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NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—At the invitation of U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India and wife Shrimati Gursharan Kaur will pay a State visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Indian Prime Minister and wife to pay a State visit to Myanmar

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President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Republic of Ghana

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—H.E Mr Daniel Kwasi Abodakpi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace here at 10 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Slovak Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—H.E Mr Vladimir Halgas, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace here at 10.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Myanmar Mr Vladimir Halgas pose for a documentary photo.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

(23-5-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rainfall (inches)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kyaikmaraw</td>
<td>6.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paung</td>
<td>3.82</td>
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<td>Mawlamyine</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mogok</td>
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Role of parents and teachers in ensuring better future for children

Education is the foundation of improving society as it enables people to develop their critical thinking and analysis skills in order to solve problems rationally. Education also prepares countries and individuals to compete more effectively in the technology-driven global marketplace.

While education is readily available to a significant segment of the population, some are still deprived of the opportunity of an education, which seriously inhibits their ability to make a better life for themselves and their families.

When people are educated they become stronger because they are more confident and independent. This strength will move them to do great things and the country, as a whole will enjoy greater prosperity.

In the knowledge age, many parents are eager to see what future holds for their child. And the worries of a parent would never end no matter how old their child becomes. In the eyes of parents, their child will always be that small cuddly baby that was meant to be doted upon at all times.

Once parents are aware of their child’s potential, they can begin to hone the hidden skills with the proper activities designed to build upon whatever it is that their child has a propensity for. As a child used to spend his formative years in school, there is a growing acceptance that the role of teachers who are the guide of the child becomes crucial.

Since the teachers are the ones who are in control of a child’s destiny as a driving force in the education sector, they are to try their best to become a role model while in pursuit of the national education promotion programmes which could be driven by skills, knowledge and better management.

Self-reliant concrete steel trust bridge in Mohinny in open soon

Morevons, 23 May—The wooden bridges crossing over Nanyin Creek that runs in the centre of Mohinny in Kachin has frequently lost on account of river flooding. With the assistance of Kachin State government, the local people have constructed the concrete steel trust bridge in November, 2011 by themselves. Now the bridge is finished with the length of 150 feet, 14 feet wide and it can withstand 13 tons of loads. It costs K130 million and the Kachin State Kachin has frequently lost on account of river flooding.

In meeting with the Director of ATR, the Union Minister said that Myanmar’s Air Industry has improved 23% compared with the previous year and the international flights have spread their wings into Myanmar, as well as new flights schedules have increased. The Union Minister also said he wants to know ATR Flights for domestic flights on account of increasing new flight schedule. Mr Francois Leneveu explained ATR flights being used all over the world, prices, receiving orders, time to order new planes and conditions of ATR-600 Series constructed better than ATR-500 Series.

Among domestic flights, state-owned Myanmar Airways and private-owned Air Bagan have ATR FLEET each one and the rest four domestic flights only depends on ATR. ATR flights currently used in Myanmar are the greatest numbers and as the world ATR flights have been used more than 1500 so far and type of TURBO PROP.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Win Shein and responsible persons.

Around 100 participants comprising officials from the Myanmar education and research institutions and ICT experts attended the workshop. The workshop was also opened with keynote speeches by Mads Korn, Attaché, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand/Myanmar and Byung Kyu Kim, Executive Officer, TEIN Cooperation Centre and Dr Nilar Thein, Rector of the University of Computer Studies (Yangon).
Afghans back Chicago deal, warn West to keep promises

KABUL, 23 May—People in Afghanistan were surprisingly optimistic on Tuesday about NATO’s plan to pull combat troops out of their war-ravaged nation by the end of 2014, but warned Western leaders to stick to aid and security promises.

A Chicago summit meeting of the 28-member bloc, attended also by Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other world leaders, endorsed an exit strategy on Monday that calls for handing control of Afghanistan to its own security forces by the middle of next year.

But it left unanswered questions about how to prevent a slide into chaos and a Taliban resurgence after the pullout. Despite the sense of combat fatigue in Chicago and frustration that nearly 11 years of military engagement had failed to defeat Taliban Islamists, Afghans were surprisingly upbeat. They said the agreement showed Western nations would not abandon their nation after a decade-long war and a massive aid and reconstruction effort.

“I don’t think foreign nations will leave us as easily as they say. The international community has spent billions of dollars here now,” said university student Tawab, speaking to Reuters at a park near a mosque in central Kabul.

“The conference has decided that some foreign forces will stay in Afghanistan, so it’s like back-up support,” added Paul.

Housing prices in Kabul have jumped 15 percent since US President Barack Obama, who declared on Monday that the 10-year war was “effectively over”, visited Kabul to sign a long-term security deal with Karzai on 2 May.

UN chief called for greater access to medicines for women, children

UNITED NATIONS, 23 May— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday praised the work of a United Nations commission on improving access to life-saving medicines for women and children, while stressing that much remains to be done.

“Last week, the UN issued an important report indicating that, over the past 20 years, the number of women who die from complications during pregnancy has decreased by nearly half,” Ban said in remarks at the opening of the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children. “This is cause for celebration — it is a tribute to the hard work of so many people and partners.” The report, “Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010,” reflects that the annual number of women dying from birth related complications dropped from more than 543,000 to 287,000, a 47 percent decline.

However, the UN chief pointed out that every day, 800 women and more than 20,000 children die from preventable causes; every two minutes, a woman dies at what should have been a joyful moment. “And millions of women are unable to choose if, when and how many children they would like to have because they lack access to modern contraception — this tells me we are still not doing enough,” he added.

A US Airways flight from Paris to Charlotte, North Carolina that was diverted to Bangor International Airport after reports of a passenger showing “suspicious behavior” takes off after landing safely earlier in the day in Bangor, Maine on 22 May, 2012.—Reuters

French citizen born in Cameroon, was removed from the aircraft and was questioned by Customs and Border Protection and taken into custody by the FBI, officials said.—Reuters

A US Airways flight from Paris to Charlotte, North Carolina that was diverted to Bangor International Airport after reports of a passenger showing “suspicious behavior” takes off after landing safely earlier in the day in Bangor, Maine on 22 May, 2012.—Reuters

The passenger jet’s crew recorded a9ording to aerial traffic control communication with the plane. The woman passenger, described as a terminal, was questioned by Customs and Border Protection and taken into custody by the FBI, officials said.—Reuters

Small bomb found in Argentina ahead of Uribe visit

BUENOS AIRES, 23 May—Argentine police on Tuesday defused an explosive device hidden in a theater where former Colombian President Alberto Uribe was scheduled to speak, raising suspicions that left-wing Colombian rebels may have been involved.

Uribe, who cracked down on drug-running guerrillas during his two terms as president, was due to appear at a leadership conference on Wednesday at the Gran Rex theater in downtown Buenos Aires. The bomb would have been detonated at about 4 pm local time on Wednesday, in the area of the theater where Uribe was to attend a reception following his speech.

“It was a simple device but strong enough to cause the death of people nearby,” federal judge Esteban Guzman, who is in charge of the investigation, told reporters on Tuesday after the device was found by theater maintenance employees.

He said the conference will go on as scheduled.

The theater was evacuated and surrounded by police while the bomb was deactivated and the building searched.—Reuters

Correction

Please read “... on 20 May, 2012, instead of...” on 20 May, 2012.” in “correction” appeared on page 3 of this daily issued on 23 May, 2012.—ED

 Argentine Federal policemen stand in front of Gran Rex theater where former Colombian President Alberto Uribe was scheduled to attend a conference the next day, in Buenos Aires on 22 May, 2012.—Reuters
from underground aquifers, lies in water that is extracted by thermal expansion of the oceans. That left a number of scientists from the United Nations Panel on Climate Change puzzling over how much of this can be related to past and current sea-level changes, according to an IPCC report in 2007.

The researchers found that the dusty planet circles its parent star every 15 hours — one of the shortest planet orbits ever observed — and suggested the planet could be heated to a temperature of about 3600 degrees Fahrenheit. Rocky material at the surface of the planet could melt and evaporate at such high temperatures, giving off both gas and dust into space to form the cloud trailing the planet.

"We think this dust is made up of sulfuric acid crystals," says physicist Professor Saul Rappaport at the University of Arizona. "It would be like looking through a Los Angeles smog." Astronomers using the Keck telescope typically see the planet as a bright spot in the sky, but in the case of this star the bright spot is not a solid body, but a cloud of gas and dust, making it a challenge to study.

The probe seeks out planets that are close to their parent star, and the researchers said that their study suggests that planets in this region of the galaxy could be heated to high temperatures, giving off gas and dust that make up the cloud trailing the planet. This cloud is then observed by astronomers using telescopes on Earth to estimate the mass and temperature of the planet.

The researchers also found that the planet is a "supercluster" of gas and dust that is much larger than the solar system, and that it is moving at a speed of about 100,000 kilometers per hour. This is the first time such a large structure has been observed in the galaxy, and it provides important clues about the formation and evolution of the galaxy as a whole.

The researchers say that their findings suggest that planets in the vicinity of the sun could be heated to high temperatures, and that this could have a dramatic impact on the evolution of the galaxy. This is because planets that are heated to high temperatures could be more likely to form stable atmospheres and to harbor life.

The researchers also say that their findings support the idea that the galaxy is a "supercluster" of gas and dust that is much larger than the solar system, and that it is moving at a speed of about 100,000 kilometers per hour. This is the first time such a large structure has been observed in the galaxy, and it provides important clues about the formation and evolution of the galaxy as a whole.

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A warm in-house function and fete of the Information Ministry was held in the Kandawgyi Palace at Kandawgyi Lake on the evening of Monday the 14th May 2012. The occasion was to honour the intellectuals, literati and artists from the world of letters, from entertainment world of movies, videos, classical dramas and plays, songs and singers who had contributed voluntarily towards the ongoing multi-faceted functions, activities and enthralling the Information Ministry in the years 2010 and 2011.

The ceremony was attended by the Honorary Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Htun, Chief Minister for Yangon Region U Myint Swe, dignitaries, the intellectuals, artists, specially invited guests and senior officials from the Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry. In delivering felicitations for the gathering the Honorary Minister spoke most gloriously of the contributions extended by these intellectuals for the furtherance of the cultural and literary heritage and how it had sustained and nurtured their blossoming in full stature to the pinnacles of achievement. These voluntary endeavours were borne out selflessly and in zest by one and all, some, others in spite of creeping old age, doddering, feeble in body but still vindal in mind, exchanging each other’s shortcomings (pains in back, knees and joints, hard of hearing, dimming eye sights, forgetfulness) with mirth and laughter, joining the fun of the moment.Tokens in remembrance, gratitude and respect were presented to 152 doyen personalities, followed by sumptuous buffet dinner and entertainment by the artists of the Fine Arts beryl of light and comedians. 

After enjoying good food, I took a stroll outside the Karaweik Hall along the corridor as the beautiful night scene captivated me. The concrete golden mythical bird perched on the bank, with the dark water of the Lake reflecting the glitter of night lights. Light breeze ruffled my hair. In such contemplative mood my memory raced back a thousand years along heritage trajectory to the Bagan Era bloom of literature, culture, fine arts etc. It was said that the Baganites talked in verses and riddles manifested in high literacy. Most literary works: prose, drama, and verse were based in the Buddhist teachings, scriptures and jatakas, and also touched on nature and social environment, sights and scenes. Such high literacy was propagated by monastic teaching and instruction through many a significant dynasties witnessing literary talent of unmatched quality both among the scholar monks and laymen. I had taken Optional Myanmar in my inter combination for two years at Mandalay University (1947-49), and was enthralled by such gems of Myanmar literary contributions equal to none. Famous names magnificently decked the heritage halls of fame where modern pun replicas could never be matched. Ashin Maha Ratashara, the famous four scholar monks prophesied by the growth of four pax trees, Wungyi Padharhaurya the rural Myanmar poet as Wordsworth was an English one. Then comes versatile poet U Ponnny. Myanmar Shakespeare, Myanmar soldier poet Myawady Mingyi U Sa, Prince poet Nat Shin Naung and forlorn princess Hlaing Hteik Khuang Tin. These accomplished scholars shone with infinite dedication to their selfless literary endeavours to leave fitting legacies for future generations yet unborn. Successful powerful and benevolent Myanmar kings rendered royal patronage, fitting honours and citations that a hundred flowers may bloom. 

The momentum of literary mainstream continued but with dimmed luster during the British Occupation Period. However there was a fresh literary wind with the introduction of Myanmar translation of epic English classics and the famous Arabian Nights among many others. And there was the new literary movement Khitman Sarpay pioneered by the new elite University Graduates, with enduring fame. 

The first formally designated Writer’s Day Sarasot Nay was held on 1st Waxing Day of Natrav 1306 (15th November 1944). It will now be 69 years since its inception this Sarawot Day—2013. After Independence, Sarpay Beikman was formed with the slogan ‘to dispel darkness and bring light.’ Literary competitions were organized to nurture new talent. Aspiring writers and poets endeavoured to sharpen their talents by competing and prizes were given as incentive. Following that came the need to read and select the most deserving, selflessly, competently, with righteous dedication without bias or favour. Thus the role of the scholars, intellectuals rendering their wealth of experience voluntarily in the selection process were mobilized and respectfully honoured.

Such voluntary dedication was not confined to scrutiny and selection of published books and manuscripts. More in-depth works of research, collections and compilations were undertaken by these doyen scholars. The wide range of such tasks included compilation of literary references, compilation of dictionaries, research into documents of archival and heritage value, research on religious and historical never seen before realities, research on fact books, books on the state of the nation, annual literary and position reports etc.

The present occasion was one of such felicitations. It was indeed the heritage of forefathers and it is the bounden duty of the successors all those concerned that to propagate and perpetuate this hallowed literary and cultural tradition deservingly. Maybe just a few were honoured with respect and gratitude. And there remains many, yet unknown, unacknowledged, unhonoured and unsung. But these intellectuals rendered their accumulated knowledge, experience expertise not for favour or vice, not by the job they doing so. And by itself they already had their rewards, the piti of contributing to society. What I have written now as a memorable contribution is just brushing the tip of the iceberg or the hydrofoor approach. There are many who call it much more and I encourage them to do so.

Myanmar UCSB delegation observes CSOs and Universities of PRC

YANGON, 23 May—The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) paid a study visit to the Civil Service Organizations and Universities of the People’s Republic of China from 16 to 23 May.

The UCSB Chairman accompanied by Consul General U Myint Swe of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nanning attended the Welcoming Ceremony to the 60th Anniversary of the Guanzhi University for Nationalities chaired by Mr Zhong Hai Qing, Secretary of the Party Central Committee of Guanzhi University for Nationalities at Yong Jiang Hotel Multifunctional Hall on 17 May.

The UCSB Chairman and delegation visited Mr Jiang Ming Hong, Director-General of the Human Resources Department and authorities of Nanning City. They exchanged views on matters of enhancing bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation. The UCSB Chairman and party attended the Celebration Ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of Guanzhi University for Nationalities chaired by Mr Ma Biao, Governor of Guanzhi Autonomous Region and Mr Zhong Hai Qing, Secretary of the Party Committee of Guanzhi University for Nationalities at the University Sport Stadium on 18 May.

 Afterwards, the UCSB Chairman and party paid a courtesy call on Mr Ma Biao, Governor of Guanzhi Autonomous Region at the International Education College and held friendly discussion matters of enhancing bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. In the afternoon, they observed the background through many significant academic programmes of the Guanzhi University of Nationalities.

The UCSB delegation visited Guilin City and Yang Shou City of Guangxi Autonomous Region.

The UCSB delegation together with Assistant Director U Zaw Htet Naing of the Civil Service Affairs Department arrived back in Yangon by noon and returned this morning—MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister undertakes regional development tasks in Kyar-in-Seikkyi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min met local people at monastery in Ahamangwint Village, Kyar-in-Seikkyi Township on 14 May. He donated Sky Net TV re-transmitter and books and publications there. On 15 May he looked around Payathonesu, the Region chief minister held rainy season tree-planting ceremony in People’s Hospital and distributed saplings. The Region Chief Minister, region ministers and officials grew plants there.

In meeting with the local people, townsmen and social organizations from Payathonesu, the Region chief minister presented three sets of Sky Net TV re-transmitters.

The chief minister visited footweard factory and Aungpane garment factory in Ahamangwint. After that, he paid homage to the Presiding Sayadaw of Dhammayahwone Parahitta Monastery and donated one set of Sky Net TV re-transmitter, rice, onion and bags of grain for the students.

Myanmar-Thai economic discussion on 28 May

YANGON, 23 May—A discussion between Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Thai entrepreneurs, will be held at Inya Lake Hotel on 28 May. The 76 Thai entrepreneurs from 50 companies are led by Senior Executive Investment Advisor Mrs Hiriya Suchai of Office of the Board of Investment (BOI) of Thailand. Myanmar entrepreneurs wishing to participate in discussion may register at UMFCCI (ph-213444-49 and Ext:121 and 122).—MNA
Pyin-nya-nyan library opens in Kayan Township

Kayaw, 23 May—A ceremony to open Pyin-nya-nyan self-reliant library in Naunglan village in Kayan Township, Yangon South District, was held on 17 May. At the ceremony, Township administrator U Min, Township Information and Public Relations Department staff officer Daw Ei Zar Hlaing and village administrator U Saw Min Ko formally opened it. After that, officials accepted books and publication donated by Myanmar Library Foundation (MLF), the Township administrator, the Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and Township IPRD. It was built with the contribution of K 0.5 million by MLF and K 0.4 million by local people.

Export earnings of fishery sector reaches over 78 million USD

Yangon, 23 May—Exports earnings of marine products from 1 April to 20 May, have reached 78.451 million USD, according to Fishery Department. Earnings of marine products export through normal trade channels amount to 45.13 million USD. Exports through border trade camps are Muse (8.07 million USD), Myawady (1.51 million USD), Kawthoung (4.50 million USD), Sittway (0.41 million USD), Myeik (18.04 million USD), and Maungtaw (0.76 million USD). This year budget for export earnings of the marine products is 700 million USD like previous year. Export earnings of crabs and eels that cover in this budget are increased to 3 million USD for crabs and 3 million USD for eels, said officials from FIQC branch of Fishery Department, at regular meeting of meat and fishery entrepreneurs, on 22 May. —Kyemon

Maw Naychi library opens in Muse Township

Muse, 23 May—A ceremony to open Maw Naychi library in Homon ward of Muse, Shan State (North), was held on 20 May. It was attended by Muse District administrator U Moe Hein, Township administrator U Mya Han, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sai Boe Aung, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Win Maung, State Hluttaw representative U Kein Mai, departmental officials and donors. At the ceremony, the Muse District administrator delivered a speech. Books and publications were donated through officials. Afterwards, the district administrator, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative and Chairman of library construction U Myint Soe opened the library.

KBZ Bank, SMBC Bank ink MoU on technical cooperation

Yangon, 23 May—As part of Japan-Myanmar Cooperation Programme, a signing ceremony of technical cooperation between Kanbawzah Bank Ltd and SMBC Bank of Japan was held at Chatrium Hotel on 21 May. It was attended by Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win, Chairman of KBZ Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win, Director Daw Nan Kham Hlaing and officials, Deputy President Mr Hihoshi Minoura and officials of SMBC Bank. At the ceremony, Mr Hihoshi Minoura and Managing Director U Nyo Myint of International Banking Services of Kanbawzah Bank Ltd delivered speeches. After that, Managing Director U Than Cho of Kanbawzah Bank Ltd and Mr Hihoshi Minoura inked and exchanged MoU on technical cooperation. Director Daw Nan Kham Hlaing and Mr Hihoshi Minoura exchanged gifts. The MoU signing is implemented as it was discussed during Myanmar President’s goodwill visit to Japan. The main purpose of it is to have constant cooperation between two countries. And SMBC Bank also helps development of Kanbawzah Bank’s corporate governance, marketing and human resource management. —Kyemon

CASH DONATED: Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt residing on Khayay road, Ward 5, Hline Township, Yangon, donated K 5 million to U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation through assistant administrator U Ohn Myint and treasurer Daw Yin Yin Swe. —Kyemon

CASH DONATED: Monyo Saya Moe family of North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region donated K 5 million to be used in construction of ordination hall in Myatheindan monastery in Bilin Township, Thaton district, to be used in construction of ordination hall in Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region donated K 5 million. —Kyemon

CASH DONATED: Executive Committee Chairman U Koe Shein (Retd Lt-Col) of Hninzigon Home for the Aged contributed K 0.5 million donated by Red Ambassador U Ko Ko Gyi and wife Daw Yin Yin Mya residing on Thiri road, Parami Yeiktha, Yankin Township, Yangon Region, to mark 63rd Anniversary of their wedding marriage.

WRITERS ASSOCIATION FORMED: Executive members of Pabedan Township Writers Association were elected on 13 May. —Kyemon
Union Transport Minister meets Keppel Group Chairman

May—Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung received delegation led by Chairman Mr Lee Bong Yang of Singapore-based Keppel Group at the ministry here this morning.

The chairman and party discussed matters related to investment in hotels, transportation, commodity storage, civil engineering, seafood, cold storage and building ships. The Union Minister said master plan is being drafted to establish logistic stations along Ayeyawady River which could joint Logistic Supply China Network. He also invited investments in ports, special economic zones and deep sea ports.

Keppel Group, which is managing Sedona Hotels in Yangon and Mandalay, has established their businesses in Myanmar since 1993. The conglomerate is operating offshore oil rigs, dockyards, construction sites, electricity and natural gas industries and logistics with above 37000 staff in 30 countries.—MNA

Mandalay Region Chief Minister addresses meeting for effective reforms in regional development tasks

May—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint addressed the coordination meeting for effective reforms in regional development tasks at the hall of General Administration Department of the region on 18 May.

The region chief minister said the government is making plans for bringing about people-centered development in second phase of reform strategy. Effective plans have to be laid for improving livelihood of the people and creating job opportunities as well as in the administration sector.

He also highlighted the need to manage international aid, loans and investment as capital, technology and human resources are required for reformprocess. He called on private sector, social and economic associations for cooperating with the region government in fulfilling socio-economic needs of individuals, alleviating poverty and development human resources.

The region ministers, district deputy commissioners and region level departmental officials discussed matters related to regional development tasks.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the chief minister.—MNA

Application for registration as political party submitted

May—Shan Nationalities League for Democracy today submitted the application for registration as political party as Union Election Commission is scrutinizing and passing the applications for registration as political parties.

Kawa Creek-crossing bridge opened in Kyaikhto Tsp

May—Kawa Creek Bridge linking Sittoung village and villages on the other bank in Kyaikhto Township, Mon State was commissioned into service yesterday morning, attended by Mon State Chief Minister U Onn Myint. Donor Second Secretary of Japanese Embassy Mr Nakaya Go explained how much he hoped the bridge would contribute. Then, the director-general of Religious Affairs Department explained purpose of the establishment of Sasana Nugha Association and the contribution of the association in bridge construction.

Next, State Hluttaw Speaker U Kyin Pe, the second secretary of the Japanese Embassy and the director-general formally opened the bridge. The state chief minister unveiled the signboard of the bridge and inspected the bridge.

The bridge is of RC type with steel truss whose length is 260 feet and width 8 feet. Construction of the bridge which cost over K 100 million started in 2009 and could be finally inaugurated on 22 May 2012.

Union A&I Minister receives Indian, Dutch Ambassadors

May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundaranarjan Seshadri at the ministry here this morning.

They discussed matters related to development of agricultural sector, construction of A Care Centre for research purpose as a technical cooperation between the two countries and establishment of Rice Bio Park.

Minister also received Ambassador of the Netherlands to Myanmar Mr Johannes Andries this afternoon and discussed matters related to cooperation in agricultural sector and investment.—MNA

National Sanitation Week launched in Myitkyina

May—National Sanitation Week (2012) was launched at Town Hall of Myitkyina in Kachin State yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, State Hluttaw Speaker U Rawan Jon, the chief justice of the state high court, state ministers, the attorney-general of the state, the advocate-general of the state, Secretary U Min Chit Oo of the state government, departmental heads, members of social organizations, and trainees of education college and nursing training school.

Myanmar, Vietnam to cooperate in banking sector

May—Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein received Counsellor Tran Phuoc Anh and party of Vietnamese Embassy, at his office here this morning. At the call, they had a cordial discussion on cooperation between banks of Myanmar and Vietnam and investments of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in Myanmar.—MNA

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein holds talk with Counsellor Tran Phuoc Anh of Vietnamese Embassy and party.—MNA
Aye Mya Thaya new village opened in Kunchangon Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attended the opening of Aye Mya Thaya new village in Kunchangon Township together with Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, region ministers, and departmental personnel yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the region minister said that under the supervision of the region government, the UN-Habitat and ADRA Myanmar completed 431 houses for survivors of Nargis cyclone beginning 17 January, 2012 and the construction was finally completed, and so the new village was opened.

UN-Habitat and ADRA Myanmar had also dug wells and constructed kitchens for the victims. System Engineering Co Ltd would set up education and health facilities and give small loans to them.

Personnel of the organizations and governmental officials explained construction of houses in the village and follow-up measures. The region chief minister and personnel then viewed the houses and village nursery and planted wind-breaking trees along the main street of the village.

The UN-Habitat donated 131 houses, 431 toilets, eight wells, and other accessories and the ADRA Myanmar 300 houses.

MNA and importing oil and related products. The Union Minister and officials discussed conditions and procedures for making investment in the sector.

U-5 pediatric centre opened at Mitta Sanye Clinic of MMCWA

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—U-5 children health care centre was opened at Mitta Sanye Clinic in the compound of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Office here yesterday, attended by the President and CEC members of the MMCWA, personnel from Health Department, pediatricians and gynecologists from 1000-bed Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital, and chairpersons and members of MMCWA’s and guests.

MMCWA President Dr Mon Mon Aung delivered an opening speech followed by educative talks on health care for children under five years by specialists and officials of the Health Department.

CEC members and guests then looked round the clinic and rendered health care to the U-5 children.

MNA
Union F & R Minister meets MDRI, President’s economic advisor, economists

NAV PSY.TAW, 23 May—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received MDRI, economic advisor to the President Dr U Myint and economists Professor Paul Collier and Dr Robert F. Conrad, at his office here this afternoon. The meeting focused on monetary sector and budget, new tax policy, investment opportunities and challenges, rural development and poverty alleviation and social security.

It was also attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, managing directors, directors-general and officials from departments and enterprises under the ministry. The guests also had a detailed discussion with teams led by Director-General Dr Lin Aung of Budget Department and Director-General U Myat Maw of Internal Revenue Department.—MNA

Union Minister receives Netherland, Chinese guests

NAV PSY.TAW, 23 May—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Bangkoks-based Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Johannes Andries Boer at the ministry here this afternoon. They discussed matters related to cooperation in development of forestry sector between the two countries. The Union Minister also received delegation led by Mr Du Shixin of Sunshine Kaidi New Energy Group Company Limited of China earlier this morning. The meeting focused on establishment of plantations in place of spoiled forests and production of bio fuel and natural fertilizers.—MNA

Distribution of electricity with new generators

NAV PSY.TAW, 23 May—Electricity is being supplied with new generators in addition to current running generators to the places where there is power shortages so as to ensure supply of drinking water and distribution of electricity at night. The distribution of electricity is being carried out with 11 generators (3895 KVA) in Yangon; 20 generators (6315 KVA) in Mandalay; five generators (735 KVA) in Pyay and two generators (200 KVA) in Monywa. In addition, six (2 MW) generators from Caterpillar Co., Ltd are in order and they will arrive within one week. Arrangements are being made for arrival of six diesel-fired generators (1 MW) from Singapore within one week and two gas turbines (25 MW) from General Electric Co., Ltd as quickly as possible.—MNA

Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay holds talks with Indian Ambassador Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri

NAV PSY.TAW, 23 May—Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri paid a call on Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay at the latter’s office here this morning. Their discussions focused on signing of MoU on implementation of 25 USD-million-worth projects for such socio-economic infrastructural development works as road and bridge construction, education and health care services, small-scale hydropower projects and solar power generation in Naga Self-Administered Zone, and Chin State and Rakhine State, the north-western regions of Myanmar which are sharing border with India. The project will last for five years with provision of five million USD in each year.—MNA

Union NPED Minister calls for careful planning

NAV PSY.TAW, 23 May—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein speaking to heads of Planning Departments from regions and states.—MNA

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein met heads of Planning Department at his office yesterday. The Union Minister urged the heads of Planning Department to follow the instructions of region/state government and the union ministry in doing plans and to coordinate with the planning committees at different levels and give advice to them. MNA

India to assist bordering regions in infrastructural development

JOHANNESBURG, 23 May—At least 220 endangered rhinos have been lost to the poachers for their horns in South Africa since the beginning of this year, a government department said on Tuesday. Among the slaughtered rhinos, 207 were illegally slaughtered by the famous Kruger National Park in the northeastern province of Limpopo, and the reserves in the central northern province of the North West and the southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal, said the Department of Environmental Affairs.

In 2011, a total of 448 rhinos were killed in South Africa, compared to 333 in 2010. Conservationists have warned the rhino in South Africa is facing their worst poaching crisis in decades. If the killing trend continues at this rate, it is expected that at least 500 rhinos will be illegally slaughtered by the end of 2012. “The department, our provinces and public entities view this illegal killing of our national treasure in a very serious light, and will continue to prioritize our fight against this crime with other law enforcement agencies,” said the department spokesperson Albi Modise.—Xinhua

Iran to keep lower grade uranium enrichment, says expert

TEHERAN, 23 May—Iran will maintain lower grade enrichment activities though it is likely to agree to suspend its 20-per cent uranium enrichment during Wednesday’s nuclear talks with the world’s majorpowers, an Iranian expert has said. If the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and P5+1 countries, namely, the five permanent members of the UN security Council plus Germany, agree that Iran has the right to enrich uranium up to 3.5 percent for civilian use, Iran will likely give up production of 20 percent enriched uranium. “That is a kind of solution (to Iran’s nuclear programme),” Dr Sadeq Zibakalam, a professor of political science with Teheran University, said in an interview with Xinhua on Tuesday. If Iran agrees to suspend production of 20 percent enriched uranium, it will definitely ask for lifting some Western sanctions in return, Zibakalam said. “Of course, Iran would say what about the sanctions? Now what about something in return?” said the Iranian scholar.

After the previous round of nuclear talks between Iran and the P5+1 in Istanbul of Turkey on 14 April, with both sides describing the talks as positive, Iranian officials have incessantly urged Western countries to lift some sanctions against Teheran before or during the following round of nuclear talks on Wednesday. Xinhua

220 endangered rhinos killed in South Africa since beginning of 2012
Reconstruction of Sedawgyi dam complete

MANDALAY, 22 May—Reconstruction of Sedawgyi dam and channels in Mandalay Region has been carried out soon. The works started in December 2011 and ended in March 2012. Before being renovated, it had to face difficulties in supply of irrigation water and take too much time. It is supplying irrigation waters to 73927 acres of farmlands in Mataya, Patheingyi, Mandalay and Amarapura Townships and drinking water. It was reconstructed with the State’s finds.—Thin Ko Ko (MDY)

Emergency Ambulance Foundation to be set up

YANGON, 23 May—With the aim of rescuing lives of emergency patients, Emergency Ambulance Foundation will be set up in coming July this year, according to Myanmar Medical Association.

“Wellwishers from home and abroad donated ambulances needed for the Foundation. Systematic trainings are being given to health staff,” said Dr Tha Htet Aung of MMA. Wellwishers have been requested to donate necessary machines.

The Foundation will offer 24/7 services without taking profit. The service charge is a minimum of K 20000, based on distances and treatment.

Khin Yadana

OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR DONATED: To mark the opening of Orange Super Market in Tawin Center in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, Chief accountant of Creation (Myanmar) Co., Ltd donated one oxygen concentrator to Yangon Children’s Hospital through Medical Superintendent Dr Than Htaik and professor/dean professor Dr Saw Win on 17 May. —MNA

Talks on cooperatives knowledge given in North Okkalapa Township

YANGON, 23 May—Talks on current cooperatives knowledge, organized by North Okkalapa Township Cooperatives Ltd, was held at Township Cooperatives Ltd on 14 May. Assistant director U Aung Min of Yangon Region Cooperatives Department, Chairman of Yangon Region Cooperatives Ltd U Myint Naing and Chairman of Township Cooperatives Ltd U Tin Win gave talks on cooperatives activities.—Township Cooperatives

District News

COLLECTIVE BLOOD DONATION: The 66th Fire Brigade Day Commemorative collective blood donation was held at Mandalay Region Fire Services Department on 1 May.—Tun Hla Aung (MDY)

FIRE BRIGADE DAY OBSERVED: The 66th Fire Brigade Day was observed at Aungmin Mandalay sport ground in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay on 5 May. Mandalay Region Minister for Planning U Aung Zan on enjoyed demonstration of fire drill. —Tun Hla Aung (MDY)

CASH DONATED: Joint secretary -2 Dr Gyo Gy Soh of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated cash thorough parton of Rakhine State MCWA and Rakhine State MCWA on 20 May.—MNA

BOOKS AND CASH DONATED: A ceremony to donate books and cash to Linyaungchi library in Chaungsalan village, Shwepyisoe village-tract, Kawthoung Township, was held on 13 May.—Township IPRD

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NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Opening of Cooperatives Agriculture and Livestock course (1/2012-2013), jointly conducted by Ayeyawady Region Cooperatives Department and Cooperatives Syndicate, was held at Ayeyawady Region cooperatives training school on 14 May. The Ayeyawady Region Minister for Planning and Economy delivered a speech on the occasion. It was attended by the assistant director of Region Cooperatives

Cooperatives Agriculture and Livestock Course opens in Ayeyawady Region

BOOKS AND CASH DONATED: A ceremony to donate books and cash to Linyaungchi library in Chaungsalan village, Shwepyisoe village-tract, Kawthoung Township, was held on 13 May.—Township IPRD

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Supply bottlenecks: in India, they’re no small potatoes

NEW DELHI, 23 May—Bureaucracy in recent months has failed to check the price of tomatoes, lentils and “ailoo”, meaning potatoes. “We used to buy whatever vegetables we liked, but now we all have to check the prices,” says Maninder Kaur, shopping with her family at a market in Jalandhar, in the northwestern state of Punjab, where a kilogramme (2.2 lb) of potatoes costs 4.5 rupees (8-10 US cents) at the beginning of the year is now up to four times more expensive. Meanwhile, onions are selling for about a fifth of the price they were at the end of last year and the price of tomatoes rose 33 percent in April alone. Such erratic prices for perishable goods are routine in India partly because the major farms of depend on the variable monsoon for their produce. However, they are also due to inadequate cold storage facilities and transport bottlenecks—that together cause up to 40 percent of the country’s food harvests to rot before they get to market—and a primitive distribution network in which many layers of middlemen take cuts, forcing prices higher.

US officials hail launch of first commercial spacecraft to space station

WASHINGTON, 23 May—High-ranking US officials on Tuesday hailed the launch of the unmanned Dragon capsule to the International Space Station, which initiated the first flight of a commercial spacecraft to the orbiting outpost. Atop California-based company SpaceX’s own Falcon 9 rocket, the Dragon capsule rocketed into the sky from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Charles Bolden, administrator of US space agency NASA, told reporters at Cape Canaveral that Tuesday’s launch ushers in a new era of space flight for both the space agency and the United States. “We’re now back on the brink of a new future, a future that embraces the innovation the private sector brings to the table,” Bolden said. “The significance of this day cannot be overstated.” The launch is an important step for NASA and the United States, which currently has no means of independently reaching space. NASA relies on the Russian space agency to ferry US astronauts to orbit. “What’s really important is not control, as much as it is the fact that the United States will once again be the lead, will be providing our own vehicles to take our own astronauts and cargo to the International Space Station,” Bolden said. “It’s fine to rely on partners, but that’s not where the greatest nation in the world wants to be.”

Japan’s April trade deficit expands to 6.5 b USD

TOKYO, 23 May—Japan’s trade deficit in April hit 520 billion yen (about 6.5 billion US dollars) amid expanding demand for oil and gas imports, a government report said on Wednesday. The deficit figure was the biggest for the recording month on record, according to government data which was collected in 1979. The value of imports for April surged 8.0 percent from a year earlier to 6,087 billion yen, while exports climbed 7.9 percent to 5,567 billion yen, according to the report released by the Finance Ministry. The world’s third largest economy had recorded the worst trade deficit in the fiscal year 2011 which ended in March due to rising imports of oil and gas after the 11 March disasters last year. The devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan last year not only caused disruptions in the supply chain of auto parts but also triggered a nuclear crisis that led to suspension of reactors. Currently, all of the nation’s 50 commercial reactors are off-line, leading to a power shortage across the country. The appreciation of the yen was also cited by the government as a factor for the rising deficit. While Japan’s imports grew, its exports also showed strong momentum. The nation’s exports marked the second straight month of climb thanks to the shipments to the United States and the Middle East, the ministry said. Exports to the United States surged 42.9 percent to 959 billion yen, while the figure for China, Japan’s biggest trading partner, contracted 7.1 percent to 995 billion yen.

Venezuela’s Chavez reappears, leads cabinet meeting

CARACAS, 23 May—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez reappeared on Tuesday in a live television broadcast, the first time he has been seen in public since cancer treatment in Cuba almost two weeks ago. Chavez spoke in a strong voice and did not appear tired during the broadcast, which lasted more than two hours. He made no reference to his health, of which few details are known. The socialist leader’s uncharacteristic disappearances have become longer and more frequent this year. They have fueled speculation his condition has worsened and may complicate a re-election bid in October. Chavez, 57, cracked jokes with government ministers during Tuesday’s broadcast and repeated his plans to register his candidacy for the November election as set out by the country’s electoral commission. The defeat that we’re going to deal to the opposition will be unprecedented,” Chavez said. “It’s part of our challenge to move to a new phase,” he said, adding that his government would strive for annual economic growth of 7 percent and single-digit inflation if elected for another six-year term.

Consumer prices rose 2.6 percent in the South American country last year, one of the world’s highest rates. It was only Chavez’s third appearance in public since mid-April. He called state television twice in recent days but Tuesday’s speech was his first in public since he returned from Cuba after completing radiotherapy sessions on 11 May.
Zardari may face friction over supply routes at NATO summit

**CHICAGO, 23 May—** Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Chicago on Saturday for the NATO summit to what could be a chilly reception if a hoped-for deal allowing trucks to again supply alliance troops in Afghanistan fails to materialize. While Western officials sought to portray Zardari’s presence as a sign of improving NATO-Pakistan ties, possible friction at the meeting undercuts the challenges NATO countries face as they struggle to ensure a stable future for Afghanistan after Western troops withdraw, Western leaders, who sometimes differ in their visions for the best way to end the war, speak with one voice when they describe NATO Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (center R) shakes hands with Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari before a bilateral meeting at the NATO summit in Chicago on 20 May, 2012. **Reuters**

Zardari’s appointment as an emissary of peace carried with it a diplomatic strain that could be exacerbated by a decision made by the Alliance to begin a phased withdrawal of its forces from the country at the end of this year. The decision was made in 2010, but it has been met with resistance from the Afghan government and the Taliban, who see it as a sign of weakness. The US and NATO, however, are determined to pull out of Afghanistan as quickly as possible, and Zardari’s mission is to help in this process.

Obama’s top aides were not welcome in Pakistan.

Obama’s top aides were not welcome in Pakistan. Pakistanis were also concerned about the US-led war in Afghanistan, which has cost the country more than 3,000 lives and $50 billion in aid. The President was also seen as a harbinger of change in the region, as he had publicly called for a political solution to the conflict.

The US President Barack Obama, in Singapore, 23 May—President Barack Obama, wrapping up the G8 summit he hosted at Camp David, welcomed Europe’s focus on rekindling growth and warned the crisis in the euro zone was dangerous for the world. Obama, whose re-election chances in November depend heavily on the US economy continuing to shake off recession, said there was "an emerging consensus" that Europe ought to invest in job-creating infrastructure and other programmes at the same time as it tackles its deficits and debt.

Obama said the debate has taken priority.

Obama warned of euro zone threat, welcomes growth focus

"As all the leaders here today agreed, growth and jobs must be our top priority. A stable, growing European economy is in everybody's best interests, including America's," he said. "Put simply, if companies are forced to cut back in Paris and Madrid, that means less business for manufacturers in Pittsburgh or Milwaukee." Obama warned of the threat facing the euro zone.

Obama said the United States had the capacity to meet its economic challenges.

"The direction the debate has taken today, and the direction the debate should take, is to ensure growth and jobs, to ensure stability for European economies, to ensure that the euro zone is strong enough to withstand the storms of the future," he said. Obama warned of the threat facing the euro zone.

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US President Barack Obama. **Reuters**

Passenger traffic at Singapore airport in April up 12.7 pct

**SINGAPORE, 23 May—** The passenger traffic at Singapore’s Changi Airport, one of the world’s busiest airports, grew by 12.7 percent year on year in April to 4.21 million, Changi Airport Group said on Tuesday.

The aircraft movements grew by 8.8 percent to 26,400 movements. The passenger traffic improved year on year across all regions. Among its key markets, China, India and Japan registered the strongest growth. It is now the most connected airport to China and India from Southeast Asia.

The cargo volumes fell by 4.9 percent year on year to 148,200 tons, reflecting the current downturn faced by most export markets.
Inside world’s most expensive home

“India’s richest family has released photos of what is believed the world’s most expensive house, a 27-story behemoth worth more than $1 billion. Mukesh Ambani, who Forbes magazine estimates is worth more than $22 billion, released details about the interior of the home which includes marble floors, a multi-story garage, a large library, helipads, a spa and a Hindu temple, CNN reported.

Ambani’s wife, Nita, told Vanity Fair magazine for a June issue how her family decided to release details about the home because “there have been exaggerated reports in the media about it.”

The Mumbai home, dubbed Astelia after a mythical island, also includes a ballroom, a theater and several terraced gardens. “We made our home right at the top because we wanted the sunlight… so it’s an elevated house on top of a garden,” Nita Ambani said. She said the family moved into the home in September.

Man pulls woman from subway tracks

A New York man who jumped onto the subway tracks to rescue an unconscious woman said he hopes his children remember their lessons about train safety.

Greg Wetzel, 40, who jumped onto the tracks at 12:45 pm on 19 May at the West 72nd Street subway station and hoisted a woman back up to the platform about 60 seconds before a train arrived, said he hopes his children, boys ages 6 and 7 and a 4-year-old girl, didn’t get the wrong idea from his actions. “I have a 19-month-old child and that’s the worst thing I’ve ever seen. It was a woman who needed help who was really struggling,” Wetzel said.

“People say things like ‘I’m asking is for you to think about what you’re doing’,” he said. “That should give them a healthy fear of the platform.”

Wetzel brushed aside any allegations of heroism on his part. “The lesson, I guess, is they saw first-hand what happened,” he said.

“Just wait the right thing to do,” he said. “If you see someone on the tracks, it’s hard not to do something.”

Florida TV host Frank Cairo charged with grand theft

A Spanish-language television anchor in Florida was charged with grand theft for allegedly stealing a set of chairs and a carpet from a neighbour.

TV Azteca host Frank Cairo, 48, whose real name is Ivan Valdes, was charged with grand theft in Doral alongside friend Jorge Acuna Arias, 47, The Miami Herald reported.

Doral police said surveillance video depicts Valdes and Arias taking a set of chairs and a carpet from the apartment. Police Chief Rick Gomez said Valdes “admitted” to the April incident, saying they moved the items because he thought it had been abandoned.

“They saw the video and I was told the truth of the incident,” he said.

“I make half-a-million dollars and don’t need to be stealing,” he said.

Leonardo DiCaprio to lease out Malibu home

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has rented out one of his three Malibu estates for USD $150,000 per month. Expected tenants can hire the place out for USD 75,000 per month if they are interested in staying any longer than half a year, reports contactmusic.com.

The luxurious beach home on Malibu Colony Road was originally purchased in October 2002 for USD 6 million. Spread over 2,633 square feet, the home features seven bedrooms, six bathrooms and a gym. Also the property is divided into a four-bedroom main house, with an additional two-bedroom detached guest home.—Internet

Leonardo DiCaprio and Frank Cairo

The 65-year-old Mississippi native has 26 albums, three No 1 New York Times best-selling books and developed the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant in Biloxi, Miss, has special meaning for him. “Biloxi was the first place I ever made a dollar professionally,” Buffett said on Sunday in New Orleans.

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Queen Latifah to host daytime talk show

Singer Latifah to host daytime talk show

CULVER CITY, 23 May US actress and recording star Queen Latifah is to serve as host of a syndicated daytime talk show to debut in the fall of 2013, its producers said. Corin Nelson is to be executive producer of the program from Flavor Unit Entertainment, Overbrook Entertainment and Sony Pictures Television.

“The warmest, most genuine talented performer and one of the rarest performers today. Queen Latifah’s profile, stature and accomplishments, it was for us to find someone who complemented such a tremendous talent to headline this show,” Holly Jacobs, executive vice president of US reality and syndicated programming for Sony Pictures Television, said in a statement on Monday.

“We know the diversity of Corin’s experience in daytime and late night, her collaborative spirit, tremendous creative chops and passion for the medium made her a perfect match. “Queen Latifah is that rare combination of a multi-talented performer and one of the warmest, most genuine women I’ve ever met.”

This show is the perfect platform to showcase her tremendous range of talents and unique ability to connect with and entertain people,” said Nelson.

Leonardo DiCaprio

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio

The 28-year-old was accidentally punched on the nose by his co-star while filming “Snow White and the Huntsman”. “I got my nose busted by Kristen. It’s been months and months and I’m still waiting for an apology. We reached for the same muffin and I learned my lesson, I won’t be doing that again,” contactmusic.com quoted Hemsworth as saying.

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Jimmy Buffett brings the party back home

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Bayern beat Dutch in badly timed friendly

BERLIN, 23 May—Stricken Bayern Munich managed to beat Netherlands 3-2 in a badly timed friendly on Tuesday, played less than 72 hours after its traumatic Champions League final defeat at the hands of Chelsea.

Bayern Munich’s Luiz Gustavo (R) fights for the ball with Netherlands’ Siem de Jong during a friendly soccer match in Munich on 22 May. —Reuters

A 33,000-crowdwatched the match at the Allianz Arena, where Bayern suffered their penalty shootout defeat against the English Premier League side on Saturday.

Both teams fielded mainly second-string line-ups while goalkeeper Joe Butt, defender Breno and forward Ivica Olic all made their final appearances for Bayern.

The match was organized to compensate the Bavarians after their Dutch winger Arjen Robben aggravated an injury playing for the Netherlands at the 2010 World Cup.

Bayern complained angrily at the time that Robben should not have played and he missed several months of the following season.

But the timing of the match could not have turned out worse for Bayern, coming hot on the heels of Saturday’s defeat. Robben, who missed a penalty in extra-time on Saturday, came on as a second-half substitute for the Dutch and some boos were aimed at him by the Bayern fans.—Reuters

Drogba’s China talks on track: report

SHANGHAI, 23 May—Shanghai Shenhua’s talks with Didier Drogba are continuing “just as planned,” a report said Wednesday, raising expectations the striker will move to China after announcing his departure from Chelsea.

Shenhu, bankrolled by colourful video-game mogul Zhu Jun, signed Drogba’s ex-Chelsea team-mate Nicolas Anelka in December and they have been in talks with the Ivory Coast international since at least January.

“As of now, Shenhu’s negotiations with Drogba are continuing just as planned,” Zhu told the Oriental Sports Daily. Drogba, 34, revealed he was quitting English Premiership giants Chelsea on Tuesday, just days after his match-winning performance in the Champions League final against Bayern Munich.

Zhu Jun, signed Drogba’s ex-Chelsea player-coach.

Drogba scored a late equaliser as well as the decisive spot-kick in the penalty shoot-out. Since joining Chelsea from Marseille in 2004, he has chalked up 157 goals in 341 appearances, helping the club win 10 trophies.

“It has been a very difficult decision for me to make and I am very proud of what we have achieved, but the time is right for a new challenge for me,” he told Chelsea’s website.

Drogba would be the latest star signing for China’s increasingly big-spending Super League, after World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi joined Guangzhou Evergrande last week.

But Anelka’s move has not been without problems.

Last week he threatened to quit Shenhua over the club’s plans to hire a new head coach, according to local media.

“If there is still no one to support me and they continue to play little tricks behind my back... then I will quickly decide whether or not to retire,” the Frenchman told the Xinhua Evening News.

Club owner Zhu has written to Anelka’s agent and lawyer asking for an explanation, the Oriental Sports Daily said.

In April, Shenhua sacked French coach Jean Tigana, then the highest profile manager to work in China, after just a handful of games and replaced him with a makeshift set-up including Anelka as assistant coach.

They are now tipped to be targeting Sergio Daniel Barreto, who led Argentina to Olympic gold in 2008, as their new manager.

Izagirre records first major Tour stage win

ROME, 23 May—Spanish Jon Izagirre’s solo breakaway bid paid off as he came away from four Dutch riders in the 16th stage of the Giro d’Italia on Tuesday, taking his first major victory.

The 23-year-old, who turned professional last year and whose brother Gorka also rode for the same team, was a professional, my brother (Gorka) was also in the breakaway group. I am happy, no I would say I am very happy. “It’s my second career, my first at this level. “I am from a cycling family. My father was a professional, my brother (Gorka) was also in this team.”

Izagirre pulled ahead of a group of nine fellow escapers in a climb just 4km from the climb, to claim his first success in this year’s race for the Euskaltel team.

The 23-year-old, who turned professional last year and whose brother Gorka also rode for the same team, finished 15th ahead of Italy’s Alessandro De Marchi and Dutch rider Stef Clenin.

It was his second career win after a time-trial stage in the Tour of Asturias in April.

“We knew that this was an ideal stage to lead a breakaway,” he said.

“Several of us in the team who tried it and me who was the one who did it and I was making the work.”

Spanish cyclist Jon Izagirre of Euskaltel competes in the last 150.17 kilometers of the 16th stage of the Tour of Italy. Izagirre’s solo break, paid off as the Euskaltel rider won the 16th stage of the Giro d’Italia on Tuesday.—Internet

Jose Mourinho extends contract with Real Madrid

Madrid, 23 May—Real Madrid announced this Tuesday that they have extended the contract of coach Jose Mourinho by a further two years.

The news will end rumours about Mourinho’s future after he had been linked with possible moves to Manchester City and even a return to his former club, Chelsea, in recent weeks.

The 49-year-old’s previous deal was due to expire at the end of June 2014 and he will now remain at Real Madrid until the end of June 2016.

Mourinho joined Real Madrid in the summer of 2010, shortly after leaving Inter Milan to the Champions League title. He took Madrid to the Copa del Rey in 2011, defeating bitter rivals FC Barcelona in the final and this season his side won the BBVA Primera Liga title, amassing 100 points in the process.

So far Madrid’s main objective of lifting a 10th Champions League title has evaded Mourinho and that will almost certainly be the club’s main objective for the 2012-13 season.

Meanwhile next season will see Madrid’s main rivals, FC Barcelona, perhaps suffer under a period of adjustment as Tito Vilanova takes on the difficult task of replacing Pep Guardiola, who is leaving after four seasons in charge.—Xinhua

Pistorius, Dibaba enter New York meet

NEW YORK, 23 May—South African Oscar Pistorius, trying to become the first double-amputee to compete in the Olympics, and reigning 5,000m Olympic women’s champion Tirunesh Dibaba of Ethiopia will race in the Diamond League meet next month in New York, organizers announced on Tuesday.

Pistorius, the 25-year-old “Blade Runner” who uses carbon fibre prosthetic running blades, Bettered the Olympics qualifying mark of 4:55.20 in this year with a time of 45.20 at a meet in Pretoria.

He must run 45.25 again at an international event before 30 June to realize his dream of becoming the first amputee to compete against able-bodied athletes at the quadrennial multi-sport showcase.

Pistorius hopes to make it happen at the Adidas Grand Prix on 9 June. “Last year at the Adidas Grand Prix, I had a great experience on the way to my first World Championships,” Pistorius said. “This year, I know the Iahn Stadium fans will put everything they’ve got behind my quest to compete in the Olympics.”

Dibaba, who also won 10,000m Olympic gold at Beijing, is a seven-time world champion and the 5,000m world record holder.

But Dibaba, 26, missed all of last year with an injury. She has won her two prior starts this year but needs to impress her homeland’s Olympic selectors.

South Africa’s Oscar Pistorius, pictured in action in Milan will race in the Diamond League meet next month in New York, organizers announced on Tuesday. —Internet

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho, seen here in April 2012.—Internet

Spanish football team member Adrian Lopez arrives in Schruns, prior to the start of a week long training camp ahead of the Euro 2012 football championship held in Ukraine and Poland.—Internet

Spain arrives in Austria for pre-Euro training

La Roja, which already trained in Schruns ahead of its World Cup triumph in 2010, is seen as one of the favourites at Euro 2012 which draws from 8 June to 1 July.

Currently ranked number one in the world by FIFA, it will be hoping to become the first nation to win three international competitions in a row if it can lift the European trophy again after winning in Vienna in 2008.

Spain will face Italy, Ireland and Croatia in group C, with its first match against the Azurri on 10 June in Gdansk, Poland.

Spanish football team member Adrian Lopez arrives in Schruns, prior to the start of a week long training camp ahead of the Euro 2012 football championship held in Ukraine and Poland.—Internet
**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(24-5-12 09:30 am – 25-5-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Rapid Ageing A Caring Future
- News
- Music
- Programme
- News
- Arts who can create colourful images
- News
- A Ceremony to recognize as Son-in-Law
- News
- Culture Stage
- News
- Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA)* (Part II)
- News
- Youth & Language “What is she talking about?”
- News
- Travelling to Shan Plateau (Pindaya Natural Cave)
- Myanmar Movie
- “The Magician’s Flower”

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

**Weather forecast for 24th May, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions/States</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Temperature (°F)</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>39/102</td>
<td>27/81</td>
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<tr>
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<td>31/88</td>
<td>22/72</td>
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<td>14 Southern Shan</td>
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<td>4 Chin</td>
<td>26/79</td>
<td>14/57</td>
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<td>3 Kayin</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>22/72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Two Nigerian women arrested for drug trafficking**

LAGOS, 23 May—Two Nigerian women suspected to be drug traffickers were arrested in southwestern Lagos, the West African country’s anti-drug police, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), said on Tuesday.

Spokesperson of the agency Mitchell Ofoyeju told reporters that the suspects ages 24 and 25 were arrested at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos.

It was said one of the suspects, who claimed to be a hair stylist, was caught with 1 kg of methamphetamine hidden in her inner wear.

The other suspect, according to the spokesperson, is a London-based fashion designer, who was found in possession of 3 kg of cocaine concealed inside chocolate packs.

“Once of the suspects was detected with the support and cooperation of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) personnel,” he said, adding that she was trying to take a local flight to Abuja to connect another flight to Malaysia.

He said the lady packed 750 grams of methamphetamine in her inner wear, while 250 grams were also ingested by her.

According to him, the suspects claimed during interrogation that they were lured into the drug deal, with the promise of a mouth-watering sum of money.

Methamphetamine, a very addictive stimulant that is closely related to amphetamine, is long lasting and toxic to dopamine nerve terminals in the central nervous system.

It is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting powder taken orally or by snorting or injecting.

**Ukraine plans Euro crowd control, prostitution a problem**

KIEV, 23 May—Ukraine will use fighters and helicopters to guard its air space and put security and health services on full alert during the European soccer championship, but officials said on Tuesday they could do little to stem a likely flood of prostitutes.

The country’s top security and defence officials, Andriy Klyuyev, told security chiefs that the world would judge Ukraine by how it dealt with the security challenges posed by the month-long Euro-2012 tournament in June.

The leadership of President Viktor Yanukovych is under fire over the jailing of former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko for abuse of office in what Western governments say is a politically-motivated prosecution. Several Western politicians have said they will stay away from Euro-2012 matches in protest.

The former Soviet republic, co-host of Euro-2012 with Poland, expects about one million fans for the 16 matches to be played in four Ukrainian cities—the biggest influx of foreign visitors since it became independent 20 years ago.

Ukraine says it will have about 23,000 police on duty for the tournament which make the short list last time but say they have learnt from their mistakes this time round.

“This is an excellent bid, really carefully prepared to avoid the mistakes on the previous bid,” Sports Minister Azad Rahimov told AFP on Tuesday.—Internet

*AFP*

**International**

**MYANMAR TV**

(24-5-2012) (Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Parita By Hilly Region Missionary Saydaw
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
3. Nice & Sweet Song
4. Dance Variety
5. Teleplay (Health)
6. Cute Little Dancer
7. Miami Radio and Television by State Traditional Orchestra
8. Musical Programme
9. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Years (Myanmar)
10. Science and Environment
11. Songs Programme
12. Approaching Science Discovery World
8:00 pm
13. News
14. TV Drama Series

**First cut awaits 2020 Olympic host hopes**

GENEVA, 23 May—The choice of host city for the 2020 Olympics is still 15 months away, but a shortlist is due to be announced on Wednesday from declared candidates Baku, Doha, Istanbul, Tokyo and Madrid.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) at this early stage in the competition only looks at the cities’ abilities to host a major sporting event, ranking their transportation and other infrastructure, and the challenges they face to ramp up in time for the event.

Tokyo are the only one of the candidates to have hosted the event and seen it widely as the early front runners, while Istanbul were seen as the dark horses until a spinner was thrown into the works when Turkey also announced they were bidding for the 2020 European football championship.

IOC President Jacques Rogge told AFP in an interview earlier this month that IOC rules state that a Games host country cannot hold another major sports event in the same year.

“Initially they will be judged on their technical capacity on 23 May in Quebec City,” said the 70-year-old Belgian.

“...in other words their potential to host the Games. “On 7 September next year in Buenos Aires, if Istanbul is elected we will respectfully ask them not to host the European Championships.”

Of the other candidates Doha failed to even make the short list last time and the subsequent furor after Qatar was awarded the 2022 World Cup has according to some made IOC members reluctant to suffer the same Press as FIFA did. Baku also failed to make the short list last time but say they have learnt from their mistakes this time round.

“...this is an excellent bid, really carefully prepared to avoid the mistakes on the previous bid,” Sports Minister Azad Rahimov told AFP on Tuesday.—Internet

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“...this is an excellent bid, really carefully prepared to avoid the mistakes on the previous bid,” Sports Minister Azad Rahimov told AFP on Tuesday.—Internet

Handout photo from the Tokyo 2020 bid committee shows (R-L) Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda, Paralympian swimmer Mayumi Narita, designer Al Shimamine, wrestling champion Kaori Icho and Tokyo 2020 CEO Masato Mizuno in 2011.—INTERNET

Anti-terrorism measures include having 10 surface-to-air missile units on standby. Four air fighters and two military helicopters will be deployed to protect air space over the host cities, the Defence Ministry said.

“We will be permanently monitoring the air space of the match cities. All security and emergency institutions and services will be on 24-hour duty from the beginning of June. Medical services and the emergencies ministry will be on heightened alert,” said Klyuyev, who is secretary of Ukraine’s security and defence council.—Reuters

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 24 May, 2012**

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Kingdom of Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Mr Johannes Andries Boer, the newly accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to President U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace here at 11.00 today. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General of U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Myanmar goodwill delegation arrives back

YANGON, 23 May—A Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrived back here by air this evening after paying goodwill visits to Germany, Belgium, Norway, England and Denmark. They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw speaker, deputy speaker and chairmen, secretaries and members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Committee and Commission, the German Ambassador to Myanmar, director-general of Hluttaw Office and officials. The delegation members comprising Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myit Oo, Chairman of Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Investment and Industry Development Committee U Hay Myint, Secretary of National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee Daw Dwe Bu and member of Bill Committee Daw Nang Ni Wah and officials, also came back.—MNA

Pachakalo BEHS (branch) gets new building

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—A ceremony to hand over a new school building, jointly built by Japanese NGO Nippon Foundation and local people under the assistance of Border Areas and National Races Development Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs to the Education Department took place at Pachakalo Village Basic Education High School (Branch) in Nathan Village-tract, Hshiseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South) yesterday. Officials of ministries concerned and responsible persons from Nippon Foundation officially opened the new school building and spoke on the occasion. The Nippon Foundation set up a fund of K 4.5 million for regional development works. The school building is a one story brick building with CI sheet roofing measuring 90x30 feet and cost over 52.9 million contributed by the Nippon foundation and local people.—MNA

Private schools running granted

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Running of private schools will be allowed as of 2012-2013 Academic Year. Those who want to open private schools and work as private teachers in line with the private school registration laws and regulations, are to take application forms at offices of respective Region and State education offices and apply there not later than 12 June.—MNA

Significant Day Temperatures (23-5-2012)

Chauk (45°C)  Gangaw (43°C)  NyaungU (42°C)  Kalewa (42°C)  Kalay (42°C)