No backsliding in Myanmar’s reforms

Political reform without economic reform cannot bring success to political system

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann visits European countries

President U Thein Sein felicitates Argentinian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Madam Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25th May, 2012.—MNA

True patriotism

It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and party meet Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Belgium Mr Didier Reynders.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann visited European countries led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrived here back by air yesterday evening after paying goodwill visits to European countries. At the invitation of President of European Union Parliament Mr Martin Schulz and parliaments of EU member countries.

During the tours, the delegation had discussions with heads of parliaments, foreign affairs ministers and international development ministers and exchanged views. Myanmar ambassadors from respective countries also attended the meetings.

On 10 May, the delegation met President of EU Parliament Mr Martin Schulz at EU Parliament Building in Brussels of Belgium and EU Council Chairman Mr Herman Van Rompuy at EU Council Office Building.

On 11 May, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met Chairman of EU Commission Mr Jose Manuel Barroso at EU Parliament Building and head of EU Foreign Affairs and Security Ms Catherine Ashton at EU Building.

The delegation held talks on “Myanmar One Year after the Elections” in Brussels, and diplomats, journalists, researchers and interested persons attended it. Myanmar delegation held a discussion with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Belgium Mr Dider Reynders and with Flemish State Chief Minister (Minister-President) Mr Kris Peeters.

The delegation also met with the MPs led by Chairman of EU/Asean countries Parliamentary Committee Dr Werner Lagen, MEP at EU Parliament Building.

On 9 May, Myanmar delegation also held a discussion with President of the Bundestag Dr Nobert Lammert of Germany in Berlin. After that, they exchanged gifts and Myanmar delegation visited German Parliament Building.

On 8 May, the delegation met with Chairman of Parliament Economic Cooperation and Development Committee Ms Dagmar W’o’hrl and party at German Parliament Building. On arrival at Munich of Germany on 6 May, the delegation was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to German U Tin Win and officials from Bavarian State Parliament and Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF).

On 7 May, the delegation met with Chairman of Bavarian State Parliament Mrs Barbara Stamm in Munich and attended a lunch hosted by the Parliament Chairman.

On 8 May, they met with Dr Guido Westerwelle, Foreign Affairs Minister of Germany and Minister at Ministers’ Office Mr Eckart Von Klaeden.

On 9 May, the delegation met with Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Mr Dirk Niebel.

On 8 May, they held discussions with Parliamentary State Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and Parliamentary State Secretary Mr Peter Hintz of the Ministry of Economic and Technology Development.

On 11 May, Myanmar delegation left Brussels of Belgium for Paris of France, and was welcomed at France by Myanmar Ambassador to France U Kyaw Swa Min and Embassy staff.

On arrival at France Parliament on 12 May, head of Cooperation Department of France Parliament Director General Mr Duluc explained the facts about the parliament, and they visited France Parliament. After that, they left for Zurich through Geneva of Switzerland and arrived at Oslo of Norway.

On arrival at Norway Parliament Building on 14 May, they were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of Norway Parliament Ms Marit Nybakk and party. Afterwards, they visited opening of regular session of Norway Parliament. At the session, Norway Parliament announced the recognition of Myanmar delegation’s visit and looked around the Building.

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PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 25 May, 2012

Healthy living
When we are free from illnesses, diseases, or injuries, we take our health for granted. And when we become sick we start to recognize the value of the absence of ailments and understand the importance of health and fitness. The soundness of our physical and mental health is linked with our satisfaction with our own life. So we need to find a way that leads us to pursue a happy and contented life.

But that alone is not enough. People need healthy foods and exercise to stay fit and active as non-communicable diseases related to unhealthy lifestyles and unbalanced diets, which are also called lifestyle diseases are on the rise. Concerning the problem the Health Department and NGOs are launching awareness campaigns that help people choose the correct healthy food from among the many alternatives.

Generally, decreased physical activity or normal aging causes reduced muscle mass leading to a high prevalence of obesity a host to terrible diseases such as diabetes, dyslipidemia and hypertension, which are the major risk factors for cardiovascular disorder. Here resistance exercise training and subsequent increase in muscle mass can reduce the said multiple cardiovascular disease risk factors. In fact, beneficial effects on maintaining health and prevention of chronic diseases of the resistance training have been recognized in many countries.

Environmental health is another issue that has a major impact on our health. Environment includes the physical, chemical, biological, and social features that surround us every day and things like air, water, and soil that are natural to us in our environment. It covers the assessment and control of these environmental factors that can potentially affect human health. So, to ensure health and happiness, we also need to address this issue and create health-friendly environments.

Union Foreign Minister felicitates Argentinian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hector Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25 May, 2012.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace-making Committee meets with Hluttaw representatives, national race representatives of Rakhine State

YANGON, 24 May—Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace-making Committee met with Hluttaw representatives, national race representatives of Rakhine State at the State Hluttaw hall in Sittwe, Rakhine State this morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Committee U Thein Zaw and committee members, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, national race representatives, those from political parties and others.

Chairman of the Committee U Thein Zaw made a speech on the occasion. Next, State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and State Hluttaw Speaker U Hein Lin delivered addresses followed by a general round of discussions.
Detailed, “engaged” Iran nuclear talks go to second day

Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari (R) walks with European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton before their meeting in Baghdad on 23 May, 2012. —Reuters

Iraq’s government has issued a tropical storm warning along the coast from Manzanillo to the border with Mexico, it added.

The overall goal of the six countries, the senior US official said, is to secure an end to sanctions isolating the country and damaging its economy.

The US drone fired two missiles at the compound. We believe it was being used by Islamist militants in northwest Pakistan, one of the Pakistani officials said.

A US drone strike killed 10 in northwest Pakistan

The US has been urging Pakistan to mount an offensive in North Waziristan to pursuant of the Haqqani militant network, which has had most feared foes in neighboring Afghanistan.

A Greek flag flies behind a statue to European unity as a government is to foresee a possible exit from the euro zone, urged the European Union leaders, ministers.

The overall goal of the six countries, the senior US official said, is to secure an end to sanctions isolating the country and damaging its economy.

Nuclear sub catches fire in Maine Naval shipyard

The fire started in the "forward compartment" of the USS Miami, an attack submarine docked at the port in Keyport, Washington, shipyard officials said, shortly before 6 pm.

US drone strike kills 10 in northwest Pakistan

The overall goal of the six countries is to secure an end to sanctions isolating the country and damaging its economy.

We believe it was being used by Islamist militants in northwest Pakistan, one of the Pakistani officials said.

Five killed, 29 injured in attacks in Iraq

The cause of the fire is not yet known, the vessel’s nuclear reactor was not affected, the shipyard said.

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High mercury levels found in wild dolphins

Scientists from The Johns Hopkins University and The National Aquarium said they compared levels of the chemical in captive dolphins fed a controlled die with dolphins found in the wild that dine on marine life that carry more of the toxic metal.

Levels of mercury were lower in the captive animals compared to wild dolphins tested off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida, a state that is in the path of mercury-laden fumes from power plants, they reported on Monday.

Since the research was a small, pilot study, researchers cautioned against drawing wide-ranging conclusions.

“This is just one snapshot, one puzzle piece,” said Edward Bouver, chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins.

“Which we’d like to do now is repeat this project with aquariums in other parts of the world.”

The goal is to get a clearer comparison of mercury-related health risks facing dolphins both in captivity and in the wild.”

The captive dolphins in the study were fed smaller fish from North Atlantic waters where mercury pollution is less prevalent, researchers said.

“The aquarium dolphins were fed a consistent level of small fish — capelin and herring — that were caught in North Atlantic waters off Newfoundland and New England,” Johns Hopkins environmental scientist Yongsook Hong said. “Lower levels of mercury are expected in these waters, compared to the waters off Florida.”

In December, after the study was conducted, the US Environmental Protection Agency adopted strict standards aimed at reducing the release of toxic air pollution from coal- and oil-fired power plants, a key source of mercury contamination in sea water.

Ancient jewelry found at Israel site

TEL AVIV, 24 May — A gold earring in a collection of ancient jewelry unearthed in northern Israel suggests the hoard could have Egyptian origins, archaeologists say.

The gold and silver jewelry was hidden inside a vessel found in the Jezerel Valley and dated to around 1100 BC, Tel Aviv University reported on Monday. At least some of the pieces could have originated in nearby Egypt.

Tel Aviv researcher Eran Arie said, as some of the materials and designs are consistent with Egyptian designs from the same period.

The vessel, found in the remains of a private home in the ancient Canaanite city-state of Tel Megiddo, was probably not the jewelry’s normal storage place, researchers said.

The gold earring decorated with molded ibexes, or wild goats, found in northern Israel and dated to 1,100 BC — Internet

“It’s clear that people tried to hide the collection, and for some reason they buried it in a vessel that is in the path of mercury-contamination in sea water,” said Jennifer Erickson, a marine biologist at Johns Hopkins.

She said they compared levels of mercury pollution in sea water, downwind of power plants in the US.

In captive dolphins, US electrical resistance is much more durable.

“Animal programmes and marine mammal, examines a resident dolphin. Internet

British scientists say.

The captive dolphins in captivity and in the wild.”

The captive dolphins in the study were fed smaller fish from North Atlantic waters where mercury pollution is less prevalent, researchers said.

“Which we’d like to do now is repeat this project with aquariums in other parts of the world.”

Researchers said that they developed a novel structure composed of silicon oxide that performs the switch in resistance much more efficiently.

Unlike other silicon oxide chips currently in development, they said, their chip does not require a vacuum to work, making it potentially cheaper and more durable.

“Faster memory chips can store more data

The new memory is known as Resistive RAM (or ReRAM) because it uses materials, most often oxides of metals, whose electrical resistance changes when a voltage is applied and can then “remember” that change.

Our ReRAM memory chips need just a thousandth of the energy and are about a hundred times faster than standard Flash memory chips,” Tony Kenyon of the university’s electronic and electrical engineering department said.

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**Health Tip: Comforting baby’s pain**

When your baby is in pain — be it from things like a circumcision, vaccine or incoming tooth — parents can take steps to soothe, comfort and ease the pain as much as possible.

The University of Michigan Health System offers these suggestions:

- Cuddle your baby, and try to have skin-to-skin contact.
- Distract your baby by singing, cuddling, talking or moving.
- Nurse your baby if you are breast-feeding.
- If you aren’t nursing, dip a pacifier in a sugar/water solution, but never honey.
- Ask your doctor about administering a pain-relieving medication designed for infants.—Internet

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**Scientists identify molecule that flicks on immune system**

**SINGAPORE, 24 May—**

Researchers have identified the molecular ‘switch’ that directly triggers the body’s first line of defence against pathogens, more accurately known as the body’s ‘innate immunity’.

They found that this molecule — called Bruton’s tyrosine kinase (BTK), when switched on, activates the production of interferons, a potent class of virus killers that enables the body to fight deadly dengue and flu viruses.

While there are anti-viral drugs to treat flu, the high rates of mutation that characterise flu viruses have made it difficult to treat with one universal drug or vaccine, according to a statement of Bioprocessing Technology Institute (BTI), under the Agency of Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore.

As for dengue, there are currently no clinically approved vaccines or cures either. This discovery of BTK’s role as a critical ‘switch’ that boosts the body’s anti-viral response, paves the way for developing anti-viral drugs that target the BTK ‘switch’ to fight infectious diseases.

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**Vodafone cuts sales target on weak European markets**

**LONDON, 24 May—**

Vodafone (VODL) cut a medium-term sales growth target on Tuesday as customers in southern Europe slashed spending and regulators upped the pressure on the world’s largest mobile operator.

The company took impairment charges of 4 billion pounds relating to its businesses in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Vodafone posted full-year results in line with forecasts and said it expected growth in adjusted operating profit in 2013 as strength in emerging markets and Germany and Turkey offset a slump in spending in Spain and Italy. But with trading in the two big southern European markets showing few signs of improving and regulatory and foreign exchange pressures due to continue, Vodafone said it now expected organic service revenue growth in 2013 to be slightly below its previous medium-term target range of 1-4 percent.

Organic group service revenues for the 2012 financial year from the provision of ongoing services to customers was up 1.5 percent, with Europe down 1.1 percent and Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific up 8 percent.

The British-based group is the latest in a long line of major companies to be hit by government austerity measures being imposed across Europe, where consumers facing tax rises, inflation and muted wage growth are under pressure to cut spending.

A reluctance to spend on discretionary goods, particularly in Italy, Spain and Greece, has hit Europe’s biggest retailer Carrefour, drinks group Diageo and electricals retailer Kesa among others in recent weeks.

In the telecoms sector specifically, rivals have also struggled, with net profit at Spain’s Telefonica halved in the first quarter due to turmoil conditions in Italy and Spain.

“Our focus on the key growth areas of data, emerging markets and enterprise is positioning us well in a difficult macroeconomic environment,” Chief Executive Vittorio Colao said.

Group revenue was up 1.2 percent to 46.4 billion pounds, in line with forecasts, but core earnings slipped 1.3 percent due to the tough trading and increasing regulatory pressure. “Given larger regulatory reductions than previously envisaged, we now expect organic service revenue growth in the 2013 financial year to be slightly below our previous medium-term guidance range,” the group said.—Reuters

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**Folic acid reduces some childhood cancers**

**WASHINGTON, 24 May—**

Fortifying food with folic acid may cut down the incidence of the most common type of kidney cancer and a type of brain tumour in children, says a new study.

Folic acid fortification reduced the incidence of Wilms’ tumour, a type of kidney cancer, and primitive neuroectodermal tumours (PNET), type of brain cancer, both of which affect children’s kidneys and brain.

“Our study is the largest to date to show that folic acid fortification may also lower the incidence of certain types of childhood cancer in the United States,” said Kimberly J. Johnson, assistant professor at the Brown School, Washington University, St. Louis, the journal Paediatricians reports.

The study examined the incidence of childhood cancer pre- and post-mandated folic acid fortification. “We found that Wilms’ tumour rates increased from 1986 to 1997 and decreased thereafter, which coincides exactly with folic acid fortification,” Johnson says, according to a Washington statement.

“PNET rates increased from 1986 to 1993 and decreased thereafter. This change in the trend does not coincide exactly with folic acid fortification, but does coincide nicely with the 1992 recommendation for women of child-bearing age to consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily.”

Study authors used the 1986–2008 data from the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER), which has collected information on cancer cases in various areas of the US since 1973. The study involved 8,829 children, from birth to age four, diagnosed with cancer.

“Declines in Wilms’ tumours and PNETs in children were detected by multiple analyses of the data,” Johnson says. “Importantly, the reduced rates of Wilms’ tumours also were found in a smaller study conducted in Ontario, Canada, that was published in 2011. Julie A Ross, professor and director of the Division of Paediatric Epidemiology & Clinical Research in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Minnesota, co-authored the study.—Internet

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**Australia’s Qantas to split business into two**

**SYDNEY, 24 May—**

Australia’s Qantas Airways, which is emerging from a bruising dispute with unions, on Monday said it planned to cut 500 jobs on top a similar number flagged in February to save up to AS1580 million annually.

It is consolidating engineering, maintenance and ground operation function and also plans to sell some catering centres. It has also cut AS900 million in capital expenditure.

Qantas announced some 3522 jobs, CEO for its frequent flyer programme as CEO of Qantas International and Lyell Strambi, group executive for airline operations, as CEO for domestic operations.

Qantas announced an underlying profit before tax of AS352 million in the 2010/11 financial year while the international business lost more than AS200 million. —Reuters

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**A girl points to a Qantas Airbus 330-300 aircraft on the tarmac of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila on 31 October, 2011.—Reuters**
US firm creates text-controlled ‘robotic barista’ coffee maker

Add personalized messages onto the coffee’s froth, with the help of edible ink.

The company has no plans to mass-produce the machine, but it is making available the instructions and source code. “You heard right,” the BBC quoted the company writing in its blog. “We’ve got a robotic barista in the house,” the blog read. Zipwhip, a cloud text messaging service, said they had produced the machine as way of highlighting the abilities of its wider business.

“We’ve had a lot of people each from all over the world wanting to distribute this thing,” John Lau, the company’s chief executive said. “We have been preparing the open source plans — and we are going to launch those. People could do modifications, that would be really thrilling for us,” he said. The machine itself is a standard coffee maker manufactured by Jura.

Instead of a human operator, the machine is activated using a specially programmed Arduino microcontroller. Arduino is an open-source platform used for prototyping interactive electronics.

“Zipwhip were able to write computer code to interpret the instructions sent in through text message. The system made use of Zipwhip’s own Android mobile app.

“The build was completed with lots of head-scratching and weekend work,” the company said.

It has posted the code used to control the Arduino — written in the Java programming language — on its blog. The machine has proved popular with both technology and coffee lovers.

Local blog SeattleCoffeeGear called it the “hardest working robot in the business.”

Lauer said that he was delighted with the response, but was not looking to take the idea much further.

“Hey, if Starbuck’s want to come and buy the company for that machine... well, it just wouldn’t make sense!” he said. “We’ll let someone else do it. If someone takes the open-source plan and starts a business around making these, it just means more users of our software,” he added.

Al Qaeda video calling for cyber attacks against Western nations alarms US

WASHINGTON, 24 May — A new al-Qaeda video calling on followers to carry out cyber attacks on Western targets has alarmed American lawmakers.

Senators Susan Collins and Joe Lieberman, who are part of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said that they first learned about the al-Qaeda video last week in a meeting with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

“This tape is really alarming. It’s essentially instructing anybody who’s sympathetic with al-Qaeda’s ideology to engage in cyberattacks, and the tape is telling them how easy it is to do so,” Fox News quoted Collins as saying.

The six-minute video instructs al-Qaeda followers that the US is vulnerable to cyber attacks in the same way that airlines were vulnerable in 2001 before the 11 September attacks.

“The video calls on Muslims with expertise in this domain to target the websites and information systems of the companies and government agencies,” Lieberman said.

“Al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula are focused on cyber warfare because it can be carried out, if you have somehow smart enough, at very little expense,” Lieberman added.

The senators had the Homeland Security Department took action against 100,000 cyber incidents in 2011. They said that there was a five-fold increase in the number of attacks aimed at industrial control systems.

“There has been a huge increase in the number of cyber attacks against our country in the last two years. It would be naive for us to think that al-Qaeda is not responsible for at least some of those attacks,” Collins said.

Without getting into classified information, Lieberman confirmed that there has been a spike in cyber intrusions, which is believed to originate from Iran.

BOMBS threaten forces plane back to Australia

SYDNEY, 24 May — Emergency crews raced to Melbourne Airport on Wednesday when a packed passenger plane was forced to return after a soft drink can with the word “bomb” scribbled on it was found onboard, police said.

The Australian Federal Police was called in and at least 15 fire trucks were on stand-by as the Air Mauritius Airbus A340 carrying close to 200 people, touched down at an isolated part of the airport.

The plane, which was bound for Mauritius, had left Melbourne as scheduled but had to turn back to the airport following a discovery of a suspicious item on board.

“Air Mauritius wishes to reiterate that the safety of passengers and crew is our top most priority at all times,” the airline added in a statement.

South Korea to expand missile arsenal

SEOUL, 24 May — South Korea plans to significantly expand its missile arsenal over the next 5 years in response to threats from North Korea.

A South Korean military official says Defence Minister Kim Kwan-jin reported the 2.1-billion dollar plan to President Lee Myung-bak.

The plan entails deployment of hundreds of new cruise and ballistic missiles, including the Hyunmun, the country’s newest cruise missile with a range of 500 to 1,500 kilometres that was unveiled last month. A Defence Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday that South Korea must increase its missile capability to counter mounting threats from the North.

It has posted the code

South Korea has been working to reinforce its missile strength since North Korea last month failed to launch what the country claimed was a satellite-carrying rocket but was believed to be a long-range ballistic missile.

Calls are growing in South Korea to extend the ballistic missile’s limit set at 300 kilometres in an agreement with the United States.

US urges Iran allow IAEA monitors at all locations

TOKYO, 24 May — A US State Department spokesperson has urged Iran to provide the International Atomic Energy Agency with access to all the locations it asks to inspect.

Victoria Nuland said the United States is looking for implementation of the deal. She urged Iran to provide access to all locations, documents and personnel that the IAEA requires.

Nuland said the United States wants to see concrete steps from Iran on its uranium enrichment activity during its upcoming talks with 6 countries.

She said that if Iran actually takes steps, the US might be able to respond, suggesting an easing of sanctions.

Beetles’ backward Abbey Road photo fetches $25,000

TOKYO, 24 May — A rare photograph showing the Beatles walking the “wrong way” across Abbey Road has sold for more than $25,000 dollars at auction in London. This is double the estimate.

The initial offering price was around 9,500 dollars at the auction on Tuesday.

But the bidding topped 25,000 dollars only one minute later.

The signature cover photo of the band’s 1969 album “Abbey Road” shows the Fab Four walking from left to right.

The photo was one of 6 taken during a 10-minute photo session more than 40 years ago.

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Following the mood of today

Some people say, “Those who don’t understand history will repeat the mistakes of the past.” But it is not always true. There has not always been firm evidence that people have made smart decisions based on their knowledge of the past. The present is what is important. People, weather and politics can change and determine what happens.

People can change. People may have hated each other for years, but that doesn’t mean they will continue to hate each other. For instance, there are many countries in the world which are cooperating now although they might have once antagonized each other. No doubt, if we had looked at the past, we would have believed this to be impossible. But people change.

The weather can change. Farmers plant certain crops because those crops have always grown well in their fields. However, there can be a long drought. The crops that grew well in the past will die. So the farmers need to try a drought-resistant crop. Provided that we had looked at the past, we wouldn’t have changed our crop. Weather changes.

Similarly, politics can change. If politicians looked only at the past, they would always do the same thing. Even the United States, the world’s great democracy, used to have discrimination against races, women and sexual orientation. On the whole, the American people now are interested in human rights and the government protects these rights.

Today’s Myanmar has changed remarkably. Its leaders as well as politicians have changed. In retrospect, the country lagged behind others in all aspects due to different ideologies, racism and isms. We could not have changed our political system. Despite the fact that successive governments tried to practise genuine democracy which people think has been the best and most suitable political system on Earth, Myanmar failed to do so because of inability to seek common ground among national ethnic groups. Since taking office, the democratically-elected government led by President U Thein Sein has been conducting a series of changes and reforms. Among those changes and reforms are granting amnesty four times for political prisoners, including those serving jail terms for their strong convictions, making peace with almost all of national ethnic armed groups, easing strict laws and rules and drafting laws in line with democratic practices. As a result, today’s Myanmar has seen a sign of progress in all sectors within a short period of time.

The economic sanctions and restrictions the US and some Western countries imposed against Myanmar are being suspended or lifted. We could have now normalized bilateral relations with the US and the whole global community is eying economic cooperation with Myanmar, blessed with rich natural resources. Moreover, international assistance and inward investment are beginning to flow into the country. Therefore, Myanmar will surely have a very bright future with its people enjoying progress and prosperity.

All in all, these fruitful results are coming from the changes our nation and the government have made. If they had looked at the past only and remained unchanged, Myanmar wouldn’t have reached a status of today.

As a rule, it is important to follow the mood of today. It doesn’t help us to think about the past. People, the weather and politics can change in any direction, good or bad. We should be aware of this.

DISTRICT NEWS

BOOKS DONATED: Chairman of Muse Township Writers Association U Ohn Myo and party donated 200 books to Maw Nacy library through Vice-Chairman of Library Committee U Than Lwin and committee members, in Muse Township on 22 May. — MYANMA ALIN

Writers association formed in Pazundaung Township

YANGON, 24 May—A ceremony to form writers association in Pazundaung Township, was held at Pyinthakalein library of Township Information and Public Relations Department on 6 May. At the ceremony, chairperson U Khin Aung (Reporter Khin Aung) delivered an address. After that, U Nyi Nyi Aung (Nyi Aung) was elected as chairman and U Than Tun (Thitha Ayeayawady) as secretary. — MVA

Collective blood donation of Myittamon group held

KAUNGGON, 24 May—To mark the 8th Anniversary of Myittamon blood donor group from Kaunggon, Pathine District, Ayeayawady Region, fourth collective blood donation was made by a group led by U Hlaing Myo Soe at National Blood Centre in Yangon People’s Hospital on 13 May. The group comprising about 1500 was formed in 2001 and has donated 4500 bags of blood during so far. — MYANMA ALIN

Fire drill demonstrated in Magway Region

MAGWAY, 24 May—Assistant Director U Tin Min of Magway Region Fire Services Department, head of District Fire Services Department U Myint Naing Tun and Township Fire Services Department staff officer U Ye Nyunt, demonstrated the use of fire extinguishers and fire drill, at (Man) Thanpayakan oil refinery of Petrol Chemical plant in Upper Minila Township, Thayat District, Magway Region on 15 May. — Fire Services Department

Relief aids provided to victims in Pindaya Township

PINDAYA, 24 May—A strong wind hit wards and villages in Danu Self-Administered Zone in Pindaya Township on 26 April. A ceremony to donate cash to the victims by Shan State Government and relief aids by the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement was held, at the Zone on 21 May.

Chairman of Danu Self-Administered Zone U Htoo Ko Ko and secretary U Soe Naing handed over cash and relief aids to the victims. A victim spoke words of thanks. — MYANMA ALIN

Take Fire Preventive Measures

FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES INSPECTED: Staff officer U Tan Tun Soe and party of Fire Services Department inspected preventive measures against fire at houses, restaurants, workshops and factories in No.12 Ward in Pathein Upper Minila Township, Thayat District, Magway Region on 6 May. — SOE TINT

RESPECTS PAID TO THE ELDERS: The 46th respect-paying ceremony was held at Township administrator office in Pyigyikyatthay Ward in Aungmyaythazan Township, Magway Region on 22 May.— SOE TINT

CASH DONATED: U Aung Than and Daw Tin Tin Aye Family residing on Sweetsithar road, No.13 ward in Yankin Township, Yangon, donated K 1 million to Jivitadhana Sangha hospital (Yangon) through the executive member of Hospital administration. — MNA
No backsliding in Myanmar’s... (from page 1)

After that, they met President of the Hall of Commons of the United Kingdom Mr John Bercow and party. They also met Minister for State DFID Mr Alan Duncan and Minister of State Lord Howell separately. Then, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party met Advisor to Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mrs Kate Joseph on No. 10 Downing Street and looked round in the building and met Secretary General of the Danish Parliament Mr Carsten-U. Larsen.

Then, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker met Minister of Danish Development and Cooperation Mr Christian Friis Bach at the building of Danish Foreign Affairs Ministry. As Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann was meeting with the dignitaries while in European countries, they said that they were satisfied with Myanmar political developments; that they would continue to encourage and help with the political reforms; that they expected release of more political prisoners and would render assistance for the efforts for national race affairs and internal peace process; they praised the leadership of the President and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in their political reform process; that they expressed concern over continued efforts as changes and reforms were far faster than expected and there might be challenges; and that any way they would provide assistance.

In response, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said Myanmar would have no backsliding with its changes and reforms and even since the time of previous government, all-out decision had been made to build up a developed country with multi-party democracy and market economy in the interests of the nation and the people.

Nowadays, the entire national people believed democracy was the sole road towards national prosperity. It can be seen that peaceful and developed countries around the world today were practicing democracy with their own styles. Myanmar also had introduced an appropriate system in accord with its historical background, culture, environment, and national characteristics. The government was well aware that the road would be paved with thorns and the goal was not within easy reach. However, no matter what, the government would more forward in the interests of the nation and its people. In serving the interests of own nation and people, democracy, human rights, peace and stability were the aspirations of each global nation, which should be acknowledged by the rest of the global family offering constructive support and assistance. It was indeed an honour to see and hear support and appraisal of the efforts of the government. The country and its people would join hands with the international community for regional stability, security and global peace. Previously, the relations between Myanmar and European countries and global countries had been in decline. It was regrettable that there were not even normal relations. Taking those lessons, it was required to target for cooperation on the ground of mutual interests from normal relations. Reforms in Myanmar had gone some distance, but it still needed to go in parallel with economic reforms. It was noticed that political reform, without the support of economic reform, alone could not make the political system a success. So, it was required to take actions in consideration of overall conditions such as politics, economy and socio-economic status. Myanmar possessed a geopolitically strategic position and was blessed with rich natural resources. So, there were great potentials for investment and special opportunities for promotion of commerce and trading, just suitable for profit-sharing cooperation. In so doing, the parliament played an important role and thus it had been focused on rapid emergence of laws appropriate with modern time and enforcement of such laws in legislation, the main obligation of the parliament. They also discussed exchange of visits, study tours and experiences for high quality of parliaments.

The parliamentary delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann paid a call on President of Hans Seidel Foundation (HNSF) Professor Dr H.C. Mihns Zeidmann and Vice-President Mr Stephen Schneider of Siemens AGCO on 3 May in their visit in Germany.

Chairmen and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees accompanying the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in his visit met personnel of Standard Charter Bank in London on 18 May, businessmen from Confederation of Danish Industry of Denmark on 22 May. They also went to Amata City Industrial Estate in Thailand on their way back to discuss matters related to establishment of industrial zone.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Economic and Commercial Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Hla Myint, National Races Affairs and Internal Peacemaking Committee Secretary Daw Dwe Bi, member of Bill Committee Daw Nan Wah Nu and personnel also arrived back here together with Speaker.

Thura U Shwe Mann while in London cordially met with Thura U Shwe Mann met Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mr Mogens Lykketoft and party at the parliamentary building of United Kingdom. On that day, Thura U Shwe Mann and party visited the parliamentary building and met Secretary General of the Danish Parliament Mr Carsten-U. Larsen.

Mr Mogens Lykketoft and party at the parliamentary building
delegation members met Speaker of the Danish Parliament
members of Myanmar Association, some Myanmar citizens
parliamentary building of United Kingdom.
on No.10 Downing Street and looked round in the

The Deputy Minister delivered a segment meeting in the afternoon session

Commission of United Nations Economic
Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw arrived
Dr Myo Aung and U Thein Swe and commission member U
Khin Maung Yi (a) U Khaing Maung Yi, U Saw Thein Aung,

Than Tun, who arrived in Norway later.

At 3 pm on 18 May, the delegation called on Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom Mr John Bercow and party. They also met Minister for State DFID Mr Alan Duncan and Minister of State Lord Howell separately. Then, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party met Advisor to Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mrs Kate Joseph on No. 10 Downing Street and looked round in the parliamentary building of United Kingdom.

Thura U Shwe Mann while in London cordially met with members of Myanmar Association, some Myanmar citizens living in the UK at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador.

At 10 am on 21 May, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation members met Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mr Mogens Lykketoft and party at the parliamentary building in Copenhagen. They looked round in the parliament building and met Secretary General of the Danish Parliament Mr Carsten-U. Larsen.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker met with dignitaries while in European countries, they said that they were satisfied with Myanmar political developments; that they would continue to encourage and help with the political reforms; that they expected release of more political prisoners and would render assistance for the efforts for national race affairs and internal peace process; they praised the leadership of the President and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in their political reform process; that they expressed concerns over continued efforts as changes and reforms were far faster than expected and there might be challenges; and that anyhow they would provide assistance.

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The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Danish parliament speaker Mr. Mogens Lykketoft—MNA

Dy NPED Minister attends 68th ESCAP meeting

NAY PYI TUN, 24 May—The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw arrived back from Bangkok by air yesterday after attending the 68th Session of the Commission of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in United Nations Convention Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 23 May, 2012.

The Deputy Minister delivered a country statement as the policy issue for the Asia-Pacific region at the Ministerial Segment meeting in the afternoon session of 22 May, 2012.

The Ministerial Segment was preceded by the Senior Official’s Segment which was held on 19 May to consider the substantive and management issues and draft resolution of sustainable development, economic integration and disaster management which was submitted by member countries. The Ministerial Segment adopted the report of the Commission which contains sustainable development and Pacific island developing countries: preparation for Ria-20 and beyond, substantive issues such as macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development, Trade investment, Transport, Environment and development, Disaster risk reduction, Social Development and Statistics and Management issues of report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2010-2011, programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013 and date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013).

During attending the Ministerial Segment, the Deputy Minister met separately with Dr Noelene Hayter, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP and H.E Mr Joe Nakano, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on 21 and 22 May respectively and exchanged views on matters concerning promotion of bilateral relations, and further cooperation with Myanmar and UNESCAP.

Deputy Minister had a meeting with ESCAP on Statistical Capacity Development. Deputy Minister stressed that the priority needs of this Ministry are to update National Accounts-related economic statistics and build technical capacity at various levels of administration. And then, Deputy Minister had also a meeting with ESCAP on Sustainable Urban Development. ESCAP expressed the opportunities to provide the technical assistance to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the area of sustainable urban development, and in particular on solid waste management. Regional Manager and officers of UNDP in Bangkok called on Deputy Minister and discussed the matters of rural development and the protection of agriculture and providing the technical assistance.

The Deputy Minister attended Ministerial Roundtable on “Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century” and High Level Panel on “Steering inclusive development amidst global turbulence and volatility.”—MNA
Bago Region Chief Minister, Singaporean guest discuss investment opportunities

**Yangon,** 24 May—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win held a discussion with Kerry Group Limited Vice Chairman Mr George Yeo of Singapore at the region government office on 22 May on the opportunities for investment in Bago Region. **MNA**

**Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win holds discussion with Kerry Group Limited Vice Chairman Mr George Yeo of Singapore.**—**MNA**

**Ministry of Sports opens Judo coaches/ referees training course**

**Nav Pyi Taw,** 24 May—A ceremony to open Judo coaches/referees training courses took place at the training hall of Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Centre this morning with an address by Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan in his address said that the chance of ensuring success in the international sports not depends only on solely efforts of the athletes but also depends on ability of managers and coaches, sports techniques and well-qualified local referees. He added that in the early 1969, Myanmar gained achievements in the international sports contests but the success waned after 1969 with the scarcity of international level coaches and referees. Therefore, the Ministry of Sports is cooperation with the respective sports federations has been opening sports courses in different sports sectors, and it has already four coaches/referees training courses. And the Union Minister stressed the need for trainees to try to become international level coaches and referees.

Afterwards, the Union Minister discussed with delegation members who were there for field trips on matters related to sending of coaches to People’s Republic of China to undergo training for successful holding of XXVII SEA Games, undergoing event-wise joint training and provision of technological aids for opening and closing of the SEA Games. **MNA**

**Liuqzhou City Mayor meets UMFCCI Vice-President**

**Yangon,** 24 May—Mr Zheng Jankang, Mayor of Liuqzhou City in Quanzhou Region in China and party met Vice-President U Aung Lwin, Joint Secretary-General U Myint Soe and CEC of the Republic of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Federation here, on 21 May.

They discussed producing vehicle parts and heavy agricultural machineries, chemical fertilizer and steel industries and bilateral cooperation in trade and investment between the two countries. **MNA**

**Union Transport Minister meets Chairman of Japan-based Nisshin Transportation Co.**

**Nav Pyi Taw,** 24 May—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received a delegation led by Chairman Mr. Susumu Koshimizu of Japan-based Nisshin Transportation Co Ltd, at his office, here, this afternoon.

At the call, Nisshin Transportation Co Ltd had a discussion on potentials to make investments in public transportation and freight transportation services in Myanmar, establishment of a freight forwarder services company in cooperation with organizations or private companies in Myanmar.

With respect to the discussions, the Union Minister said that contracts could be signed with Myanmar Airways on civil aviation, Inland Water Transport on marine administration, Myanmar Port Authority on construction of jetty. Besides, the Union Minister invited them to invest in deep-sea ports in Dawei, Kyaukpyu and Thilawa including special economic zones. The 2011-passenger rate has increased about 1.5 million in locals and 1.4 million in foreigners in Myanmar, and there are over 300 state-owned vehicles and private-owned 30000 ones running in marine administration. But no shipping line has been run yet, that is now finding its investor. **MNA**

**Chiefs of ASEAN Police Force meet journalists**

**Nav Pyi Taw,** 24 May—Chiefs of Police Force from ASEAN countries who have attended the 32nd Conference of the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANPOL) hosted by Myanmar meet journalists at Thingahla Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here this morning.

Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, chiefs of police force from ASEAN fellow, journalists from local news agencies and personnel were present at the meeting.

The MFPI Chief informed the discussions about such transnational crimes at the conference as drug smuggling, terrorism, arms dealing, trafficking in persons, maritime fraud, commercial crimes, cyber crime, fake travelling documents, progress in electronic-ASEAN Database System, mutual assistance in criminal matters and capacity building of members of ASEAN police forces, and exchange of personnel. **MNA**

**Union Commerce Minister receives Representative of MITSUI & Co., Ltd**

**Nav Pyi Taw,** 24 May—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Representative of MITSUI & Co., Ltd (Yangon Office) Mr. Nagai and party at his office, here, this morning.

They held a discussion on potentials of trade and investment in wider scale between Myanmar and MITSUI & Co., Ltd. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr. Pwint San, the Director-General of Directorate of Trade, the Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and responsible persons. **MNA**

**Tobacco Kills**
UMFCCI officials meet Ambassador of Spain

YANGON, 24 May—Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin, U Tun Aung and Dr Maung Maung Lay, received Ambassador Mr Ignacio Sagaz of Thailand-based Spain Embassy and deputy director-general Mr Eduardo Eudas of North America, Asia and Pacific Region of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, at UMFCCI office on 10 May. At the call, they had a cordial discussion on promoting cooperation of trade and investments, financial rules and regulations, renewable energy sector, investment opportunities in cooperation of industrial zones and special economic zones and development of small- and medium businesses.

Stakes driven for construction of schools in Muse

MOE, 24 May—A ceremony to donate cash and drive stakes for construction of schools in Zay Ward, Muse, Muse District, Shan State (North), was held on 22 May. At the ceremony, District Administrator U Moe Hein delivered a speech. After that, signing of committee and 90 Construction Company was held. The District administrator, the Township administrator, the Hluttaw representatives and the school construction committee members drove the stakes. It will be built at a cost of K 440 million. Those who want to make donation may contact the school headBEHS (branch) (Ph-082-52747), Chairman of Township, Cooperatives, teachers and students.

Tour guide licenses to be renewed

NAPyTaw, 23 May—Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will cancel tour guide licenses with the terms of over three years. Those who are holding these licenses are to renew their licenses at respective branches not later than 30 June. —MNA

Refresher course for drivers and bus conductors on 25 May

YANGON, 24 May—A refresher course No. 5 for drivers and bus conductors will be opened on 25 May, according to the press conference of All Buses Lines Supervisory Committee (Central). “The committee is placing more emphasis on road safety in Yangon Region and also cultivates and promotes skills of drivers and conductors,” said an official from the committee. On 13 May, basic course No. 7/2012 for drivers and bus conductors was conducted. The committee also gave educative talks on development of drivers and bus conductors. The one-day course covers traffic rules, causes of accident and knowledge about CNG. —MNA

ICT development course for heads of middle schools opens

YANGON, 24 May—A ceremony to conclude ICT development course No. 3/2012 for heads of middle schools, was held at No. 3 Basic Education Department on 22 May. At the ceremony, on behalf of the director-general, director U Myo Myint Kyaw (Admin/Finance) delivered a concluding speech and presented certificates. —MNA

YaungchiU library opens in Bilin Township

Yaungchi, 24 May—A ceremony to open YaungchiU library in Daikyat village, Daikyat village-tract, Bilin Township, Mon State, was held at the library on 17 May. Staff officer of Thaton District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Saw Lin, village administrator U Tun Aung, library committee chairman U Khin Maung Than formally opened it. After that, donation of books and publication for library was held. The village administrator handed over a library fund of K 150000 set up by local people to the library committee chairman. It was built with the contribution of State’s fund of K 1 million and 1.3 million by local people.

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HP to lay off 27,000, profit slides 31 percent

San Francisco, 24 May— Hewlett Packard Co plans to lay off roughly 27,000 employees, a 9 percent cut of its workforce over the next couple of years to jumpstart growth and save up to $3.5 billion annually, sending its shares 11 percent higher.

The company said the layoffs would be made mainly through early retirement and would generate annual savings of $3 billion to $3.5 billion as it exits fiscal year 2014, when the layoffs are expected to be completed.

The world’s No 1 personal computer maker, which employs more than 300,000 people globally, also said on Wednesday that it had seen a 31 percent decline in second-quarter profit and a 3 percent decline in revenue, compared with a year ago.

The results, however, were better than Wall Street expectations. Layoffs “adversely impact people’s lives, but in this case, they are absolutely critical to the long-term health of the company,” Chief Executive Meg Whitman said. “This is broad based,” she said in an interview. “Beyond the departure, it will touch all of HP.”

Whitman said a third of the layoffs would be in the United States. The company will take a pretax charge of $1.7 billion in fiscal 2012 related to the layoffs.

Whitman plans to boost spending on research and development, a collection of case studies, contact details for south-south cooperation partners, and a set of interactive tools, among other features. Mohamed explained that south-south cooperation exchange mechanism has been developing for decades. In other features, Mohamed explained that south-south cooperation exchange mechanism has been developing for decades.

India posts $3 billion to $3.5 billion savings

New Delhi, 24 May— India has postponed till the beginning of June sea trials of Vikramaditya, an aircraft carrier, which is being overhauled for the Indian Navy in Russia, local media reported.

The vessel was originally scheduled to sail for trials in the White Sea and the Barents Sea on 25 May.

UN agency launches new online resource for global south cooperation, sustainable development

United Nations, 24 May—The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched an online initiative here Wednesday to help stake-holders involved in South-South Cooperation and sustainable development share and access information and expertise.

The UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism was launched during the 17th session of the UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation. Its objectives and features were showcased at a Press conference here that featured UNEP officials.

Amina Mohamed, deputy executive director of UNEP, told reporters that the new exchange mechanism “has the potential to not only raise awareness about current environmental South-South programmes that are currently underway across the globe, it also has the potential for facilitating and expanding south-south and triangular cooperation programmes. According to UNEP, the exchange mechanism is the first online portal of its kind and includes alerts regarding current events in south-south cooperation and the environment, information. The shares closed at $32 on Wednesday, 15 percent below the IPO price. A lawsuit was filed on Wednesday against Facebook’s claim that it has been developing for decades.

China factory data signals weak first-half growth

Beijing, 24 May— China’s factories took a hit in May as export orders fell sharply, a private sector survey showed on Thursday, suggesting surprise weakness in April’s hard data as policymakers seek to shore up growth.

The HSBC Flash Purchasing Managers Index, the earliest indicator of China’s industrial activity, retreated to 47.8 in May from March’s 49.3 in April. It marked the seventh consecutive month that the HSBC PMI has been below 50, indicating contraction.

A sub-index measuring output rose to a seven-month high, following a rebound in April. But other figures in May’s figures were less rosy.

The new orders sub-index fell in May, reflecting an even sharper fall in the new export orders sub-index to 47.8 from April’s final figure of 50.2 — pushing it back to within a whisker of the 47.0 level forecast most quarters in the past.

The link was reestablished to turn the company around.

An employee looks at an assembly line at a Ford manufacturing plant in Chongqing municipality on 20 April, 2012.— Reuters

Singapore’s second cruise terminal to welcome first ship

Singapore, 24 May— Singapore’s second cruise terminal is set to welcome its first ship on 26 May, the operator of the terminal said on Tuesday.

The 138,000-ton Voyager of the Seas will dock for the first time in Singapore on the day at the new terminal. With a capacity of 3,840 passengers and 1,176 crew, it is the largest ever to homeport in Singapore.

The 28,000-square-meter terminal, which has been built at a cost of $500 million Singapore dollars (400 million US dollars) and operated by the SATS-Creusier Cruise Services, marked its official opening this week.

The terminal is open only to cruise liners, passengers and authorized personnel. The official opening is expected later.

In this photo illustration, a Facebook logo on a computer screen is seen through glasses held by a woman in Bern on 19 May, 2012.— Reuters

The terminal has the capability to dock ships of up to 220,000 gross register tonnage (GRT) and measuring up to 360 meters in length with a draft of up to 11.5 meters. It also has a spacious arrival and departure hall comprising 80 check-in counters and up to 40 ticketing booths as well as a large ground transportation area, which allow the handling of up to 6,800 passengers at any time. Currently, the cruise terminal is open only to cruise liners, passengers and authorized personnel. The official opening is expected later.

Elvin Vu, chief executive officer of the SATS-Creusier Cruise Services, said the operators are looking forward to have passengers disembark from their ships and leave the terminal swiftly to continue on with their holiday itinerary, as cruise terminals are built to cater to large numbers of passengers in a short period of time.

“The opening of the Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore marks a momentous development for the cruise industry in Singapore and we look forward to receiving guests from all over the world,” he said.

Xinhua

A United States Navy’s helicopter flies over the Hudson River during the Fleet Week in New York, on 23 May, 2012. The annual Fleet Week was opened on Wednesday, with over 20 fleets from around the world attending the fleet march.—Xinhua
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

TENDER NO(1) (ES) A.M.D (2012-2013)

1. Open Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOT No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Assorted Ball Bearing</td>
<td>8 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Implement Disc &amp; Spare Parts</td>
<td>9 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Plunger &amp; Barrel, Delivery Valve, Nozzle</td>
<td>10 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ZWE Tractors Spare Parts</td>
<td>17 Items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tender closing date: 31-5-2012, 16:00 hrs

3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (25-5-2012) Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.

4. For more details, Contact: 067-451243

Director General

Agricultural Mechanization Department

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DELIGHT VOY NO (18)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELIGHT VOY NO (18) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS PHULSAWAT SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANNA RAILWAYS

Invitation of Open Tenders

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following item in Myanmar Kyats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/MaMa/(CME)</td>
<td>Upper Seat (2 Seater) for Upper Class Passenger Coaches (Foreign Made)</td>
<td>400 Set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Date/Time-29.6.2012 (Friday) 12:00 Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 07-5-2012 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-294352, 95-1-291995.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways
Yangon

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 25 May, 2012
Harry Potter fans get rid of unwanted owls

British bird sanctuaries said they are filling up with owls as Harry Potter-inspired pet owners get tired of the birds. Pam Toothill, of the Owlcentre in Corwen, Wales, said she had only six of the birds prior to the release of the first Harry Potter film, but the number has since grown to 100 owls, The Mirror reported.

“When people saw Harry’s owl in the movies and thought how cute and cuddly they looked. Now they are bored and fed up with all the work involved looking after an owl,” Toothill said.

Kim Olson, owner of the Sanctuary Wildlife Care Centre in Ulgham, England, said many people have been illegally releasing their pet owls into the wild. Pam Toothill, of the Owlcentre in Corwen, Wales, said they are filling up with owls prior to the release of the birds.

“Illegally releasing their pet owls is wrong,” she said. “It’s illegal to release an owl into the wild because they would take over from the native wildlows, but obviously a lot of people have ignored that law.”

A Florida high school teacher who became an astronaut said arriving at the International Space Station was the perfect gift for his birthday.

Joe Acaba, a former teacher at Melbourne High School in Florida, arrived at the ISS aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, which was his 45th birthday, Florida

Helicopter ride for birthday girl, age 99

Georgene Barto, about to turn 99 and saying “I’ve been waiting a long time for this,” got her birthday wish: a helicopter ride. The 30-minute ride, which began with the helicopter hovering a few feet off the tarmac at Beaver County Airport, near Pittsburgh so Barto could wave to family and friends, toured over Ohio River and the town of Conway, where she lived for most of her life, before returning, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported.

“It was wonderful! It was beautiful! I am so glad it did it. Thank you to everyone,” Barto said after the flight. She will be 99 years old on 29 May, the newspaper reported. The flight was part of the Second Wind Dreams programme at the facility where she has lived for four years, Elmcroft of Chippewa Senior Living Community.

Residents are asked for a wish to be fulfilled, Elmcroft public relations director Melissa Chambers said, and after fishing trips and golf outings had been arranged for other residents, a helicopter ride was a surprise, and a first. Ron Spiker of Spiker Helicopters in nearby Zelienople, Pa, agreed to provide the two-person helipad for guests to land on, which is “a first. Ron Spiker of Spiker Helicopters in nearby Zelienople, Pa, agreed to provide the trip at no cost, and after the adventure, the birthday honoree returned home for celebratory ice cream, the newspaper said.

Cruise, Baldwin sing on ‘Rock of Ages’ soundtrack


WaterTower Music said those who pre-order the set through iTunes will get a free download of Cruise singing “Pour Some Sugar on Me.”

“Something that makes sense to us,” he said, while explaining the long awaited engagement, which they finally announced in April. The 48-year-old, who has been dubbed “Bradzilla” with regard to the wedding, has been reportedly nitpicking over details like helipads for guests to land on, a performance by Irish rockers U2 and Chinese fireworks.

However, there isn’t any further planning for the couple to do as they have two full time wedding planners to make the magic happen.

“They’re just putting off the inevitable,” a source said.

“They could very easily leave it all in the capable hands of a professional planner but, instead, they’re letting it fall further into the distant future,” the source added. The couple, both in favour of same sex marriage, has previously said that they don’t plan to marry until gay marriage is universally recognized. “We’re still hoping that we can figure out marriage equality in the States before that date,” Pitt said.

Cruise, Baldwin sing on ‘Rock of Ages’ soundtrack


WaterTower Music said those who pre-order the set through iTunes will get a free download of Cruise singing “Pour Some Sugar on Me.”

“The movie is about falling in love and working hard to make it happen,” the source added. The couple, both in favour of same sex marriage, has previously said that they don’t plan to marry until gay marriage is universally recognized. “We’re still hoping that we can figure out marriage equality in the States before that date,” Pitt said.

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Van Marwijk blasts ‘scandalous’ Robben treatment

AMSTERDAM, 24 May—Netherlands coach Bert van Marwijk has strongly criticised the ‘scandalous’ treatment of Arjen Robben during the Oranje’s friendly against his club Bayern Munich.

"It’s scandalous the way in which Arjen was treated on Tuesday in Munich. In Arjen’s eyes, Bayern were really down about it but hope that he will emerge stronger," van Marwijk told the Dutch news agency ANP.

Robben, who missed an extra-time penalty in the Champions League final against Chelsea on Saturday when the score was 1-1, was repeatedly booed by a section of the 33,000 fans who came to see him score. Dutch team-mates, including former Bayern star Mark van Bommel, agreed that Robben was unfairly treated.

"It’s shocking what happened to Arjen. And no club officials seemed to want to do anything about it. If I were him, I be asking myself whether I still want to play for the club," said van Bommel.

Dutch playmaker Wesley Sneijder told APT that Robben "could join Inter Milan whenever he likes". Robben, however, only recently extended his contract at Bayern until 2015.

Bayern later apologised for Robben’s treatment, saying it viewed the fans’ behaviour “with astonishment, irritation and disappointment”. “No one has the right to whistle at Arjen," said club president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Robben, like his Bayern team-mates and the fans, was "disappointed and very affected by the unfortunate and undeserved Champions League defeat against Chelsea," Rummenigge added.

The German embassy added that Bayern fans need to know how to pick up a ball when they are down and pointed out that many supporters had contacted them to apologise on behalf of those who booed the player.

McIlroy, Donald battle for top spot at Wentworth

WENTWORTH, 24 May—The battle to be the world’s top-ranked golfer will again be a subplot of this week’s PGA Championship which starts on Thursday at Wentworth.

Luke Donald, who deposited Lee Westwood in the top of the rankings when winning last year’s title, is the only player who can topple current number one Rory McIlroy but needs to repeat his victory of 12 months ago to do so.

However McIlroy performs, Donald has to hang onto his title as the world’s best golfer. “You’ve got to believe you are the best and I certainly believe that. It is a matter of going out there and showing everyone else what I believe”, added the Ulsterman.

World number three Westwood, who missed out in a play-off to Donald last year, has a new caddy after his regular bag man Billy Foster injured his knee playing football ahead of Quail Hollow.—Internet

Late drama sends Boca, Corinthians into last four

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May—The Libertadores Cup served up a double dose of late drama as Boca Juniors and Corinthians scored last-gasp goals in Wednesday night’s games to reach the semi-finals.

Santigo Silva scrambled home a 90th minute goal to give six-times champions Boca a 1-1 draw at Fluminense which sent them through 2-1 on aggregate.

In the other match, Paulinho hit an 87th minute winner for Corinthians, the only goal of a, four-ridden two-leg tie against their fellow Brazilians Vasco da Gama.

Fluminense, missing playmaker Deco and striker Fred through injury, still managed to take a 17th minute lead when defender Carleto scored with a free kick which took a deflection and left goalkeeper Agustin Orion stranded.

The Brazilians managed to nullify Boca playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme as the visitors were reduced to launching long balls forward for Silva to chase.

Beaten finalists four years ago when they overcame Boca in the semi-finals, Flu were close to settling the tie when Thiago Neves was denied by Orion and Raul Moura shot wide from an excellent position in the next attack.

Instead, Boca went through with the last move of the game as Diego Rivero’s shot hit the post, goalkeeper Diego Cavalieri clawed it away only for Uruguaian striker Silva to force the ball across the line.

The Corinthians-Vasco tie played out more crunching tackles than clever cuts and the hosts had coach Tite sent off just before the hour for protesting the referee’s decisions.

Vasco had two good chances in quick succession in the second half when Diego Souza galloped clear of the Corinthians defense but had his effort saved by Cassio, then Nilson headed against the post.—Reuters

FA don’t hold back on Barton ban

LONDON, 24 May—The Football Association have charged Manchester City and Queens Park Rangers at The Etihad stadium in Manchester. Barton apologised for his red card at Manchester City but the controversial QPR midfielder insisted he was only reacting to provocation from Carlos Tevez.—Internet

Khan to fight Garcia in July

LONDON, 24 May—Britain’s Amir Khan will return to the ring on 14 July against unbeaten World Boxing Council light-welterweight champion Danny Garcia after his planned bout last weekend was wiped out.

Peterson defeated Khan in a controversial split decision last December in Washington, Peterson’s hometown, to claim the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation light-welterweight titles. But Khan and promoters have asked the result be ruled no contest and the titles returned to the 25-year-old Englishman, who is 26-2 with 18 knockouts.

Peterson has said he was implanted with the banned substance before the Khan fight.—Internet

40% of Brazil World Cup projects yet to start

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May—A little over two years before the kickoff of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, nearly 40 percent of projects are yet to start, the government said Wednesday, insisting there were no fears for alarm.

Brazil plans to spend $13 billion on 101 projects to build or modernise stadiums, airports, roads and public transport ahead of the World Cup, but work has begun on only 60 of them, the government said. Football’s governing body FIFA has for months complained about long delays, but Brazilian Sports

P14(25).pmd 14 5/25/2012, 1:59 AM
Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 h.M.T During the past (24) hours, rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Mon and Mon States, fairly widespread in Ayeyawady Region, scattered in Bago Region, Kachin and Shan States, isolated in Upper Sagain, Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Rakhine and Kayah States, westerly has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States and with isolated heavy fall in Taninthayi Region. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Saging, Mawgyaw Regions and Kachin, Southern Shan and Kayah States (6°C) above May average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kayin State and about May average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (45°C), Kalewa, Monywa, Myingyan and Nyaung! (43°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Down (3.42 inches), Chaukong (3.39 inches), Laungyin (0.91 inch) and Mulun (0.83 inch).

Nay Pyi Taw weather: Maximum Temperature on (23-5-2012) was 98°F. Minimum Temperature on (24-5-2012) was 77°F Relative Humidity at 09:30h MST on (24-5-2012) was 65%. Total rain fall hours on (24-5-2012) was (Tr). Rain fall on (24-5-2012) was (Tr) at Nay Pyi Taw and (Nil) at Yangon (Kaba-aye) and Mandalay at. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (4) mph from the South.

Bay Influence: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 25th May, 2012: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Mon and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, scattered in Bago Region, Shan and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Deltaic Areas. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25th May, 2012: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25th May, 2012: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Tokyo, Madrid, Istanbul make cut for 2020 Olympics

Tokyo, 24 May— Istanbul and Madrid made the first cut among bidders to host the 2020 Olympics, as the International Olympic Committee announced that Baku and Doha were dropped from the running.

The IOC will decide which city will host the 2020 Olympics in a final vote on 7 September, 2013 in Buenos Aires. That gives the remaining hopefuls more than 15 months to make final impressions upon the IOC to boost their candidacy.

Tokyo 2020 bid chief Tsunekazu Takeda said Wednesday that being on the short list would help boost the spirits of the Japanese people after last year’s devastating earthquake and tsunami, which killed about 19,000 people.

“I think this will be a big help for the Japanese people,” Takeda said. “I think it will give big, big power to the people who suffered the disaster.”

Tokyo is the only one of the three candidates to have hosted the event before, doing so in 1964, and many see Tokyo as the pacesetter because of its sound plan for hosting the games.

Hosting the 2020 Olympics is also seen as an opportunity to help rebuild the country and bring some much-needed joy after last year’s natural disaster.

A view of the Gladiator Fire near Crown King, Arizona as shown from the fire operations base camp at Mayer High School in Mayer, Arizona on 15 May, 2012 in this photo obtained by Reuters May 20, 2012.—Reuters

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Union Ministers receive former Singaporean Foreign Minister and party

NAV PYI TAW, 24 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation led by former Singaporean Foreign Minister Mr George Boon Yeo and Vice Chairperson Mdm Kuok Oon Kwong of KUOK Group of Singapore at the office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they had a discussion on cooperation in agricultural sectors, production of rice, palm oil, grams and sugarcane, construction of downstream industry and cooperation in export of agro-based finished products.

Both sides also discussed matters related to implementation of large scale farm in addition to downstream industry, job creation for local people and making investment in Ayeyawady, Bago and Magway regions and Rakhine State where arable lands are available.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, directors-general of departments and officials.—MNA

Economists suggest reform strategies for Myanmar

NAV PYI TAW, 24 May—Advisor to the President Dr U Myint, world-famous economists Professor Paul Collier and Professor Robert F Conrad, Advisor to the President Dr Htet Aung and Member of National Economic and Social Consultative Team Dr Zaw Oo paid a call on Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein at his office yesterday morning to discuss further measures for adoption of second-phase reform policy, actions to be taken in respective fields for people-centered development, and international experiences on reform strategy.

At the assembly hall of the ministry, the guests explained actions for effective implementation of second-phase reform strategies with case studies from global countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, personnel from the NPED Ministry and reps from ministries concerned.—MNA

Workshop on awareness of landmine dangers opened in Taunggyi

YANGON, 24 May—A workshop on awareness of landmine dangers jointly organized by Shan State Social Welfare Department and UNICEF (Myanmar) was opened at Myanmar Medical Association in Taunggyi on 22 May with an address by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat.

UNICEF (Myanmar) Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha delivered an address. The workshop is being attended by 48 trainees from Health Department, Basic Education Department and NGOs which are related to Child Rights Committee and its relevant organizations.

Next, the State Chief Minister attended the opening of Shan State National Sanitation Activities held at the city hall and made a speech on the occasion.

Later, he looked into health education booths displayed at the city hall and sanitation activities being undertaken in Taunggyi.—MNA

Myeik District Police Force presents cash assistance for offspring of policemen

NAV PYI TAW, 24 May—Myeik District Police Force presented cash assistance for education of 26 children of its policemen and staff on 20 May, attended by Police Lt-Col Shwe Nga Maung who presented K 156,000 for the children.

Likewise, a similar ceremony was held at Myeik Township Police Force yesterday at which Police Lieutenant Major Than Oo presented K 499,000 for a total of 83 offspring of members pursuing higher and basic education.—MNA

Chin State sanitation activities launched

NAV PYI TAW, 24 May—Chin State Chief Minister U Hlang Ngai met freshmen of three-year Primary School Teacher Training Course No (44) of Union Nationalities Development University at the Chin State government office on 22 May morning.

The chief minister also attended launch of Chin State National Sanitation Activities 2012 at Haka People’s Hospital and addressed workshop for drafting plan of natural disaster preparedness and emergency response.—MNA

Mon State sanitation activities launched

NAV PYI TAW, 24 May—Mon State Social Affairs Minister Dr Hla Oo addressed launch of Mon State National Sanitation Activities at State General Hospital in Mawlamyine on 22 May morning.

Head of State Health Department Dr Aye Nyine made presentation on national sanitation activities.

The state minister inspected construction of fly-proof latrines and sanitation tasks in Thirimyaing ward.—MNA

Double Strong Cup kicks off

NAV PYI TAW, 24 May—Double Strong Cup Mandalay Sepak Takraw Tournament-2012, organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Double Strong was held at Battribute Stadium yesterday morning. Among the spectators were the vice-president and members of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, the chairman of Myanmar Brewery Ltd, region, district and township departmental personnel, participating teams and fans.

First, Vice-Chairman of MSTF U Nyan Tun and Myanmar Brewery Ltd Chairman U Nay Win made speeches and formally opened the tournament, which will last up to 27 May.—MNA