ILO lifts most of its restrictions on Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Press release of Ministry of Labour

ILO lifts most of its restrictions on Myanmar

1. Restrictions were imposed on Myanmar at 87th International Labour Conference in 1999 and 88th International Labour Conference in 2000 as regards measures for ending forced labour in Myanmar. From 6 to 11 June 2012, ILO governing body, selection committee comprising representatives from employers and employees reviewed the country’s actions for ending forced labour in Myanmar and submitted the draft for resolutions on Myanmar to the 101st International Labour Conference on 13 June, 2012.

2. The draft of the resolutions submitted by the Selection Committee was unanimously supported by representatives of governments, labour unions and employers organizations and the draft was approved at 6.10 pm local time (10.40 pm Myanmar standard time) on 13 June, 2012.

3. Following are the key notes of the resolutions on Myanmar at the 101st International Labour Conference:
   (a) To lift all restrictions imposed on Myanmar at the 87th International Labour Conference in 1999.
   (b) Five restrictions were imposed on Myanmar at the 88th International Labour Conference in 2000. Out of them, it was decided to lift sub paragraph (d) which is to review on Myanmar by international labour unions, sub paragraph (c) which is to make resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC meeting, and sub paragraph (d) which is to report Myanmar’s fulfillment of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry to international organizations. As regards sub paragraph (b), it is decided to suspend ILO’s measures to make necessary review in engagement with Myanmar for one year.
   (c) To provide technical assistances to Myanmar by International Labour Organization and necessary financial resources by member countries and organizations in order that the country which is experiencing rapid reforms may not lose the opportunity.
   (d) Myanmar government is to implement the joint-strategy urgently for ending of forced labour ahead of targeted time.
   4. Thanks to lifting, removing and suspending of restrictions, the country may get special benefits in trading with the EU for the interests of Myanmar people.
   5. Myanmar delegation comprising representatives of employers and employees led by the Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Attorney-General of the Union attended the 101st International Labour Conference at which the Union Minister and the Attorney-General of the Union met representatives of international governmental institutions, employers organizations and labour unions and gave a clear and complete account of developments and implementation in Myanmar, bringing fruitful results for the interests of Myanmar people.

Ministry of Labour
13 June, 2012

US robotic rover to seek Martian life with new focus

This artist’s concept features NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover, a mobile robot for investigating Mars past or present ability to sustain microbial life as seen in this handout NASA image received by Reuters on 8 June, 2012.

Woods facing big test at Olympic for US Open

A tea specialist performs Japanese tea ceremony at a traditional Japanese cultural exhibition in Shenyang in Liaoning Province, on 3 June, 2012. Several activities were held during the Shengyang Japan Week to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Russia draw with Poland leaves Group A open

Jakub Blaszczykowski scored Poland’s equalizer in the second half with the left-foot strike.
**Perspectives**

**Thursday, 14 June, 2012**

The follow-up task

By and large, natural disasters leave behind wholesale death and destruction coupled with unthinkably human sufferings generating a mammoth burden for the government concerned which in many such cases asks emergency help from international institutions and global countries.

Armed internal strife or civil wars also bring immeasurable human miseries mostly for a longer period. Unlike natural disasters that normally hits a country with single terrible blow once at a time, most of the civil wars drags on for an uncountable number of years.

As we in Myanmar have faced the horrible consequences of internal armed conflicts for about six decades, it’s not unusual that we all are hoping for a lasting peace which actually is the indispensable and indissoluble platform for every progress for our country from national unity to sustainable economic growth, better social status and equality, freedom and justice the cornerstone of democracy.

Fortunately, we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to the peace overtures and endeavours the government in office has been making for a happy ending after many years of tears, bitterness and hostilities resulting from armed conflicts among our own kith and kin living in the same land which is called the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Lingered armed civil strife had already drained off a lot of country’s resources. But the task of rebuilding the lives of people hit by the conflicts or the people who come back to the legal fold is also enormous. Anyhow, the government has committed itself to implementing the task with heart and soul while exploring for every opportunity to accelerate its momentum.

Apart from countries in East and West having aid programs for Myanmar, the Peace Donor Support Group has also come to us with a package of ideas, schemes and suggestions for future cooperation and assistance in multiple areas including the said follow-up task.

**19th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Symposium continues**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**The 19th Myanma Tatmadaw Medical Symposium continued at Hsinbyushin Hall of No. 7 Transit Camp in Nav Pyi Taw today. The Medical Services Corps, the researchers from the Ministry of Health and enthusiasts attended the symposium.

At the symposium, they gave talks on backache, medical codes of conduct, impaired kidney, challenges for new nurses and opportunities. They also read medical papers, public health papers, studying medicine papers, obstetric and gynecological papers, orthopedic papers, physical rehabilitation papers, nursing papers, pathology, physiology, physiochemistry and anatomy. —MNA

**Educative talk on traffic rules given**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**Under the road accidents reduction programme of the Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee of Pindaya Township, Danu Self-Administered Region, an education talk on traffic rules was organized at Phwe Hla Model Village Basic Education High School in Pindaya Township this morning.

Police Inspector Win Naing gave talk on causes of road accidents and road accidents and leader of traffic rules enforcement corp Police Corporal Tun Win Zaw on specific rules for motor bike racers. —MNA

**Union ministers meet farmers, inspect rice mill and research plantation**

**Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing meets farmers who grew Palethwe hybrid paddy at 288-acre advanced plantation in Zabuthiri Township.—MNA**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint met farmers who successfully grew Palethwe hybrid paddy at 288-acre advanced plantation in Zabuthiri Township today.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said the government is striving to provide farmers with advanced cultivation techniques from the ministry’s Research and Development Labs and negotiating with the Commerce Ministry and merchants to help farmers fetch good prices. He urged the farmers to use quality strains to produce quality paddy.

Union Minister U Win Myint said his ministry is encouraging establishment of sophisticated rice mills and called on farmers for cooperation with agriculturalists to develop agriculture sector.

Managing Director U Zaw Win Shein of Ayeay Hinta Company and Secretary of Myanmar Rice Industry Association U Ye Min Aung submitted reports.

The Union ministers then inspected the rice mill near Ahlyinlo village.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and party also visited research farm in western Kyaku village met China and Myanmar agriculturalists at the briefing hall of the plantation.

They urged them to seek solutions for needs of farmers after making field trips to the plantations. —MNA

**Duties assigned for yearly projects in Kachin State**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**Duties for yearly projects for 2012-2013 fiscal year of Kachin State were assigned yesterday. Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Nga Hsi delivered a speech at the ceremony held at City Hall of Myitkyina.

He said the purpose of assigning duties was to exceed targets in implementing the projects this year. The plans were drafted to ensure equitable development, correct statistics, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development of the local people. Performances in agricultural, industrial and service sectors must go beyond the set targets, he said.

Head of State Planning Department U Than Myint explained assignments of duties for this year’s projects.

The chief minister tasked Head of State Agriculture Department U Aye Myint and deputy commissioners of Myitkyina, Bhamo, Mohnyin and Putao Districts with duties of the projects. —MNA

**Dy FM receives Kazakhstani counterpart**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint received Mr Kairat Saryby, Deputy Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Kazakhstan and party at MOFA, at 4.30pm today and exchanged views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation. —MNA

**Fuel station in Tatkon inspected**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**Director U Than Kyaw Kyaw of Nav Pyi Taw Fire Services Department inspected Fuel Station of Green Luck Trading Co., Ltd at the entrance of Tatkon this morning. He gave necessary instructions on prevention of fire.—MNA

**Construction Dy Minister inspects road works**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—**Deputy Minister for Construction U Zaw Win Shein inspected road works on Nyaung-U-Myintyu-Myin Street with BOT by Myat Noe Tha Co., and paving and gravel works between the mile post Nos 21/6 and 21/7 on 9 June. He gave the necessary instructions on them.

As soon as the deputy minister met the staff from district and townships and responsible persons from companies at Myingyan District Senior Engineer Office, he looked into Myingyan-Natogyi-Yaywun road section with BOT by Gulf Power Company.

He inspected staff housing complex in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay being implemented by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. —MNA
Iraq bombs kill 70 Shi’ite pilgrims, police

Baghdad, 13 June— Bombers struck at Shi’ite pilgrims celebrating a religious festival in Baghdad and across Iraq on Wednesday, killing more than 70 people in one of the bloodiest days since the US left the country in December.

The bombings appeared to be the latest in a series of Sunni insurgent attacks that often hit Shi’ite targets to try to reignite the intercommunal violence that killed tens of thousands of people in 2006-2007. With the government’s Sunni, Shi’ite and ethnic Kurdish parties already locked in a crisis that threatens to shatter their delicate power-sharing agreement, the attacks revived fears that Iraqis risked sliding back into sectarian bloodshed.

It was the worst day of violence since early January, when four bombs in Baghdad killed 73, and the latest in a spate of bombings on Shi’ite religious sites. At least 30 people were killed when four blasts hit pilgrims across Baghdad as they marched through the city to mark the anniversary of the death of Shi’ite imam Moussa al-Kadhim, a great-grandson of Prophet Mohammad.

One car bomb exploded outside a Baghdad Shi’ite mosque and another blast tore into groups of pilgrims as they rested at refreshment stands along the route to a shrine in Kadhimiya District. “A group of pilgrims were walking and passed by a tent offering food and drinks when suddenly a car exploded near them,” said Watishq Muhamma, a policeman whose patrol was stationed near the blast in Kadhimiya District.

People were running away covered with blood and bodies were scattered on the ground,” he said. A second attack in the mainly Shi’ite southern city of Hillah, police said two simultaneous car bombings, including one detonated by a suicide bomber, exploded outside restaurants used by security forces, killing 22 people.

Obama, after tough week, defends record on economy

Philadelphia, 13 June— Barack Obama stoutly defended his economic record on Tuesday after a stream of bad news — and an uncharacteristic verbal misstep of his own — rallied Republican hopes that they can defeat him in November.

Acknowledging there is still a “long way to go” to repair the damage done by a recession he inherited, Obama insisted the American economy was on the right track despite recent signals that the country’s recovery might be fading.

“What we have been able to do over the last 3-1/2 years, after a decade in which we had been moving in the wrong direction, is to begin to point towards a trajectory where here in this country, everybody is getting a fair shot,” he told supporters at the first of a string of fundraising events. His remarks to supporters, after what some political pundits had described as an uncharacteristic verbal misstep of his presidency, took care not to deny the subdued tone of recent economic indicators, but remained upbeat about the country’s future.

Disappointing May jobs data has challenged Obama’s claim that his policies are healing the economy. His economic envoy to Congress, on Tuesday that he would not allow the IAEA inspectors to visit the Parchin military complex.

“The US and the West are seeking to find access to our military sites, but the representatives of (Iranian) people will not allow our military sites, which have nothing to do with nuclear activities, to be inspected by Western spies,” Avaz Heidarpour was quoted as saying. Islamic Republic News Agency. “We will file a complaint against the agency for satellite espionage.”

“For the West to be able to use the information provided by the Parchin site, we must first trust the West,” Heidarpour said. “We do not trust the West.”

The US has said that it calculation method, known as “zeroing”, is superior to the WTO’s approved bring its rules into line.

Media said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) received reports that Iran has tested in Parchin military site explosives that could be used to set off a nuclear charge. Iran denied such reports, and insisted that the access to Parchin would only be granted if Iran and IAEA agree on certain conditions and steps. An Iranian lawmaker said on Saturday that Iran would not allow the IAEA inspectors to visit the Parchin military complex.

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Obama later tried to explain that comment, saying he meant the private sector has seen some momentum while other areas of the economy need help more urgently. He returned to the issue on Tuesday, saying “there are a lot of folks out there who are hurting, a lot of folks out there who are unemployed, a lot of folks whose homes are underwater.”

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China wins saw blades dispute against USA at WTO

Geneva, 13 June— China won a World Trade Organization ruling on Friday after the United States decided not to contest the facts of its complaints against US anti-dumping duties on shipments of diamond saw blades and frozen warm-water shrimp from China.

China’s complaint, which it made in February 2011, was based on the fact that the US anti-dumping duties were calculated in a way that has repeatedly been ruled as illegal under WTO rules. The WTO dispute panel that examined the case said the US Department of Commerce had acted inconsistently with WTO rules and said it should bring its rules into line.

The United States has said that its calculation method, known as “zeroing”, is superior to the WTO’s approved method, but it has nevertheless promised not to use it in future, after losing numerous legal rulings over the issue.

A country is usually considered to be dumping a certain product if the export price is unfairly low, which generally means below the price in the country where it came from.

US President Barack Obama speaks at a campaign fund raising event in Baltimore, Maryland on 12 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Record dive planned for Chinese submersible on 14 June

ABOARD XIANGYANGHONG 09, 13 June — China’s manned deep-sea submersible, Jiaolong, will attempt a new dive as part of a bid to go down 7,000 metres into the Indian Ocean on the morning of 14 June, according to mission headquarters.

“and also the first dive Jiaolong will take after its successful dive to 5,188 metres last July.”

Jiaolong, which has been to a depth of 5,000 metres, is expected to go deeper, said the team. The submersible is scheduled to embark on the Jiaolong’s oceanographic mother ship, Xiangyanghong 09, on 13 June.

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**Science & Technology**

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**US robotic rover to seek Martian life with new focus**

CAPE CANAVERAL, 13 June — This summer, if all goes well, a robotic geologist will arrive on Mars to try out a new strategy for searching for life beyond Earth. Rather than hunt for microbes like the Viking missions of the 1970s, NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory, a wheeled rover nicknamed Curiosity, will look for places that could have hosted and preserved life.

“The term ‘life-detection’ is so ill-defined and so hard to ascertain it doesn’t make a good starting point,” said geologist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology, who is the lead scientist for the Curiosity mission. Instead, NASA’s scientists are focusing on the primary cause of global ocean warming over the last 50 years, which is still operating after nine months, 60-million mile drive time to reach the mound.

At Gale you don’t need to reconstruct the layers. You can see how they go from older to younger. You’ve got time’s arrow always pointed in the right direction. It’s all laid out very simply,” Grotzinger said.

**Preservation of life**

Previous missions to Mars revealed compelling evidence that the planet was once warmer and wetter than the cold, dry desert it is today. For example, NASA’s Mars Exploration Rovers, one of which is still operating after more than seven years on the planet’s surface, found minerals that on Earth form only in the presence of water. Liquid water is one of three key ingredients needed for life, given scientists expect to have two years to collect information about Mount Sharp and the surrounding area.

“One of the ingredients of life is water. We’re now looking to see if we can find other conditions that are necessary for life,” said Mary Voytek, director of NASA’s astrobiology programme. A key goal for the Mars Science Laboratory is to find organically produced carbon, a trickyn proposition because almost every process that makes rock destroys organic molecules.

“Even on Earth finding signs of past life isn’t easy. Whatever was happening biologically, if anything, for the first billion years there was none. For the first billion years, there’s no rock record either,” Grotzinger said.

One technique that has proven useful on Earth is to search for chemistry that can preserve life, a system scientists are adopting to hunt for signs of life on Mars as well. Doubly Earth-like for example, minerals, as silica, are important because they preserved the record of carbon.

“You pickle the organics early on,” Grotzinger said.

Let’s assume life did evolve on Mars. Where are the places that have habitable environments and the highest preservation potential?” he asked. “If you do this as a random walk, you’d end up to failure because you only have so much time and the clock is ticking.”

If the Mars Science Laboratory touches down safely, which is by no means a given, scientists expect to have two years to collect information about Mount Sharp and the surrounding area. NASA hopes to land the rover on a flat surface as close as possible to the base of Mount Sharp using a first-of-a-kind, rocket-powered sky crane. The exact landing spot will depend on the craft’s final steering maneuvers as traces toward Mars.

Mission managers on Monday would aim to land 12-4 by (20-7-km) patch of land, far smaller than original estimates, which would shave off months of drive time to reach the mound.

The rover blasted off aboard an unannamed Atlas 5 rocket on 20 November for a nine-month, 60-million mile voyage that is due to end at 1:30 am EDT on 6 August.

REUTERS

**World’s biggest telescope project approved**

GREENBELT, 13 June — A NASA space telescope detected the highest-energy light ever measured in an eruption on the sun during a powerful solar blast, the space agency has reported.

The powerful solar flare, observed on 7 March by the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, produced such an outpouring of gamma-rays — a form of light with even greater energy than X-rays — that the sun Briefly became the brightest object in the gamma-ray sky, NASA said on Monday. “For most of Fermi’s four years in orbit, its LAT saw the sun as a faint, steady gamma-ray source thanks to the impacts of high-speed particles called cosmic rays,” Nicola Omodei, an astrophysicist at Stanford University, said. “Now we’re beginning to see what the sun itself can do.”

The March flare produced high-energy gamma rays for about 20 hours, two and a half times longer than any event on record, researchers said.

Solar eruptions are increasing as the sun moves toward the peak of its roughly 11-year-long activity cycle, expected in mid-2013, they said.

**Record-breaking solar flare described**

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**Flame pieces found in Stuxnet virus — expert**

LONDON, 13 June — A leading computer security firm has linked some of the software code in the powerful Flame virus to the Stuxnet cyber weapon, which is believed to have been used by the United States and Israel to attack Iran’s nuclear programme.

Eugene Kaspersky, chief executive of Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab, which uncovered Flame last month, said his researchers have since found that part of the Flame programme code is nearly identical to code found in a 2009 version of Stuxnet. The new research could bolster the belief of many security experts that Stuxnet was part of a massive US-led cyber programme that is still active in the Middle East and perhaps other parts of the world.

Although Kaspersky did not say who he thought built Flame, news organisations including Reuters and the New York Times have previously reported that the United States and Israel were behind Stuxnet, which was uncovered in 2010 after it damaged centrifuges used to enrich uranium at a facility in Natanz, Iran. Instead of issuing denials, authorities in Washington recently launched investigations into the leaks about the highly classified project.

On Stuxnet and Flame, “there were two different teams working in collaboration,” Kaspersky said at the Reuters Global Media and Technology Summit in London on Monday.

**50 yrs of ocean warming attributed to man**

LIVERMORE, 13 June — Human activity has been the primary cause of global ocean warming during the past 50 years, a team of US and international researchers said.

Scientists say the observed ocean warming in the last 50 years is consistent with climate models only if the models include the effects of observed increases in greenhouse gas during the 20th century. “We have taken a close look at factors that influence these results,” lead author Peter Gleckler at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California said.

“The bottom line is that this study strongly strengthens the conclusion that most of the observed global ocean warming over the past 50 years is attributable to human activities.”

The scientists looked at the average temperature, or heat content, in the upper layers of the ocean and found the global average ocean warming, from the surface down to 2,000 feet, has been around 0.025 degrees Celsius per decade, a LLNL release reported on Monday.

“We are trying to do is determine if the observed warming pattern can be explained by natural variability alone,” Gleckler said. “Although we performed a series of tests to account for the impact of various natural and anthropogenic uncertainties, we found no evidence that simultaneous warming of the upper layers of the ocean cannot be explained by natural climate variability alone. Humans have played a dominant role.”

**Young men use a computer at their “Laanga” in Guernica on 20 April, 2012. — REUTERS**

**Image:** Young men use a computer at their “Laanga” in Guernica on 20 April, 2012. — REUTERS
Chrysler, Kia, Ford, call in vehicles

WASHINGTON, 13 June—US regulators said Chrysler, Kia and Ford Motor Co, announced vehicle recalls on Monday ranging from 346,900 affected vehicles to 128,000 of them.

Chrysler Group LLC announced an expanded recall of Jeep Liberty-vehicles to include 2004-07 roll outs in which rear suspension lower control arms could fracture due to excessive corrosion following winters in areas that use road salt.

Chrysler will replace rear lower control arms free of charge in affected vehicles originally sold or currently registered in states that use road salt, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported.

Kia is recalling 21,912 2009 Borregos made from 2 May, 2008, to 20 Jan, 2009, equipped with non-adjustable brake pedals.

Certain brake pedal mounts have a fiberglass composition that may break in the event of a collision, the NHTSA said. Kia said it would replace the brake pedal mounts free of charge.

Kia also said it was recalling 72,568 model year 2006-08 vehicles made from 20 Feb, 2005, through 9 Dec, 2007, due to faulty air bag sensors that could fail to detect a child in a seat with an airbag.

"The system will not be able to detect whether a child passenger is in the seat and the airbag will deploy during a crash," regulators said.

Kia said it would replace the sensors free of charge. Ford Motor Co said it would recall 128 model year 2013 Lincoln MKT Limousines made from 6 March to 3 April with rear brake rotor bolts that are not fully seated.

This could lead to a wheel separation. However, “All the affected vehicles have been quarantined and will be repaired before delivery to owners,” Ford said.—Internet

A Chinese model poses next to a Kia Borrego at the 2008 Beijing Auto Show on 22 April, 2008.—Internet

Amount of nightly sleep linked to stroke

BOSTON, 13 June—Routinely sleeping 6 hours or fewer a night significantly increases the risk of stroke symptoms among middle-age to older adults, US researchers say.

Lead author Megan Ruiter of the University of Alabama at Birmingham said the study involved 5,666 normal-weight adults who were at low risk for obstructive sleep apnea.

The study participants were tracked for as long as three years.

Ruiter and colleagues recorded the subjects’ first stroke symptoms, along with demographic information, stroke risk factors, depression symptoms and various health behaviours.

After adjusting for body-mass index, the researchers found a strong association for middle-age to older adults with daily sleep periods of fewer than 6 hours and a greater incidence of stroke symptoms— even beyond other risk factors.

However, the study found no association between short sleep periods and stroke symptoms among overweight and obese participants.

In employed middle-aged to older adults, relatively free of major risk factors for stroke such as obesity and sleep-disordered breathing, short sleep duration may exert its own negative influence on stroke development,” Ruiter said in a statement.

“Still, the findings were presented at Sleep, the 26th annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies in Boston.”

A broker monitors share prices at a brokerage firm in Mumbai on 9 Aug, 2011. —Reuters

Global shares fall on worries the eurozone’s aid to Spain banks will aggravate the country’s rising public debt.

ITC (ITC NS) falls 1 percent, Wipro (WIPR NS) loses 1.6 percent, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS NS) declines 0.5 percent.—Reuters

A boy holds a balloon with an image of a red ribbon and the Indian chief Atlacatl which reads, "Atlacatl Association, I live positive, making yourself visible" during an AIDS candlelight memorial ceremony in Cucutla, on the outskirts of San Salvador on 18 May, 2012. People came together for the ceremony to remember those who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.—Reuters

Vietnam, Latin America to promote trade ties

HANOI, 13 June—Vietnam will hold the first ministerial level forum on trade and investment between Vietnam and Latin American countries at capital Hanoi on 5 to 6 July, Vietnam News Agency reported on Tuesday, quoting the source from Vietnam’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs as saying.

Delegates from 27 Latin American countries including ministers and deputy ministers in charge of international trade and investment, representatives from Latin American embassies in Vietnam and businesses from the continent will participate in the forum.

To date, Vietnamese firms have pledged to invest seven billion US dollars in the region while Latin American countries plan to invest three billion US dollars in Vietnam.

Vietnam exports to Latin American countries mainly with rice, textiles, seafood, rubber and coffee.

It imports animal feed, raw materials for textiles and garments, steel, chemicals and medicine.

In 2011, two-way trade turnover between Vietnam and Latin American countries reached 4.5 billion US dollars.—Xinhua

380,000 US deaths yearly due to smoking

ROCKVILLE, 13 June—Death attributable to smoking is declining, with 200,000 such deaths annually for US men, and 180,000 for women, researchers said.

Brian Rostron of the Center for Tobacco Products at the US Food and Drug Administration said smoking is the leading cause of preventable mortality in the United States, but the methods and data used in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s estimates of adult smoking-attributable mortality have not been substantially revised since their introduction in the 1980s.

“…smoking deaths for men and increased estimates for women compared with the CDC’s estimates,” Rostron said.

“Adjustment for confounding factors further refined the estimates, particularly by smoking status,” Rostron said.

“Estimated smoking-attributable mortality has finally begun to decline for both US men and women,” Rostron said.

“Our approach offers several substantive improvements in the estimation of smoking-attributable mortality by cause for the United States.”

A cashier (L) counts currency notes as customers wait inside a bank in Hyderabad on 22 March, 2010. —Reuters

Bank shares gain on hopes for CRR cut

HYDERABAD, 13 June—Banking shares reversed earlier losses on rising hopes of twin cuts in the repo rate and the cash reserve ratio at the RBI meeting on 18 June.

Data showing industrial output grew a weaker-than-expected 0.1 percent in April from a year earlier, adds to the case for further relaxation from the RBI, traders say.

Inflation data on Thursday will be key, a Reuters poll shows WPI likely accelerated 7.60 percent in May from a year ago, the fastest pace this year.

Banking shares, as measured by the NSE banking index, gained 0.9 percent after earlier falling as much as 0.8 percent before the output data. ICICI Bank (ICBK NS) gains 0.75 percent, while SBI Bank (SBIN NS) gains 0.1 percent. Sensex gains 0.2 percent, while the Nifty adds 0.2 percent.

The Sensex falls around 0.4 pct, ahead of industrial output data.

Industrial output, due out at 11 am IST, is seen rising 1.7 percent in April from a year earlier, and will precede the more important inflation data due on Thursday.

Global shares fall on worries the eurozone’s aid to Spain banks will aggravate the country’s rising public debt.

ITC (ITC NS) falls 1 percent, Wipro (WIPR NS) loses 1.6 percent, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS NS) declines 0.5 percent.—Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 14 June, 2012 5
Four dead in Taipei mudslides

TAIPEI, (China), 13 June — At least four people died and one was injured when mudslides triggered by torrential rains hit two areas in central Taipei, rescue officials said on Tuesday. Schools were suspended in several large cities, as Taipei faced the worst flooding since Typhoon Morakot lashed the island in 2009, triggering massive mudslides that killed more than 600 people.

Two were killed and one was wounded when a makeshift shelter in a mountainous area of Nantou county was buried by mudslides, said the national fire agency, adding downpours also damanged roads and disrupted electricity. Two men who worked for the forestry bureau in Taichung City were rushed to a clinic on Monday with severe injuries caused when a mudslide crushed their office, but despite efforts to save them they died later in the day, the agency said.

In northern Taoyuan county, 20,000 chickens were drowned when a farm was submerged by a flash flood, officials said. Massive flooding was reported across the island since late Monday, with more than 700 millimetres of rain (27 inches) in some areas while Taipei’s central weather bureau warned of more heavy rains this week.

As of mid-morning Tuesday, Taipei and three other large cities had suspended classes and work in government offices. — Internet

Bulldozers dig for victims of Afghan earthquakes

KABUL, 13 June—Bulldozers dug through tons of rocks and debris on Wednesday in hopes of recovering 71 victims of a mudslide that killed more than 600 people.

Wielding shovels, nearby villagers and Afghan policemen dug into the dirt alongside three bulldozers as they uncovered beams of houses crushed under the weight of the landslide. “We have to dig and find the 69 other bodies,” Haqmal said. “I do not know how long it will take. It is not an easy task, but the government has promised that they will not leave the bodies under the rocks ... they will stay until they find the last bodies.”

The US Geological Survey said one earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 struck the region on Monday morning, followed by a magnitude 5.7 quake. Both caused buildings to shake in the Afghan capital, Kabul, 190 kilometers (120 miles) to the south.

Damage was reported in five areas of the province, but the worst was in the village of Sayi Hazara. — Internet

Industrial music music scares off pesky Sydney bats

SYDNEY, 13 June — A huge colony of fruit bats that live in Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens are such a pest that desperate officials have taken to blaring industrial noise and banging sounds to scare them off. And the ploy appears to have worked. A week ago some 5,000 of the large mammals could be seen hanging in trees throughout the park, a popular haunt for both locals and tourists on the harbour near the city’s famous Opera House.

But now just 10 are left, said the executive director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Brett Summerell. “The majority of bats have been evicted from the gardens,” he said on Tuesday. “We’ve been playing a range of industrial type noises — basically annoying sounds for about 45 minutes in the mornings and 35 minutes in the evening.”

Over the past 20 years, the bats, also known as flying foxes, have caused extensive damage in the gardens, with more than 28 trees and 30 palms already lost and several hundred more trees and plants damaged, 60 critically. Summerell said 100 bats had been fitted with satellite collars to track their movement and they were dispersing around the Sydney region, up the coast, and even as far as Queensland state, some 700 kilometers (434 miles) away.

Photo illustration of fruit bats. A huge colony of fruit bats that live in Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens are such a pest that desperate officials have taken to blaring industrial noise and banging sounds to scare them off. — Internet

Nine young elephants find new home in Mexican zoo

PUEBLA, (Mexico), 13 June — It was the stuff of a major film studio’s next animation project: Nine African baby elephants orphaned after their parents were poached, but then miraculously rescued to a wildlife park in Latin America. In the highlands of central Mexico, pea weepychders the size of Volkswagen Beetles could wander around, wide-eyed as they munched on tortillas and donated sombreros in their new home.

Except that the government of Namibia, where they came from, says it didn’t happen that way. The nine elephants that made a big media splash last week lumbering off a cargo plane, on their way to a reserve in Puebla, were the result of a commercial sale. Despite reports to the contrary, the creatures had never been truly, fully free. They also aren’t babies, but youngsters ranging from 4 to 10 years old, said Boas Erkki, deputy director at the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The elephants were sold by the original owner, a farm, to the Namib Game Services private reserve and their mothers were not poached, Erkki told The Associated Press on Monday. The Namib Game Services sold the animals because they didn’t have enough space to keep them, he said. — Internet

Chinese police destroy 100,000 illegal guns

BEIJING, 13 June — Police in 150 Chinese cities jointly destroyed more than 100,000 illegal guns on Tuesday, the Ministry of Public Security said.

About 250 tons of illegal explosives will also be disposed of in the next few days, according to the statement from the ministry. A large portion of these guns were seized by police during raids, and others were surrendered by citizens, the statement said.

Half of the guns were confiscated during a national campaign targeting illegal guns and explosives, which started in February and will last until December, it said.

So far, police have busted more than 180 criminal organizations and detained 7,800 suspects involved in the illegal possession of guns and explosives, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq attacks kill four

MOSSUL, 13 June — Gun and bomb attacks killed three policemen and a soldier and wounded six other people in Iraq on Monday, security and medical officials said.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Saad al-Hamdani said gunmen opened fire with light weapons on a checkpoint in the Hamam al-Alil area, 35 kilometres (21 miles) from the restive northern city of Mosul, then fled the scene.

The attack killed three policemen and wounded two others, Hamdani said. Gunmen also shot dead a soldier in Baquba, in central Iraq’s Diyala Province, a police colonel and a medical source at a local hospital said.

A roadside bomb against a police patrol wounded three police in Khales, 65 kilometres (40 miles) north of Baghdad, a police major and a medical source said. And gunmen wounded a police first lieutenant in the Karrada area of central Baghdad, an interior ministry official said.

Violence in Iraq has declined dramatically since its peak in 2006-2007, but attacks remain common, especially in Baghdad, Diyala and Mosul.

A total of 132 Iraqis were killed in violence in May, official figures show. — Internet

In this photo taken on 8 June, 2012, “sub-adults” African elephants eat hay at their new habitat of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Mexico, Puebla, Mexico. The nine elephants from Namibia needed a new home and the owner of a 900-acre wildlife preserve in central Mexico jumped at the chance to buy them and add them to his menagerie that includes ostriches, lemurs, giraffes, zebras and monkeys. — Internet

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MNA/Xinhua
Summer cricket related to health knowledge

Crickets processed with ice from Htigyaing, Katha and Maunggon regions of Thabeikkyun Township and Hsawawyi of Madaya Township flow into Mandalay.

The crickets transported from Htigyaing and Katha are lack of freshness and it may cause dysentery. The crickets from Hsawawyi and environs of Mandalay are fresh. Local people sell 100 numbers of fresh cricket per K 1500.—Kyemon

Over 20-year vehicles allowed to be substituted after overage vehicles

MANDALAY, 13 June—Overage vehicles are accepted at Directorate of Road Administration through three steps.

As of 1 June, overage vehicles with number plate of Pa alphabet are being accepted. After the vehicles with number plate of Pa alphabet, a plan is under way to accept over 20 years old vehicles. In realizing the plan, a total of 51471 vehicles have been handed over to the directorate up to 30 May 2012.

As overage vehicles consume more fuel than the new ones and they are lack of strengthening, the vehicles may cause traffic accidents and air pollution with their smokes. That is why overage vehicles are allowed to be substituted with new ones.—Kyemon

One-inch-sized eggs laid

YANGON, 13 June—A hen from the poultry farm of U Ohn Nyunt from No. 8/6/26 Bon Bo Min Yang Street in Zawtika Park in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region laid three one-inch-sized eggs in a month.

The hen laid once three eggs and it laid three significant eggs on 10 May, 4 and 6 June. The eggs are in one inch high and the egg laid on 4 June was smaller than one inch size.

Although the sizes were smaller than the ordinary size, its characters are similar to other ones. Due to significant features, the farmer owned on them.

Books, cash donated to library in Hmaway Township

YANGON, 13 June—A ceremony to donate books and cash to Lin Yuan Chi Library was held in Wanetchaung Village of Hmaway Township in Yangon Region on 10 June. Staff Officer Daw Khin Thida Oo of Yangon Region Public Relations Department and townselder U Ohn Maung made speeches.

Wellwisher U Tin Hlaing (Yamanya Aung Naing Thu) explained the purpose of donation.

Next, District IPRD Staff Officer Daw Khin Thida Oo, U Tin Hlaing (Yamanya Aung Naing Thu), Wapadaw Sayadaw and Malaria Controller of Yangon Region U Khin Maung Hsan donated books and U Thant Zin Maung K 200,000 to the library. Wanetchaung Village Administrator U Myint Thein accepted the donations.

MLF invites cash, book donations

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Tehnibu Street in Hmaway Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.
Foreign companies to invest in energy sector

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Chairman of CEW Media Group of China Ms Zoe Zuo and party paid a call on Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay at the latter’s office here yesterday evening.

The chairman proposed the Union Minister to assist the group as they were planning to organize international-class energy exhibition in Myanmar. The Union Minister welcomed their cooperation for attracting new investments in country’s energy sector and promised to render assistance necessary.

The Union Minister then received BG Group Vice-President Mr Jim Seaton of Britain and party. He explained potentials for investment in Myanmar offshore oil rigs and making investment in the country and potential for cooperation with the ministry in Thahthin Oil Refinery.

Union Minister U Than Htay receives Vice President of BG Group Mr Jim Seaton and party. — MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister receives Singaporean Emeritus Senior Minister

YANGON, 13 June—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe met with the delegation led by Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong of Singapore at the government office of Yangon Region, here, this morning.

They discussed mutual cooperation with Yangon Region.

Also present at the call were region ministers, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua and officials.— MNA

Deputy Cooperatives Minister views cooperatives works

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun together with four staff groups of the ministry including the director and the deputy directors yesterday paid a field trip to 14 villages and three wards in Yekyi, Kangyi-dawnt, Thabung and Kyaunggon Townships in Ayeyawady Region where they formed four agriculture livestock and micro-credit cooperative societies, nine agriculture production and odd-job cooperative societies, two agriculture producing cooperative societies and one employees’ micro-credit cooperative society.

Next, the deputy minister presented cash prizes to distinction winning students and ordinary ones passed for 2011-2012 matriculation examination in Thabawtkan Village School of Shwethaungyan sub-township in Pathein and looked into the school as well.— MNA

Union Sports Minister enjoys sports matches in Champion Challenge Cup

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—The Champion Challenge Cup 2012 kicked off at Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Sports Zone, Paunglaung Gymnasium, Lewe Sports Training Zone and Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Course this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tin Htan enjoyed first round matches of women’s Futsal tournament at Zabuthiri Sports Zone.

Moreover, the Union minister watched women’s and men’s ‘scyling contests in front of long-range sports control office, the women’s and men’s weightlifting events at Nay Pyi Taw Paunglaung Gymnasium, Pencak Silat events at the gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Sports Training Zone.— MNA

Thaton District Hospital gets new two-storey maternity and child ward

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—A ceremony to open Nyan Wai Yan two-storey maternity and child ward of Thaton District People’s Hospital was held at the building on 10 June morning, with an address by Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint.

The building is 110 feet long and 65 feet wide two-storey RC facility constructed at a cost of K 350 million by U Kyaw Lwin.

The building is 110 feet long and 65 feet wide two-storey RC facility constructed at a cost of K 350 million by U Kyaw Lwin.

The distance of the two approach roads of the bridge is 1200 ft long. The approach road is 30 ft wide and it is flanked by pedestrian lanes which is three ft wide.

Out of 124 bore piles, 105 have been drilled and the work of drilling bore piles will be completed in third week of June.

The bridge is located on Hlinethaiva-Seikkyun Road and on completion, the bridge will be 480 ft long and 11 ft and three inches wide. The bridge will have a clearance of 422 ft wide and 40 ft high and can withstand 36 tons.

The distance of the two approach roads of the bridge is 1200 ft long. The approach road is 30 ft wide and it is flanked by pedestrian lanes which is three ft wide.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lwin inspects construction of the Seikkyi-Khanaungto Suspension Bridge.— MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Union I & P Minister inspects issuing of household registration certificates, citizenship scrutiny cards in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi and Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, together with State Illustrious Speaker U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, State ministers, Country Director Mr Christopher Bleers of Yangon-based Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and officials, viewed issuing of household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards at Assembly office in Paingkyone, Hpa-an district on 11 June.

As Moeinpwin level -3, household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards have been issued free to more than 350 local people from wards villages in Paingkyon, through one-stop service. It was also attended by Battalion 101 of KNU No.7 Brigade Commanding Officer level Lt.Col Phaw Do and members. At the ceremony, the Union Minister U Khin Yi said that the Ministry is giving relaxation on issuing of household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards by means of Moeinpwin-1,2 and 3 projects. Due to the government’s reforms, Yangon-based NRC which is a social organization makes cooperation with the ministry and donated the expenses for issuing of household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards. NRC is providing assistance for rural development tasks of Kayin State.

After that, the State Chief Minister expressed thanks for the help of regional development and urged the local people to make cooperation. Afterwards, Lt-Col Phaw Do of KNU also expressed thank to the government and organizations. Then, Country Director Mr Christopher Bleers explained the facts about issuing of census and citizenship scrutiny cards in the State. In meeting with 13 media teams at the assembly office, the Union Minister and officials replied the questions on Moeinpwin projects and follow-up programme, NRC’s assistance and issuing through the Union Minister.

Head of State Immigration and Population Department U Thaung Zaw presented national scrutinizing cards to local people, and director-general U Maung Maung Than, gifts for KNU members through Lt-Col Phaw Do of KNU. Local people also expressed the thanks for it.

Afterwards, the Country Minister and officials cordially greeted those present. Issuing of household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards has started across the country as of 1 June.—MNA

Consultation Meeting for Implementation of Comprehensive Education Sector Review-cesr continued for the second day

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—The Consultation Meeting for Implementation of Comprehensive Education Sector Review-CESR continued for the second day at Thingaha Hotel here today, attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe who called for clear outcomes of the discussions.

Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Director-General Dr Soe Win chaired the Management System for CESR Implementation Meeting and Secretary of CESR Guidance Committee Director-General of Education, Planning and Training Department U Bo Win explained management plans to be implemented in CESR works.

It was followed by Key Stakeholder’s Expression for Support in CESR Process Meeting, chaired by Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Education Research Department Dr Daw Khin Myo Myint Kyu. Education Advisor Mr David Coleman of Aus Aid discussed support programmes for the CESR Process.

International Consultant Ms Amanda Seel of MDEE and Dr Cliff Meyers of UNICEF Office for East Asia and Pacific Region led the discussion on Finalization of TOR of CESR Meeting, followed by Next Step for Implementation of the CESR Process Meeting.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remark of UNICEF resident representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha and the deputy minister.—MNA

Cash and kind donated to Rakhine …

Wellwishers donate cash through Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin.—MNA

Mid-level officer management course opened at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—The mid-level officer management course No.34 was opened at Padamya Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) on 11 June morning.

Member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Win Myint delivered an address.

Along with 60 trainees at assistant director and deputy director levels from various ministries attended the four-week course.—MNA
Book donation ceremony held in Kyauktada Township

YANGON, 13 June—A ceremony to donate books to Pyinnya Alinyoung Library was held at the village library in Ywathitgyi Village of Kyauktada Township on 29 May morning. The library was built with contributions of the Myanmar Libraries Foundation and local wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Zaw Min Tun made a speech. The head of Township Information and Public Relations Department explained development of the libraries in line with five-point standard. Next, the township administrator donated 200 books, the head of Township IPRD 200 books, Chairman of Township Writers Association Maung Ni Hmaing (Kyauktada) 100 copies of poem books, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization 120 books each, and wellwishers furniture to librarian U Thein Win.

The library was formally opened by the township administrator, the head of Township IPRD and village administrator U Hsan Htay. Township IPRD

Tree growing ceremony held in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 13 June—The rainy season tree growing ceremony of Thingangyun Township Forest Department in Yangon Region was held along Aung Thida Road in Kyetsha Ward on 9 June morning.

Thingangyun Township Hlutaw representative U Kyaw, Saw San San Myint, Township Administrator U Kyaw Lwin, Staff Officer U Aung Naing Win of Township Forest Department and staff, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Phyu Win and party, the chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization and people participated in cultivation of over 300 saplings along both sides of the road.

Modern express bus to be sold through banking installation system

YANGON, 13 June—The collective tree growing ceremony was held in Thingangyun Township of Yangon District in line with the Moe Pwint-3 Plan. On 8 June, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards in Ward 6 of the Township and National Registration Department carried out.

The head of Township Administrator U Yin Htwe inspect their work. —MYANMA ALIN

School uniforms provided to offsprings of vendors

YANGON, 13 June—A ceremony to present school uniforms to offsprings of vendors in Bogale Township of Pyayon District was held at the office of Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee in Bogale Township on 3 June, attended by parents and students.

Executive Officer U Kyi Soe of the committee explained the purpose of providing assistance to the students.

After that, the executive officer presented school uniforms to 49 students through their parents.—MYANMA ALIN

Stimulant tablets seized in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 13 June—IP Myint Naing Oo of Anti-Drug Special Squad and Police Captain Thein Tun Tai of Myanmar Police Force and party while discharging their duties at Maiyan Checkpoint on 5.50 pm on 6 June searched Suzuki brand motorcycle without licence driven by Aik Kyin from Kengtung to Tachilek.

The authorities seized 185 WY brand pinky stimulant tablets weighing 18.5 grams worth K 518,000 hidden in his underwear. Tachilek Police Station opens file against drug trafficker Aik Kyin, 40, son of U Nanda of Warnawuikhoon (Upper) Village of Monghone (B) Village-tract in Tachilek Township.—MYANMA ALIN

Information for trafficking in person

The government is carrying out undertakings of prevention against trafficking in person with momentum. In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as the connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in trafficking in persons. These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-4955666 in Mase, 09-4955777 in Mandalay and 09-4955888 and 09-4955999 in Yangon.

Hybrid sunflower strain thriving in Meiktila

YAMETHIN, 13 June—Indian hybrid sunflower strain was successfully cultivated in Hseyi Village of Yamethin Township in 2011-2012 rainy season. The hybrid sunflower can produce 50-60 baskets of sunflower per acre and about 5 viss per basket. As it is a suitable sunflower strain, the local people are eager to use such sunflower strain.

In 2011-2012 cultivation season, cultivation of such sunflower strain achieved success in Meiktila District. In fact, cultivation of sunflower will contribute much to poverty alleviation and increasing the income of farmers across the nation.

Myanma Alin

Coord meeting on Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting C’ships held

YANGON, 13 June—The executive committee meeting of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation was held at its hall in Aung San Stadium, here, on 5 June. President of the federation U Thein Win made a speech. The participants discussed preparations for successfully holding the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships 2012 to be hosted by Myanmar from 5 to 12 November 2012, offering of sponsorships, training of athletes under Bulgarian Coach Mr Trandafi Stoyches and assistance to be provided for the lifters. —MYANMA ALIN

Rural health branch facilitated to Mawlamyinegyun Township

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 13 June—The opening ceremony of rural health branch was held in Paungtachaung-2 Village in Kyetsha Village-tract in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 7 June morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htay Maung and Head of Township Health Department Dr Aye Aung formally opened the branch.

Kyetsha Village-tract Administrator U Tun Aung handed over documents related to the health branch to the head of Township Health Department. Kyetsha Health Assistant U Htaw Soe and township leader U Mya Ohn explained participation of the local people for regional health tasks.

The rural health branch is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, built at a cost of K 3 million.

Myanma Alin

50000 saplings planted in Shwegyin Township

SVOIDWIN, 13 June—The collective tree growing ceremony was held in Shwegyin Township of Bago District in Bago Region on 2 June.

The ceremony was aimed at establishing rural housing for alleviation of poverty by assigning duties of growing three teak plants and 20 hardwood plants to each household. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Khin Thein Maung made a speech. Head of Township Forest Department U Sai San THEN explained the cultivation of trees.

After that, the township administrator and the head of township forest department distributed saplings to ward and village administrators.

In 2012 monsoon season, Shwegyin Township grew 50,000 saplings of teak, ironwood and eucalyptus plants.

Agriculture

Drive Safely
The new light of myanmar thursday, 14 June, 2012

Nuclear power more costly than renewables

BEIJING, 13 June — Like a modern-day Pompeii, the streets and buildings of Puyang stood frozen by a disaster. But, unlike the eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago, Puyang was destroyed by a manmade — and thus preventable — catastrophe. Weeds and gray desolation are all that thrive in this once-booming community, which lies directly on the western outskirts of the Chernobyl-doomed nuclear power plant, whose reactor No. 2, which exploded in 1986, still infects physical and socioeconomic harm on many in Ukraine and nearby countries.

But, with Hiroshima, Three Mile Island, and last year’s Fukushima nuclear meltdowns in Japan, the spike in global disarmament was all too fleeting. This myopia is a symptom of steady population growth, coupled with consumption-driven economies and ever-increasing demand for cheap energy. But the risks clearly outweigh the benefits. While nuclear energy’s advocates often claim that there have been only two major calamities, a very different picture emerges if one examines the reactors that were responsible — accidents that caused loss of human life or significant property damage.

Between 1952 and 2009, at least 99 nuclear accidents met this definition worldwide, at a cost of more than US$20.5 billion, or more than one incident and US$330 million in damage every year.

This recurrence rate demonstrates that many risks are not properly being managed or regulated.

The meltdown of a 500-megawatt reactor located 50 kilometres (31 miles) from a city would cause the immediate death of an estimated 45,000 people, injure roughly another 70,000, and cause US$17 billion in property damage. During a visit to Chernobyl, I learned that the Ukrainian government is clear about building a new project to be constructed, by 2015, a “shelter” to lock in the radiation still emanating from the crumbling reactor.

The price tag is estimated at US$1.9 billion. But this sacrificialable is no more than a widely expensive Band-Aid, which will be ripped off a still-fester remaining wound in 100 years, by which time, it is hoped, a permanent solution will have been found.

A 30-kilometre exclusion zone still rings Chernobyl, leaving once-fertile land unable to be tilled by local farmers.
Four dead in Sacramento gang shooting

SACRAMENTO, 13 June—Four people, including two ethnic Hmong shaman, were killed in a gang-related shooting in California’s capital of Sacramento, officials and media said on Sunday. The dead included the gunman, police said. A fifth person was hospitalized in critical condition with gunshot wounds, they said. The Sacramento Bee newspaper said the two shaman, traditional spiritual healers or guides — were in their 50s. The shooting occurred late on Saturday in a southern Sacramento neighbourhood, said Michele Gigante, a spokeswoman for Sacramento Police Department. Authorities said they believe that the gunman was let into the home before he opened fire with a handgun, killing three of the occupants of the home and wounding a fourth person.

“We are pretty confident that this was not a random act,” said Gigante. “We’re looking into this being a gang-related crime.” Gigante said she could not confirm the report that two of the dead were shaman. The Hmong are an ethnic group originating in Southeast Asia. Many Hmong immigrants live in California.— Reuters

A Sacramento Police Department officer lets a crime scene unit leave the scene of a shooting in Sacramento, California on 10 June, 2012. —Reuters
Found on LA sidewalk, looks like lungs

Authorities said it would be up to the county coroner to determine whether a pair of lungs found on a Los Angeles street came from a human.

Sgt. Robert Dean of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said a citizen reported finding the organs night on Avalon Boulevard, the Los Angeles Times reported. Dean said the Los Angeles County Coroner’s office took possession of the remains and would conduct tests to determine whether they were indeed lungs and if they came from a human or an animal.

“We don’t know what they are,” Dean said. “It’s really weird.”

Two fans of the tabletop Strat-O-Matic Baseball game set a world record for the game by playing for 54 hours non-stop at a New York restaurant.

Brett Carow and Sam Hennemann, who are from Minnesota, said they traveled to New York after Foley’s Pub & Restaurant agreed to host their marathon gaming session, MLB.com reported.

Carow and Hennemann, who were allowed 5-minute breaks every hour, said they played more than 100 rounds of the game starting on 7 June and became world record-holders on 9 June. Carow said the accomplishment left him feeling “extremely exhausted.”

“The low point for me was between 4 and 5 [am]. We took an hour nap … and that was the first time we slept. That was 40 hours,” Carow said.

Movie star Lindsay Lohan, who has been a co-host of the animated show “American Dad” and is known for her roles in movies such as “Mean Girls” and “The Parent Trap,” has been arrested in Seaside Heights, N.J., during the weekend and charged with disorderly conduct, police said.

Seaside Heights Police Chief Tommy Boyd told NBC New York City was picked up on Sunday afternoon after officers allegedly saw her in the middle of a street, shopping cars as they went by. “Nothing major, but we can’t put up with it,” Boyd said. “We don’t treat the cast [of the reality series] differently than anyone else.”

Lindsay Lohan sued after car accident

LOS ANGELES, 13 June — Actress Lindsay Lohan has been sued for her involvement in a car accident last week.

The troubled actress was travelling on the Pacific Coast Highway near Los Angeles when her Porsche crashed into an 18-wheel truck on 8 June. The driver of the truck, James, has hired a lawyer and sued the 25-year-old actress, femalefirst.co.uk reported. James accused that Lohan’s people tried to give him money on the spot to dismiss the case.

In defence, Lohan claimed James was responsible for the crash, telling friends that the truck had cut her off. However, she has since said the braked were not working properly on her rented car. “Lindsay is sticking with the ‘truck cut me off’ story, but with a twist, she claims she slammed on the brakes, but nothing,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

Following the crash, Lohan was taken to hospital and after being given the all clear, she returned to work to carry on filming movie “Lie & Dick”.

Cyrus and Song call of engagement

LOS ANGELES, 13 June — U.Singer Trace Cyrus says he has broken up with actress, Brenda Song.

Cyrus, 23, and Song, 24, announced their engagement in October. “Brenda and I have decided to go our separate ways,” Cyrus said in a statement to People.com. “We split up a couple of months ago. We will continue to focus on our careers. I wish Brenda the best and much success in the future. I hope everyone can respect our privacy about this situation.”

Song is a former star of the sitcom “The Suite Life of Zack and Cody.” She also played a supporting role in the film “The Social Network.” Cyrus’ younger sister, singer/actress Miley, announced her engagement to actor Liam Hemsworth last week.

Runaway train makes it 2 1/2 miles

Indian transportation officials said two trains and supervisors were suspended after a train traveled about 2 1/2 miles without a driver.

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Polish midfielder Jakub Blaszczykowski vies with Russian midfielder Alan Dzagoev during their Euro 2012 championship Group A match, on 12 June, at the National Stadium in Warsaw. 

Warsaw, 13 June — Poland and Russia match ended in a 1-1 draw. A superb Jakub Blaszczykowski goal earned co-hots Poland a deserved draw against Russia in Group A. Russia went in front when Andrey Arshavin’s dangerous free-kick was headed in by Alan Dzagoev, his third goal at Euro 2012. But Polish skipper Blaszczykowski scored one of the best goals of the tournament so far when he cut inside and fired in a left-foot shot that gave Russia goalkeeper Vacheslav Malafeev no chance. The result means all four teams in Group A can still qualify for the knockout stages.

Hodgson calls for finishing touch

KRAKOW, 13 June — A satisfied Roy Hodgson has challenged England to hone their attacking threat against Sweden but believes his side will possess an “ace in the hole” when Wayne Rooney returns from suspension. A weary England returned to their Krakow training base early Tuesday reflecting on a 1-1 draw against Group D leaders Sweden but believes his side will possess an “ace in the hole” when Wayne Rooney returns from suspension.

England under-18 international agrees four-year deal with Sir Alex Ferguson’s side

LONDON, 13 June — Manchester United have reached an agreement to sign Nick Powell from Crewe for an undisclosed fee. The 18-year-old passed a medical and agreed a four-year contract that will start on 1 July, with United manager Sir Alex Ferguson saying he was delighted to have recruited the promising youngster.

He told Manchester United’s official website: “We have scouted Nick for months now. He is an exceptional talent and has been schooled well at Crewe. I’m delighted he has chosen to come to United. He has a lot to offer and we are all looking forward to working with him.”

Man Utd to sign Crewe teenager Powell

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England under-18 international Powell said it was ‘dream come true’ to be signing for United.

“I have had a great time at Crewe and I would like to thank them for helping me to develop as a player over the past 13 years,” he added.

“I’m excited about continuing my development with Sir Alex and the world-class players in the squad. The thought of making the step up to the Premier League next season is an exciting prospect, I can’t wait to get started.”

McIlroy ready to defend at US Open

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 June — It has been a curious last few weeks for Rory McIlroy as he prepares to achieve what no man has done in 23 years — successfully defend the US Open. The last man to do so was Curtis Strange in 1989, but such was the convincing manner of the Northern Irishman’s eight-stroke victory at Congressional last year, that many believed he was capable of back-to-back success.

Three missed cuts in recent tournaments though have cast doubts on his current form. Although he showed improved form at the St Jude Classic in Memphis last week, a poor finish was not the best way to come into The Olympic Club.

The 23-year-old world number two believes that getting into the extra tournament play-off at the end of the second major — when he’s usually taking time off to prepare — fits the bill this time around. “It’s not like it was my fourth tournament in a row and I’ve been in contention for weeks in a row and it drains you and takes a lot out of you mentally and physically,” he said.

Liverpool win Premier League U11 Festival

LONDON, 13 June — Liverpool’s young Academy players enjoyed their first taste of the big time as they claimed victory at the Premier League U11 Festival. The competition at the University of Warwick in Coventry featured under-11 sides from 18 of the top English clubs, as well as Barcelona, Ajax and Sporting Lisbon. The two-day event gave most players their first experience of tournament football, and Liverpool Academy Manager Steve Cooper said it had been a fantastic all-round occasion. “At this level and age group they just tend to play regional teams,” said Cooper.

“So it was a chance to play against other teams we don’t normally play against, and to socialize with them as well, to hear some different accents and see some different styles. The beauty of 10 and 11-year-olds is that they will speak to anybody and to the kids interacting as they did between one another was really refreshing. “It’s obviously great to win and we’re really proud of the boys, but wherever we had finished up it would still have been a fantastic experience.”

Canada spurn chance to open gap in World Cup group

TORONTO, 13 June — Canada missed the chance to take command of their 2014 World Cup qualifying group on Tuesday when they were held to a 0-0 draw by Honduras. Canada, looking to reach their first World Cup since 1986, missed several golden chances to score in front of their home fans, Kevin McKenna’s header coming closest to breaking the deadlock.

Midfielder Atiba Hutchinson was at the heart of Canada’s offensive in a physical first half that saw five yellow cards dished out. Canada, who beat Cuba last week, have four points from two matches in Group C, while Honduras earned their first point. Panama are in second place with three points.
Hosepipe being lifted by three water companies

LONDON, 13 June—Three major water companies announced on Wednesday after unusually heavy rainfall during the last three months.

Thames Water, Anglian Water and Southern Water will officially end their bans on Thursday. Hosepipe restrictions were introduced in April to combat drought in southern and eastern England after two consecutive dry winters.

“We have had two- and-a-half times the average rainfall for April, we have had steady showers in May and then monsoon downpours in June. That’s changed things,” a spokesman for Thames Water said. Richard Ayllard, the firm’s sustainability director, told the BBC that some other water companies were still “heavily dependent” on ground water and therefore needed to keep hosepipe bans in place.

“Both those of us who are fortunate enough to have lots of surface water…we can lift the bans now,” he added. Anglian Water said that a combination of factors influenced it to remove the ban. “It’s been because of supply and demand, it has recharged. Also it is because we have had such a cold, wet May and June following a wet April, which means demand has been suppressed,” a spokesman said.

Southern Water said it would be lifting restrictions in Kent and Sussex. The Environment Agency in its latest briefing said the wet weather had significantly increased river and reservoir levels, thus reducing the risk of drought and water restrictions.

Austrian minister says Italy too may need bailout

VIENNA/ROME, 13 June—Raising the stakes in Europe’s debt crisis, Austria’s finance minister said Italy may need a financial rescue because of its high borrowing costs, drawing a sharp denial on Tuesday from the Italian prime minister.

Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil — a feeling reinforced by Maria Fekter’s assessment of the euro zone’s third largest economy stoked investors’ fears that Europe is far from ending 2-1/2 years of turmoil.

“A deal by euro zone finance ministers on Saturday to lend Spain up to 100 billion euros ($125 billion) to recapitalize its banks was seen by many in the markets as yet another sticking plaster. Spanish 10-year bond government yields soared to 6.81 percent, their highest level since the euro’s launch in 1999. Euro zone rescue funds, already stretched by supporting Greece, Portugal, Ireland and soon Spain, might be insufficient to cope with Italy as well, Fekter said in a television interview on Monday night.” — Reuters

Top contender Schleck out of Tour de France

PARIS, 13 June — Yellow jersey contender Andy Schleck has pulled out of this year’s Tour de France due to injuries suffered in last week’s Criterium du Dauphine race, according to his family.

Schleck’s joy at finally securing the yellow jersey was, however, tempered by the injuries he suffered in a crash last Thursday at the Criterium, an eight-day race which is a major tune-up for the Tour. During a 53 km time trial a strong gust of wind literally picked Schleck and his bike up off the ground and dumped him at the side of the road.

Schleck continued, but complained of leg and back pain and despite beginning Saturday’s sixth and penultimate stage he pulled out after 63 km. “He couldn’t pedal anymore,” RadioShack cycling specialist Alain Gallopin told the race’s official website — Internet

LUXEMBOURG/ANDRECHT, 28 May — Andy Schleck pictured on the sixth stage of the 64th Criterium du Dauphine cycling race between Saint-Auban-Lesassy and Morzine in the French Alps on 9 June. — Internet

Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Monti (L) looks on before a meeting with Switzerland’s President Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf (R) at the Chigi palace in Rome on 12 June, 2012. — REUTERS

Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Monti (L), looks on before a meeting with Switzerland’s President Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf (R) (not pictured) at the Chigi palace in Rome on 12 June, 2012. — REUTERS

Houseline Township Immigration and National Registration Department hands over 54 copies of household registration to Ward 16 administrator U Min Nyunt on 9 June. — MYANMAR}

CASH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED: Microfinance Service of Township Development Affairs Committee present school uniforms worth K 171,500 to 51 students of vendors at Thiri Mingala Market in Loikaw on 3 June. — MYANMAR
Cash and kind donated to Rakhine State government

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—The cash donation ceremony was held at Rakhine State government today in Sittway this morning. It was attended by Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Myo and U Zaw Win Shein of Ayea Hintha Company U Zaw Min Thein, chairman of Rakhapura United FC, Dr Sai Sam Tun, owner of Yadagun FC, U Thurein, Chairman of Zayar Shwe Myay FC, U Aung Mo Kyaw owner of Hanthawady United FC, U Wan Sein, chairman of Mawrawady FC and U Zaya Thura Mon of Kan Klu Engineering Group donated K 420 million to the chief minister.

MFF President U Zaw Zaw explained the purpose of donations from owners of football clubs. Chairman of Rakhine State emergency aids sub-committee U Thar Lu Chay spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Phone Swe, officials and donors visited the refugee camps and encouraged and distributed aids to the people sheltering at the camps.

As riots occurred in Rakhine State, local battalions arrived at the scenes to restore peace and stability and prevalence of law and order of the region and safeguard the life of the local people as of 8 June. Beginning that evening, the local battalions are providing necessary assistance to the local people. Moreover, some naval vessels are discharging duties of patrol to protect Myanmar waters (See page 9)

Union Information & Culture Minister receives WB Country Director of South Asia and Pacific Region

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan receives a delegation led by Mrs Annette Dixon, Country Director of WB for South Asia and Pacific Region. — MNA

Portland beat Denmark 3-2 in thriller

PORTLAND, 13 June—Silvestre Varela came off the bench to score an 87th-minute winner as Portugal beat Denmark 3-2 in a Euro 2012 thriller on Wednesday and put themselves right back in the Group B mix. Portugal, beaten 1-0 by Germany in their opener, went ahead after 24 minutes when Pepe glanced in a header from a corner and doubled their lead in the 36th with simple finish by Helder Postiga from a low Nani cross.

Nicklas Bendtner pulled one back in the 41st minute and, after Cristiano Ronaldo had missed a glorious chance to make it 3-1, looked to have secured a point for the Danes when he headed his second after 80. Varela had the final word, however, when, at the second attempt, he smashed in the winner three minutes after coming on.

Portugal and Denmark have three points, as do Germany, who take on pointless Netherlands in Kharkiv in the other Group B game later on Wednesday.

Little mighty creature of ocean inspires strong new material for medical implants and armour

SCIENCE DAILY, 13 June—A scientist from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) may be onto an ocean of discovery because of his research into a little sea creature called the mantis shrimp.

The research is likely to lead to making ceramics — today’s preferred material for medical implants and military body armour — many times stronger. These findings were published in a recent issue of the Journal Science, and focused on the mantis shrimp’s ability to shatter aquarium glass and crab shells alike.

The common creature native to the Indo Pacific, has club-like ‘arms’ which can strike prey at speeds matching that of a 5.56mm rifle bullet. Each impact generates a force exceeding 50 kilogrammes, which is hundreds of times the mantis shrimp’s weight.

Assistant Professor Ali Miserez, from NTU’s School of Materials Science Engineering (MSE) and School of Biological Sciences (SBS), collaborated with Dr James Weaver from Harvard University as well as scientists from the University of California-Riverside, Purdue University, and Brookhaven National Laboratory in the United States.

They have observed down to the nanoscale the highly unique composite structure of the mantis shrimp’s ‘club’ and discovered that it is woven together in a unique fashion to create a structure tougher than many engineered ceramics.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

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Flower mantis shrimp. — Internet