&M, has faced pressure after a string of fatal factory accidents, including a building collapse in 2013 that killed more than 1,130 people.

Modi sealed several deals during his visit, including a land boundary agreement.—*Reuters*

S Korea reports 6th MERS death, 23 new MERS cases

SEOUL, 8 June — South Korea on Monday reported its six death from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus and also 23 new cases in the country's first outbreak of the deadly disease, raising the total number of cases to 87.

The announcement by health authorities comes amid rising fears the virus may spread further nationwide since the first case was confirmed on 20 May, involving a 68-year-old South Korean man with a recent history of travel to four countries in the Middle East.

The latest MERS-linked death was confirmed after an 80-year-old man died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the central city of Daejeon, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Meanwhile, a teenager was among the new 23 cases, becoming the first teen infected with the virus. The 16-year-old student, who was admitted to a Seoul hospital for treatment of an illness not related to MERS on 27 May, was



People walk in downtown Seoul with masks on 8 June, 2015, as the number of confirmed Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus cases in South Korea continues to rise. It was reported the same day that the sixth death and 23 new cases in the country's first outbreak of the deadly disease had occurred, putting the total number of cases at 87.—KYODO NEWS

confirmed as being infected on Sunday. More than 1,800 schools nationwide, mostly kindergartens and primary schools, have decided to temporarily close as of Monday.

As of Sunday morning, some 2,300 people have been quarantined at hospitals or at their own homes.

Acting Prime Minister Choi Kyung-hwan told a Press conference on Sun-

day that the counter-MERS efforts will involve regional authorities, the civilian sector and the military.

"The government will reinforce its response involving all parties, including local governments, the private sector, the military and schools, until mid-June, the most critical point in containing the spread of the MERS virus," Choi said. Choi, whose government had come under crit-

icism for refusing to make public the names of hospitals where MERS patients have been diagnosed or treated, took the occasion to identify all 24 of them — six that have had confirmed cases of MERS and 18 that had MERS patients pass through them.

South Korea now has the second-largest number of MERS patients after Saudi Arabia, which has reported over 1,000 confirmed cases since the virus emerged there for the first time in 2012.

So far, cases of infection have been confined to hospitals, though fear of the disease spreading through communities has caused cancellations of festivals, concerts and major events, while public panic has manifested itself in fewer people seen on Seoul's streets.

Globally, since September 2012, the World Health Organization has been notified of at least 1,185 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS, including at least 443 related deaths.—*Kyodo News*

Thailand's minimum wage is obstruction to investment: Prayut

BANGKOK, 8 June — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on Monday that Thailand's 300-baht (about \$8.85) national daily minimum wage imposes a heavy burden on investors and prevents foreign capitalists from investing in the country.

Prayut said the minimum wage, which is uniform across the country, is impracticable, and people who wish to be paid more should undertake training to

acquire new skills.

"Who benefits from the current minimum wage? Aren't they migrant workers? If we increase the ceiling they would come in greater numbers because in their hometowns the minimum wage is just 100-150 baht or not more than 200 baht," he said.

On Friday, the national wage committee approved a retrospective change to the labour wage policy by setting different minimum

wages for each province based on its economic situation amid concerns among labour rights groups the new system will lower the daily income of poor workers.

Nakorn Silpa-archa, permanent secretary of the Labour Ministry, said on Friday the new regime will take effect at the start of 2016.

He claimed the change would increase Thailand's competitiveness and employment rates and would



Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha

also improve the living conditions of workers and reduce wage disparities, according to local media.

The nationwide minimum daily wage was one of the flagship policies of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her Pheu Thai Party.—*Kyodo News*

China fights terrorism to protect citizens' human rights: report

BEIJING, 8 June — China has been combating terrorism in accordance with law to protect citizens' human rights, according to a white paper issued by the State Council Information Office on Monday.

The document, titled "Progress in China's Human Rights in 2014," said that in 2014 China strengthened supervision over foodstuffs, improved laws and regulations on production safety, combated terrorism according to law,

attached more importance to protecting the rights of the accused, detainees and criminals, and stepped up drug-control efforts to protect citizens' personal rights.

According to the white paper, the people's courts at all levels dealt with 558 cases of crimes of inciting separatism and terrorism, prosecuting 712 culprits. The judicial organs severely punished crimes such as the terrorist attacks at Tian'anmen on 28 October, 2013

and at Kunming railway station on 1 March, 2014 to ensure the safety of life and property of the people. Also, in October 2014 the draft of the Anti-terrorism Law was first deliberated at the 11th Plenary Session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature. In November 2014 public views of the draft were solicited via www.npc.gov.cn.

On 28 December, 2014, the 12th Plenary Ses-

sion of the Standing Committee of the 12th NPC approved the Anti-terrorism Convention of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to further international cooperation against terrorism, according to the white paper.

The white paper also noted that the rights of the accused, detainees and criminals in China are better protected, another step the country is taking to improve human rights.

Regulations have been

issued to make sure audio-video recording is used in the entire process of interrogating criminal suspects. The public security, judicial and administrative departments at all levels worked together to promote the establishing of legal aid stations in detention centers with resident lawyers from legal aid organizations providing legal consultation for the accused and detainees to protect their legitimate rights and interests.

The white paper said

the law enforcement process is made fairer, stricter and more civilized.

Also, the document said that in 2014 the Chinese government promoted development concepts and systems innovation, adopted effective measures to guarantee citizens' access to fair development, had more people to share the fruit of reform and development, and better protected the people's economic, social and cultural rights.

Xinhua

G-7 affirms unity in dealing with China-led bank

MUNICH, 8 June — Leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized nations agreed on Sunday to ensure close coordination in dealing with a China-led regional investment bank to be launched by the end of this year.

Speaking on the first day of a two-day summit in Germany, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he “does not mean to criticize” some G-7 members that have signed up to become founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, but called on other G-7 leaders to “look at things with the same will” and “ensure close coordination in the G-7,” according to a Japanese official.

The G-7 members are split in their response to the AIIB. While Britain, France, Germany and Italy have signed up for Beijing’s initiative, Canada, Japan and the United States have stayed out due to concern over the body’s governance and debt sustainability.

Abe called for transparency in the management and lending standards of the AIIB, saying, “Infrastructure investment must be made under proper



(From L to R) European Union President Donald Tusk, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker pose in a photo session for the Group of Seven summit talks in Elmau, Germany, on 7 June, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

governance, and care for the environment and society and debt sustainability of aid recipient countries must be closely watched,” Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko told reporters.

Meeting at Schloss Elmau, a resort in the Bavarian Alps near the Austrian border, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France,

Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States agreed to promote anti-corruption measures in emerging and developing countries because corruption has become an impediment to economic growth in such countries, Seko said.

“Without anti-corruption measures, developing countries would not develop infrastructure in a sound

way,” Abe was quoted as saying by Seko.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country holds the rotating G-7 presidency this year, said that how to fight corruption is an “extremely important issue” and asked G-7 leaders to hold substantial discussions under Japan’s presidency next year, according to Seko.

Abe referred to Japan’s \$110 billion, five-year “high quality” infrastructure investment initiative for Asia in partnership with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, a project some see as a bid to counter the AIIB, which will be initially capitalized at \$100 billion.

“Through enhancement of the ADB’s ability, Japan will create a system to respond to enormous infrastructure needs in Asia,” Abe was quoted as saying. “When building infrastructure, you must take into account economic welfare of local people, debt sustainability, as well as the impact on human rights, society and the environment.”

When the G-7 leaders touched on trade issues, Abe expressed resolve to speed up negotiations for a 12-nation Pacific free trade initiative known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and to conclude talks between Japan and the European Union by the end of the year, Seko said.

Among the G-7 nations, Canada, Japan and the United States are involved in the TPP negotiations.

During a working din-

ner on Sunday, the leaders were expected to focus on issues such as the crisis in Ukraine and escalating tensions over China’s massive land reclamation in disputed waters in the South China Sea, according to Japanese officials.

Abe, US President Barack Obama and EU leaders have expressed concern about the Chinese action, saying Beijing should clarify the basis of its territorial claims based on international law, not the threat or use of force and coercion.

On Monday, the G-7 leaders will discuss climate change and energy before holding enlarged talks with so-called outreach countries such as Ethiopia, Iraq, Liberia, Nigeria and Tunisia about terrorism, development, public health and women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, the officials said.

Russia was invited to join the G-7 in 1998 and remained a member of what was then called the Group of Eight nations until 2014 when the G-7 suspended Moscow’s participation in retaliation for its annexation of Crimea in southern Ukraine in March last year.

Kyodo News

Three thermal scanners to be set up in joint industrial zone in N Korea

SEOUL, 8 June — Three thermal scanners will be set up in North Korea’s border town of Kaesong on Monday to help efforts in detecting people with elevated temperatures entering a joint industrial zone there amid the current outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus in the South, the South Korean Unification Ministry said on Monday.

“Sometime this morning, three thermal scanners will be installed (in the industrial zone),” ministry spokesman Lim Byeong-Cheol told journalists.

The move follows the North’s request for such devices to screen South Korean workers at the industrial zone for possible infection with the potentially fatal viral respiratory illness.

On a daily average, about 300 to 400 South Ko-

rean workers commute to the industrial zone, where more than 120 South Korean firms employ around 52,000 North Korean workers.

The increasing numbers of deaths from the virus and confirmed cases in South Korea have sparked fear in North Korea as well.

Since a South Korean man who returned from the Middle East was confirmed positive on 20 May, the number of deaths from MERS has risen to six while the total of those infected has reached 87, including the fatalities, as of Monday.

The industrial zone, launched in 2004 with a combination of the North’s cheap labour and the South’s capital and technology, is a key source of revenue for North Korea.

Kyodo News

Search resumes in Nepal trekking village, 53 bodies found

KATHMANDU, 8 June — Nepali soldiers and police have recovered the bodies of 53 trekkers and villagers buried in avalanches set off by an earthquake in April, and were digging through snow and rocks with shovels and hoes on Monday for signs of more victims.

Search and rescue operations had been suspended in the village of Langtang, 60 km (40 miles) north of Kathmandu, last month as fresh avalanches buried some of the 128 bodies that had been recovered, putting rescue workers in danger.

Soldiers from the army’s disaster response unit resumed the search after the risk from avalanches abated and recovered 53 bodies including three of foreign trekkers over the weekend, the military said in a statement.

“It is still confusing whether all these 53 bodies are new or also includ-

ed those that were washed away by the avalanche after being recovered earlier,” army spokesman Brigadier General Jagadish Chandra Pokharel told Reuters.

Uddhav Bhattarai, the most senior bureaucrat

of Rasuwa district where Langtang is located, said scores of soldiers, joined by police and villagers were looking for more than a dozen trekkers and Nepalis missing since the 25 April earthquake.

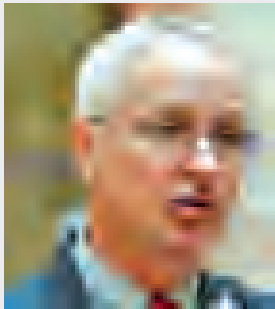
Rasuwa, bordering Tibet, is one of the areas hardest hit by the earthquake and another on May 12 which together claimed 8,773 lives in Nepal’s worst natural disaster on record.

Reuters



Earthquake victims from Langtang District gather to receive food at a Tibetan monastery, a month after the 25 April earthquake, in Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Munter: Serbia's success is US success as well



Cameron Munter, CEO of the EastWest Institute with the seat in New York and former US ambassador

NEW YORK, 8 June — Cameron Munter, CEO of the EastWest Institute with the seat in New York and former US ambassador, stated that Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic received the best possible piece of advice in Washington embodied in further implementation of economic reforms aimed at creating a stronger Serbia as a partner for the US business scene.

I hope that the US voiced the message that Serbia's success is also

a success for the US and that the economic reforms which are being implemented in Serbia are good for the people of Serbia as they make room for investments and trade and also open the possibility for global business partners to take part in Serbia's development, Munter said in an interview for Tanjug. Everyone wants to see economic reforms which will lead to a stronger Serbia which would be a partner for the US business scene, he said.

Comparing Serbia from the year of 2007 when he was appointed as the ambassador and Serbia nowadays, Munter said that eight years ago, there was a question as to whether the Serbia would turn to the future or would remain stuck in the past. Now, in the year of 2015, Serbia is committed to its future in Europe and EU membership, Munter said.

Tanjug

Merkel encourages G7 leaders to agree tough climate goals

KRUEN, (Germany), 8 June — German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Group of Seven (G7) leaders to commit to tough goals to cut greenhouse gases at the final day of their summit in the Bavarian Alps on Monday.

Merkel, once dubbed the "climate chancellor", hopes to revitalise her green credentials by getting the G7 industrial nations to agree specific emissions goals ahead of a larger year-end United Nations climate meeting in Paris.

Climate change topped the agenda for Monday's sessions, at which the leaders were also set to discuss combating epidemics and other health issues, the fight against terrorism from Boko Haram to Islamic State, and African development.

In a boost for Merkel's push to combat global warming, Japan said on Sunday it would favour the G7 countries setting their own target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

US President Barack Obama kept his counsel on the climate issue on Sunday, the first day of the sum-

mit, when leaders presented a united front in facing Russian over the Ukraine conflict and discussed the global economy.

Japan and Canada were regarded before the summit as potential hold-outs on the climate issue, diplomats and environmental campaigners said.

French President Francois Hollande, who will host a UN summit on fighting climate change at the end of the year, was also looking for an ambitious commitment from the G7 to ending their dependence on fossil fuels by mid-century.

He was also seeking a financial commitment to aiding poorer countries to transform their energy sectors so they can reduce carbon emissions.

But it was not clear if Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper would accept a specific G7 goal.

"Canada supports an agreement in Paris that includes all GHG (greenhouse gas) emitting countries," Stephen Lecce, spokesman for Harper, told *Reuters* in an email.

The green lobby is hop-



(Clockwise from L) French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Council President Donald Tusk, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US President Barack Obama and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, attend working meeting at the G7 summit at Elmau Castle hotel in Kruen near Garmisch-Partenkirchen, southern Germany on 8 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ing that Merkel will push for a pledge to phase out fossil fuels by 2050 ahead of the Paris meeting, which aims to agree on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

Greenpeace's head of international climate politics, Martin Kaiser, said the only way for the summit to be seen as a success is for the US, Japanese and Canadian leaders to "take their feet off of the throat of a cli-

mate agreement."

"This means an unequivocal commitment and support for competitive renewable energy technologies," he added.

The G7 leaders will meet so-called "outreach guests" — the leaders of Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia, Liberia, South Africa, Tunisia and Iraq — and hold final news conferences in the afternoon.—*Reuters*

Kurdish party thwarts Erdogan's ambitions with Turkish election advance

ANKARA, 8 June — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's hopes of assuming greater powers suffered a major setback on Sunday when the ruling AK Party he founded failed to win an outright majority in a parliamentary election for the first time.

Erdogan, Turkey's most popular modern leader but also its most divisive, had hoped a crushing victory for the AKP would allow it to change the constitution and create a more powerful US-style presidency. To do that, it would have needed to win two-thirds of the seats in parliament.

Instead, it has been left unable to govern alone for the first time since it came to power almost 13 years ago. It faces potentially weeks of difficult coalition negotiations with reluctant opposition parties as it tries to form a stable government, and the possibility of another early election.

With 98 percent of ballots counted, the AKP took 40.8 percent of the vote, according to broadcaster CNN Turk, down from 49.8 percent at the last parliamentary election in 2011.

"Everyone should see that the AKP is the winner and leader of these elections," a defiant Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, leader of the AKP, said in a balcony speech to the party faithful at its headquarters in Ankara.

"No one should try to build a victory from an election they lost," he told thousands of supporters.

The uncertainty sent the lira currency TRY/TOM=D3 to a record low against the dollar in thin out-of-hours dealing as investors positioned themselves for what is likely to be a turbulent start of trade on Monday.

But for jubilant Kurds, who flooded the streets of the southeastern city of Diyarbakir setting off fireworks and waving flags, there was plenty to celebrate. The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) crossed a 10 percent threshold to enter parliament for the first time.

With initial results putting it on around 13 percent, HDP co-leader Selahattin Demirtas ruled out a coalition with the AKP and said the election outcome had put an end to talk of the stronger



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (C) casts his ballot at a polling station during the parliamentary election in Konya, Turkey on 7 June, 2015.—REUTERS

presidential powers championed by Erdogan.

"The discussion of an executive presidency and dictatorship have come to an end in Turkey," he told a news conference in Istanbul, describing the outcome as a victory "for those who want a pluralist and civil new constitution".

The AKP's failure to win an overall majority marks an end to more than a decade of stable single-party rule and is a setback for both Erdogan and Davutoglu.

Both men had portrayed the election as a choice between a "new Turkey" and a return to a history marked by short-lived coalition governments, economic instabili-

ty and coups by a military whose influence Erdogan has now reined in.

"Erdogan is the main loser given that he championed two big ideas: one a switch to a presidential system, the other single-party government," said Sinan Ulgen, visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe and chairman of the Istanbul-based Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies.

"Neither of them came about."

The partial results indicated that the HDP, with its roots in Kurdish nationalism, had succeeded in widening its appeal beyond its Kurdish core vote to centre-left and secularist elements disil-

lusioned with Erdogan.

It is now likely to play a significant role in parliament, particularly trying to advance a two-year-old peace process between the Turkish state and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, which first took up arms in 1984.

Demirtas said earlier that the campaign had not been fair or just. A bombing on Friday killed two people and wounded at least 200 at one of its rallies in Diyarbakir. The results broadcast by CNN showed the secularist Republican People's Party (CHP) would again be the second biggest group in parliament, with around a quarter of the vote.

Murat Karayalcin, the party's Istanbul chairman, said the outcome was a "clear no" to the executive presidential system championed by Erdogan, while party spokesman Haluk Koc ruled out a coalition with the AKP. The right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), long seen as the AKP's most likely partner in any coalition, took around 16 percent of the vote.

Its leader, Devlet Bahceli, all but ruled out a deal

with the AKP, saying Turkey should hold a new election if the ruling party was unable to agree a coalition with other opposition parties.

"The first possibility ... should be between AKP and HDP. The second model can consist of AKP, CHP and HDP," he said. "If all these scenarios fail, then early elections must be held."

A senior AKP official also said a coalition with the MHP was unlikely, and that the ruling party would rather go it alone and try to build support back up ahead of a new, early election.

"If there is an AKP-MHP coalition, then we will not be able to achieve even this level of votes at the next election," the official said.

The lira has fallen more than 15 percent against the dollar this year on uncertainty about the election outcome, making it one of the worst-performing emerging market currencies.

Many investors had hoped for a weakened single-party AKP government, avoiding the uncertainty of a coalition but without handing Erdogan greater power.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 9 June, 2015

Honesty needs decent rules to survive

By Myint Win Thein

When a new rule that nobody wants to obey is imposed on a society, it is sure to be breached by some people through various ways and means. Those who are accustomed to breaching rules and using dishon-

est means to avoid punishment will have no problem with the addition of one more regulation to disobey. They will tell lies and happily break the new rule without hesitation. For them, breaking the rules is second nature.

For naturally rule-abiding members of society there are two options. The first one is compliance with the rule, even if it appears unjust or illogical, and the second is disobedience. If they follow the new rule, it will burden them or limit their movements more strictly. If they break it, they will have to sacrifice their honesty, telling lies to avoid punishment by the authorities.

Therefore, what is really at risk in society is the honesty of some of its members. Eventually,

their honesty may fall victim to the new rule which has no place in society. Enough space should be left for honesty in every society, since it is still the best policy.

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

SOURCE OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Maung Hlaing

Recently, I read a news item of a paper reading session on Children's Literature organized by the Association of Dissemination of Children's Literature (unofficial translation) in the dailies. According to the news, it was conducted by Dr. Chit San Win and interesting papers on children's literature were read by prominent writers and cartoonists. Though I was not invited to such a paper reading session, I take my hat off to those who conducted it and those who came to read their esteemed papers on children's literature.

Today, hundreds of books are published in our country. Unfortunately, we cannot say that books for children may come out in full swing. Books of tales are still coming out but some of them are translated works from other lands. Some famous writers have come to create new tales for children and others remake the old ones. To my opinion, the story-telling

is the source of children's literature.

When we were very very small, before we had even learned to read, we loved to listen to the tales or stories Mother or Grandma or Grandpa told us. Hundreds of times, we were transported to the Benares and saw King Bramadhat who is well acquainted with children. Together with the brave prince, we broke the spell the witch had cast over Sleeping Beauty.

And we all were quite familiar with the classic story of "Mae Htwe Lay and the serpent," an original Myanmar folktale. We had pity on Mae Htwe Lay who was simple and honest. We had an antipathy on her cruel elders.

However, although we grew older, we did not lose contact with the well-wishing, the fearless characters from our favourite tales. We still met them in books, on the stage and the screen.

Story-telling has great influence over our children and has become the source of children's literature. And in the guise of entertainment, the story is often

the vehicle conveying the children to the wholesome moral lesson or the bit of desirable knowledge so necessary to their wellbeing.

Very often, the parent is at a loss for fresh materials. In such a circumstance, he or she is compelled to make up a story, with but poor satisfaction to themselves or their children. These made-up stories are what we call creative stories.

Every nation has its own fairy tales. While the tales of different nations resemble each other, they are at the same time widely different. It is not difficult to distinguish between Myanmar, English, French, German, Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Russian tales, because each describes the life and national surroundings of the land to which it belongs and where it has been handed down from generation to generation.

Almost all the tales were first told long, long ago. As they were retold, the tellers added new details and changed the old ones according to individual views and tastes. The

older the stories grew, the more interesting and artistic they became, for the people polished and perfected them in the course of the centuries.

Whatever it may be, fairy tales are a poetic invention, but at the same time, they reflect the real environment from which they spring. They tell of the people's hopes and aspirations, their desire to improve life and lighten labour; they show that the people have always believed in their own strength and in happiness which is sure to come.

One of the most interesting things is the life-story of some great men or women. Children like to listen to a story with a hero who accomplishes something in the face of difficulties, and every great person is such a hero. Whether it be Napoleon or Florence Nightingale, Tabin-shwete or Bayint Naung of Myanmar old history, Jawaharlal Nehru of India or Bogyoke Aung San of Myanmar, the biography is inspiring.

Reading of the deed of such people seems to link

the reader in intimate friendship with the great. Moreover, tales deal with varied subjects in the most varied ways. Children know countless tales about animals, especially about the sly fox who gets the better of the stupid wolf and clumsy bear.

I think that these animal-tales were made up many years ago by hunters, who studied the beasts of the forests and found that each had character and individuality. They admired certain animals for their daring and despised others for their trickery. Today, these tales like fables, have symbolic significance, exposing human vices and shortcomings, such as greed, cunning and stupidity.

Most poetic and amusing are the wonder-tales. They transport us to the world of fantasy. These tales are based on imagination and invention. No ordinary laws govern the actions of the heroes of these tales. Their heroes are the incarnation of the popular ideal. They are always fearless, courageous, noble, and invariably conquer evil.

Grown-ups enjoy fairy-tales as much as chil-

dren, for it is quite impossible to resist the charm of their heroes, the beauty of their language, and the force of their message, which speak of love of one's country, faith in the strength of the simple folk, confidence in a better future and the triumph of good over evil.

These stories and tales are transformed into picture books, pictorials, comic journals, modern short stories, tales, and creative stories, drama scripts, humour and translations of literary works.

We can say that most of the children, when they grow up, will tell their children the tales or creative stories they themselves heard when they were very small. This is an unending process that will be going on generation to generation.

As long as we can tell stories to our children, there will always exist children's literature.

I am looking forward to seeing more paper reading sessions on children's literature. Besides, I will try my best to devote myself to writing more articles on children's literature.

We are buying up these land plots



Hla Htut Oo

A seven-member delegation led by Daw Hnin Wai, secretary general of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association seen at Yangon International Airport on Monday before departure for China (Taipei) to attend ASEAN Business Day 2015 from 9 to 11 June.
MWEA



LOCAL NEWS

Local residents dredge earthen lakes for rainwater storage



NATTALIN, 8 June — Local residents joined local authorities in dredging the earthen lakes in Thakhukkon and Kantaw villages in Nattalin Township, Bago Region, preparing them to store water during rainy season.

A local resident from Thakhukkon Village said, “The lake dried up in summer, leaving us with a shortage of water, not only for local residents but for animals. Now it can store rainwater, so we will have enough water next season.”

Tin Myint (Nattalin)

Farmers cultivate monsoon paddy on reclaimed land

MYANAUNG, 8 June— Farmers carried out soil preparation for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Yaynitkwin village, Myanaung Township, on 7 June, on reclaimed land developed under an Ayeyawady Region government plan.

The Township Administrator and officials of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Settlement and Land Records

Department and Department of Agriculture supervised reclamation of 100 acres of farmlands in Yaynitkwin village in Myanaung Township in fiscal 2014-15. The region government will allot 200 acres of farmlands in Myanaung Township this fiscal year.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Local farmers carry out soil preparation for cultivation of farmlands by tractor.



Township officials discuss storage of chemical precursors

TACHILEK, 8 June — A workshop on rules and regulations for storage of prohibited chemical precursors took place at the meeting hall of the Township General Administration Department in Tachilek, Shan State, recently.

Police Captain Than Shwe of Anti-Drug Squad No 30 explained plans to combat narcotic drugs, as well as rules for prohibited

chemical precursors.

Staff Officer U Aung Kyaw Naing of the Fire Services Department outlined correct storage of chemicals and preventive measures of fire.—*Kyemon-111*

Kanbalu Tsp extends electricity supply to villages

KANBALU, 8 June — Residents of 15 villages in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, are able to use electricity around the clock as of this year.

Another 25 villages are also in the process of receiving full-time electricity, with power lines and transformers being installed and lamp posts erected, according to the township electrical engineer.

In line with the instructions of Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Win, township departmental officials have formed village electrification committees with the residents and



local authorities.

Electrification works in two of the villages are

near completion, the township said.—*Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu)*

Myanma Railways carries out track maintenance

YEDASHE, 8 June — Myanmar Railways on June 6 carried out track maintenance from Thauंगाingon station in Ottwin Township to Yedashe Township.

Junior Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw Oo said, “We

maintain the railroad sections to prevent accidents on the railroad.”

Workers laid gravel along the railroad to strengthen the base of the tracks.

Ko Lwin (Swa)



Volunteers make plastic-free urban in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 8 June — Volunteer youths and local residents including departmental personnel and members of social organizations carried out sanitation around Myingyan District People’s Hospital and roads in the urban area in Myingyan, Mandalay Region on 6 June.

District’s deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung briefed them on disadvantages of plastic bags and systematic littering.

The volunteers cleared plastic bags and other garbage on the roads and around the hospital with the use of four garbage vans. Departmental personnel served the volunteers with traditional foods and purified drinking water.—*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

Yemen's exiled president plays down coming peace talks

DUBAI, 8 June — Yemen's exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has played down next week's talks in Geneva between his country's warring parties, saying they will only address ways to implement a Security Council resolution demanding his enemies retreat.

Hadi and his government's host, Saudi Arabia, have insisted that any talks centre on resolution 2216, which demands that the Iranian-backed Houthis and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh quit cities they seized since last September and surrender heavy weapons.

But with the Houthis still entrenched across populated parts of western Yemen despite 11 weeks of Saudi-led airstrikes, international pressure has grown for Hadi to accept



Soldiers loyal to Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi ride at the back of a pick-up truck during a parade in Yemen's northern province of Marib on 25 May, 2015.—REUTERS

a compromise and negotiate with the Houthis and Saleh's representatives.

"These are not talks,

it is only a discussion to implement UN Security Council resolution 2216, how to implement it on

the ground," Hadi said in an interview with the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya television.

He denied the United Nations-sponsored meeting due to start on 14 June was aimed at wider reconciliation or finding a political compromise to end the conflict.

Hadi says 2216, adopted in April, had created a framework for peace by demanding that the Houthis leave Yemeni cities they had seized since last year and allow his government to resume work from Sanaa.

The Houthis have rejected the resolution, however, saying Hadi's internationally recognised but exiled government has lost its legitimacy.

Hadi also repeated accusations that Iran was systematically interfering in his country's affairs by backing the Houthis.

What Iran does at (my country) is more dangerous

than al Qaeda," Hadi said in the interview, parts of which were broadcast on Monday.

Hadi fled Yemen and took refuge in Saudi Arabia in March after the Houthis closed in on the southern city of Aden, where he had fled after escaping house arrest imposed on him by the militia a month earlier.

The president, who came to office in 2012 elections after Saleh was forced to step down by mass protests against his 33 years in office, has long accused Iran of meddling in Yemen's affairs. "I had asked Iran: 'lift your hand from Yemen'," Hadi said. "I did not bring this from vacuum. We caught people who had been trained by the (Iranian) Revolutionary Guard. They were jailed in our prisons," he added.

Reuters

Britain to expand Iraq training mission to counter IS — Cameron

KRUEN, (Germany), 8 June — Britain is to expand its military training mission in Iraq in the coming weeks, Prime Minister David Cameron announced on Sunday, saying the Iraqi army needed more help to deal with improvised bombs planted by Islamic State militants.

Cameron, speaking before a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations (G7), said Britain would send 125 new military advisers to Iraq, most of whom would train the Iraqi army in how to counter improvised explosive devices or IEDs.

That will take the total number of British military trainers in Iraq up to

275, officials said, and the overall number of British personnel engaged in various roles against Islamic State across the region up to around 900.

"We're already the second largest contributor in terms of air strikes in Iraq, and support for the Syrian opposition," Cameron told reporters at the G7 in Germany.

"But I'm announcing today that we're increasing our training effort in Iraq. It's a particular request the Abadi government has made, it's a particular thing we've been working with the Americans on."

Cameron was due to brief US President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime

Minister Haider al-Abadi on the plans at the G7. He was also expected to discuss with Obama what more Britain can do to help train moderate Syrian opposition forces in locations outside Syria such as Turkey.

Critics say gains made by Islamist militants in both Iraq and Syria show that the US-led strategy against them is faltering, and that Western ground troops are needed.

British officials said the new trainers would be deployed in "a handful of locations" across Iraq including Taji, Besmaya and Al Asad. Around 100 would carry out IED training, while 25 would focus

on first aid, equipment maintenance, or logistics and information support.

A spokeswoman for Cameron's office said Islamic State routinely planted large numbers of bombs when retreating, and that training Iraqi forces to clear them would allow local people to return more quickly to their homes. She said the deployment was consistent with the scale of Britain's current engagement in Iraq, and did not herald deeper involvement. After taking part in the US-led invasion of Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003, Britain withdrew the last of its forces in 2011.

Reuters

UN to host new rounds of Libya talks in Morocco

CAIRO, 8 June — The United Nations plans to host on Monday in Morocco a new round of talks among Libya's warring factions in an effort to end a conflict that threatens to break up the oil producer. The internationally recognized government has had to operate out of the East of the north African oil state since an armed alliance known as Libya Dawn took over the capital Tripoli and set up its own self-declared government last year.

Western officials say the UN talks are the only hope of forming a unity government and halting the fighting among factions allied to either government.

Previous rounds have yielded little progress with the two governments and parliaments arguing for months over an agreement to form a unity government, but the UN said this round would be "decisive".

"The mission has received thousands of messages from Libyans gravely concerned about the deteriorating conditions in their country, demanding the swift resumption of the dialogue talks and expressing hope that the Libyan political actors would seize the opportunity," the UN mission for Libya said in a statement. "The meeting in Skhirat (Morocco) will discuss a new draft of the political agreement based on the latest input of the parties,"

the UN said on its website.

Egypt, which is worried about Islamic State expanding in the oil producer, said it was backing a political solution but warned the international community should "stop wasting time" getting support for the official government.

"We can't wait for the political solution even though we all back and recommend it. We don't back a military option but we cannot postpone fighting terrorism," Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri said after meeting officials from Italy and Algeria in Cairo on Sunday to discuss Libya.

"Terrorism and other challenges faced by the Libyan people cannot wait for results that we cannot push for," he said. "We cannot waste any more time and give space to those working against the Libyan people, those who spread terrorism and fighting." The Tripoli government says Egypt has been arming the eastern government which cannot buy weapons legally as the country is still under an arms embargo going back to the 2011 uprising. Cairo denies this.

Forces loyal to the eastern government have been fighting Islamic fighters in the eastern city of Benghazi for a year but have been unable to control the entire city. Last week, the eastern army said it was short of ammunition.—*Reuters*

Seven soldiers, 19 militants killed in clash in Pakistani tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 8 June — Seven Pakistani soldiers and 19 militants were killed in a clash in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area near the Afghan border early Monday morning, the Defence Ministry said.

A Press release by the ministry said the clash took place on a route often used by militants to cross into and out of Afghanistan.

The army personnel were killed when a suicide bomber they had apprehended after the battle blew himself up, the press

release said.

The 19 militants killed include five known commanders of the Pakistani Taliban.

The Pakistani army is currently engaged in a sweeping operation against terrorists operating from their North Waziristan stronghold.

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan often accuse tribesmen in their border areas of cross-border attacks and terrorist activities.

Kyodo News



Pakistani soldiers cordon off the attack site in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 7 June, 2015.

XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Samsung Elec's new smartwatch to offer mobile payments



A man walks at the Samsung Electronics' headquarters in Seoul on 7 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

SEOUL, 8 June — Tech giant Samsung Electronics Co Ltd plans to offer a mobile payments function in a smartwatch to be launched in the second half of the year, South Korea's Electronic Times newspaper reported on Monday citing unnamed sources.

Samsung would use near-field communication (NFC) technology to support mobile payments on the smartwatch, the report said. This is the same technology Apple Inc uses for the Apple Pay function supported by its smartwatches.

The South Korean firm has said that its Samsung Pay mobile payments service, which supports NFC technology, will be available with "select partners" in July. The company did not immediately comment on the report.

Reuters

Sony Music CEO confirms launch of Apple's music streaming Monday

NEW YORK, 8 June — Apple Inc will announce its new music streaming service on Monday, according to remarks by the chief executive of Sony Music, Doug Morris, VentureBeat

reported on Sunday.

The announcement by Apple will be made during its Worldwide Developers Conference, VentureBeat said, citing remarks that Morris made in Cannes,

France, at the Midem Music Industry Festival.

A spokesman for Apple declined to comment. Representatives for Sony Music could not be reached immediately.

As a music company, Sony Music's support would be important for the successful launch of a streaming service by Apple.

Reuters



A visitor looks at an automobile model at the fifth Vancouver Mini Maker Fair 2015 in Vancouver, Canada, on 7 June, 2015.—XINHUA

App empowers civilians to capture evidence of war crimes on smartphones

LONDON, 8 June — A new mobile phone app enabling civilians in conflict-torn countries to capture and share verifiable footage of war crimes will help authorities to prosecute the perpetrators, a leading legal body said as it launched the app on Monday.

Mobile phone footage of human rights abuses, mainly shared on social media in recent years, is often fake, impossible to verify or lacking the information necessary to be used as evidence in court, said the International Bar Association (IBA). The "EyeWitness to Atrocities" app records the user's location, date and time, and nearby Wi-Fi networks to verify that the footage has not been edited or manipulated, before sending it to a database monitored by a team of legal experts.

"This could be a real game-changer in the fight for human rights and international justice... and provide a solution to the

evidentiary challenges surrounding mobile phone footage," said IBA executive director Mark Ellis.

"It will also allow media outlets to use the footage and remove any doubts regarding authenticity that may have previously prevented them from showing mobile phone videos," Ellis told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

The app was devised following controversy surrounding mobile footage aired by British broadcaster Channel 4 in 2011 which purported to show Sri Lankan troops executing Tamil prisoners.

Sri Lanka's government initially dismissed the footage as fabricated, then broadcast its own version of the video, and said the killers were rebels in army uniform. Channel 4 rejected the claim, saying its work had been meticulously checked.

Millions of YouTube viewers were fooled in November last year by the video of the "Syrian hero boy", who appeared to brave gunfire to rescue a young girl hiding under a car.

The video was in fact

produced in Malta by Norwegian filmmakers who used actors and presented the footage as real in order to highlight the plight of children in conflict zones.

"Until now, it has been extremely difficult to verify the authenticity of these images and to protect the safety of those brave enough to record them," Ellis said.

The app, which was designed based on the rules of evidence in international, regional and national courts, allows the user to decide whether or not to be anonymous when uploading footage.

Once a video is submitted, it is stored in a virtual evidence locker, where it can only be accessed by legal experts who analyse the footage and identify the appropriate authorities to pursue criminal charges, according to the IBA.

The IBA, an international organization of lawyers and law firms, said it was working with rights groups to ensure the app would be used in some of the world's most severe conflict zones, including Syria, Iraq and Ukraine.

Reuters

Apple expected to focus on watch, music at developer conference

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 June — Apple is expected to unveil a new music service and better tools to build apps for its smartwatch at its annual gathering of developers in San Francisco on Monday.

The tech giant's legion of independent developers will get a preview of a new software kit for the two-month-old Apple Watch at the Worldwide Developers Conference, Jeff Williams, Apple's senior vice president of operations, said at a recent tech event.

Like other Apple products, the watch's commercial success will likely hinge on a compelling collection of apps. But early apps for the timepiece have been tethered to the iPhone, placing some limits on what developers could do. The expanded software kit should lead to better and faster watch apps, said Bob

O'Donnell, an analyst at TECHanalysis Research.

Apps built with the new toolkit will likely start arriving in the fall, Williams said.

Many analysts expect that Apple will use Monday's event to debut a new music streaming service. The company behind the iPod and iTunes has long been a leader in digital music, but it has lost ground in recent years as subscription services such as Spotify have caught on with consumers.

Analyst Van Baker of Gartner said he expects Apple to release a new service to win a bigger share of the streaming business.

"This is catch-up for Apple," he said.

An Apple spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Reuters



Photo taken on 8 June, 2015, at Nagoya Airport in the central Japan town of Toyoyama shows the Mitsubishi Regional Jet, developed by Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. The first-ever Japanese-built small passenger jet started taxiing there the same day prior to its maiden flight expected between September and October.

KYODO NEWS

Website of national pension service partially reopened

TOKYO, 8 June — The state-run Japan Pension Service partially reopened its website on Monday after two days of suspension to deal with security problems.

The pension body said last week that the names and ID numbers of about 1.25 million people in the nation's public pension programme had been leaked after its personal computers were compromised by cyberattacks.

The JPS said it would

continue making efforts to fully resume its website service.

On the resumed website, the pension body mainly provides information on the data leak incident.

The JPS has said the website disruption will not affect its core computer system containing sensitive personal information, such as records of pension contributions, because the website is not maintained on its own server.

Kyodo News

Quake of 5.9 magnitude strikes off Japan — USGS

TOKYO, 8 June — An earthquake measuring 5.9 magnitude struck off Japan's northeast coast on Monday. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The quake was 80 km (50 miles) deep and centred 132 km (82 miles) north northeast of Hachinohe, Honshu, the US Geological Survey said.—Reuters

Iran resumes trial of Washington Post reporter

TEHERAN, 8 June — An Iranian court on Monday resumed the trial of a Washington Post reporter over spying and propaganda charges, official IRNA news agency reported. Jason Rezaian, a 39-year-old Iranian-American, was first tried on 26 May at the same court — Branch 15 of Iran's Islamic Revolution Court.

Rezaian faces charges of "espionage, collaboration with hostile governments, gathering classified information and disseminating propaganda against

the Islamic Republic," Rezaian's lawyer, Leila Ahsan, said earlier.

Rezaian assumed his job as Washington Post correspondent in Teheran in 2012. He was arrested on 22 July, 2014, along with his wife, Yeganeh Salehi, a reporter for The National newspaper based in Abu Dhabi, and a female freelance photographer.

Salehi and the photographer, who were released on bail in October 2014, also appeared in court on Monday.—Xinhua

US, Japan say first test of Raytheon's new SM-3 missile a success

WASHINGTON, 8 June — The United States and Japan announced on Sunday the first live-fire test of Raytheon Co's new Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missile that is being jointly developed by the two countries for several billion dollars.

Rick Lehner, spokesman for the US Missile Defence Agency, said the test conducted on Saturday from the Point Mugu Sea Range off the coast of California was a success.

Lehner said the United States spent just over \$2 billion on the weapons

programme, while Japan contributed about \$1 billion.

The SM-3 IIA is a 21-inch variant of an earlier SM-3 missile, which works with the US Aegis combat system built by Lockheed Martin Corp to destroy incoming ballistic missile threats in space.

Riki Ellison, who heads the non-profit Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance, said: "It is the US Department of Defence's best case of equal funding and engineering shared with an allied country to develop and ... field a new

weapon system to better enhance the national security of both nations."

Raytheon said the new SM-3 IIA missile had bigger rocket motors and a more capable kill vehicle that would allow the missile to engage threats sooner and protect larger regions from short- to intermediate-range ballistic missile threats.

Saturday's test evaluated the performance of the missile's nosecone, steering control, and the separation of its booster, and second and third stages.

No intercept was planned, and no target missile was launched, said US and company officials.

"The success of this test keeps the programme on track for a 2018 deployment at sea and ashore," said Taylor Lawrence, president of Raytheon's missile systems business.

Ellison said three more years of testing were planned for the new missile before it was put to use on US Navy Aegis ships, Japan's Kongo ships, and at land-based Aegis Ashore sites in Poland and Romania.—Reuters

Obama uses G7 to press UK's Cameron on defence spending

KRUEN, (Germany), 8 June — US President Barack Obama told Prime Minister David Cameron he hoped Britain would keep military spending at 2 percent of national output, despite London's need to cut a sizeable budget deficit, a British source said on Sunday.

Obama pressed Cameron on the sensitive subject in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Germany amid concern in the United States that defence spending in its closest ally could

be poised to fall below the NATO target.

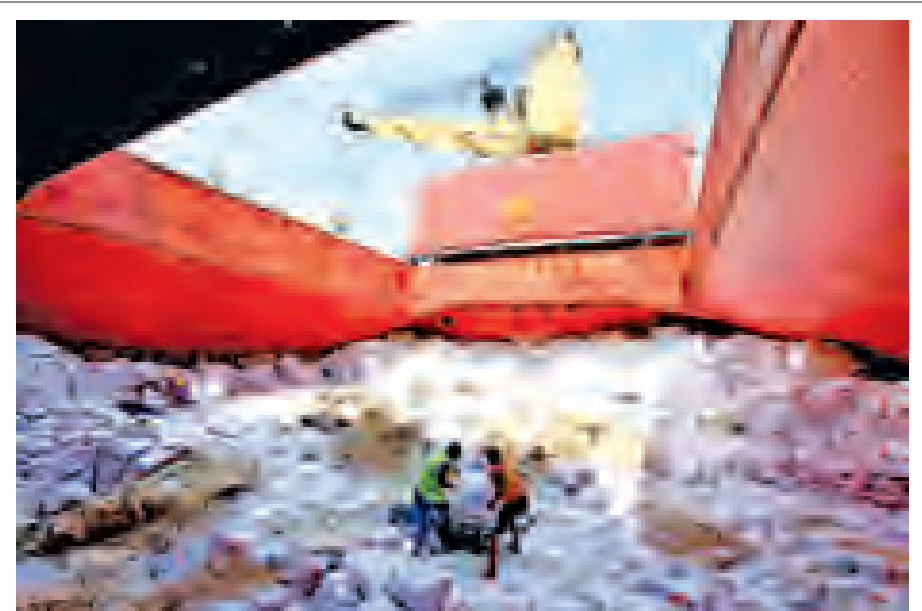
The exchange will add to domestic pressure on Cameron to maintain defence outlays. Many of his Conservative lawmakers have already urged him to promise not to cut the military budget, something he has so far refused to rule out.

"They touched on 2 percent," the British source said. "The president underlined the importance of the UK and the US — we are the two pillars of NATO — and said he accepted the fiscal challenges but hoped

that the UK would find a way to meet it."

Cameron told Obama Britain was meeting the 2 percent target for now and reeled off a list of how Britain was using its army around the world, in places like Iraq, to help Washington, the source said.

The British government is due to hold a spending review in the autumn and Cameron, whose government has pledged to erase the deficit as fast as it can, has repeatedly declined to confirm he will maintain spending at the NATO target level.—Reuters



Workers unload sacks of imported rice from Vietnam at a port area in Navotas City, the Philippines, on 8 June, 2015. The Philippines agreed to import an initial 150,000 tons of rice from Vietnam to prevent a sudden price hike of rice due to the dry spell from the El Nino phenomenon.—XINHUA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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People take a bus with paintings on the theme of the ocean in Qingdao City, east China's Shandong Province, on 8 June, 2015.—XINHUA

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**New Zealand confirms role in major
Australian-US military drill**

WELLINGTON, 8 June — New Zealand troops are to take part for the first time in Australia's largest military exercise next month, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) confirmed on Monday. The NZDF was deploying 22 light armoured vehicles and two NH90 helicopters as well as two ships, two other aircraft and 620 personnel to Exercise Talis-

man Sabre, said Major General Tim Gall, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand. Talisman Sabre was the largest exercise that the Australian Defence Force conducted with the US armed forces in a combined and joint environment, covering training in land, air and maritime warfare, including amphibious operations. "In Talisman Sabre, our

personnel will be working as part of a large force led by the Australian Defence Force and our military assets will be integrated with those of the Australians and the US armed forces," Gall said in a statement. The NZDF had been invited to participate in this year's bilateral exercise, being held from 5 to 21 July in multiple training areas

in Australia and the United States. It would involve around 30,000 Australian and US troops, 21 ships including the US navy aircraft carrier *USS George Washington*, more than 200 aircraft and three submarines. A small contingent of Japanese troops are reportedly also joining the biennial exercise for the first time this year.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Kayah State, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.



Helen Mirren, musical 'Fun Home' win top Tony Awards

"King and I" musical starring Ken Watanabe bags 4 Tony Awards



Ken Watanabe and Kelli O'Hara perform a scene from the musical 'The King and I' during the 69th Annual Tony Awards in New York on 8 June, 2015.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 8 June — The Broadway musical "The King and I," starring Japanese actor Ken Watanabe and veteran American actress Kelli O'Hara, on Sunday received four of this year's Tony Awards, the most revered prizes in American theater, including best musical revival.

The best musical actress went to O'Hara, who in her acceptance speech thanked her Japanese co-star as well as others involved in the production, which was nominated in nine categories.

"My king, Ken Watanabe, you're the king, my king," said O'Hara, who played Anna Leonowens, English teacher for the children of the king of Siam.

Watanabe missed out on best musical actor, for which he was one of the five nominees.

Ruthie Ann Miles, in the role of a princess, was given the best featured actress award, while Catherine Zuber was honored for costume design. As part of the televised award ceremony, Watanabe and O'Hara performed the famous "Shall We Dance" scene from the musical.

The nine Tony nominations of "The Kind and I" was one of the most for this season's musicals and plays.

The musical classic, set in the 19th century in what is now Thailand, was first performed in 1951. It revolves around an unexpected bond that develops between the king of Siam and Leonowens.

The revival version opened officially at the Lincoln Centre Theater in New York on 16 April after a nearly one month-long preview. It was Watanabe's Broadway debut. He has played roles in a number of Hollywood movie productions such as "Inception," "Letters from Iwo Jima," and "The Last Samurai." He is also a veteran actor in Japan, appearing in numerous films and TV shows.

Co-star O'Hara has been nominated several times for the Tony Awards. Awards are given in more than two dozen categories in musicals, plays and special recognitions. The best musical award went to "Fun Home," while "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" was given the best play.—*Kyodo News*

Florence and the Machine land third UK No 1 album

LONDON, 8 June — British band Florence and The Machine entered the album charts at number one on Sunday with "How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful", securing their third UK chart-topping album, the Official Charts Company said.

The album racked up combined sales of nearly 70,000 to hold off competition from fellow new entries "Act Two" by TV talent show-winners Collabro and "In Colour" by Jamie XX, which charted in second and third place respectively.

Alchemy acquires distribution rights for Nicolas Cage's 'The Runner'



Nicolas Cage

LOS ANGELES, 8 June — The distribution rights of upcoming political drama "The Runner", starring Oscar-winning actor Nicolas Cage, has been acquired by Alchemy, the leading independent film and television distribution entity.

Written and directed by Austin Stark, the film co-stars Sarah Paulson, Connie Nielsen, Wendell Pierce, Bryan Batt and Peter Fonda. Scheduled for the release later this year, the film has Cage, 51, essaying the role of a politician whose career is destroyed by a sex scandal in the wake of the 2010 BP oil spill, said The Hollywood Reporter.—*PTI*

NEW YORK, 8 June — Helen Mirren won her first Tony on Sunday for her role as Queen Elizabeth II in "The Audience," and the lesbian-coming of age story "Fun Home" nabbed the top acting prize for Michael Cerveris and best musical at the 69th Tony Awards.

British import "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," about a teenage math wizard with Asperger Syndrome who goes on an incredible journey, won five awards, including best play, director and actor for its star, recent Juilliard School graduate Alex Sharp.

Mirren described her win as "an incredible honor." With a Tony, Broadway's highest honor, an Emmy and an Oscar, she said she would love to win a Grammy, which are for recorded material. "I have to do an audio book," she joked. Sharp, in his

Broadway debut, surpassed Hollywood star Bradley Cooper and veteran actor Bill Nighy for the best actor accolade.

"Oh my God, oh my God. It's so crazy," said a surprised Sharp, who dedicated his award to young people who feel misunderstood or different.

"I feel like I won this award for my character, Christopher, and for people like Christopher," he said backstage.

Cerveris took home best actor in a musical, his second Tony, for playing the closeted homosexual father in "Fun Home," which also earned Tonys for best director for Sam Gold, as well as best book and best score. "I am fortunate to be standing here. You all deserve to be," he said to his fellow nominees. "Our show is about home and finding who you are."

Reuters



Singer Florence Welch of Florence + the Machine performs on ABC TV's "Good Morning America" in Central Park in the Manhattan borough of New York on 5 June, 2015. —REUTERS

Broadway's 2015 Tony Awards winners

NEW YORK, 8 June — The following is a list of winners in major categories at the Tony Awards, American theatre's highest honors which were handed out on Sunday at Radio City Music Hall.

Best musical:

"Fun Home"

Best play:

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," Simon Stephens

Best revival of a musical:

"The King and I"

Best revival of a play:

"Skylight"

Best performance by a leading actress in a musical:

Kelli O'Hara, "The King and I"

Best performance by a leading actor in a musical

Michael Cerveris, "Fun Home"

Best performance by a leading actor in a play:

Alex Sharp, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"

Best performance by a leading actress in a play:

Helen Mirren, "The Audience"

Best direction of a musical:

Sam Gold, "Fun Home"

Best direction of a play:

Marianne Elliott, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"

Best book of a musical:

"Fun Home," Lisa Kron

Best original score:

"Fun Home," Jeanine Tesori, Lisa Kron

Best choreography:

"An American in Paris"—*Reuters*

Tom Hanks' son wanted by police

LONDON, 8 June — Chester 'Chet' Hanks, son of Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks, is reportedly wanted by British police for allegedly causing 1,200 pounds worth of damage to a hotel room after an alcohol-fuelled night out.

The 24-year-old rapper caused damage to the four-star room at Gatwick Airport, just outside of London, reported *Daily Mirror*. "After partying at a club in the capital, he then went back to the hotel with a British actor friend and three female promoters. He was sick in the car park and then went up to the room and got really loud," a source said.

"He asked the girls if they would join



Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks

him but they are not like that. So, he started screaming and making a right noise... all you could hear was this smashing and crashing. Next morning he was gone but the room was trashed. Everything was smashed and there was glass all over the floor," the source added.—*PTI*

GENERAL

US woman sets out to become first to row across Pacific alone

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 June — An American began a 6,000-mile (9,656-km) voyage on Sunday in Japan, attempting to become the third person and the first woman to cross the Pacific Ocean by herself in a rowboat.

Sonya Baumstein, 30, set out in her carbon and kevlar boat from Choshi Marina, Japan, beginning the four- to six-month odyssey to San Francisco, according to expeditionpacific.com, her support team's website. "And she's off!!," her team said in a Tweet after she launched.

Despite 16 attempted solo rows across the Pacific, no women and only two men have successfully completed the journey - Frenchmen Gerard d'Aboville in 1991 and Emmanuel Coindre in 2005, according to Ocean Rowing Society



Sonya Baumstein stands in her 23-foot (7.01 metre) carbon and kevlar solo rowboat in this handout picture courtesy of Andrew Cull in Port Townsend, Washington on 12 April, 2015.—REUTERS

records.

Baumstein is travelling in a custom-made 23-foot (7-meter), 660-pound (300-kg) boat without a motor or sail.

"Sonya's not crazy," Andrew Cull, the journey's operation manager, in a May interview with Reuters.

"She's driven. Maybe a little bit bullheaded. She

gets an idea in her head and will do anything necessary to get it done."

On board, she has 1,200 pounds (544 kg) of freeze-dried food, 180 high-carbohydrate drink supplements and a cache of olive oil that she will consume in hopes of retaining as much weight as possible.

Baumstein's boat has

an electric water maker that desalinates seawater for drinking. Her bathroom on board will be a bucket.

Baumstein, who was recruited as a rower by the University of Wisconsin-Madison before a car accident derailed her collegiate athletic career, expects to burn to up 10,000 calories a day and has gained 40 pounds (18 kg) for the trip.

Her team will aid her from land via satellite phone, she will be tracked by GPS, and will have an emergency beacon in case of trouble, but there will be no support vessel.

The only other woman to attempt to row from Japan to San Francisco was Briton Sarah Outen. But she was blown northward and after 149 days ended her 2013 journey in the Aleutian Islands.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(9-6-2015 07:00 am~ 10-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- * [Doctor] [Painter]
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Europeans make World Cup arrivals with thrashings

OTTAWA, 8 June — Top-ranked Germany announced their arrival at the Women's World Cup on Sunday by handing out a near-record 10-0 thrashing to Ivory Coast that underlined the gulf between the heavyweights and emerging teams.

For the first time, the World Cup has been expanded to 24 sides from 16, which opens up the tournament to newcomers like Thailand and Ivory Coast.

Governing body FIFA says this reflects the increasing strength of women's football but the debutants learnt on Sunday just how far behind they still are.

Germany's victory in their Group B opener, which featured hat-tricks from Celia Sasic and Anja Mittag, was the second biggest win in tournament history.

Norway earlier overwhelmed Thailand 4-0 in a one-sided triumph that should have been much bigger.

Ivory Coast had keeper Dominique Thiamale to thank for avoiding an even heavier defeat.

"We had judged them to be a better team than they were today ... I'd never have thought we'd win 10-0," said German coach Silvia Neid.

The biggest defeat in Women's World Cup history came in 2007, when Germany beat Argentina 11-0.

Ivory Coast coach Clementine Toure said her team had been somewhat taken aback by just how good the Germans were.

"We want to be a competitive side and playing the finest team in the world is the best way for us to learn," she said.

A few hours before her players were humiliated, Norway had outmuscled Thailand, and only wasteful finishing prevented them from scoring many more.

"We'll play differently the next game ... we've learned quite a bit," said rueful Thai coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian.

Germany and Norway next play each other on June 11 in a game that will decide who wins the group.

"If you score 10 times I

think you can be quite confident going into the next match," said Neid.

The World Cup is being played on artificial turf, which some players said was very dry despite being watered immediately before the game.

"It's not what we're used to, but we have to accept it," said German striker Mittag.

Other teams that could reach the 5 July final include the second-ranked United States, who start in Winnipeg on Monday against Australia, the number 10 side.

"If we can bring our 'A' game that day, I'm sure we're going to be a big rival to the US", said Australian coach Alen Stajcic.

The teams are in Group D, the so-called 'Group of

Death', which also features fifth-ranked Sweden and Nigeria.

There were only two games on Saturday and Sunday but starting on Monday, that will double. Japan, ranked fourth, open their Group C campaign against Switzerland in Vancouver while Ecuador meet Cameroon.

Hosts Canada kicked off the event on Saturday with a laboured 1-0 win over China, courtesy of a late penalty call. The team looked particularly blunt in attack.

"They will need to find something more than what they showed here ... if they have larger ambitions," Globe and Mail football columnist Cathal Kelley wrote.

Reuters



Germany forward Alexandra Popp (18) kicks a free kick for a goal against Ivory Coast in the second half of a Group B soccer match in the 2015 women's World Cup at Lansdowne Stadium. Germany defeated Ivory Coast 10-0. REUTERS

Michigan boy, 15, completes 57-mile walk with brother on his back

DETROIT, 8 June — A 15-year-old Michigan boy on Sunday completed a three-day, 57-mile walk across the state, carrying his younger brother on his back, as part of a campaign to raise awareness for Cerebral Palsy.

Hunter Gandee started the long trek with little brother Braden, who suffers from Cerebral Palsy, on Friday morning in Lambertville, Michigan, an unincorporated community near the Ohio border.

The brothers reached the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor at about 4 p.m. on Sunday, joined for the final leg by friends and family.

The walk, which made national headlines, marks the second long-distance march for the brothers.

Last year, they walked to Ann Arbor from their home in Temperance, Mich.

Hunter Gandee said the walk was not intended as a fundraiser, but rather an awareness campaign about the debilitating condition. During the hike, though, he rallied support to raise \$200,000 toward the construction of a handicap accessible playground at Braden's school.

The play place would include rubber flooring, ramps instead of stairs and other accommodations to make it easier for kids like his brother to enjoy recess.

The boys' mother, Danielle Gandee, said all four of her children have taken part in the effort. "Extremely proud of them as well as their sister Kerragan and little brother Kellen and even more so of their group of friends who have walked this entire journey to show support," Gandee said in a message to Reuters. "Love these kids!"—Reuters

Football fans welcome home history-making U-20 team



A crowd waits at Yangon International Airport for Myanmar's footballers returning from the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 8 June — Myanmar's U-20 footballers returned home to a hero's welcome Monday after a World Cup campaign that yielded promising signs for the future, despite a winless exit from the group stage in New Zealand.

Family members and football fans packed the arrivals hall at Yangon International Airport to greet the team, who made history by becoming the first Myanmar side to play at any World Cup finals.

U Htay Oo, father of defender Kyaw Min Oo, was among the admirers waiting for the players.

"I am incredibly

proud of my son and his teammates for making footballing history at the U-20 World Cup in New Zealand," U Htay Oo told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Also among the supporters was well-known event presenter Ko Mg Mg Aye, who said he was impressed by the fair play of the Myanmar team.

"They played with sportsmanship in every match, bringing greater glory to the country, rather than medal success," Ko Mg Mg Aye said.

The tournament was an important learning experience, according to midfielder Yan Naing Oo, who also etched his name in the history books by becoming Myanmar's first

World Cup goal scorer in the team's 2-1 loss to the United States.

"I got a lot of experience in the Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand," Yan Naing Oo said. "The good thing for us is to take lessons from the games we lost."

Forward Aung Thu, who provided one of the highlights of the tourna-

ment with his opening goal in Myanmar's 5-1 loss to hosts New Zealand, said a high level of stamina is needed to last a full 90-minute game on a big stage like the World Cup.

The Myanmar team was the only side from Southeast Asia to qualify for the tournament.

GNLM

Triumphant Wawrinka dashes Djokovic's Paris dream



Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka celebrates with the trophy after winning the final with Former Brazilian tennis player Gustavo Kuerten (R) and French Tennis Federation President Jean Gachassin as Serbia's Novak Djokovic looks on with his runners up trophy.—REUTERS

PARIS, 8 June — As his blazing backhand skidded off from inside the baseline, Stanislas Wawrinka sent his racket rocketing skywards after dashing Novak Djokovic's French Open dreams with a victory barely anyone expected on Sunday.

It was a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 triumph only Wawrinka's nearest and dearest

saw coming as the Swiss was facing a player who had looked destined to join the all-time greats by becoming the eighth man to complete a career grand slam.

But destiny and reality were not on the same wavelength on Sunday as Djokovic, who had conquered nine-times champion Rafa Nadal in the quar-

ter-finals and third seed Andy Murray in the semis, fell two sets short of the one title he so desperately desires.

"I played the match of my life, it's hard to believe. Playing against Novak was one of the biggest challenges. I know how much he wanted this Roland Garros," a gracious Wawrinka told the crowd

after adding the French Open title to his 2014 Australian Open success.

The fans, who had tried to rouse Djokovic throughout the fourth set by chanting his nickname "No-le, No-le, No-le" realised how crushing the defeat must mean for the Serb and gave him a prolonged standing ovation that reduced him to tears.

"I want to say congratulations to Stan and it is not very easy for me to speak now, there are things in life that are more important than victories and that is character and respect," the eight-times grand slam champion said after coming off second best in a Roland Garros final for the third time.

"I've got a lot of respect for you Stan, you're a great champion with a big heart, you deserve this title."

After failing to join the magnificent seven of men's tennis — Fred Perry, Don Budge, Rod Laver, Roy Emerson, Andre Agassi, Roger Federer, Rafa Nadal — in completing the career slam, Djokovic said: "I will be back next year to try again to win the title."

Reuters

Sevilla midfielder Vidal to join Barcelona

BARCELONA, 8 June — Sevilla midfielder Aleix Vidal will join treble winners Barcelona pending a medical for a reported 23 million euros (\$25.5 million), the Catalan club said on Sunday.

Vidal has stood out for the Europa League winners this season and has been rewarded by his first call up to the latest Spain squad by coach Vicente del Bosque.

"Barcelona and Sevilla have reached an agreement for the transfer of Aleix Vidal," Barcelona

said in a statement.

Vidal will have a medical on Monday and then sign a five year contract for Barcelona, who won the Champions League on Saturday following their La Liga triumph and King's Cup victory.

However, Barca will be unable to play Vidal until January 2016 due to a FIFA ban on bringing in new players for two transfer windows after breaking rules over the signing of foreign under-18 players.

Reuters

Medal Standings for Monday 8 June, 2015					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Singapore	40	27	47	114
2.	Vietnam	26	12	30	68
3.	Thailand	23	30	26	79
4.	Malaysia	15	19	23	57
5.	Indonesia	13	13	27	53
6.	Myanmar	9	15	16	40
7.	Philippines	7	12	23	42
8.	Cambodia	1	3	2	6
9.	Laos	0	3	11	14
10.	Brunei	0	0	5	5
11.	Timor-Leste	-	-	1	1

Match Schedules for 9 June 2015 (all times local)			
Group A	Indonesia	-	Philippines 19:00 MST
Group B	Timor-Leste	-	Laos 19:00 MST

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