

## ACMECS leaders vow cooperation in investment, trade

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — The 6<sup>th</sup> Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit kicked off Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw, with all five Southeast Asian member nations affirming to promote investment and trade within the region.

Leaders from ACMECS nations Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam also agreed to increase cooperation in key areas including agriculture, energy, human resource development and the environment and adopted the ACMECS Plan of Action 2016-2018.

At the summit, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Thongsing Thammavong, (See page 3)



President U Thein Sein attends the Dialogue between ACMECS Leaders and Business Sector Representatives.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Ethnic armed groups, gov't likely to meet over ceasefire deal in Chiang Mai in July

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 23 June — Ethnic armed groups are

likely to hold informal talks with the Myanmar government toward a national ceasefire agreement

in the first week of July in Chiang Mai, Thailand, a negotiator from the ethnic side said Tuesday.

The revelation came from Nai Hong Sar, one of three ethnic delegates who met informally with a government delegation led by Union Minister U Aung Min at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon on Monday.

The meeting was aimed at paving the way for further negotiations between the government and a new high-level nationwide ceasefire coordination team appointed by the ethnic armed groups at the recent Law Khee Lar summit to finalize the approved draft text for the ceasefire, he added.

“We proposed to hold an informal meeting between a delegation led by Union Minister U Aung Min and senior delegates of ethnic armed groups in (See page 2)

## President U Thein Sein gives speech at ACMECS economic council meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — The leaders of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam joined Myanmar for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) summit and joint economic council meeting Tuesday in

Nay Pyi Taw. In a speech at the Myanmar International Convention Centre, President U Thein Sein said his government was exerting efforts for stability, socioeconomic development and the peace process for national reconciliation.

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### Full text of documents for CLMV and ACMECS summits available online

Please visit <http://globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/?p=12929> for the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Plan of Action 2016-2018; <http://globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/?p=12924> for the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit; and <http://globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/?p=12919> for the Joint Statement of the 7<sup>th</sup> CLMV Summit.—GNLM



Nai Hong Sar (right) briefs media about the progress of a three-member ethnic delegation's informal meeting with the government side at Green Hill Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday. Also pictured are delegates U Tun Zaw and Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.— PHOTO: YE MYINT



## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate charter amendment

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Parliamentarians debated possibility of amendment to 2008 State Constitution at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Tuesday.

U Phyo Zeyar Thaw, MP of Pobbathiri Township constituency, said some paragraphs of the Constitution must be amended in line with the provisions of the charter for the interest of the country and people despite

some disagreements over this issue.

Brig-Gen Tin San Nang of Defense Services personnel representative objected the proposed amendment, saying that the Constitution was created by the National Convention, and the frequent changes in the Constitution will lead to deviation from its essence and objectives.

U Saw Maw Tun, MP of Bago region constituency 10, said measures should be

taken carefully in the constitution amendment through realistic approach of ethnic groups, political parties, parliamentarians and military personnel to ensure national unity. Other 12 MPs then discussed the amendment bill for Article 436 (A) of the Constitution.—MNA

**Representatives attend Tuesday's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.**

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Summits conclude with proposal to create regional university

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Two regional summits hosted by Myanmar concluded Tuesday, with state leaders and foreign ministers from neighbouring Southeast Asian nations vowing to increase cooperation in economics and a range of other sectors.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit and the 6<sup>th</sup> Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Meeting, involving the CLMV nations and Thailand, were held Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, the vice chairman of the committee on organizing summits, said Myanmar proposed establishment of a Mekong regional university in Kengtung, eastern Shan State, with the leaders of member countries agreeing to the proposal.

He said the university could help promote cooperation in the economic and cultural sectors among the countries as it will be located in a border town which has easy land and air access to regional countries.

The union minister said



**Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin replies to queries on establishment of Mekong University.**

MNA

the details of plan will be discussed among member countries, with no specific timeline set.—MNA

## Regional leaders adopt ACMECS Plan of Action 2016-2018

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Leaders from member countries of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Meeting Summit adopted an action plan to promote sustainable and inclusive development in member countries and to enhance peace and stability in the region.

The objectives of ACMECS Plan of Action 2016-2018 includes initiatives in the eight priority cooperation areas in trade and investment facilitation, agricultural cooper-

ation, industrial and energy cooperation, transport linkages, tourism cooperation, human resource development, public health and environmental cooperation.

The member countries also agreed to cooperate in enhancement of development partners and engagement with local communities. The details of ACMECS Plan of Action 2016-2018 can be read on web pages of <http://globalnewlightof-myanmar.com/?p=12929>.

GNLM



**Mrs Naraporn Chan-o-cha, wife of the Thai Prime Minister and party open new school building at BEHS No 15 in Pyinmana Township.—MNA**

## Thai PM's wife, ASEAN SG's wife visit Thatta Thattaha places in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Mrs Naraporn Chan-o-cha, wife of the Thai Prime Minister and Mrs Nguyen Thanh Huong, wife of the ASEAN Secretary-General, together with the Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs, wife of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and wife of the Thai Ambassador visited three Samvejanaya places of the Buddhism in

Ottarathiri Township and made cash donations on Tuesday.

They also paid homage to Maha Bawdi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Thatta Thattaha places where the wife of the Thai Prime Minister donated cash to the fund.

They attended the handing over ceremony of a new school building in commemoration of 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thai-Myanmar

diplomatic relations at No 15 Basic Education Primary School (Thabyehla) in Pyinmana Township.

The wife of the Thai Prime Minister cut the ribbon to open the school while Deputy Ministers for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung and U Thant Shin planted saplings. The guests donated cash and school equipment to the school officials.—MNA

## Ethnic armed groups, gov't likely ...

(from page 1)  
Chiang Mai next month, but no exact date is set yet," said Nai Hong Sar, who is vice-chairman of the New Mon State Party and leader of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team comprising 16 ethnic armed groups.

The role of the new ethnic negotiating team in finalizing the draft peace

deal was explained to the Union ministers and party at the meeting on Monday, Nai Hong Sar added.

"The informal talks with ethnic peace negotiators are likely to take place in Chiang Mai in the first week of next month," U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the MPC, said, adding that the likelihood of further formal talks should be

clearer after the Chiang Mai meeting.

After a year and a half of peace negotiations between the government's Union Peace-Making Work Committee and the NCCT, both sides approved a draft ceasefire deal after the seventh round of negotiations last March.

Since then, the government indicated readiness to officially sign the draft accord as soon as possible. However, ethnic armed organizations held a confer-

ence to seek final approval of the draft deal in Law Khee Lar in Kayin State in early June. The Law Khee Lar summit concluded with an agreement by the 16 NCCT members to sign the draft ceasefire accord, but only if some amendments were made.

"Signing of the draft deal must be inclusive of all ethnic groups," Nai Hong Sa said. Moreover, the ethnic side created a new 15-member negotiating team comprising nine new members

plus six members of the previous NCCT team.

Further amendments to the draft deal are minor and mainly changes in wordings, Nai Hong Sar said.

The government side sought explanation of the reasons for forming the new negotiating team, and asked for the final deal to be approved with no changes, he said. Asked whether the government's peace negotiating team might find it hard to build trust with the new ethnic negotiating team, Nai

Hong Sar said the six existing NCCT members had already established trust with the government.

U Tun Zaw, who was also part of the three-man ethnic delegation, most members of the new team "have experienced bilateral relations with the government." "It is not required to build further trust with new members of the team," he said. Monday's informal talks at the MPC were the first since the Law Khee Lar summit.—GNLM

NATIONAL

### ACMECS leaders vow...

(from page 1)

Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr Prayuth Chan-ocha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Mr Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN also made keynote remarks.

In his opening address, President U Thein Sein called for the establishment of Mekong University in Kengtung, Shan State in Myanmar, in order to promote cooperation in education, social and cultural sectors.

He also called for stepping up efforts for implementation of the ACMECS

rice cooperation mechanism and for encouraging consultation and cooperation between ACMECS countries and development partners to promote rice production and ensure food security.

The president also invited investors from ACMECS countries to Myanmar, saying the Myanmar Investment Commission is prioritizing foreign investments which create job opportunities, produce value-added goods and utilise advanced technology.

According to the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit, the leaders agreed to step up efforts to boost transport networks and economic corridors to promote trade,

investment and tourism among the ACMECS countries.

They also agreed to promote cross-border travel and tourism, including easing of visa conditions, in order to realize the concept of "Five Countries, One Destination."

The leaders agreed to promote the development of power transmission lines and networks across the ACMECS countries and beyond and to encourage the establishment of industrial zones and special economic zones along the ACMECS Countries' borders.

At the press briefing on the 7<sup>th</sup> CLMV Summit and the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit, President U Thein Sein said leaders from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vi-



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at Press Briefing on 7<sup>th</sup> CLMV Summit and 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

etnam agreed to continue to implement the current agreements for promoting

trade and investment among CLMV countries and to boost trade and investment

with non-CLMV countries.

Leaders from ACMECS countries also held a business dialogue with business leaders, focusing on participation of the private sector in national development projects, U Thein Sein said.

Myanmar would take a leading role in implementing the national Zero Hunger Challenge programs among ACMECS countries, he added.

The 7<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit will be held in Vietnam next year.

GNLM



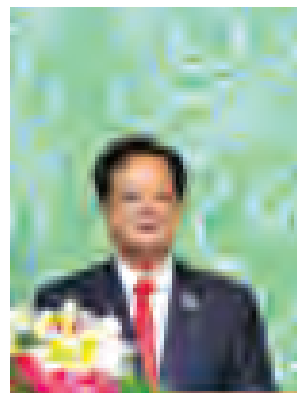
Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.—MNA



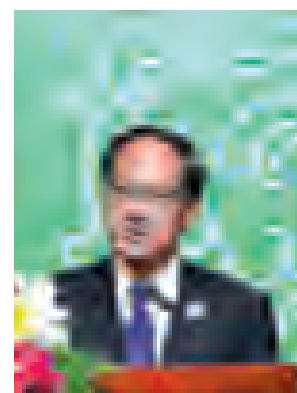
Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong.—MNA



Thai Prime Minister Mr. Prayuth Chan-ocha.—MNA



Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.—MNA



ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Le Luong Minh.—MNA

## Vice president, Vietnam prime minister attend Myanmar Centre Plaza opening

YANGON, 23 June— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam attended a ceremony to open the

first phase of the Myanmar Centre Plaza on Yangon's Kaba Aye Pagoda Road on Tuesday.

The vice president and prime minister also witnessed the opening of

the BIDV financial group company and BIDV insurance representative office and the signing of a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the Global Pearl Treasure

Bank of Myanmar and the BIDV bank of Vietnam

Also present were Union Minister U Htay Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, deputy ministers U Thant

Kyaw, Dr Win Myint, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, the Region Hluttaw speaker and officials, the chairman of the BIDV, the chairman and members of HAGL Myanmar Co., Ltd, businessmen from the two countries and guests.

Chairman Tran Bac Ha of BIDV, Chairman Mr Doan Nguyen Duc of HAGL Myanmar Co., Ltd and officials explained the progress of work on the project, before the union minister made a speech.

In his speech, the vice president said he was glad to attend the ceremony which coincided with the 40th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the 6th ACMECS Summit.

Afterwards, the vice president pointed out that the opening ceremonies of the first phase of the plaza, BIDV Myanmar Finance and the representative office of BIDV Insurance

Corporation and signing of the MoU were the results of the joint declaration of Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam in 2010 and urged officials to exert efforts for completion of the project.

Mr Nguyen Tan Dung later delivered an opening speech.

The vice president, prime minister, chief minister and union minister formally opened the ceremonies.

The vice president and prime minister then unveiled the logo to mark the opening of the BMF and the Myanmar Branch Office of the BIC, before witnessing the signing of the MoU between Myanmar Global Treasure Bank and BIDV.

The first phase of the plaza project was completed earlier than the scheduled and efforts are being made to complete the second phase of the project as soon as possible.

MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung unveil signboard of Myanmar Centre Plaza. MNA

*A medical team led by cardiac specialist, physiotherapist and GP specialist from Suksawat Hospital in Thailand provided free medical treatment to more than 500 patients for the fifth time at Nanda Aungmyay monastery of Leikpyagan Monastery on Shwegondine Road, Bahan Township on 20 and 21 June. Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Nimala donated meals to the patients.*  
**MAUNG MAUNG THANT**



## New courthouse opens in Mongtung Township



MONGTUNG, 23 June — A new courthouse recently opened in Mongtung, eastern Shan State, recently.

Shan State Hluttaw MP U Saw Mu Lar, district's deputy commissioner U Noe Wai and the district judge formally opened the two-storey courthouse built by the Dream Village construction company at a cost of K81.7 million.

Managing Director U Nay Myo Oo of the company handed over documents related to the buildings to the township judge.—*District (IPRD)*

## Trustees thank community for work to protect pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — A recent ceremony at MyoU Pawtawmu Pagoda in Maubin, Ayeyawady Region, honoured community members who helped with construction works to protect the historic religious site from erosion.

Built in 1750 A.D., the

pagoda has repeatedly been threatened by erosion of earthen banks.

Local people and well-wishers began creating retaining walls around the pagoda and filling them with gravel in 2014. The work was completed on 27 May 2015.

At the ceremony, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Mya Shein presented a certificate of honour to the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems for its help with the construction.

*Zaw Min Aung*

## Silt build-up, pollution threatening Indaw Lake

INDAW, 23 June — Pollution is threatening Indaw Lake in Sagaing Region, according to local residents.

“About 12 creeks flow into the lake carrying rub-

bish including glass bottles and pieces of plastic,” one resident said.

Silt levels are increasing in the lake, the resident said.

The lake in Indaw Township is the main source of water for several surrounding villages.

*Than Maung Lay (Kachin Myay)*



## Training course widens knowledge of librarians



NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — The Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information opened a basic librarian course at its training school in Pyinmana on 22 June, with Director-General U Ye

Tint and Deputy Director-General U Maung Pe in attendance.

The director-general gave a commencement speech to officially open the course.

Officials of the department will give lectures

on the history of libraries in Myanmar, handling of literary works, cataloguing procedures and social media.

A total of 31 trainees are attending the four-week course up to 17 July.

*Maung Kyaik Latt*

## Writers association meets to discuss literary award

KAWLIN, 23 June — The Kawlin Township Writers Association recently met to review plans for the Myan Gon Hsaung literary award and the publication of selected works.

The association set up

a K5 million fund for the award in 2010.

Member Daw Khin Moh Moh Nyein explained the different categories for the award, including an extempore talks contest and storyteller contest. The lit-

erary award presentation committee of the association donated more than 900 books and more than 8,700 copies of daily newspapers worth K3.5 million to 39 villages in the township.

*Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlin)*

LOCAL NEWS

## Authorities inspect regional development progress in Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt on Saturday inspected the progress of development works in Zabuthiri Township.

He inspected the paving of asphalt roads in Aungzabu Ward and Gomin-in Village, and sinking of a 420-foot deep tube-well in Latpankharhla Village, where he met town elders and officials to discuss regional development programmes.

Afterwards, U Myo Nyunt visited schools in the township to inspect works to prevent the spread of dengue haemorrhagic fever.

*District IPRD*

## Women's Day speech contest held in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 23 June — To mark Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July, an extempore speech contest was held on Monday at the city hall of Mandalay.

Patron Daw Myat

Ngwe of the region women's affairs organization and representatives from a variety of civic groups observed the competition.

Students from 10 colleges and universities competed, speaking on

topics such as "Women in environmental conservation".

After the contest, the patron and members of WAO presented prizes.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



## Health seminar, medical program conducted in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — A health seminar on prevention of dengue haemorrhagic fever was held Monday at the Aye Myitta San ethnic youth philanthropic school in Pobbathiri Township here.

The seminar was organized by Pobbathiri Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the township Public Health Department.

Knowledge on dengue haemorrhagic fever, sexual health, personal hygiene and diarrhoea were disseminated among the students by MCWA Chairwoman Daw Nweni Tun and nurses.



After the seminar, healthcare providers led from the 50-bed hospital in the township provided dental checkups to more than 250 students at the school.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

## Midwives graduate from training course

MYANAUNG, 23 June — Graduates of a midwifery course received their diplomas and delivery kits at a ceremony at Myanaung Township People's Hospital on 22 June.

Deputy Township Administrator U Aung Win urged the graduates to provide effective healthcare to pregnant women, while

Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Chit gave advice to trainees on how to do their jobs.

Altogether 24 trainees from village-tracts in Myanaung Township attended the six-month course starting from 15 December 2014.

*Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)*



## Teachers urged to maintain pass rate in matric exam



MYANAUNG, 23 June — Education officials met recently in Myanaung Township to discuss plans for maintaining the pass rate in next year's matriculation examination.

The township secured a 58.32 percent pass rate in the exam this year, compared with 49.28 percent in 2014.

Township-level meetings must be held to adopt the plans, Myanaung Township Education Officer U Win Myint said at the meeting at the Basic Education High School in Myanaung.

The meeting was attended by heads of BEHS, teachers from matriculation classes and education officers.—*Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)*

## Electoral authorities urge voters to check rolls

KYAUKME, 23 June — Electoral rolls were released in wards and villages of Namsang Township in northern Shan State's Palaung Self-Administered Zone on 22 June.

Authorities urged voters to ensure their personal information is recorded properly on the

electoral rolls ahead of upcoming general elections.

Chairman of the Leading Body of Palaung Self-Administered Zone U Maung Kyaw and party, township officials and sub-commission members met with residents who came to check the electoral rolls.—*Myint Aung (KaMa)*



Personnel of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force and Philippine forces climb aboard the MSDF's P3C patrol plane at an airport in Puerto Princesa on Palawan Island in the western Philippine on 23 June, 2015, to participate in joint exercises with Philippine forces in the face of China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea.—KYODO NEWS

## MERS under control in Thailand

BANGKOK, 23 June— Swift action taken by the Thai health authorities has restricted the number of confirmed cases of MERS to a single individual, with no more cases being reported. According to the Thai Health Ministry, the first case of MERS infection was confirmed on Thursday. The 75-year-old patient from Oman was moved from Bumrungrad Hospital to a quarantine room. All those who had contact with the patient, including his relatives and hospital personnel, were also immedi-

ately checked and cleared. As of Tuesday, the patient is reported to have been only "mildly affected" and recovering.

The Ministry has assured the Thai public and visitors that full-scale surveillance and response systems have been put in place for rapid detection and effective management of MERS, with good coordination between the public and private sectors.

All visitor arrivals are flowing normally via all international gateways and the travel and tourism in-

dustry remains in full operation in Thailand.

The World Health Organization has not issued any travel restrictions but advised travellers to be vigilant, and take normal hygienic precautions, such as regular hand-washing and consuming well-cooked food. Tourism Administration of Thailand Acting Governor Juthaporn Rerngronasa said, "We would like to applaud the swift response action taken by the health authorities to nip the spread of the MERS virus."—Xinhua

## LDP plans leadership election on 20 Sept, Abe's re-election expected

TOKYO, 23 June— Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is planning to hold its triennial presidential election on 20 September, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expected to secure re-election without a contest, a senior LDP official said on Tuesday.

The 20 September election may be officially promulgated on 8 September before Abe's LDP presidential term expires at the end of September.

The LDP leadership election will come during a parliamentary session as the Diet on Monday voted to extend its ordinary session until 27 September to secure passage of the government's controversial national security bills.

Kyodo News

## Okinawa marks 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWII battle

NAHA, (Japan), 23 June — Okinawa marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Tuesday of the end of a World War II ground battle that claimed over 200,000 lives, as the local and state governments remained at odds over the relocation of a US military base in Japan's southernmost prefecture.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy were among the attendees at the memorial service for the war dead held at the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, the site of the final stage of the Battle of Okinawa.

Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga was set in his peace declaration to urge the state government to suspend the relocation of the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station to the coast of Nago from a residential area in Ginowan. Abe's government sees the move

as necessary for alleviating the prefecture's burden of hosting most of the US bases in Japan.

US military bases were built on land expropriated from islanders during the postwar US occupation until 1972, resulting in the prefecture holding some 74 percent of the total acreage of US military facilities in the country.

The event also came amid heightened local concern that the island prefecture, which lost a quarter of its population in the battle, could again be drawn into war as Abe's government proceeds to make security policy changes to enable the Self-Defence Forces to engage in collective defense, or coming to the aid of an ally under attack.

This year, the names of 87 war dead were newly inscribed on the Cornerstone of Peace in the park, bringing the total to 241,336,



People march in front of the municipal office of Itoman in Japan's southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa on 23 June, 2015, heading to the Peace Memorial Park in the city to attend a memorial service for those who were killed in the Battle of Okinawa, as the day marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the World War II battle that claimed more than 200,000 lives.

KYODO NEWS

irrespective of nationality and military or civilian status.

The Battle of Okinawa

began in the spring of 1945, when US forces landed on the main island of Okinawa and other islands in the

area. Some 94,000 civilians died in the three-month battle between Japanese and US troops.—Kyodo News

## Thai AirAsia X to suspend Bangkok-Sapporo flights from end July

BANGKOK, 23 June— Thai AirAsia X, a Thailand-based low-cost carrier, has decided to suspend its Bangkok-Sapporo flights from the end of July due to the downgrading of the country's aviation safety rating by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Flights from Bangkok to Sapporo in northern Japan will be halted starting 31 July and those going the other way will be suspended from 1 August, according to a statement issued on Monday by Thai AirAsia X Chief Executive Officer Nadda Buranasiri.

The budget airline will continue its flights connecting Bangkok with Tokyo and Osaka in Japan and with Seoul in South Korea. The company said it will offer full assistance to passengers and return to service once the Thai aviation situation is normalized.

Thai AirAsia X is the first airline to be affected by the ICAO's decision last week to downgrade Thailand's aviation safety rating.—Kyodo News



Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> L), meets with Singapore's Foreign Minister Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam (4<sup>th</sup> R) in Havana, Cuba, on 22 June, 2015. Rodriguez and Shanmugam signed on Monday a free visa agreement between both nations.—XINHUA

## Indian gov't asks all employees to come to office on time

NEW DELHI, 23 June— The Indian government has warned all its employees to be in office on time, else disciplinary action would be taken against them.

"Habitual late attendance is viewed as conduct unbecoming of a government servant and disciplinary action may be taken against such a government servant," the personnel department said in a letter issued to all central government departments on Monday.

It added "It is also added that punctuality in attendance is to be observed by government servants at all levels. Responsibility for ensuring punctuality in respect of their employees rests within ministries, departments or offices."

The government has recently introduced a bio-metric attendance system across all its departments in India.

Xinhua

## US and China open annual dialogue with 'candid, to-the-point' talks

WASHINGTON, 23 June — The United States and China held "candid and to-the-point" talks at the start of three days of cabinet-level meetings aimed at managing the highly complex relationship between the world's two biggest economies, a senior US official said.

The US side, led on Monday by Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, reiterated US concerns about China's pursuit of territorial claims in the South China Sea, the official said.

US worries about cybersecurity following massive attacks on government computers that US officials have blamed on Chinese hackers would also be addressed "in very direct terms," the official said.

More than 400 Chinese officials are in Washington for the annual talks under the wide-ranging Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) framework, which will involve eight US cabinet secretaries.



US (L) and Chinese national flags flutter on a light post at the Tiananmen Square ahead of a welcoming ceremony for US President Barack Obama, in Beijing on 12 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

The meetings come at a time of waning trust and widening differences between the two countries, even though they maintain robust economic ties worth \$590 billion in two-way trade last year.

US concerns have been mounting about Beijing's challenge to its dominance of global finance and about restrictions on US businesses in China.

US President Barack Obama is struggling to secure backing

from Congress for legislation needed to speed a 12-nation trade deal, which is the economic plank of his Asia policy intended as a counterweight to China's growing influence.

The two sides will try to ease tensions by stressing areas of cooperation, including climate change, shared concerns about Iran and North Korea's nuclear programmes, the fight against Islamist militancy, and support for global development.

"We have agreed with the Chinese that we are going to try to expand those areas where our interests overlap and expand cooperation in those areas," the US official said. But the aim was not to "paper over" contentious issues, or to "agree to disagree," but to narrow differences to avoid miscalculations.

Despite the considerable areas of tension, China is hoping for a smooth set of meetings to prepare for a visit to Washington by President Xi Jinping in Sep-

tember.

Prospects for substantial outcomes from the cabinet-level meetings appeared slim, with any scant progress likely to be held over for announcement during Xi's visit, analysts said.

The sides are expected to discuss a Bilateral Investment Treaty that has been seven years in discussion but has been held up by restrictions on both sides, while China is likely to press its bid to add the yuan to the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies.

Blinken and Secretary of State John Kerry will chair the security side of the talks with State Councillor Yang Jiechi and Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui on the Chinese side.

US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang will chair the economic elements, and the top Chinese officials will meet Obama at the White House on Wednesday.—Reuters

## Japan to host G-7 summit 26-27 May next year: gov't

TOKYO, 23 June — Japan will host a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations on 26-27 May next year in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, the government said on Tuesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the government has yet to decide on the time and venue for G-7 ministerial meetings, such as foreign affairs and finance, and that it will announce them in due course.

"The government will do its best for the success of the Ise-Shima Summit," Suga said at a news conference. "(The period) was decided as a result of coordination with other G-7 members."

The G-7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced on 5 June that Japan will host a summit of the world's seven leading democracies in the city of Shima in Mie Prefecture in 2016 under its presidency.

A government source said on Tuesday that the summit period was set to avoid the rainy season of June in Japan, especially because the leaders are expected to be transported to Shima by helicopter from Chubu airport in Nagoya.

As for a foreign ministerial meeting, separate sources said Japan plans to hold it in Hiroshima, which suffered a US atomic bombing on 6 August, 1945, in an effort to rally international support for nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

Japan has hosted a total of five G-7 and Group of Eight summit meetings — in Tokyo,



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga announces at a Press conference in Tokyo on 23 June, 2015, that Japan will host a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations on 26-27 May next year in Mie Prefecture, central Japan. Suga also said the government has yet to decide on the time and venue for G-7 ministerial meetings, such as foreign affairs and finance, and that it will announce them in due course.

KYODO NEWS

Okinawa and Hokkaido. The G-8 is the G-7 plus Russia.

Asked whether Japan is considering inviting Russian President Vladimir Putin to the 2016 summit, Suga, the top government spokesman, said on Tuesday that nothing has been decided.

Russia was invited to join the G-7 in 1998 and remained a member of the G-8 until last year when the G-7 suspended Moscow's participation in retaliation for its annexation of Crimea in southern Ukraine.

Kyodo News

## Samsung scion apologizes for MERS spread at group hospital

SEOUL, 23 June — The heir-apparent of South Korea's massive Samsung Group bowed in apology during a nationally televised address on Tuesday for failing to stop the spread of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) at a Seoul hospital run by a group foundation.

About half of the 175 MERS cases in South Korea have been traced to the Samsung Medical Centre, tarnishing the image of one of the country's most prestigious hospitals. The South Korean outbreak is the largest outside Saudi Arabia, and 27 patients have died.

Jay Y Lee, the only son of Samsung Group [SAGR.UL] patriarch Lee Kun-hee, said the conglomerate would do everything it could to stop the outbreak and revamp care at Samsung Medical Centre, located in Seoul's wealthy Gangnam district.

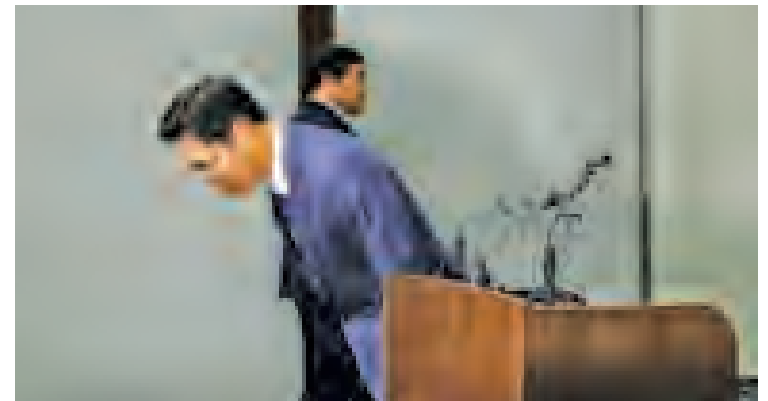
Lee Kun-hee has been hospitalized at the centre since a heart attack last year.

"Our Samsung Medical Centre was unable to stop the MERS infection and its spread, and caused too much suffering and concern to the public. I bow my head in apology," the younger Lee said in rare public remarks by the man set to lead South Korea's largest family-run conglomerate, or chaebol.

"We have failed to live up to the expectation and trust of the public," he said.

Lee had previously visited the hospital during the outbreak but did not make a statement. The hospital's chief has also made public apologies.

South Korea's MERS out-



Jay Y Lee, the company's vice chairman and the only son of Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Kun-hee, bows as he makes a public apology over the spread of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) at Samsung Medical Centre, at the company's headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, on 23 June, 2015.—REUTERS

break, traced to a businessman who returned last month from the Middle East, has scared off tourists and dealt a blow to the economy as consumers stay home.

Its health ministry said the outbreak appears to have levelled off, with new infections reported in recent days in the low single digits, including three on Tuesday.

Lee, who turned 47 on Tuesday, became vice chairman of group flagship Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) in 2012 and is expected to take the reins of that company and the overall group.

"My father has been lying at this hospital for more than a year," he said.

"I understand even to a small degree the worry and pain that patients and their families have experienced," he said.

Samsung Medical Centre, which was founded in 1994, has been criticised after it was revealed that a MERS patient had

been in its emergency ward for two-and-a-half days before being diagnosed, coming into contact with nearly 900 people, including staff.

Such waits are not unusual at the most sought-after hospitals in Seoul, where patients can wait days for a room to open, a local custom that has been blamed by experts for exacerbating the country's MERS outbreak.

The hospital later suspended most services when an emergency ward orderly tested positive for the virus after working for a number of days despite having symptoms and coming into contact with more than 200 people.

South Korea's health ministry said on Tuesday 54 people who had tested positive for the virus have recovered and been discharged from hospital.

Most of the 27 deaths in South Korea were elderly patients or people who had existing illnesses.

Reuters

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 June, 2015

## Minimum wage crucial for country's stability

By Aung Khin

**F**ood alone is not enough for survival. This might seem obvious, but many people in Myanmar have nothing left over once they put food on the table. Many ordinary families with three or four school children do not have enough money for medical treatment, or even nutritious meals, if both parents do not have regular incomes.

For such a family, around K10,000 (US \$10)

per day will cover food, transportation costs and snack-money for children in major cities.

The household costs in rural areas will differ from urban areas. However, medical charges in villages of remote areas are sometimes higher in relation to income. Therefore, minimum wages should not be different from rural areas to cities.

An appropriate minimum wage could increase the standard of living of workers, reduce poverty, reduce inequality, boost morale and promote the country's business sector.

Living costs in major cities need to be considered when a minimum wage is calculated. For long-term sustainability, the wage level should not damage businesses or the lives of workers from government agencies or private firms.

Businesses need modern technology to be able to manufacture quality products to penetrate international markets. Only then will they be able to provide reasonable minimum wages to

their workers.

It will be difficult to set a reasonable minimum wage for workers who have to spend a lot of money due to the country's high living costs. However, responsible government agencies and private organizations need to work together for the welfare of workers to ensure the economic and political stability of the country.

### Write for us

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

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

## Rebalancing between Political Security and Economic Security in Myanmar

Thiha Zaw (Nay Pyi Taw)

**S**ince the opening up of Myanmar Reform Saga in 2011, the security landscape has changed dramatically in our country. We used to live under the umbrella of traditional state security concept where protecting sovereignty and territory is utmost importance. Under the new democratic government, Myanmar follows the principle of human security in line with current international practice. Human Security concept adopted by UNDP in 1994 includes two areas of freedom from fear and freedom from want. Three facets of freedom from fear are individual security which means freedom from violence, societal security which means preservation of culture and tradition and lastly but most importantly political security which means freedom from persecution because of one's belief, speech and publications.

Freedom from want consists of economic security, food security, health security and environmental security. Economic security means everybody has the right to enjoy sufficient income for decent livelihood. All areas of freedom from want including economic security are universally true for every people in the world. But the political security is a sort of dilemma and not identical for every country. We have learnt a lot of lessons from failed states since many of them embraced or forced to swallow the full scale western style democratic norms and

values into their own political & social structure.

Disgraceful fall of Russia under Gorbachev was a good example because he failed to balance between **perestroika** and **glasnost**. The infamous Arab Spring is another tragedy where failure to incorporate the religious and ethnic harmony into democratization process and failure to create employment opportunities for Arab youths leads to chaotic events in Middle East and North African region which is now a fertile ground for terrorism and the root of global instability.

On the other hand Chinese and Vietnamese leaders are able to adjust the right balance between political security and economic security successfully. They can steer their ships along with the passengers in more or less stable state in the turbulent water of 21st century. Although there are some academically interesting questions for policy makers about whether they can still sail safely these same ships into 21st century, their economic security is strong and living standard of their people are quite contrast to the Arab people at the moment.

If someone wants to argue that all these changes are rhetoric, I have many sound evidences. According to **the study of the relation between income and democracy** by Acemoglu et al published in **The American Economic Review** in 2009, there is a strong positive correlation between freedom house measure of democracy and changes in

GDP per capita. Strong democracy can only be expected in those societies with higher average per capita income. But that is not a straight forward relationship. Confounding variables are historical factors of the specific country.

Simply speaking, the stability of a democratic society depends not only on income level of the people but also on specific historical factors of each country. In this study, the correlation between freedom house measure of democracy and change in per capita income become less robust if country specific historical factors are excluded. The path of democratization process will be different for Arab world, China, Thailand, India as well as Myanmar. If someone insists all countries must follow the same route to democratic society, he must be ignorant of that sound evidence.

Adam Przewoski et al published an article in **Journal of Democracy** in 2000 about their study highlighting the threshold per capita annual income level for enduring democracy as US\$ 4000. They pointed out that, generally speaking, enduring democracy can be only achieved when a country passed that benchmark level of economic security. They argue that economic insecurity can cause backsliding of democracy. Of course there are a few favorable exceptions such as legacy of British bureaucratic system, homogeneous and small population. India successfully maintained democratic political system inspite of low income & heterogene-

ous population because they fully and enthusiastically adopted British bureaucratic system & built a strong civilian political institution under the leadership of Congress Party which is contemporary to the Pha-Sa-Pa-La of post-independence Myanmar political establishment. Pha-Sa-Pa-La or Anti-Fascist People Freedom League (AFPFL) failed to follow the Nehru model of Indian politics and cannot consolidate the political power in civilian hand more than a decade. Another exception is the homogeneity of population without ethnic diversity like South Korea. South Korea passed Przewoskian threshold of per capita annual income level for enduring democracy of US\$ 4000 in 1974. But full scale democratic civilian government can only be installed into their political system 18 years later in 1992.

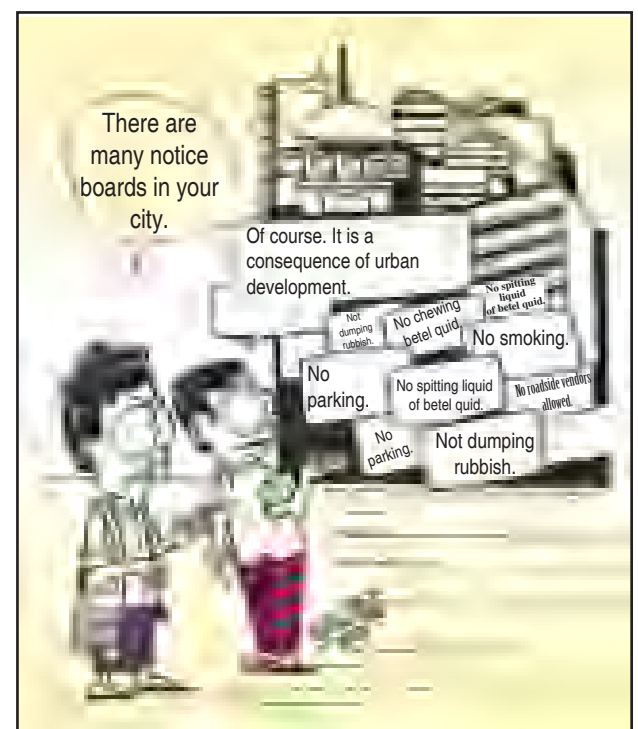
Myanmar becomes an important geostrategic pivot in 21st century whether we like it or not. Its population is ethnically so diverse and average per capita annual income of merely US\$ 1000. Based on these factors, scientific evidences, historically and culturally unique properties of Myanmar people, it will be a wishful thinking that we will become a full-fledged enduring liberal democratic society within a decade since political transition. We have no short cut to our path towards enduring democratic society. There need to be some form of buffering mechanism to prevent a catastrophic collapse until civilian political institutions

are strong, economic security of the majority of the public is guaranteed with Przewoskian threshold level of annual per capita income reached, the majority of the public has achieved the democratic maturity index with development of middle class. These are the bitter truth which is hard to swallow for some people but we must take it if we want to survive in this turbulent environment of 21st century.

The strategic aim of every newly democratic country is to strike a pragmatic balance between political stability of the state and political security that guarantee the freedom of expression of its citizen as well as the nation building work for economic security of the public aiming towards building a sizeable middle income class as a pillar of democratic society. That same roadmap test has been passed by Asian Ti-

gers like South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore. Accordingly to so many studies, the rich class is the poor driver for democratization because they are winner rather than loser from status quo. The same is true for the poor class because they felt themselves marginalized by the present system. Their response to political issues is emotional rather than rational and they are readily influenced by disinformation. So it is the middle class which is pillar of democratic society because they tend to check and balance the government rationally rather than emotionally. They are the building blocks of civil societies, good governance and fill the social capital or trust gap between the public and the government. The rationale is if we cannot build up a sizeable middle class, the possibility of democratic

(See page 9)





NATIONAL

## President U Thein Sein gives speech at...

(from page 1)

It is taking reform measures in political, economic, administrative and private sector development for socioeconomic development of the entire people, he said.

Although the market mechanism of Myanmar was still dormant, private and investment sectors have revived following the 2012 enactment of the

Foreign Investment Law and issuing of foreign investment rules the following year with the aim of creating a safe investment environment, according to the president.

Efforts are being made to combine the foreign investment law and the Myanmar national investment law with the assistance of the International Finance Corporation he said. Total

foreign investment in Myanmar hit US \$4.5 billion as of March 2014, tripling the figure for fiscal 2012-13, he added.

The president explained the potential and progress of various investment sectors and invited regional businessmen to invest in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as the secretary general of ASEAN, made speeches.

MNA

## Senior General, wife comfort patients at Meiktila military hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited armed forces personnel who were receiving medical treatment at the Military Hospital in Meiktila Station on Tuesday, comforting the patients and their families.

The senior general and party inquired about the health of the patients and presented cash assistance and foods, while the senior general visited female patients at the hospital and offered cash assistance and food.

Afterwards, the commander of the military hos-

pital reported to the senior general on medical and administrative requirements.

Later, the senior general and party inspected the Defence Service Textile Factory (Meiktila) and heard reports on production of the factory.

The senior general urged the factory officials to exert efforts to make high quality products and ensure the welfare of factory workers.

The senior general and party also inspected the runway of the Ground Training Base in Meiktila.

The senior general and his wife were accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura

Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint, senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut.

Myawady

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts patients at Military Hospital in Meiktila.**  
MYAWADY



MNA

## Rebalancing between Political...

(from page 8)

backsliding is a reality rather than a dream. Even the society with flourishing middle class is not a full guarantee for enduring democracy. Political scientists pointed out the example of Thailand which enjoyed the annual per capita income of US\$ 5,800 in 2013 with frequent backsliding of democracy in every decade.

The present government has been struggling very hard to find the correct

balance between political security and economic security unique for Myanmar people and culture as well as pragmatic equilibrium between political security of its people and political stability of the country. It tilted too much towards delivering political security at the expense of so many roadblocks in the path of nation building for the economic security of the majority of its citizen. It also failed to exploit the political security

and media freedom in positive way in order to fight corruption and to enhance bureaucratic efficiency. There are some personnel in the government who know how to bring along the media in the path of nation building but they are overwhelmed by the opposing media which is so strong, determined, well seasoned, well connected and resourceful. There are many complaints that public service media are full of data but without relevant and strong comments enough to

## Myanmar, France discuss investment in hydropower projects

**Vice President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou.**  
MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Vice President U Nyan Tun held talks Tuesday with French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou and party at the Credentials Hall of the

Presidential Palace. They discussed the signing of an agreement on cooperation in rural development, food sufficiency, enhancement of the agricultural sector, and devel-

opment of infrastructure. The talks also covered investment by French companies ENGIE, EDF, Schneider Electric and Alstom in the electric power sector, including the Shweli-3 and Upper Yeywa hydropower projects.

Also present at the meeting were deputy ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Maw Tha Htwe and Daw Lei Lei Thein.—MNA

### Correction

Please read Fuji-Work Company instead of Fuji World Company in the byline under the title of “Thilawa Special Economic Zone project attracts US\$400 million in short span” in 9<sup>th</sup> line of 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph in 2<sup>nd</sup> column on page 9 in this daily issued on 16-6-2015.

GNLM

industry. The public is full of expectation from the new government but they are poorly informed about **what they can get now and what they cannot get now**. If a lobbyist team can be hired for Washington, why can't we hire a media expert or strategist to improve public service media so that our media output become more palatable for public consumption inside Myanmar since most of our problems are homegrown rather than from Washington.

We need to set a new

pragmatic balance between political security of state and political stability of its people as well as political security and economic security. Even if the present government is willing to reset the new balance, it does not have much time. I hope whoever may be in the next government, will be able to find the pragmatic, not idealistic, equilibrium for these dilemmas so that our new generation will be better off and can catch up with our neighbors.

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## Radar outage grounds flights across New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 23 June — Passenger flights around New Zealand were taking off again late Tuesday after a radar failure grounded commercial air traffic nationwide for almost two hours.

Airways New Zealand, which monitors New Zealand airspace, issued a statement saying “an internal network failure” had occurred at 2.41 pm Tuesday.

“Airways immediately suspended all flights while we investigated the issue and until we could be satisfied that we could operate safely,” it said.

The state-owned enterprise had identified the issue and thoroughly tested the integrity of the system.

“At no point was the safety of any airport operations compromised,” it said.

Limited operations resumed at 4 pm and full service half an hour after that.

The Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement that flights were resumed on a priority basis with major

trunk routes and jet flights resumed first.

Transport Minister Simon Bridges said the Civil Aviation Authority and Airways New Zealand had told him the cause of the failure was not yet known, but aviation safety was not affected.

“I have been assured that there is absolutely no compromise to the safety of passengers of planes and I will be receiving regular updates,” Bridges said in a statement.

Auckland Airport, the country’s main international gateway, issued a statement, saying international flights were again departing to schedule.

However, delays were expected in departures of domestic flights throughout the evening. It advised passengers to contact their airlines for flight information.

Radio New Zealand reported that about 200 flights were affected by the fault, including 160 Air New Zealand flights.—*Xinhua*

## Nikolic: Serbia-China relations are very good



BELGRADE, 23 June — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said in talks with Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli that the relations between Serbia and China are very good, adding that possibilities for major infrastructural projects with the participation of China are not exhausted yet.

“Thank you for having the desire to cooperate with Serbia. We would still be friends even without the economic cooperation. Serbia is committed to its European path, we are organizing our country, fighting against corruption and crime” Nikolic said on Monday, and voiced gratitude to China for respect-

ing Serbia’s territorial sovereignty and integrity.

“China has taken part in large infrastructural projects (bridges, roads, railways) and this has not been exhausted yet,” Nikolic said at a meeting with the Chinese guest who arrived for a three-day visit to Serbia on Monday.

According to Nikolic’s press service, the president said he and Premier Aleksandar Vucic will personally take care of each project from China.

Nikolic also suggested areas for Chinese investments, such as manufacture of trucks and tractors, military industry and the industrial zone near the larger cities.—*Tanjug*

## China aims to challenge US air dominance: Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 23 June — China is mounting a serious effort to challenge US military superiority in air and space, forcing the Pentagon to seek new technologies and systems to stay ahead of its rapidly developing rival, Deputy Defence Secretary Robert Work said on Monday.

The Pentagon’s chief operating officer, speaking to a group of military and civilian aerospace experts, said China was “quickly closing the technological gaps,” developing radar-evading aircraft, advanced reconnaissance planes, sophisticated missiles and top-notch electronic warfare equipment.

While hoping for a constructive relationship with China, the Pentagon “cannot overlook the competitive aspects of our relationship, especially in the realm of military capabilities, an area in which Chi-

na continues to improve at a very impressive rate,” he said.

Work made his remarks to the inaugural conference of the China Aerospace Studies Initiative, a partnership of the US Air Force and the RAND Corporation think-tank. The initiative aims to boost US research on China’s aerospace ambitions.

The conference came as hundreds of Chinese officials were in Washington for the three-day US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, wide-ranging talks that look at areas of mutual cooperation even as they address points of friction.

Asked about the timing of the military conference, Work said US and Chinese leaders both see the bilateral relationship as one in which there are “measures of cooperation and measures of competition.”

“We’re hoping over

time that the cooperative aspects outweigh competitive aspects,” Work added. “As the Department of Defence, we’re the hedge force. ... We say, ‘Look, here are capabilities that we see that the Chinese are developing and it’s important for us to be able to counter those.’”

Work, citing a Harvard study on rising powers confronting established powers, told the conference that interactions between the two often result in war. As a result, the Defence Department must “hedge against this international competition turning more heated.”

The United States has generally felt the best hedge is a strong nuclear and conventional deterrence capable of overmatching any rival, he added.

Work said the United States has relied on technological superiority for the past 25 years, but now



Deputy Defence Secretary Robert Work

“the margin of technological superiority upon which we have become so accustomed ... is steadily eroding.”

To adjust, he said, the Pentagon is working to develop new technologies to maintain its edge and lower the cost of responding to attacks. Directed energy weapons, for example, might be able to shoot down missiles that cost a hundred times the price of a jolt of energy.—*Reuters*

## Striking French ferry workers blockade Calais port, halt traffic

LILLE, (France), 23 June — Striking French ferry workers blockaded the port of Calais on Tuesday morning, halting maritime traffic and Eurotunnel’s undersea rail link with Britain in protest at restructuring at its MyFerryLink division, port officials said. Shipping halted early in the day, the Calais port authority said. A Eurotunnel spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Some 400 workers were taking part in the strike action, according to the Syndicat Maritime Nord union. The union opposes plans by Eurotunnel to sell two of MyFerryLink’s three passenger vessels to Denmark’s DFDS and convert the third to freight, cutting jobs.—*Reuters*

## Computer glitch strands hundreds of fruit pickers at US-Mexico border

SAN DIEGO, 23 June — Hundreds of Mexican farm workers have been stranded for two weeks along the US border after a government computer failure left them unable to obtain visas sought for them by Washington state cherry growers, officials said on Monday.

In the meantime, agricultural officials said, cherry crops have been spoiling in the trees because the orchards lack enough workers to pick them.

Since a State Department database crashed on 9

June, US Customs and Border Protection has managed to process fewer than half the applications it has received seeking H-2A visas for temporary farm employment.

The visas have been granted to about 1,250 workers who had previously obtained them, but 1,500 first-time applicants cannot yet get the documents because of the computer failure, according to State Department spokeswoman Julia Straker.

Among those waiting are more than 550 would-be

workers sponsored by the Washington Farm Labour Association, a nonprofit group that represents growers.

Many have been stuck in Tijuana, across the Mexican border from San Diego, waiting for their visas to come through so they can proceed to jobs waiting for them in the cherry orchards, said Roxana Macias, programme manager for the labour group.

Time was running out for the cherry crop, she said.

“Cherries are timely;

if you don’t get them in the 10- to 14-day window when they’re ready to harvest, they become mush,” Macias said.

Washington is the single largest producer of sweet cherries in the United States, generating \$385 million in revenue in 2013, according to the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Many of the workers who come to harvest cherries stay to harvest blueberries, the next crop to ripen, labour association director Dan Fazio said.

*Reuters*

## Four Colombian soldiers die after Black Hawk helicopter lands on FARC minefield

BOGOTA, 23 June — The Colombian army reported on Monday that four soldiers were killed, six injured, after the army’s Black Hawk helicopter exploded upon landing on a minefield placed by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in the northeast.

The Black Hawk EJC-2185 helicopter blasted after

a landmine was activated by the FARC in a rural area of Teorama municipality, located in the Norte de Santander Department, the Colombian army said in an online statement.

The incident occurred on Monday afternoon, when the soldiers were traveling to Catatumbo municipality to strengthen offensive oper-

ations near the oil pipelines that were recently attacked by the FARC guerrillas.

The recent FARC attack against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, the largest pipeline in the country, has polluted the Catatumbo River, the region’s main tributary watercourse, and affected water service to more than 16,000

people in Tibu of Norte del Santander.

Despite the escalation of the conflict in recent weeks, the Colombian government and the FARC, the largest guerrilla force in Colombia, continue to seek a final peace agreement at the negotiating table in Havana, Cuba, to end 50 years of armed conflict.—*Xinhua*

## Syrian Kurds, on offensive, seize military base from Islamic State

BEIRUT, 23 June — Kurdish-led forces said on Monday that they had captured a military base from Islamic State in Syria's Raqqa Province, advancing deeper into territory held by the group and showing new momentum after they seized a border crossing from the jihadists last week.

The Kurds, aided by US-led air strikes and smaller Syrian rebel groups, pushed on Monday to within 7 km (4 miles) of Ain Issa, a town 50 km (30 miles) north of Islamic State's de facto capital Raqqa city, said Redur Xelil, a spokesman for the Kurdish forces.

"They have been defeated," YPG spokesman Redur Xelil told *Reuters*.

Islamic State had held the military base, Liwa 93, southwest of Ain Issa, since capturing it from the Syrian military last year.

"This means that the Islamic State keeps collapsing inside its own stronghold," said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict.

The rapid advance into Raqqa Province has defied expectations of a protracted battle between the Kurdish



*Fighters of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) stand with children near a sign in Tel Abyad town, Raqqa governorate, on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS*

YPG group and Islamic State fighters, who waged a four-month battle for the border town of Kobani, where the Kurds finally defeated the jihadists in January.

Raqqa is the main seat of power in Syria for Islamic State, the group also known as ISIS or ISIL, which has proclaimed a caliphate to rule over all Muslims from territory it controls in Syria and Iraq.

The United States has been leading an air campaign against the group in

both countries since last year. The Kurds have been the most important partner so far for the US-led campaign in Syria, where Washington has far fewer allies on the ground than in Iraq.

The Kurdish front in northern Syria has been one of the few sources of good news for the global campaign against Islamic State since the jihadists made major advances last month in western Iraq and central Syria.

A spokesman for the

Pentagon said last week that Islamic State forces had appeared to "crack" at the Turkish border town of Tel Abyad, which fell to the YPG in less than two days, cutting Islamic State's supply route from Turkey.

Thousands of people had fled from Ain Issa towards Raqqa city in the last two days, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Some refugees from the Tel Abyad area had accused the YPG of driving Arabs and Turkmen from

territory seized from Islamic State. More than 23,000 people had fled northern Syria into Turkey.

With the fighting having moved on and a border crossing reopening, some of the refugees were returning to Tel Abyad on Monday. Hundreds of Syrians, mostly women and children carrying bags of belongings, returned across the border from the Turkish town of Akcakale.

Kurdish officials denied forcing people out and said that such accusations were being made to stir up ethnic strife. The Observatory has said there has been no evidence of systematic abuses by the YPG, though there have been individual cases.

The Kurdish advance is alarming the Turkish government, which is worried the growing Kurdish sway in northern Syria could inflame ethnic unrest among its own Kurdish population.

Ankara has conveyed to Washington its concerns about signs of "a kind of ethnic cleansing" in areas captured by Kurds near Tel Abyad.

The Syrian Kurds have said they do not want their own state, but see their example of regional auto-

my as a model for how to settle the war in Syria and elsewhere in the region. Their cousins in Iraq also have self-rule in an autonomous region.

The Kurdish administration's growing strength has led to friction with the Damascus government, which has tended to avoid direct conflict with the Kurds during the four-year war while maintaining a foothold in areas where the Kurds hold sway.

Tensions have flared in Qamishli, a northeastern city split between Kurdish and government forces. Kurdish forces seized several positions from government control there last week following clashes that Kurdish officials said the Syrian government had instigated to stir Arab-Kurdish conflict.

Syrian government officials did not comment specifically on the Qamishli events but have said they suspect some Kurds of harbouring separatist aims.

"In general, (the Kurds) and us are friends, but there is no state of permanent harmony," a Syrian government official said by telephone on condition of anonymity.

*Reuters*

### At least 10 killed as twin blasts hit Nigeria's Maiduguri city

ABUJA, 23 June — At least 10 people were killed and 60 others injured in twin blasts which hit a local bus station and market in Nigeria's Maiduguri city, capital of the northeastern state of Borno and theater of violence by Boko Haram, a local hospital official and witnesses said.

So far, 10 corpses have been received at the morgue of state-run Maiduguri General Hospital where caregivers have also commenced treatment of the injured, said a medical staff who was not authorized to speak to the media.

Hundreds of people thronged the hospital to identify their relatives involved in the incidents, a *Xinhua* reporter at the health facility said.

The first blast was heard after a female suicide bomber detonated some explosive devices wrapped inside a log of firewoods inside a local fish market along Baga road, a security official said.

Charred body of the female suicide bomber was kept separately, in a body bag at the morgue of Maiduguri General Hospital.

Ten minutes after the first incident, another blast was heard at a bus station situated near the market, added the security source who preferred to be anonymous.

The twin blasts occurred as Nigeria's security chiefs were meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in the Nigerian capital Abuja on issues bordering on the unabated violence by Boko Haram.

At the meeting, the Nigerian leader had ordered the immediate dismantling of military checkpoints across the West African country.

Nigeria has been in a running battle with Boko Haram since 2009, with the group killing more than 13,000 people including women and children while proving to be a hard nut to crack.—*Xinhua*

### Israel, Palestinians may have committed war crimes in Gaza — UN report

GENEVA, 23 June — UN investigators said on Monday that Israel and Palestinian militant groups committed grave abuses of international humanitarian law during the 2014 Gaza conflict that may amount to war crimes.

They called on all sides to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has opened a separate preliminary investigation. The Palestinian Authority is expected to make its first formal submission to the Hague-based court this week.

"The most that we can hope for out of this long and arduous process of inquiry is that we will push the ball of justice a little further down the field," Mary McGowan Davis, chairwoman of the UN commission of inquiry, said at a news conference.

A ceasefire last August ended 50 days of fighting between Gaza militants and Israel, in which health officials said more than 2,100 Palestinians, mostly civil-

ians, were killed. Israel put the number of its dead at 67 soldiers and six civilians.

Israeli air strikes and shelling hammered the densely populated Gaza Strip, dominated by the Islamist Hamas movement, causing widespread destruction of homes and schools.

Hamas and other militant groups launched thousands of rockets and mortar bombs out of the enclave into Israel.

"The (UN) commission was able to gather substantial information pointing to serious violations of international humanitarian law

and international human rights law by Israel and by Palestinian armed groups. In some cases, these violations may amount to war crimes," the independent investigators said in a report issued on Monday, following a year-long inquiry.

*Reuters*



*A Palestinian boy walks up the stairs inside the ruins of their house, that witnesses said was destroyed during a seven-week Israeli offensive, in the east of Gaza City on 19 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS*

## China thanks western countries while stressing Chinese role in anti-fascist war

BEIJING, 23 June — The western and other nations provided “precious support” in China’s war against Japanese aggression, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The Soviet Union, United States, United Kingdom and France all supported China during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, Wang Shiming, deputy head of the Communist Party of China Central Committee publicity department, said at a Press conference for a grand Tian’anmen military parade marking the war’s victory on 3 September.

The Soviet Union was the first to come to China’s aid, and the actions of soviet troops in northeast China accelerated the defeat of the invaders, Wang said.

The United States also provided great support, with the UK and France offering economic aid and military cooperation, he said. People from dozens of other countries had also contributed to the war effort.

Wang name-checked and thanked a number of individuals including American journalist Agnes Smedley and Canadian doctor Henry Norman Bethune.

## 100 Sri Lankan garment workers hospitalized due to food poisoning

COLOMBO, 23 June — Around 100 employees of a local garment factory in Avisawella in the outskirts of capital Colombo were admitted to hospital on Tuesday due to food poisoning, the police media unit said.

A police officer from the unit told *Xinhua* that

“Chinese people will forever remember the precious contribution of people from many countries,” he was quoted as saying.

Wang also said that some Westerners lack objective, just appreciation of China’s position and role in the world anti-fascist war.

“The historical facts are, Chinese people’s war against Japanese aggression was an important part of the world anti-fascist war and (China) played a significant role as the major oriental battlefield,” he said.

China defeated the Japanese invaders killing more than 1.5 million Japanese troops, which coordinated with the allies’ campaigns in the European and Pacific arenas. China also paid a great price, with more than 35 million soldiers and civilians sacrificed.

This year, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the wars, will be the first time China has held a parade to commemorate the events.

The 3 September event will include a speech by President Xi Jinping, who attended a similar parade in Moscow on 9 May. Xi will present medals to veterans and their descendants at the event.—*Xinhua*

the employees had fallen ill after consuming food from the factory on Monday afternoon and had been rushed to the Avisawella Base Hospital on Tuesday.

Local police are conducting further investigations into the incident.

*Xinhua*



People of Hani ethnic group celebrate Summer Solstice, the 10<sup>th</sup> solar term on the Chinese lunar calendar, in Mojiang Hani Autonomous County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 22 June, 2015.—XINHUA

## Australia seeks to strip citizenship of dual nationals over terrorism

SYDNEY, 23 June — The Australian government will propose to parliament a law revision that would enable it to strip dual nationals of their Australian citizenship if they are found to be engaged in terrorist activities, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Tuesday.

The measure to revise the Australian citizenship law will be introduced to parliament on Wednesday, Abbott said.

Under current legislation, dual nationals who fight in the military of a country at war with Australia automatically lose their Australian citizenship, and the proposed revision will add more criteria in which such individuals can be stripped of the citizenship.

“What we are doing with this legislation is creating two new circumstances

under which dual nationals who are terrorists will forfeit their citizenship,” Abbott told reporters. Under the proposed legislation, an individual would lose their citizenship through engaging in terrorist offenses in Australia and abroad through “renunciation by conduct” and “revocation by conviction.” “If you engage in terrorism against Australia...you will automatically forfeit your citizenship,” Abbott said. “If you are convicted of a terrorist offense, again, there will be an assumption that your Australian citizenship is forfeited should you be a dual national.” The Australian government had announced similar proposed legislation last month, indicating that Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton would have the power to strip dual nationals of

their citizenship. The new proposal emerged after the earlier bill came under attack by many lawyers. Abbott clarified the government’s position on the issue by saying, “It will be the operation of the law that actually strips people of their citizenship rather than a ministerial decision.” Last September, Australia’s terrorism level was raised to high. Two policemen were stabbed by a terror suspect in Melbourne that month, while in December, a siege at a Sydney cafe resulted in the death of two victims and the gunman, a self-styled Islamic preacher. Since September, 23 Australians have been arrested in counterterrorism operations — as many as the total number of terrorism-related convictions from 2001 to that month, according to the government.—*Kyodo News*

## N Korea sentences two S Korean men to life imprisonment

PYONGYANG, 23 June — North Korea’s top court on Tuesday sentenced two South Korean men who were captured as “spies” last year to life imprisonment.

They are Kim Kuk Gi and Choe Chun Gil, who were presented by North Korean authorities before some media outlets in Pyongyang in March.

North Korea said at that time the two men stole its state secrets with the backing of South Korea’s spy agency and the United States.

*Kyodo News*

## Three men convicted in parachute jump from New York’s One World Trade Centre

NEW YORK, 23 June — Three men who jumped with parachutes from the top of One World Trade Centre were convicted of criminal charges on Monday in their plunge from America’s tallest building.

Their leap from the top of the 104-story building was partly caught on security video that showed at least two figures in black suits and helmets floating down beneath open parachutes and landing on the streets of lower Manhattan,

one of their defence attorneys said.

A jury in state Supreme Court in Manhattan deliberated over the course of four days before reaching a verdict in the trial of James Brady, 33, Andrew Rossig, 34, and Marko Markovich, 28, who live in the New York City suburbs.

They were cleared of the most serious charge — burglary, a felony — but were convicted of three misdemeanor charges of

reckless endangerment in the second degree, reckless endangerment of property and unauthorized climbing, jumping and suspending oneself from a structure.

Twice during deliberations the jury told Judge Juan Merchan it was deadlocked but both times the judge ordered the panel to keep working.

Sentencing was set for 10 August for Rossig and Brady, and 17 August for Markovich. They face up

to a year behind bars on the charges.

The skyscraper stands on the location where more than 2,700 people perished when hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers on 11 September, 2001. It was still under construction when the jumpers pulled off their stunt early on 30 September, 2013.

The men sneaked through a gap in the construction fence, prosecutors said during the trial. They then jumped from a height

of nearly a quarter of a mile (four-tenths of a km) in a vivid demonstration of BASE jumping, an extreme sport that can involve jumping from a building, antenna or cliff.

The plunge was also captured in videos shot with cameras strapped to the jumpers’ helmets and posted on YouTube, one of which has been viewed more than 3.5 million times.

“Today, a jury found their stunt to be reckless

and illegal,” Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr said in a statement.

“This verdict shows that the District Attorney’s Office has wasted a significant amount of time and a significant amount of taxpayer’s dollars to turn a misdemeanor case into a felony,” said Rossig’s attorney Timothy Parlatore.

One World Trade Centre opened to its first tenants in November last year.

*Reuters*

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

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

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**WEATHER REPORT**

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

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** According to the observations at (12:30)hrs MST today, the tropical storm (Kujira) over Gulf of Tonkin (South China sea) is centered at about (180)miles of Hanoi (Vietnam). It is forecast to move West wards.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2015:** Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States, isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).



*A visitor looks at a photography exhibition of "War and Peace" in Wuhan University, central China's Hubei Province, on 22 June, 2015. The exhibition which lasts from 22 June to 10 July commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of World anti-Fascist War. XINHUA*

**Tornado rips up homes near Chicago, disrupts power, traffic, injures several**

CHICAGO, 23 June — A tornado destroyed several homes near Chicago late on Monday, injuring some people and leaving others trapped, besides forcing the closure of a highway, weather and rescue officials said, in addition to snapping power links to thousands of homes.

Emergency responders in the small town of Coal City, about 60 miles (100 km) south of Chicago, reported that homes were destroyed by the storm, said Joe Schroeder, director of

the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency.

He could not give immediate details of the extent of damage or injuries, however.

At least three homes had been heavily damaged in Monday night's storm, Brittany Halliday, daughter of Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday, told a regional newspaper, the *Herald-News*.

"There are some houses that are no longer there," she added. "There are

(boat) trailers all over the place. It's just a mess."

Traffic on a nearby highway was blocked because of fallen power lines, an Illinois State Police dispatcher said, adding that three truck tractors had overturned there.

At least 19,000 customers in the area had been left without power, utility Commonwealth Edison Co said. A "very damaging tornado" had struck the region, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Chicago said. Reports of damage

were also coming in from the village of Sublette, some 70 miles (113 km) west of Coal City, weather officials said.

They had earlier warned of severe thunderstorms in the area, and alerted nearby cities against the threat of flash floods.

In neighbouring Michigan, five people were rescued from damaged buildings after a tornado hit the city of Lansing on Monday afternoon, the *Lansing State Journal* newspaper said.—*Reuters*

**Two soldiers killed by rebels in S Philippines**

MANILA, 23 June — Two government soldiers, involved in the rehabilitation of a school building, were slain by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in south Philippine province of Maguindanao on Monday afternoon, the military said on Tuesday.

Jo-ann Petinglay, public affairs officer of the Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (6<sup>th</sup> ID), said the two soldiers were on their way to pick up tools at Shariff Aguak town when they were attacked by BIFF men around 3 pm.

Petinglay said the two, who were aboard a motorcycle without firearms and on athletic uniforms, were about 50 metres away from their destination when they were shot by undetermined number of BIFF men.

Petinglay said the suspects took the motorcycle of the two soldiers and escaped.

Responding soldiers brought the two victims to the Integrated Provincial Health Office-Maguindanao

where they were declared dead upon arrival.

Petinglay said the 6<sup>th</sup> ID and local government officials are condemning the killing of the soldiers, noting that they are merely doing humanitarian mission and not involved in combat operations.

"The incident clearly manifests that the BIFF members are treacherously and would strike at soldiers who are not involved in actual combat operation if given the opportunity," said Petinglay.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines launched an all-out-offensive against the BIFF from 25 February to 25 March, leaving 139 BIFF members killed and 53 others injured.

The BIFF is the armed wing of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, which broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front due to disagreements over the conduct of peace negotiations with the Philippine government.—*Xinhua*

**Solar Impulse 2 to fly around 2:30 am on 24 June**

TOKYO, 23 June — A solar-powered plane circumnavigating the globe that made an unexpected landing in Japan to avoid bad weather more than three weeks ago has apparently found a window to fly out of Nagoya for Hawaii.

*Solar Impulse 2*, which will be manned by pilot Andre Borschberg, will take

off at about 2:30 am 24 June from Nagoya airport in central Japan, where it has been waiting for a bad weather front to abate, the Swiss organization that operates the flight said on Tuesday.

Borschberg will make the never-before-attempted flight without a drop of fuel.

The duration of the flight is expected to be 120 hours —

five days and nights.

The plane was forced to land at Nagoya airport in central Japan on 1 June, cutting short what was to be an up to six-day flight from Nanjing, China, to Hawaii, the longest leg of the global trip.

The Swiss organization said in Nagoya that the right wing of the plane had been

damaged by winds after landing at the airport, but it was later repaired.

The aircraft, operated by two pilots alternatively, began its journey from the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi in March, and landed in countries including India and Myanmar before arriving in Nanjing on 21 April.—*Kyodo News*

## 'Titanic' composer dies in California plane crash



James Horner holds up two Oscars after winning for Best Original Song and Original Dramatic Score for his work on the movie "Titanic" on 23 March at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — Hollywood composer James Horner, who scored the Oscar-winning film "Titanic" and its mega-hit theme song "My Heart Will Go On", died in a plane crash in southern California on Monday, US media reported.

The aircraft came down in the Los Padres National Forest, north of Los Angeles, triggering a fire that charred more than an acre of brush, local fire authorities said.

Star actors from Russell Crowe to Kirstie Alley took to Twitter to pay tribute to Horner, after trade publications *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Variety* reported he had died in his private plane.

Director Ron Howard wrote: "Brilliant Composer James Horner, friend & collaborator on 7 movies has tragically died in

a plane crash. My heart aches for his loved ones."

Horner, 61, won two Academy Awards for his work on "Titanic", one for the score and one shared with lyricist Will Jennings for best original song - "My Heart Will Go On", performed by Celine Dion.

Horner also composed the music for "Aliens", "The Karate Kid", "Braveheart" and a string of other major films. His scores for "Avatar", "A Beautiful Mind" and "House of Sand and Fog" earned Oscar nominations.

His attorney Jay Cooper told *Reuters* he had not heard from Horner since the crash, but could not confirm whether he was on board at the time. "He's an experienced pilot, but I know nothing else," Cooper said.

Reuters

## 'Jurassic World' set to become fastest film to gross \$1 billion



Cast member Chris Pratt poses at the premiere of "Jurassic World" in Hollywood, California, on 9 June, 2015. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — Universal Pictures' "Jurassic World" dinosaur spectacle is set to become the fastest film to gross \$1 billion in box office receipts worldwide on Monday, after last week's record-breaking opening.

The movie, which stars Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, is expected to hit the milestone just 13 days after its release, the studio said.

The previous record was set by Universal's

"Furious 7" car-filled action film, which topped \$1 billion globally in 17 days after its April release this year.

Over the weekend, "Jurassic World" scored the highest-grossing second week at the domestic box office with \$106.6 million, topping \$400 million in North America in 10 days.

"Jurassic World," a co-production with Legendary Pictures which rebooted Steven Spielberg's dormant "Jurassic Park" franchise

nearly 15 years after the first trilogy ended, is the latest film for Comcast Corp.-owned Universal Pictures to score big at the box office this year.

The studio has also enjoyed hits with February's erotic "Fifty Shades of Grey" film and May's female-led singing comedy "Pitch Perfect 2," and is gearing up for the release of the animated "Minions" movie and the R-rated raunchy comedy "Ted 2" in the summer.—Reuters

## Hollywood is full of bullies:

### Amanda Seyfried

LONDON, 23 June — Actress Amanda Seyfried has warned those interested in joining Hollywood to "watch their back", saying, the film industry is "full of petty bullies."

The 29-year-old "Mean Girls" star insisted it is important for people to be careful when they get involved in Hollywood, reported *Female First*.

"This industry is just like every other industry. It's full of petty, spoiled bullies, as much as it is full of wonderful, passionate, honest people... you just have to watch your back." The "Dear John" actress offered her advice to aspiring actors and directors to believe in themselves.

"You just have to be headstrong and believe in yourself, and know that there are people like that who will stab you in the back — just like high school," Amanda said.

PTI



Cast members Arnold Schwarzenegger (L) and Jason Clarke take a selfie beside fellow cast member Emilia Clarke (R) as they arrive at the red carpet for the premiere of the film 'Terminator Genisys' in Berlin, Germany, on 21 June, 2015.—REUTERS

## He's back: Schwarzenegger reprises role in 'Terminator Genisys'

BERLIN, 23 June — More than 30 years after he first uttered his famous catchphrase, action hero and former governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger is back again as the "Terminator" in the latest installment of the popular sci-fi movie franchise.

The 67-year old reprises his cyborg role in "Terminator Genisys" in a franchise that has taken more than \$1 billion over

three films at the box office worldwide since the original came out in 1984.

A fourth film, "Terminator Salvation" came out in 2009 but without Schwarzenegger who was then governor of California.

The former bodybuilder was greeted by hundreds of fans chanting his name as he arrived for the European premiere of the film in Berlin on Sunday night.

"I'm having a great

time with this movie. I'm in good shape. For me, it is no problem to do stunts and to do the action. Nothing has changed," he said. "Older but not obsolete."

Like in the original, John Connor, played by Jason Clarke, sends Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back in time to protect his mother Sarah Connor, portrayed by Emilia Clarke but there are some dramatic changes.

"It's incredible but

Arnold's reprising this role," "Game of Thrones" actress Clarke said on the red carpet.

"He's added so many more textures to it with the fact that our script has a really already built-in human relationship between himself and Sarah so you get so much more of a human element added to that relationship."

"Terminator Genisys" hits cinemas in July.

Reuters

## New 'Fifty Shades of Grey' book sells 1.1 million copies in four days

NEW YORK, 23 June — EL James' new book "Grey," the latest novel in the erotic "Fifty Shades of Grey" series, has sold more than 1.1 million copies in trade, paperback, ebook and audio editions in just four days, its publisher said on Monday.

To meet demand for the novel that retells the first book through the eyes of its billionaire protagonist Christian Grey, Vintage Books is printing a million more copies.

"This is an astonishing number of books to sell over a weekend and speaks to the engagement and passion readers have for the 'Fifty Shades' books," said publisher Anne Messitte, of the imprint of Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. "Christian's side of the story is proving to be irresistible."

"Grey" had been the highest Kindle pre-order of this year on Amazon.com and shot straight to No 1 on the online bestseller lists when it was published last Thursday. The novel was also released in Britain and in a Spanish-language version.

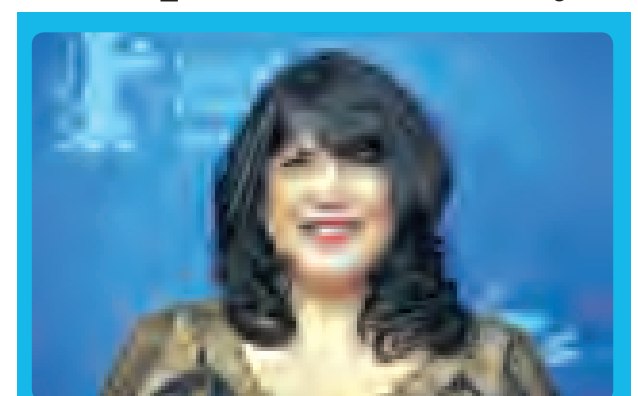
The "Fifty Shades of Grey" trilogy sold more than 125 million copies worldwide and was published in 52 languages.

James announced the publication of the book on social media on 1 June in one of the best-kept secrets in publishing. She said she was prompted to write it by fans who wanted to know Grey's take on his relationship with college student Anastasia Steele, whom he introduces to kinky sex, sadomasochism and bondage.

Reviews for "Grey" have been mixed, with the *Washington Post* newspaper saying it is "dark and unrelenting and far too serious, like Mr Grey."

Britain's *Daily Mail* newspaper said James reproduces all the tediously same encounters from the first book.

"With crafty economy of effort, Ms James has simply shadowed the whole plot of Book One, reproducing the clunky polystyrene dialogue word for word, and inserting italicized thoughts by Christian himself," it said.—Reuters



Author E L James arrives for the screening of the movie 'Fifty Shades of Grey' at the 65<sup>th</sup> Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 11 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

GENERAL

## 'Golden' oldie De La Hoya '50-50' on fight comeback at 42

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — Boxing Hall of Famer and former Olympic champion Oscar De La Hoya is considering a return to the ring at the age of 42 after overcoming substance abuse, the fighter told ESPN.com on Monday.

De La Hoya, who quit boxing soon after retiring on his stool at the end of the eighth round of a lopsided 2008 defeat against Manny Pacquiao, said he was "50-50" about fighting again following two spells in rehab.

"I feel amazing," De La Hoya said. "In my life right now, I have so much motivation. I am so hungry and so determined. I am young, I am healthy and I feel great... 42 is the new 32."

Nicknamed "Golden Boy", the 1992 Olympic champion was once considered boxing's top-rated pound-for-pound fighter and its most marketable

asset, winning world titles at six different weights and participating in a string of megafights.

The Californian, who founded Golden Boy Promotions in 2002, said he only had eyes for either a rematch against undefeated welterweight Floyd Mayweather Jr or a bout against dangerous Kazakh middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin, known as GGG.

Mayweather, 38, has said he would only fight once more before retiring making that bout an unlikely prospect but unbeaten knockout specialist Golovkin has struggled to find big name opponents and offers a more viable opportunity.

"I just feel good and when I walk the streets, everyone tells me, 'You have to fight Floyd again, you have to fight GGG. You can do it, you can do it'," De La Hoya said.



Former professional boxer Oscar de la Hoya poses at the premiere of "McFarland, USA" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

"I just feel great physically. I've been taking care of myself. I've been doing the Bernard Hopkins lifestyle. You can turn the clock back to a certain time."

Hopkins, 50, is the oldest winner of a world championship and unified the WBA and IBF light heavyweight titles until he was beaten late last year, a decade after knocking out De

La Hoya in a middleweight bout.

De La Hoya returned to the ring two years after that loss to knockout Ricardo Mayorga but lost a split decision to Mayweather in 2007 before his final bout the following year against Filipino Pacquiao.

He retired with a 39-6 (30 knockouts) record. *Reuters*

## mitv Myanmar International

(24-6-2015 07:00 am~ 25-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- \* My Life & My Art
- \* News
- \* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-3)
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- \* News
- \* Life In Night .....Art In Life (Ep-2) (Part-1)
- \* News
- \* Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-5) Shwe Min Thar Foundation

## Forlan heads home to Uruguay, likely Penarol



Diego Forlan (C), the 2010 World Cup MVP and joint top scorer, shakes hands with fans at Kansai International Airport in Osaka Prefecture on 22 June, 2015, prior to his departure to Uruguay. Forlan's contract with Cerezo Osaka ended the same day. He joined the side in 2014.—KYODO NEWS

IZUMISANO, (Japan), 23 June — Former World Cup MVP and top scorer Diego Forlan left Japan on Monday after a season and a half with Cerezo Osaka, saying he is ready to return to his native Uruguay — likely with Penarol.

Speaking before boarding his flight at Kansai airport in Osaka Prefecture, the 36-year-old Forlan said, "This has been one of the most difficult experiences ever, but I'm glad I came to Japan." "I hope I can come back one day as a coach."

"I've spent more than half my life overseas so I'm looking forward to

going back to Uruguay," he said.

Forlan arrived in the J-League last season amid outstanding hype but failed to live up to expectations as Cerezo struggled and ended up in J2.

The former Manchester United striker scored seven goals in 26 appearances in J1 last year, and had 10 in 16 in the second division this season for seventh-place Cerezo.

"I hope they do whatever it takes to get back to J1," Forlan said.

*Kyodo News*

## MRTV Entertainment Channel

(24-6-2015, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am**
  - Mono Classical Songs
- 6:20 am**
  - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:45 am**
  - Fashion Show
- 7:00 am**
  - TV Drama Series
- 7:45 am**
  - TV Drama Series
- 8:20 am**
  - Musical Programme
- 8:30 am**
  - Teleplay
- 9:30 am**
  - Joint Performance by State Orchestra And State Traditional Orchestra
- 9:50 am**
  - Myanmar Movie

## Researchers find first clear link between smoking, prostate cancer

VIENNA, 23 June — A new international study has found the first clear link between smoking and prostate cancer, following previous contradictory findings, it was announced on Monday.

While the link between smoking and various forms of cancer has long been established, the Medical University of Vienna along with the University Hospital of Basel found clear links in a new study published in the journal *European Urology*.

It stated following removal of the prostate gland due to prostate cancer, the risk for a recurrence (known as a biochemical recurrence) of the cancer for both smokers and former smokers doubles.

The data was gathered from six international cancer research centres, covering 7,191 patients who

had their prostate glands removed between 2001 and 2011.

The researchers say the link between smoking and the actual development of the cancer is however still unclear, with older studies showing a clear association but newer studies the opposite.

Shahrokh F Shariat, principal of the University Clinic of Urology at the Medical University of Vienna, said the study findings "underline the importance of informing a prostate cancer patient about the negative effects of smoking."

He said the negative impact of smoking on the risk of biochemical recurrence can however be offset within 10 years of quitting, meaning "it is never too late to quit smoking."

*Xinhua*

## Tar balls on Los Angeles-area beach linked to Santa Barbara oil spill

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — At least some of the tar balls found littering one of southern California's most popular beaches last month were matched by lab tests to crude oil that spilled from a ruptured pipeline along the Santa Barbara coast about 100 miles away, state and pipeline company officials said on Monday.

Sticky, black oil globs began washing up along more than 6 miles of Manhattan Beach, just southwest of Los Angeles on 27 May, prompting health officials to briefly close a stretch of shoreline in the area.

Another stretch of coast was placed off-limits to the public in Long Beach a week later after a wave of

tar balls washed up there, and swarms of oil blobs have come ashore as away as San Clemente in Orange County, about 60 miles farther south.

Nine tar samples were collected from in and around Manhattan Beach, and chemical analysis shows two were consistent with oil spilled on 19 May from the failed pipeline operated by Plains All American Pipeline, the company said.

Six other samples were consistent with oil seeping from naturally occurring fissures in the seabed along the Santa Barbara coastline, while tests from three remaining samples have yet to be completed, Plains said in a statement.

The tar ball "fingerprint" analysis was conducted by scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts and the University of California at Santa Barbara, Plains spokeswoman Meredith Matthews said.

Separately, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife reported on Monday that its own analysis of a Manhattan Beach tar ball sample showed a match with the Santa Barbara spill.

More than 50 samples in all have been collected by Plains from oil blobs along the California coast since the pipeline breach, and initial findings from up and down the coast indicate a mix of oil from the spill and

natural seepage, Plains said.

Patrick Sullivan of the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity said the results "suggest that the damage from the oil spill extends quite a bit farther than anyone would have guessed." The pipeline break west of Santa Barbara dumped as much as 2,400 barrels of crude onto a pristine beach and into the Pacific, leaving an oil slick that stretched over 9 miles.

Nearly 250 petroleum-stained sea birds have been recovered dead and alive since then, along with over 260 marine mammals suspected of being spill casualties, according to a running tally kept by wildlife officials.—Reuters

## Wushu into shortlist of added events for 2020 Olympics

TOKYO, 23 June — Wushu has been included in a shortlist of sports seeking to join the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the news left the Chinese fans both happy and cautious.

The Tokyo Olympic organizing committee on Monday accepted eight of the 26 sports that sought to be added to the 2020 Games, including a joint bid from baseball and softball. The seven others were bowling, karate, roller sports, sport climbing, squash, surfing and wushu.

The Tokyo Games organizers could further trim

down the list before they submit the final list to the International Olympic Committee by 30 September. The IOC will vote on which events will be added to the 28 core sports at its Session in August ahead of next summer's Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

After years of efforts to be added as an Olympic programme, Wushu, a traditional Chinese sport, finally has another chance after the Chinese failed to add it into the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Chinese fans are pleased with the news and at

the same time cautious about the sport's Olympic future.

"China is strong in Wushu and can win many medals if the sport is added into the Olympics," said internet user Steven.

But some are concerned that Wushu's similarity with other combat sports like judo and taekwondo may well affect its chance. "I don't hold high hopes because there are many combat sports in the Olympics. And for Wushu routine, it is similar to the gymnastics to some extent," said Mathias. —Xinhua

## Juventus add Mandzukic to collection of strikers



Croatia's Mario Mandzukic fights for the ball with Italy's Lorenzo De Silvestri (top) during their Euro 2016 Group H qualifying soccer match at the Poljud Stadium in Split, Croatia, on 12 June, 2015.—REUTERS

MILAN, 23 June — Serie A champions Juventus boosted their already impressive collection of strikers still further when they signed Croatia forward Mario Mandzukic from Atletico Madrid on Monday.

"A fee of 19 million euros (£13.61 million), payable in three separate instalments, has been agreed, with a potential extra two million euros to be added on if certain performance-related targets are met," said the Turin club.

Former VfL Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich forward Mandzukic scored 20 goals in 43 matches in all competitions for Diego

Simeone's side last season as Atletico finished third in the defence of the title they won in 2014.

Juventus have already spent 32 million euros this month on signing Argentine forward Paulo Dybala from fellow Serie A side Palermo. They join Carlos Tevez and Alvaro Morata who formed a prolific striking partnership this season.

However, the signing of Mandzukic is another hint that 31-year-old Tevez, who has made it clear that he wants to finish his career at home with Boca Juniors, could be on his way back to Argentina with one year left on his

contract. Juventus, who won a Serie A and Coppa Italia double this season and reached the Champions League final, have already signed Germany midfielder Sami Khedira from Real Madrid to reinforce the midfield.

Khedira's move could facilitate the exit of France midfielder Paul Pogba, who is reportedly a target for clubs including Real, European champions Barcelona and several English teams as well as Paris St Germain.

It also remains uncertain whether 36-year-old playmaker Andrea Pirlo will stay for another season.—Reuters

## US eliminate Colombia, Bronze pure gold for England

EDMONTON, 23 June — The United States capitalised on Colombia goalkeeper Catalina Perez's dismissal to earn a 2-0 win and set up a women's World Cup quarter-final against China, while England continue to build up a head of steam after coming from behind to beat Norway.

England's reward for fighting back in sweltering conditions to record a 2-1 victory is a last-eight tie against hosts Canada in Vancouver on Saturday.

The United States will face China a day earlier in a repeat of the 1999 final but they had to work for their win at the Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton and only took control of the game with the sending off of Perez after half-time.

Despite a series of unconvincing displays, US coach Jill Ellis was happy with the way her team were finding a way to win.

"This is the World Cup, I am really satisfied with advancing," said Ellis. "It is about finding a way. I thought we stroked the ball around pretty well at times. So I am pleased with where we are."

The game turned the Americans' way shortly



England defender Lucy Bronze (12) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the second half against the Norway in the round of sixteen in the FIFA 2015 women's World Cup soccer tournament at Lansdowne Stadium.—REUTERS

after half-time when Alex Morgan was brought down just inside the area by Perez, who was then sent off.

Abby Wambach missed the penalty but the opening goal arrived in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute when substitute goalkeeper Stefany Castano failed to deal with a near-post shot from Morgan.

The United States doubled their advantage 13 minutes later when Megan Rapinoe was brought down in the box and this time Carli Lloyd was given the penalty-taking duties and made no mistake from the spot.

United States midfield duo Rapinoe and Lauren

Holiday picked up yellow cards on Monday and will miss the game against China. That game will be a repeat of the 1999 tournament's final, which the Americans won in a penalty shootout on home soil.

Wambach could find herself in trouble with FIFA after suggesting the French referee may have deliberately chosen to give yellow cards to team mates on the verge of suspension.

"I don't know if they were yellows. It seemed like she was purposefully giving those to the players she knew were sitting on yellows. I don't know if it was

just a psychological thing, who knows?" Wambach told reporters.

Earlier at Lansdowne Stadium, where the temperature hovered around 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in the first half, Norway's Solveig Gulbrandsen got her head to a corner at the near post and flicked the ball in off the bar to give her team the lead in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute.

England, who lost their group opener to France but have now won three in a row, equalised from a corner in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute when captain Steph Houghton outmuscled two defenders to score with a fine header of her own.

Defender Lucy Bronze then blasted in the winner in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute to book England's spot in the quarter-finals. "We have an excellent record against this Canada team ... the momentum we got from this game will put us in a great place going into the quarter-final," said England coach Mark Sampson.

The remaining last-16 game takes place on Tuesday with Japan taking on the Netherlands in Vancouver. The winner of that game will play Australia for a place in the semi-finals.

Reuters

## Ready or not McIlroy and Spieth are golf's hottest rivalry

UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, 23 June — It was Fathers Day on Sunday but the kids were in charge at Chambers Bay as Jordan Spieth won a US Open that put all four majors in the hands of golf's young guns, signalling a changing of the guard is complete.

By the time 21-year-old Spieth was celebrating under a gorgeous Puget Sound sunset, Tiger Woods had long ago left the scene having missed the cut while Phil Mickelson, six times a runner-up at the US Open, finished well down the leaderboard in a tie for 64<sup>th</sup> alongside a few other of golf's golden oldies like Angel Cabrera and Colin Montgomerie.

With 26-year-old Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy in possession of the British Open and PGA Championship, Spieth holding the US Open and Masters titles and Rickie Fowler (26) winning golf's unofficial fifth major the Players Championship, the sport has taken on an undeniable youthful vibe as the greats who dominated the game for two decades fade into the background.

At Chambers Bay Woods, Mickelson and Ernie Els proved they can still

attract a crowd but those fans appeared more interested in a trip down memory lane than the huge galleries packed with young men and women following Spieth and McIlroy.

McIlroy thrilled the Sunday throng with an early morning charge up the leaderboard before Spieth took over the spotlight scrapping to a one shot win over Dustin Johnson to become just the sixth golfer to win both the Masters and US Open titles in the same year.

"It's kind of cool. I think to have two players hold the four majors and Ricky having the fifth," smiled Spieth. "It's awesome that the game is in young hands."

"I don't think much of a rivalry. "Rory has four majors and dozens of wins and I'm just starting out.

"I'm just happy to have this and to be chasing that number one spot which he holds."

Whether Spieth and McIlroy are willing to embrace the idea of a rivalry or not the Texan and Northern Irishman are already being hyped as the new Tiger and Phil or Jack (Nicklaus) and Arnie (Palmer).

Certainly all the elements are in place for an enthralling battle.—Reuters