Speaking on the occasion, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said that previous sessions of the Hluttaw were successfully held with the assistance of the departmental organizations. There were a few difficulties in convening the Hluttaw. So, it can be said that holding of the Hluttaw was smooth in all aspects. He urged those present to contribute to smooth running of tasks in food, transport, accommodation, security and health sectors of the representatives who will attend the fourth regular session of the Hluttaw. Focusing on serving the interests of the State and the citizens as much as possible, assistance is to be provided for convenience of the representatives who attends the regular session of the Hluttaw.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko submitted the reports on security affairs and Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Hlaun on release of information on Hluttaw affairs and tasks to inform local and foreign correspondents of facts and disciplines in covering the news of Hluttaw.

(See page 9)
L & F Ministry holds presenting-ceremony for outstanding offspring of its staff

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries this morning held a presenting-ceremony for outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam (2011-2012) at the meeting hall of the ministry, with an address of Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint. Of 240 offspring of the staff, who sat for the exam, a total of 137 students including 46 passed the exam with flying colours. The 46 outstanding students—four with five distinctions, 14 with four, two with three, 13 with 2 and 13 with 1—received K100,000 for each distinction, presented by the Union Minister and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Aye and departmental heads. The ceremony came to end with words of thanks of five-distinction winner Ma Phyo Phyo Myint Lwin. MNA

Workshop on management for world heritage held

YANGON, 14 June—Myanmar is striving for putting ancient Pyu states such as ancient Beikthano state, ancient Hanlin state and ancient Srihestra state in the world heritage list. UNESCO and Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library organized the world heritage management workshops at Archaeological Technological Training School (Pyay) on 7 June and National Museum in Yangon from 9 to 12 June. The workshop was attended by five UNESCO officials, one officer of UNESCO-Bangkok, one officer of Srikhestra state and five UNESCO National Museum in logical Training School Archaeological Techno-management workshops at Museum and Library Archaeology, National UNESCO and Department of and ancient Srikhestra state

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Sino-Danish bilateral ties enjoy great potential

COPENHAGEN, 14 June—Chinese President Hu Jintao will kick off a state visit to Denmark on Thursday, as the Sino-Danish bilateral relationship has embarked on a track of mature, sound and steady growth in recent years, President Hu’s visit from 14 to 16 June marks the first time that a Chinese president has visited Denmark. The trip will further consolidate and deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Denmark, bringing Sino-Danish bilateral links to a new higher level, and add another milestone in the history of bilateral relations.

It will also have significance for China-Europe relations, as Denmark holds the presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2012. Denmark and China enjoy dynamic cooperation in many areas including politics, economy, science and technology, culture and education, where they have achieved remarkable success. The Sino-Danish relationship has a long history. Denmark was one of the first Western countries to establish diplomatic relations with China over 62 years ago. In 2008, Denmark became the first Nordic country to forge a comprehensive strategic partnership with China.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, there has been an increasing development of bilateral relations, helped by clear foresight and political wisdom of national leaders from both sides. It is also clear that Chinese and Danish leaders lay great emphasis on development of bilateral relations.

US, S Korea, Japan to have joint naval exercise

WASHINGTON, 14 June—The US Department of Defence on Wednesday announced the United States, South Korea and Japan will conduct a two-day, trilateral naval exercise on 21-22 June in the waters south of the Korean peninsula. According to a Pentagon release, the exercise will focus on “improving interoperability and communications with the ROK Navy and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force,” to facilitate cooperative disaster relief and maritime security activities in the future.

The Pentagon said this exercise will be conducted “beyond the territorial waters of any coastal nation.” Immediately after the exercise, the United States will then conduct a “routine carrier operation” with the South Korean Navy in the Yellow Sea on 23-25 June, and the George Washington Carrier Strike Group will make a port call in Busan, South Korea, after completing the two exercises. Over the past year, the United States has refocused its resources to the Asia-Pacific Region and boosted interactions with quite a few Asia-Pacific countries in various fields.
Big Bang particle discovery closer: scientists

GENEVA, 14 June—Physicists investigating the make-up of the universe are closing in on the Higgs boson, an elusive particle thought to have been key to turning debris from the Big Bang into stars, planets and finally life, scientists said on Tuesday.

Researchers at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) using their large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s biggest particle accelerator, to try to prove that the mystery particle really exists.

Poring over huge volumes of data, CERN physicists are confident they are now closer to achieving that aim, outside scientists with linked key experiments at the Switzerland-based facility said.

“Are they getting quite fired up,” one scientist Outside CERN but with links to the experiment who declined to be named told Reuters.

Strong signs of the Higgs being seen were being in the same energy range as what it was tentatively spotted last year, the scientists added, even though the particle is so short-lived that it can only be detected by the traces it leaves.

The quest for the obscure but scientifically crucial Higgs boson is being conducted by harnessing the LHC’s high energy accelerator, which is located on the edge of Geneva, to replicate the Big Bang, the process scientists believe brought the known universe into being.

The Higgs is named after British Peter Higgs who in 1964 first came up with a detailed idea of what it might be and is the last major missing piece in the so-called Standard Model of how the universe works at the elementary particle level.

Its formal discovery, once it is endorsed by the world scientific community, would almost certainly ensure a Nobel prize for Higgs, now 83 and retired, and perhaps for at least one other European physicist and one American.

Speculation

The scientists spoke of their CERN colleagues’ progress after research chiefs at the Swiss facility decided to cut off last weekend’s analysis and resume, processing of all data related to the search for the particle ahead of a major physics conference, ICHEP, in Melbourne in mid-July.

There has been widespread speculation that a major finding on the Higgs, based on careful analysis of the most interesting of over 300 trillion proton collisions in the LHC so far this year, may be made at that gathering.

But there was no confirmation from CERN itself that it was close to formally announcing it had discovered the particle and its linked energy field, thought to have given mass to matter and shape to the universe 13.7 billion years ago. Researchers on the collider’s separate ATLAS and CMS detectors have been “blindfolded” or cut off from findings from the rival team and even from different groups inside their own.

CERN spokesman James Gillies said the centre would want to make any important announcement, once there was something to say, in Geneva.

“As far as what ATLAS and CMS may or may not have in the 2012 data, that’s only known to a few people in each experiment right now,” he added.

“Blinding” is used in science to ensure that different groups working on identical experiments but with different conditions if similar equipment do not influence the outcome of each other’s research.

If they then come to the same conclusion, they can be safely be seen to have independently validated each other’s results, clearing the way to actually claiming a discovery.

In December 2011, after some 16 months of collisions at lower energy levels than this year, both teams joined at CERN to say they had separately seen “tantalizing glimpses” of the Higgs but needed more time to be sure if it really was there.

Data still coming in after last weekend’s analysis cut-off will be processed later in the summer. Physicists say that more than half of the collisions produce nothing of scientific value and the record of their tracks are automatically dumped.—Reuters

Quantum computers could speed Web searches

LOS ANGELES, 14 June—Quantum computers could help speed up Internet searches by doing the huge amounts of mathematical calculations necessary, researchers say.

Internet search engines use a method to figure out exactly what qualifies as most relevant Web page to present as a result of a search, they say. Google, for example, uses a page ranking algorithm rumoured to be the largest mathematical calculation carried out anywhere in the world.

With the Web growing explosively, researchers at the University of Southern California have proposed using quantum computers to speed that process. They wanted to see whether quantum computing outperformed the Google algorithm faster, they said.

Incurable computers, bits encoded distinctly another one or a zero, whereas quantum computers use quantum bits or “qubits,” which can encode a one and a zero at the same time.

Called superposition, this property potentially allows quantum computers to perform certain calculations much faster than traditional computers, the researchers said.

While there currently is no quantum computer in the world large enough to run Google’s page ranking algorithm for the entire Web, the Analyzing all the changes happening thousands of years ago, the researchers found the extinction didn’t line up with any single change but with the combination of several new pressures on woolly mammoths.

Although humans had hunted woolly mammoths in Siberia for millennia, climate change added pressure on the animals with rising temperatures leading to a decline in woolly mammoths’ favored foods like grasses and willows. Still, researchers said, there is no single thing that killed off the mammoths.

“It’s not just the climate change that killed them off,” MacDonald said. “It’s the habitat change and human pressure. Hunting expanded at the same time that the habitat became less amenable.”

The answer to why woolly mammoths died off sounds a lot like what we expect with future climate warming.”

“Our colleagues have been working on mechanical substitutes for such electronics and showed their devices, known as micro-electro-mechanical systems, kept working despite intense ionizing radiation and heat by dipping them for two hours into the core of the University of Utah’s nuclear reactor.

“We have developed a unique technology that keeps on working in the presence of ionizing radiation to provide computation power for critical defense infrastructures,” Tabib-Azar said. “These devices could also be used in deep space applications in the presence of ionizing radiation and can help robotics to control troubled nuclear reactors without degra-
Global shares slip on weak US data, Italy debt sale eyed

Tokyo, 14 June—Asian shares slipped on Thursday as weak US retail sales data raised fresh concerns about sluggish economic growth, while an Italian debt auction later in the day will test market confidence in whether Rome can avoid becoming the next victim of the euro zone crisis. Traders expected market activity to slow approaching a cliffhanger on Sunday election in Greece, which could precipitate the country’s exit from the euro zone.

European shares were likely to be pause, with spreadsanderesd major market indexes in negative territory in early European trade.

US secret space plane X-37B may end mission soon

Los Angeles, 14 June—After spending more than a year orbiting Earth on a mystery mission, the US Air Force’s X-37B space plane is due to return to Earth any day now, local media reported on Wednesday. The X-37B spacecraft’s landing window opened on 11 June and runs through 18 June, with Friday being the next opportunity. US Air Force officials say landing day for the unmanned X-37B space plane is imminent, and could occur on Friday. The X-37B’s precise date and time depend on weather at its intended landing site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, technical considerations and other factors, said Air Force Lt. Austin Fallin, a Vandenberg spokesman. The reusable space plane is on its second mission and its return is imminent, and could occur on Friday, media reported on Wednesday. The X-37B spacecraft’s landing window opened on 11 June and runs through 18 June, with Friday being the next opportunity. US Air Force officials say landing day for the unmanned X-37B space plane is imminent, and could occur on Friday. The X-37B’s precise date and time depend on weather at its intended landing site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, technical considerations and other factors, said Air Force Lt. Austin Fallin, a Vandenberg spokesman. The reusable space plane is on its second mission and its return is imminent, and could occur on Friday, media reported on Wednesday.

Insulin has no effect on heart attack risk

Philadelphia, 14 June—Daily insulin injection, neither increased nor reduced heart attack, stroke or career risk, Canadian researchers said. The Outcome Reduction with Initial Glargine Intervention (ORIGIN) trial randomized more than 12,500 people at high risk in two years in May could justify the Federal Reserve taking further stimulus measures at its policy meeting next week to support the US economy, after a weak May jobs report added fears about the euro zone and sparked a broad market sell-off earlier this month.

Diesel exhaust fumes cause lung cancer, WHO says

Geneva, 14 June—Diesel engine fumes can cause lung cancer and belong in the same potentially deadly category as asbestos, radon and mustard gas, World Health Organization (WHO) experts said on Tuesday. In an announcement that caused concern in the auto industry, the France-based International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the WHO, reclassified diesel exhaust from its group 2A of probable carcinogens to its group 1 of substances that have definite links to cancer. The experts, who said their decision was unanimous and based on “compelling” scientific evidence, urged people worldwide to reduce their exposure to diesel fumes as much as possible. “The working group found that diesel exhaust is a cause of lung cancer and also noted a positive association with an increased risk of bladder cancer,” IARC said in a statement. The decision was the result of a week-long meeting of independent experts who assessed the latest scientific evidence on the cancer-causing potential of diesel and gasoline exhausts. Scientists, who also noted a positive association with an increased risk of bladder cancer, IARC said in a statement.

US Air plans antitrust filing to boost AMR bid

New York, 14 June—US Airways Group (LCC.N) aims to file paperwork with US antitrust regulators as early as July for a proposed merger with AMR Corp (AMR.N), the bankrupt parent of American Airlines, according to people familiar with the matter. US Airways believes securing regulatory approval for its proposed deal would remove one key element of uncertainty from the picture, bolstering its case as AMR’s creditors compare the merits of a standalone restructuring plan, the people said. A regulatory filing now—as opposed to after reaching deal—also reflects the fifth-largest US carrier’s desire to merge with AMR while the No 3 US carrier is in bankruptcy. Under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act, companies must not complete a merger until the US Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice determine that the transaction will not hurt competition. Representatives for US Airways declined to comment on the matter, saying they did not have an immediate comment.

Wal-Mart bribery review includes Brazil, China

WASHINGTON, 14 June—Lawyers for Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N) have flagged Brazil, China, and India as regions where the risk was the greatest, according to the lawmakers. The company has acknowledged it is investigating bribery allegations involving its Egyptian operations, and it is conducting a global review of its anti-corruption compliance programme, but has not provided details about the review.

According to the letter, from Representatives Elijah Cummings and Henry Waxman, both Democrats, Wal-Mart asked its lawyers to expand the review to a worldwide assessment of the company’s anti-corruption programme. Thereview will examines whether Wal-Mart has reviewed its programme to include a new procedure for escalating corruption complaints to senior management and the board’s audit committee, the letter said.

Cummings and Waxman, who are the ranking members, respectively, of the House Oversight and House Energy committees, asked the company on Tuesday to provide documents about the review and the recommendations. The pair wrote to Wal-Mart Chief Legal Officer Michael Duke and also asked him to allow certain witnesses to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the bribery allegations.

Outside lawyers for Wal-Mart at two law firms, Greenberg Traurig and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, briefed the lawmakers on 21 May about the company’s programme to deal with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a 1970s-era law that bars US companies from offering bribes to officials of foreign governments.

But the lawyers did not answer any questions about the substance of the bribery allegations, which were brought to light in late 2011, the New York Times reported last month. Lawyers for Wal-Mart are scheduled to brief congressional investigators on Wednesday about the “investigative protocols” the company is using to examine bribery allegations in Mexico, according to the letter.

Wal-Mart’s top brass tried 12 years ago to settle the bribery allegations, the lawyers referred to those allegations in a letter from lawmakers to Wal-Mart’s parent company’s anti-corruption programme.

Lawyers noted that management and the board’s anti-corruption programme may still be in place, but suggested that Wal-Mart’s top brass had not bothered to look at it.

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Two dead, 22 missing in Philippine ferry sinking

MANILA, 14 June — At least two people were reportedly killed and 22 others were missing on Wednesday after a Philippine ferry sank in choppy seas, the coast guard said. The wooden-hulled MV Josette 2 was carrying 34 passengers and 12 crew members when it was reported before dawn to have sunk off the northern coast of Palawan island, the coast guard said.

“Two are confirmed dead, while 22 have been rescued and the rest are missing,” a coast guard official monitoring the incident told AFP. “The vessel encountered heavy waves.” Ferries are one of the main modes of transport in the Philippine archipelago of more than 7,100 islands, and sea accidents are common due to poor safety standards and overloading. — Internet

French soldiers of Battle Group Picardie are seen during an operation in Sarobi District, Kabul Province, in March. NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen on Wednesday vowed not to abandon Afghanistan as foreign nations plan to transition forces out of the country after a decade of conflict. — Internet

China second-quarter GDP growth may dip below 7 percent — government adviser

BEIJING, 14 June — China’s annual economic growth could fall below 7 percent in the second quarter if weak activity persists in June, an influential government adviser was quoted on Wednesday as saying. The forecast by Zheng Xinli, a former deputy director of the Chinese communist party’s policy research office, is among the most bearish by any government and private sector economists.

“GDP growth in the second quarter could fall below 7 percent if there is no significant improvements in economic data for June,” the overseas edition of the People’s Daily quoted Zheng Xinli, now deputy head of the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a top government think-tank as saying. China’s industrial output growth usually outpaces GDP growth by 3-5 percentage points, the newspaper cited Zheng as saying. China’s industrial output grew 9.6 percent in May from a year earlier, picking up slightly from a three-year low of 9.3 percent stuck in April.

Analysts forecast in a Reuters benchmark poll in May that China would deliver its weakest quarter of growth in three years in the second quarter at 7.9 percent, which would also mark the sixth straight quarter of slower growth.

They forecast full year growth of 8.2 percent. The same newspaper article quoted Jia Kang, head of the Finance Ministry’s think-tank, as predicting China’s economic growth could bottom out in the second quarter. — Internet

Residents walk on a mud road in Aaren County, central China’s Hunan Province, on 11 June, 2012. Torrential rains swept across Hunan over the past few days, killing nine people and affecting 1.1 million, local authorities said on Tuesday. — Xinhua

US officials questioned in leaks: attorney general

WASHINGTON, 14 June — US Attorney General Eric Holder on Tuesday told a Senate committee that Justice Department investigators have interviewed both him and FBI Director Robert Mueller in the wake of national security leaks. During a testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Holder said investigators have already questioned him and Mueller for possible role they might have played in leaking the information to the media, which included drone target “kill list” against al-Qaeda operatives and a cyberattack on Iran.

Holder appointed two US attorneys last week to lead investigations into the possible unauthorized disclosures of classified information by government employees. The leaks have enraged lawmakers, who said such information should never be leaked to the Press and out in the open. Republicans have accused senior administration officials of leaking classified information to media to enhance President Barack Obama’s image for his re-election bid.

The Republicans have also been calling for special counsel to investigate the leaks, but Holder defended Justice’s ability to be independent as it investigates the leaks. Holder said the two US attorneys he appointed will “follow leads wherever they are, whether in the executive branch or other component of government.” White House Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest told reporters that the hearing was “nothing more than politics.” — Xinhua

Guanya to probe China company awarded airport deal

OTTAWA, 14 June — Legislators in Guanya will soon hold hearings on whether one of China’s largest state companies should be allowed to renovate the country’s main airport following allegations of corruption.

The announcement comes after Jamaica’s government recently alerted Caribbean nations that the World Bank had barred the parent company of China Harbour Engineering Company from bidding on certain bank-funded projects from 2009 to 2017.

Officials with China Harbour Engineering Company issued a statement late last week saying that the company itself has not been sanctioned by the World Bank. Guanya House Speaker Raphael Trompan said on Tuesday that Parliament’s economics committee will decide whether the company should proceed with the $138 million renovation at Cheddi Jagan Airport. — Internet

Police arrest 15-year-old Ottawa girls for trafficking

OTTAWA, 14 June — Two 15-year-old girls have been arrested for human trafficking in Ottawa and another 17-year-old girl was being sought.

Severe storms leave thousands without power in Houston

HOUSTON, 14 June — Severe thunderstorms rolled through the Houston area in the US state of Texas late on Tuesday, knocking down trees and cutting off power for thousands of homes and businesses.

About 88,000 homes and businesses were reportedly without power in the area. Local energy provider Centre Point Energy reported that about 75,000 customers lost power. Another company reported more than 13,000 outages. Parts of Montgomery County and north Harris County in the area were among the areas hardest by the storms, which arrived on Tuesday afternoon. Fire officials were busy dealing with multiple fires caused by lightning strikes and power lines damaged by falling trees and near hurricane-force winds according to local media reports. Some residents even reported seeing twisters, but government weather service said there were no twisters, according to local newspaper The Houston Chronicle.

Two 15-year-old girls have been arrested for human trafficking in Ottawa and another 17-year-old girl was being sought on Tuesday for her alleged role in forcing teens into prostitution, police said. — Internet
International Cooperative Year marked in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township

YANGON, 14 June—A International Cooperative ceremony to mark the Year was held at Cooperative Department in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township of Yangon Region on 11 June morning. Staff Officer Daw Hlilla Myint of Township Cooperative Department, Head of Department Daw Aye Aye San, Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Khin Aye and a representative of the society talked about International Cooperative Year. They together the attendees grew saplings in honour of International Cooperative Year. By Kyemon

Donations handed over to Parahita House

YANGON, 14 June—A ceremony to donate school uniforms, school equipment, bags of rice, edible oil and corrugated iron sheets worth K 2.5 million to Youth Development Parahita House of Social Welfare Department was held in Thinganyangyi Ward of Mingaladon Township on 9 June.

The donated goods were purchased through proceeds from the RMGCC 3rd Anniversary Charity Golf Tournament, organized by Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club (RMGCC) on 26 May 2012. General Manager U Thein Aung of Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club (RMGCC) handed over documents related to the donations to Chairman of the House U Saw Roger who spoke words of thanks.

At present, the home is caring 98 orphans. By Myanma Alin

School uniforms provided in Chauk

CHAUK, 14 June—A ceremony to provide school uniforms to offspring of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers was held at the office of Township Development Affairs Committee in Chauk on 7 June afternoon. The uniforms were presented by Chauk Township Development Affairs Committee of Magway District in Magway Region.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Nyine Maung Maung, Executive Officer U Htin Aung of Township Development Affairs Committee and officials presented school uniforms, exercise books, ball-pens and pencils to students. For 2012-2013 academic year, K 408,500 was presented to 11 high school students, 18 middle school students and 34 primary school students of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers. By Myanma Alin

Blast of gas pipeline breaks out fire in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 14 June—A blast occurred at the underground gas pipeline in front of Shwe Nadi Co at No 435/436 on Seikkantha Street in Shwe Nadi Industrial Zone of Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region at 4:35 pm on 11 June.

While clearing the bushes in front of Shwe Nadi Co, the backhoe damaged the gas pipeline that feeds gas to Hlinethaya CNG 1 and 2. Thus, a blast occurred at the damaged area of the pipeline. In the incident, Maung Zaw Min Win, 30, Maung Soe Min Tun, 30 and Ma Ei Zin, 17 were injured in blaze but not serious, and they were rushed to Yangon General Hospital.

By Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Basic Education Middle School (Branch) opened in Mingin

MINGIN, 14 June—A ceremony to open Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was held in Laungyae Village in Mingin Township of Sagaing Region on 3 June morning.

Region Hlutaw representative U Htay Win, Pyithu Hlutaw representative Daw Khin Hnin Wynn, Assistant Education Officer U Myint Than and Village administrator U Min Oo unveiled the school signboard and Township Administrator U Nay Lin Tun formally opened the school. The region Hlutaw and Pyithu Hlutaw representatives and the Assistant Education Officer made speeches. Headmaster U Han Thein explained the history of the school.

Later, they donated K 550,000 to the school.

By Myanma Alin

No 31 Special Bus Line to be launched soon

YANGON, 14 June—No 31 Special Bus Line of Yangon Region All Private Bus-line Control Committee will be launched for the route from Bailey Bridge in South Okkalapa Township to Phonegyi Street in Lannmaung Township soon.

The bus route will start from South Okkalapa (Bailey) and finish at Bogyoke Market, passing through Padetha (10 Market), Kyaukku, Tamway, Mingala Market, Pazundaung, Sale and Phonegyi Street.

The new bus line will be replaced with air-conditioner buses manufactured by the Republic of Korea.

APBCC negotiates purchase of installment system between car import companies and Chevron owners. By Myanma Alin

ROAD COMMISSIONED: A ceremony to inaugurate Shweyi self-reliant concrete road was held in South Myawd Ward in Thanlyin on 10 June. Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Rice Industry Association U Aung Than Do, Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Lin Than and Road Construction Committee Chairman U Aung Thein formally open the road. By Myanma Alin

DUTIES ASSIGNED: A ceremony to assign duties of monsoon paddy plan for 2012-2013 was held at the hall of Waw Township on 8 June. Township Administrator U Soe Naing presents duties of plan to ward and village tract administrators. By Towneview GAD

Training course for formation of Myanmar Pioneers Group for Disabled opened

YANGON, 14 June—The opening ceremony of training course on constituting Myanmar Pioneers Group for the Disabled (Yekyi Branch) was held in Pyidawaye Dhammayon Nursing House U Saw Roger of Township General Manager U Kyaw Oo made a speech. Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Maung Maung Tin spoke on the occasion.

Program Director U Nay Lin Soe of Myanmar Pioneers Group (Yangon Head Office) explained his opinion on the disabled. Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Myint Myint Than donated K 30,000 to the group. By Myanma Alin

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED: A ceremony to present teaching aid to students of service personnel for 2012-2013 academic year was held at the hall in Hline Township of Yangon West District in Yangon Region on 9 June. Township Administrator U Myint Soe gives assistance to offspring of staff. By Myanma Alin

CASH DONATED: Two representatives of Manaw Ahla Band donated K 1 million for local people who lost houses and property in current situations of Rakhine State recently. Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department accepts cash donation. By Myanma Alin

CASH DONATED: Htoo Foundation handing over K 50 million donated by Asian Green Development Bank, Air Bagan Ltd, Elite Teach Co Ltd and Htoo Group of Companies to Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department for local people of Rakhine State on 11 June. By Kyemon

If the new buses get permits to purchase natural gas from the Ministry of Energy, the bus line will launch its runs. So, the local people of Dagon Myothit (North) Township will have easy access to downtown Yangon conveniently. By Point Oo (Yangon)
In parliaments where Myanmar and Europe converge

Mg Than Nyein

The visit of Pyithu Hluttaw delegation led by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker to Europe is a historic goodwill visit. It is the first Myanmar’s high-level visit after about 24 or 25 years of weak relations with western countries for various reasons. As renewal of the relations start with inter-parliamentary relations, I entitled the article “In parliaments where Myanmar and Europe converge (again)”. About 50 years ago after abolition of parliaments while practicing multiparty parliamentary democracy system and about 24 years after dissolution of parliaments under monolithic rule, the constitution was ratified in 2008 by consent of the national people. Free and fair elections, which depict genuine and discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy were held in line with the constitution. People’s representation according to the will of the people and Hluttaws formed.

Hand in hand with the Hluttaws, the government elected by the Hluttaws harmoniously initiated democratic reforms in multiparty democratic system which earned sensational and congratulatory recognition from the international community. They are willing to welcome small, medium and mega transitions through parliament’s actions and activities. A large number of international delegates handed invitations to us as they came to study the Hluttaws. About 50 years after abolition of parliaments there have been lack of experiences of parliamentary procedures for years, capacity of Hluttaw committee members, MPs and Hluttaw Office staff is, however, through capacity-building workshops organized by the Hluttaws as well as through foreign trips led by the Speakers or committee chairman or committee member.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker established capacity building tasks, saying that only when the Hluttaws are strong, will the road towards democratic be strong; only when the MPs are competent, will the capability of the Hluttaw be high and the interests of the country and the people be served to the full extent.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker’s visit to Europe is the fourth one of the Pyithu Hluttaw after the Hluttaws formed. (Previous ones are goodwill visits to Russian, Indian and Chinese parliaments.) Despite acceptance of invitation since October, 2011, it was postponed because of coincidences of invitations and regular Hluttaw sessions. Then the tour was made following additional invitations.

The trip centered on the invitation of the president of European Commission, the President of European Parliament, the president of the British, German, Danish, French and Italian parliaments. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker was accompanied by 27 MPs, including MPs who are line ministers from three of the two parliaments, representing the majority and the minority parties in the Lower House. The delegation included the First Vice Speaker, the Second Vice Speaker, and the Secretaries of the two Houses of the Pyithu Hluttaw. The delegation also included student representatives from the University of Yangon, Shwegugyi University, North Okkalapa University and the International University of Yangon. University students from the UK, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway were invited to attend the programme. The delegation included women and those with disabilities. The delegation was led by Dr. Tin Oo, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and his delegation met with many other dignitaries in the parliaments. They also met with the foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, the leaders of the European parliament, and representatives of the international community.

During the tour, another heartening scene is that Myanmar representation at the parliaments mainly studied the development of the countries with parliamentary relations, I entitled the article “In parliaments where Myanmar and Europe converge (again)”.

Among these Myanmar nationals, some raised questions or not they know delegation members. Myanmar is recognized Myanmar delegation’s warm response. When the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and his delegation met with the Myanmar association and the Norwegian, the Myanmar delegation then.

In every country the delegation visited it received a warm welcome that extended from Myanmar’s reputation of democratic reforms. As leadership of the speaker and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker are often praised by the European Union Council, Commission and Parliament headquarters. They also met with the President of the German, Danish, French and Italian parliaments and their delegation.

During the tour, visiting the parliaments, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and his delegation followed the steps of the state to advance towards the most developed state of the industrialized world. The delegation also learned the awe-inspiring civic spirit (GDP about $500 billion) in Norway, once the poorest country in Europe, and women employment and the fact women constitute above 40 per cent of MPs. In education sector, a much sought-after dual education system in Germany and Denmark is working well. They visited seven countries within 18 days.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker…

(from page 1) Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt reported on accommodation, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint on decoration of the ceremony, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min on transport matters.

After that, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications U Thein Tun presented reports on communication, sound control and voting machine matters, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan on reception, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin on providing for health care services, and Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe on supply of electricity.

Those present participated in the general round discussions. After reviewing the discussions, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Union Minister for Border Affairs…

(from page 1) Mr Johannes Ten Feld from the UNHCR expressed his hope that the local people would stay in amity, he added. He expected that a society which would be settled soon and religion leaders also met with townsenders and Islam religion leaders in Maungdaw and gave instructions on staying in peace in accordance with the Islam religion.

A medical team led by the acting director-general of the Health Department also provided medical care to refugees at the camps in Maungtaw.—MNA

Trees planting, free eye surgeries marked in Myaing Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—A ceremony to mark the monsoon tree planting season was held in conjunct with a ceremony to mark achievements in providing free medical care services to eye patients in Myaing Township was held outside Myaing Township People’s Hospital on 11 June.

Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications U Thein Tun planted trees to mark the ceremony which was also attended by the director-general of the Health Department, eye specialists and townsenders.

Over 120 trees were planted during the ceremony. The ceremony to mark achievements in providing free medical services to eye patients was followed and Union Minister U Thein Tun presented certificates of honour to Ms Therese Worstmann, Eye Specialist of Myanmar Eye Center, for her voluntary services for eye surgeries, donors and the head of the Townhip Health Department. Director-General of the Health Department presented the certificates of honour to the chairman of the supervisory committee for free eye surgery in the township.

Over 170 patients received eye surgeries during the free medical treatment programme from 2 to 12 June. The programme was jointly organized by Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications and Ministry of Health and was sponsored by Myanmar Eye Center, Alcon Myanmar, Wai Yan Soe Moe Company and Mascott Co Ltd. The medical team was led by Dr Therese Worstmann from England and Dr Zaw Min Din from Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore.—MNA

MNHRC, SEANF hold meeting

YANGON, 14 June—Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) hold a meeting to exchange experiences on human rights in the region was held at the office of MNHRC here today.

The meeting was participated by delegations led by Rotating Chairperson of the SEANF Prof Ms Amara Wongasich comprising chairmen and vice-chairmen of human rights commission from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and East Temo Leste and Myanmar.

During the meeting, Chairperson MNHRC U Win Mra extended greetings and responsible personnel briefed on the tasks of the five departments under MNHRC: the planning and financial department, the policy and law department, the human rights protection department, the international relations department and the human rights promotion and human rights knowledge dissemination department.

SEANF members raised questions and members of MNHRC exchanged views with them. Chairperson and members of SEANF and members of MNHRC discussed experiences of SEANF on promoting human rights in the respective countries.

SEANF chairperson and members will hold a meeting with NGOs at the same venue tomorrow.—MNA

Meeting between Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) in progress.—MNA

Danu National Democracy Party applies for registration to UEC

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—As the Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing applications of political parties for registration, Danu National Democracy Party today applied for registration as a political party to UEC.—MNA

9th Japan Cup Judo Championship kicks off

YANGON, 14 June—A ceremony to open the 9th Japan Cup Judo Championship 2012 was held at Theibyauk Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region at 9 am today.

Among the spectators were Yangon Region Transport Minister U Aung Khin, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito, officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department, Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Pro Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint, member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary of MWSF Daw L. Khun Yi, Patron of Judo Event Daw Lin Lin Tin and patrons, President of Myanmar Judo Federation U Tun Tun.

The Japanese Ambassador greeted winners in the Judo event of the XXVI SEA Games individually. Afterwards, the first day matches commenced.

The Cup is categorized into 12 classes in men’s and women’s events.—MNA
Taikkyi Township holds tree growing ceremony 2012

YANGON, 14 June—The rainy season tree growing ceremony 2012 was held along both side of U-Tu-Aphyauk Road in Taikkyi Township on 9 June morning.

At the ceremony, Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Han Sein, Taikkyi Township Constituency No. 1 of Hluttaw representative U Hninmor, Township Administrator U Zaw Soe Win Maung, Constituency No. 2 U Myint Aung, Township Administrator U Zaw Soe, Staff Officer U Zin Lin of Township Forest Department, departmental officials, staff members, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Nu Nu Wai and members of social organizations, and local people planted 250 saplings.—Agriculture

New monastic education school opened in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 14 June—The opening ceremony of Sandlemya Monastic Education School was held on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Ward 22 of Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region on 3 June.

The Chairman Sayadaw of the Supervisory Committee for Monastic Education Schools, members of the Townships Sangah Nayaka Committee and members of the Sangha attended the ceremony. Sayadaw Ashin Candavara will teach over 200 students. Wellwishers donated exercise books and bags for the children.—Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Rainy season tree growing ceremony held in Hmaubwy

YANGON, 14 June—Hmaubwy Township General Administration Department of Yangon Region organized the rainy season tree growing ceremony 2012 at the entrance to Myaungdaga Foundry in Hmaubwy Township on 9 June morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Thein Myint made a speech. Staff Officer U Than Oo of Township Forest Department explained the purpose of growing trees. Hmaubwy Township Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Kyi Myint, the township administrator and the staff officer of Township Forest Department distributed 1574 saplings to the local people to grow here. —Township Forest

School uniforms given to students

MAUBIN, 14 June—As part of efforts to alleviate poverty, Maubin Township Development Affairs Committee spent the interests obtained from the loans disbursed to local people on providing school uniforms to students for 2012-2013 academic year, taking place at Township Development Affairs Committee on 5 June. Executive Officer U Aung Kyaw Soe of Maubin Township Development Affairs Committee and loan committee members presented school uniforms to 113 students.—Myanma Alin

Books donated to village library in Thaukalin Township

YANGON, 14 June—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund of Thata Gabar Library was held in Chaungsaung Village of Thaukalin Township in Yangon South District on 4 June.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hla Po Mo explained development of the libraries meeting the five-point standard.

Next, Myanmar Libraries Foundation donated 250 books, Chairman of District Sasana Nuggaha Association U Thein Zaw Lay one tower clock, the Township Administrator 200 books, Township IPRD 200 books, Sayadaw Bhaddanta U Sundara of Dhamma Withokdi Monastery of Chaungsaung Village one aluminium cardboard worth K 70,000 and local people K 20,000. The library committee accepted the donations.

The library was opened by Township Administrator U Moe Myint, Head of Township IPRD Daw Hla Po Mo and Village Administrator U Min Zaw.—Township IPRD

Shwe Nyaungdon Microfinance Services Cooperative Society holds AGM

YANGON, 14 June—The Annual General Meeting of Shwe Nyaungdon Microfinance Services Cooperative Ltd for 2011-2012 fiscal year was held at Basic Education Primary School in Yayawin Ward of Nyaungdon on 3 June.

Chairperson of the Board of Directors Daw Myint Myint Khin made a speech. Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department U Than Tun explained matters related to microfinance service. Member of BODU Soe Kyi read the executive committee report and financial statement.

Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Khin and officials presented cash assistance to students of members of the society and gifts to those who regularly paid back their loads to the society. Likewise, annual general meetings were held at its branches in Tagway and Hsamalauk Villages.—Myanma Alin

DHF preventive measures taken in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 14 June—Measures being taken for dengue hemorrhagic fever in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon North District on 9 June morning.

At the activities, Township Administrator U Aung Moe Oo and health staff, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Soe Moe and members took preventive measures against DHF at houses in the wards.—Myanma Alin

Myanma Librarians invite 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 Theinbyu Street in Botataung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

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Citizenship cards issued: As part of Moe Point 3 Plan, Head of Yangon Region Immigration and National Registration Department presents citizenship scrutiny cards to local people at Metta Ponnya Kari Dhammayon in Metta Nyunt Ward of Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region on 6 June. MYANNA ALIN

School uniforms presented to offspring of vendors

PEKHON, 14 June—The presentation of school uniforms to offspring of vendors sponsored by Pekhon Township Microfinance Service, was held at the town hall in Pekhon on 31 May.

Pekhon Township Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Francisco, Deputy Head U Sai Than Lwin of Township General Administration Department, Executive Officer U Kyaw Min Htaik of Township Development Affairs Committee and officials presented school uniforms worth K 332,000 to 83 students.—GAD
Nokia to cut 10,000 jobs after weak second quarter

PARIS, 14 June — Loss-making Finnish cellphone maker Nokia plans to cut another 10,000 jobs globally in its biggest revamp in recent history, while it warned the second-quarter loss from its cellphone business would be larger than expected.

The cuts, which include the closure of Nokia’s only plant in Finland, bring total planned job cuts at the group since Stephen Elop took over as chief executive in 2010 to more than 40,000.

Nokia said on Thursday that it would book additional restructuring charges of around 1 billion euros ($1.3 billion) by the end of 2013. The company, whose cash position is increasingly scrutinized by investors, also said restructuring-related cash outflows would be around 650 million euros in the remaining three quarters of 2012 and around 600 million in 2013.

Shares in Nokia fell 9 percent in early trading and were down 6.9 percent at 0711 GMT.

Nokia stock has crashed more than 70 percent since it announced in February 2011 that it was dropping its own Symbian operating software and switching to Microsoft’s largely untapped Windows Phone system.

“These changes underline the seriousness of the challenges Nokia is facing, particularly in light of the eye-watering competition from Apple and Samsung,” said Ben Wood, head of research at CCS Insight.

Nokia also said it would sell luxury phone business Vertu to venture firm EQT. ($1 = 0.7953 euros).

US drone strike kills three in Pakistan, officials say

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 14 June — Pakistani intelligence officials say a US drone strike has killed three suspected militants in an attack on a building in a town close to the Afghan border. The strike was on Thursday in Miram Shah in North Waziristan was the second in the region in less than 24 hours.

The officials say the identities and nationalities of the men killed were not known. They didn’t give their names because they were not authorized to speak to the media on the record.

Washington has pushed on with its drone campaign against suspected Taleban and al-Qaeda operatives in Pakistan’s tribal areas, despite Pakistani objections.

The US doesn’t release information on who is killing, or the criteria used when targeting. Human rights groups say innocents are among the victims. — Internet

Moderate quakes southeast Turkey

ISTANBUL, 14 June — A moderate earthquake with a magnitude of 5.5 shook Sirnak province in southeast Turkey on Thursday, the Kandilli Observatory in Istanbul said.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties in the quake, whose epicenter was at Silopi, near the Iraqi border. The US Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 5.3.

Earthquakes are a daily occurrence in Turkey, which is criss-crossed by geological fault lines. In October last year, more than 600 people died in the eastern province of Van after a quake of 7.5 magnitude and powerful aftershocks. — Reuters

Head in the sand, OPEC sees no oil shale threat

VIENNA, 14 June — OPEC oil producers are not worried about the shale revolution. They might need to re-run their numbers. The United States imported 4.5 million barrels a day of OPEC crude last year, 20 percent of the cartel’s exports and about half the country’s import needs. But thanks to new technologies like hydraulic fracturing now sucking away on North American soil, the continent is already self-sufficient in natural gas, and is eyeing an even bigger landmark — OPEC-free oil supplies.

The US was the fastest-growing non-OPEC oil producer in 2011 for the third year in succession, the US Energy Information Administration’s BP statistical review released on Wednesday said. US oil production is up 1 million bpd since 2006 to 7.84 million bpd, consumption is down 1.85 million to 18.84 million. “In 1990, North American reserves and production were falling but thanks to unconventional, proved reserves have risen 68 percent since then,” ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance told an audience of OPEC ministers on Wednesday.

“North America could become self-sufficient in oil as well as gas (by 2025),” he said at a conference before OPEC’s policy-setting meeting in Vienna. State oil company Saudi Aramco, the world number-one oil producer, has acknowledged the North American boom in shale, tar sands and other so-called unconventional production, but its prediction in November was far less explosive, at 6.6 million barrels a day—still well below US needs, and not until 2035. And OPEC ministers gathering to decide output policy caps took a very relaxed view of the threat that shale oil might pose.

Statoil, ExxonMobil make big gas find off Tanzania

OLO, 14 June — Norwegian oil firm Statoil and ExxonMobil have discovered a large natural gas deposit off the coast of Tanzania and added further resources to another nearby field, Statoil said in a statement on Thursday.

The discovery, Statoil’s seventh major find in just over a year, confirmed 3 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of gas in the Lavani well, 2,400 meters under the sea.

In addition, the firms also added 1 Tcf of gas to an earlier 5 Tcf discovery in the Zafarani sidetrack in the same block just 16 kilometres away, Statoil, the block’s operator said.

“we estimate a value of the discovery plus the upgrade on the Zafarani discovery of NOK 1.3 per share,” Swedbank First Securities said in a note. “We assume a fair share price reaction would be NOK 0.8-1.0 per share,” it added.

The discovery confirms Statoil’s recent track record for solid upstream success after it has made big finds in the mature areas of the North Sea, the Arctic Barents sea, in Brazil and Tanzania.

The block further boosts east Africa’s hydrocarbon potential following a string of discoveries by oil majors off Mozambique and Tanzania. Statoil operates the license on 5,300-square-kilometre Block 2 on behalf of Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation and holds a 65 percent stake while ExxonMobil Exploration has 35 percent.

Explosion rocks northern Afghanistan, injuring at least 11 people

KABUL, 14 June — An explosion rocked Jowzjan province of northern Afghanistan on Thursday morning, leaving 11 people injured, according to Afghan police.

“A remote control bomb was set off in Karte Dostom area of Sheberghan, capital of Jowzjan Province, at around 7 o’clock local time today, leaving 11 people injured,” Azizullah, police chief of Jowzjan Province, told Xinhua, adding that the explosion was apparently targeting Haji Dastagir, a tribal elder in the area who is among the injured with his two sons.

No one has claimed responsibility for this attack so far. The Taleban insurgents, who have been waging more than a decade-long insurgency, launched a new spring offensive on 3 May to target Afghan forces as well as US and NATO troops across the country, which caused many civilian casualties at the same time. — Xinhua

Azerbaijan warns of anthrax outbreak in Georgia

BAZ, 14 June — The Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan on Wednesday urged the country’s customs authorities and retail facilities to stay alert to the spread of anthrax in neighbouring Georgia.

The warning applied primarily to meat and other food products imported from Georgia, said the State Veterinary Service under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The service said it had already sent a request to the Veterinary Service of Georgia for information about the situation of the current outbreak.

However, no response is received yet. All meat products imported from other countries should be vaccinated and go through a minimum period of 21 days of pre-export quarantine and test in labs, the State Veterinary Service said.

According to Georgian media, the disease is spreading in the regions of Georgia densely populated by Azerijians, and 30 people including 20 Azerijians have been infected so far.

Anthrax outbreaks in Georgia have been frequent in recent years. Bacillus anthracis, a pathogenic bacterium found throughout the world, is the causative agent of anthrax in mammals, including both wild animals and domestic livestock.

Anthrax remains an endemic disease worldwide and still has potential to threat public health.

China’s Shenzhou-9 manned spacecraft is in final preparations for its launch in mid-June, paving the way for China’s first manned space docking mission.
India releases Dornier plane detained for flying over air force base illegally

NEW DELHI, 14 June — Indian authorities on Monday evening released a chartered aircraft which they had detained since Sunday night in the western state of Rajasthan’s capital Jaipur for flying over a combat air base in the city of Jodhpur without permission, an official said on Tuesday.

“The Dornier 228 aircraft originated from the Gulf state of Oman’s capital Mascat. After flying to Karachi in Pakistan, it landed in Jaipur overnight Sunday for flying over Indian Air Force combat base in Jodhpur,” the official said, on condition of anonymity. Two pilots and four crew members were interrogated by intelligence agencies as Dornier planes are often used for surveillance missions.

“The crew members told the interrogators that the aircraft’s GPS device malfunctioned which led it to fly over the airbase.

The plane has been allowed to leave India on Monday after nothing suspicious was detected. The pilots have been led off with a warning, the official added. India has large military presence in Rajasthan due to its proximity with Pakistan.”

Japanese man climbs all world’s 14 tallest peaks

KATHMANDU, 14 June — A Japanese mountaineer who was nearly killed by an avalanche in 2007 finished a climb in Nepal last month that made him country’s first person to scale the world’s 14 tallest mountains.

“I have always wanted to climb mountains as long as I remember,” Hirota Takeuchi said on Monday in Kathmandu. “It was always my childhood dream to climb as high as possible.

The Nepal Mountaineering Association said Takeuchi scaled the 8,167-metre high (26,760-foot) Mount Dhaulagiri on 26 May to finish his 17-year mission.

All the top 14 peaks — including Everest, K2 and Kanchenjunga — are in the Himalayan or Karakoram ranges of Asia.

Takeuchi is the 30th person to climb all 14 and the first climber from Japan, association official Deebash Bikram Shah said.

Takeuchi plans to return to the Himalayas to climb another peak next year. “I will continue to climb as long as my body will allow me,” he said.

Takeuchi’s mission almost ended in 2007 when an avalanche on Mount Gashabrum swept him some 300 metres (1,000 feet) and buried him completely in snow.

Two German climbers were killed in the avalanche, and a third was injured badly.
Shin-kicking Championships held in Britain

The judge of the Shin-kicking Championships in Britain said the sport is about more than just two men kicking each other below the knees. James Wiseman, who judged this year’s Shin-kicking Championships at the Cotswold Olimpicks, an event held in Chipping Camden, England, on-and-off since the 1600s, said the event is similar to wrestling, TTN reported.

“I kind of get quite annoyed when people think that shin-kicking is quite literally two guys facing each other and kicking each other as hard as possible in the shin,” Wiseman said.

“The easiest ways to describe it is it’s a bit like wrestling but with a lot of contact below the knees. The idea is really to throw the person to the ground, but to throw the person to the ground you’ve got to unbalance by kicking them first.”

The winner of this year’s event was Zac Warren, 23, of Pershaw, England.

Richards and Sambora break up again

LOS ANGELES, 14 June—US actress Denise Richards and rocker Richie Sambora have broken up after less than a year of dating, sources told UsMagazine.com.

“They’re done,” an insider said of the couple, who previously dated from 2006-07, then reunited last fall. Asked on “Access Hollywood Live” on Tuesday what her dating status is, Richards said only, “I’m friends with some very lovely men and everybody’s great!” Richards has two daughters with her ex-husband, actor Charlie Sheen, as well as a baby girl she adopted as a single mom last year.—Internet

Bamboo bike building takes trial and error

A Washington State man said it took him a lot of trial and error to build his own bike out of bamboo. Paul Fish of Spokane, founder of retail and online outdoor-equipment company Mountain Gear, said he decided to build the bamboo bike on a whim and his initial attempts resulted in a lot of learning experiences, the spokesman said.

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Cafeteria workers win old food dispute

A union representing cafeteria workers in a Pennsylvania school district won a victory in a dispute over being forced to pay for unsellable items they eat. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees filed the grievance in 2011 against the Sharpsville Area School District, alleging officials “violated established past practice” by forcing cafeteria workers to pay for food or drinks that safe food regulations do not allow them to sell to students, The (Sharon) Herald reported.

The settlement, passed by a unanimous school board vote on 21 May, states workers can consume the items—which include expired and reheated food and drink items—for free.

The workers do so, however, at their own risk.

Richardson, Colfer to be ‘Glee Project’ mentors

LOS ANGELES, 14 June—The producers of ‘Godspell’ say Broadway’s first revival of the rock musical will play its final performance at the Circle in the Square Theatre on 24 June. The show began previews on 13 October and officially opened on 7 November. At the time of its closing, it will have played 50 preview performances and 264 regular performances.

“I’ve never been more proud of a show than I am of ‘Godspell,’” lead producer Ken Davenport said in a statement. “For nine months this incredible company of performers brought joy into the hearts of more than 153,000 people (and blasted over 1,000 pounds of confetti) ... forever changing their lives, and mine.”

‘Godspell’ closing on Broadway this month

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Shepherd, Stamos taking over ‘Best Man’ roles

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‘Go on with the Wind’ actress Ann Rutherford dead at 94

LOS ANGELES, 14 June—Ann Rutherford, an actress famous for her work in “Gone with the Wind” and the Andy Hardy movies, has died at her home in Beverly Hills, Calif. She was 94.

The Vancouver native’s close friend and fellow actress Anne Jeffreys confirmed her death on Monday night to the Los Angeles Times. Jeffreys said Rutherford had been in declining health and suffered heart problems. Rutherford made her film debut in 1935’s “Waterfront Lady” and went on to make nearly 60 movies by 1950. The Times said she spent her later years attending events related to “Gone with the Wind,” the 1939 film classic in which she played Carreen O’Hara, sister of Southern belle Scarlett, played by Vivien Leigh. —Internet

Ann Rutherford has died at her home in Beverly Hills, Calif. She was 94. Shown in 2006 file photo.—Internet

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Italy held to 1-1 draw by Croatia in Group C

POZNAN, 14 June—Italy sat back and paid for it Thursday in a 1-1 draw with Croatia at the European Championship. Andrea Pirlo gave Italy the lead with a curling free kick in the 39th minute but Mario Mandzukic was unmarked to equalize in the 72nd. Having opened with a 3-1 win over Ireland, Croatia has four points in Group C.

It has two points after its opening 1-1 with defending champion Spain.

Italy had numerous other early chances, but the Austrians lacked finishing quality.

At the start of the second half, Italy rarely threatened, instead choosing to absorb Croatia’s attacks. The tactics backfired when Ivan Strinic launched a long pass from the left flank to Mandzukic, who had time to control at the edge of the box and shoot in off the post.

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Galvanised the squad last season and helped the club for all to see when he took charge of the boss following the exit of Roberto Di Matteo as their manager on a permanent basis. The Italian led the club to FA Cup and Champions League success last season and helped the club on to FA Cup and Champions League.

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Chelsea have appointed Roberto Di Matteo as their manager on a permanent basis. The Italian led the club to FA Cup and Champions League success last season after stepping in as interim boss following the exit of Andre Villas-Boas. He returned from holiday to finalise a two-year contract to take charge of the Blues. Chelsea chief executive Ron Gourlay said: “Roberto’s quality was clear for all to see when he galvanised the squad last season and helped the club make history, and the owner and board are very pleased he will be continuing his good work.

“We all believed he was a young coach with much to offer when we first asked him to take charge of team affairs in March and the manner in which he worked with us, the players and all the staff, and the success that followed, made him the clear choice when it came to selecting the person to take us forward in the seasons to come. “We will be working closely with Roberto in the weeks ahead as some exciting signings have already been made and Roberto has had input into those.

“Although he has set the bar very high in the short time he has been in charge, we know that Roberto is the right man to lead Chelsea on to further success.” The 42-year-old Di Matteo added: “I’m obviously delighted to have been appointed as manager and first-team coach. We all achieved incredible success last season that made history for this great club. “Our aim is to continue building on that and I’m already planning and looking forward to the squad’s return for pre-season.” Di Matteo is the fourth Italian to manage Chelsea, continuing his association with the club that began in 1996 when he signed from Lazio.—INTERNET

Roberto di Matteo guided Chelsea to victory in the FA Cup and Champions League.—INTERNET

Germany's second victory puts Netherlands on brink

Kharkiv, (Ukraine), 14 June—Germany’s move closer to the last-eight berth after beating the Netherlands 2-1 in an enthralling Group B encounter in the European Championship on Wednesday. Mario Gomez’s stonewall goals in the first half gave Netherlands on the verge of an early exit despite Robin van Persie’s late wonder goal to deliver a fine strike. With two wins in a row, Germany, three-time winners of the tournament, stopped the so-called “Group of Death” after Portugal outscored Denmark 3-2 in the afternoon, both having collected three points. “It’s not easy. There are many hurdles in this called death group.”

“Six points are very good results. We will treat the last group match like a final.”

“We will fight for the victory to win the group,” said the Germany coach Joachim Low. The Netherlands, who have never failed to progress from the group stage since their triumph in 1988, now have lost control of their fate and must beat Portugal in the last round with better goal difference in the group provided that Germany also beat Denmark. “Of course we’re disappointed. We were not strong in defence. But the situation is that we still have a chance to go through. When we play the Danish, we have to believe and fight,” said the Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk.

It is another chapter of one of Europe’s most enthralling footballing rivalries, who just finished their 39th time contest. Germany extended their advantageous record to 15 wins, 14 draws and 10 defeats. The Netherlands were desperate for goals when Premier League’s top scorer Robin van Persie made two clear chances in the opening ten minutes but the forward’s volley and right-footed effort both went wide of the target. “We started well in the first 20 minutes with a few good chances. But there was too much space for the German’s goal,” added Van Marwijk. Gomez, who headed in Germany’s only goal in the 1-0 victory over Portugal in the opening match, continued his top scoring form to set the Frenchman’s heartbeat in the 24th minute when he beat the keeper Maarten Stekelenburg calmly in the box after running onto a neat pass from Bastian Schweinsteiger.

The same Bayern Munich combination doubled the leader ahead by 16 minutes when Schweinsteiger fed the central forward on the right side of the area to send the ball to the top left corner. The Netherlands had no choice and brought all their high-profile attacking talents onto the field to change the starting 4-2-3-1 to a more offensive 4-3-3.—XINHUA

Beaten Murray won’t panic over Wimbledon

LONDON, 14 June—World number four Andy Murray is adamant the shock end of his reign as Queen’s Club’s champion won’t damage his chances of winning Wimbledon. Murray had won the pre-Wimbledon warm-up event at Queen’s Club twice in the last three years and he arrived in west London hoping for another extended run on the grass courts.

But the Scot, who received a first round bye as the top seed, produced an error-filled display that allowed France’s Nicolas Mahut to complete a 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/1) second round victory on Wednesday.

Murray, who has struggled with a back injury in recent weeks, remains confident he will be able to mount a strong challenge at the All England Club.—REUTERS

International Sports

Schiavone out of Birmingham after 1-round defeat

BRISBANE, 14 June—Top-seeded Francesca Schiavone was upset 7-5, 6-4 by Miski Dojot of Japan in the first round of the grass-court Aegon Classic on Wednesday.

The Italian said she’s still adjusting after grass at the clay-court season and hopes to improve before Wimbledon and the London Olympics at the All England Club. “Of course it is upsetting, but it is hard for me, it takes time to adapt to a grass-court rhythm,” Schiavone said. Schiavone joined several seeded players exiting the Birmingham tournament.

The sixth-seeded Montana Barthel of Germany fell to Andrea Hlavackova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (5), 6-2 and former US Open champion Christina McHale of the United States lost 6-1, 6-7, 7-6 to Elena Vesnina of Russia. Jelena Jankovic staved off a bee and two set points in a 6-1, 7-6 (5) win over British wild-card Melanie South.—INTERNET

Tiger and Rory set for stern US Open test

San Francisco, 14 June—The stage is set for a riveting US Open at the revered but challenging Olympic Club with the world number one Tiger Woods seemingly back to his best and defending champion Rory McIlroy not far off. Woods and McIlroy are capable of electrifying the galleries with their power and precision and both are itching to return to the majors winner’s circle in the championship. Woods, widely accepted as the most grueling of all. His has been four long years since Woods won the most recent of his 14 majors, in a playoff for the 2008 US Open, and he knows time is perhaps not on his side as he tries to hunt down the record 18 piled up by golfing great Jack Nicklaus. While his form has been up and down this year, Woods issued a timely assault on the Wimbledon title, but Murray, who has struggled with a back injury in recent weeks, remains confident he will be able to mount a strong challenge at the All England Club.—REUTERS

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Tiger Woods of the US tees on the 16th hole during a practice round for the 2012 US Open golf tournament on the Lake Course at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, California on 13 June, 2012.—REUTERS

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Librarian course 18 June-17 July

YANGON, 14 June—The librarian course (second grade) No 1/2012 will be conducted by Myanmar Libraries Foundation from 18 June to 17 July. Those wishing to attend the course may enlist at Myanmar Libraries Federation, No 85, Thar Mingala Avenue, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Tel: 660387, 663902 and fax: 663902.—MLF

Redknapp sacked as Tottenham manager

LONDON, 14 June—Harry Redknapp was sacked as manager of Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday after nearly four years in charge of the Premier League club.

"This is not a decision the board and I have taken lightly," said Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy in a statement. "Harry arrived at the club at a time when his experience and approach was exactly what was needed.

"This decision in no way detracts from the excellent work Harry has done during his time with the club and I should like to thank him for his achievements and contribution."

Spurs were bottom of the Premier League table when Redknapp arrived at White Hart Lane from Portsmouth in 2008 and Levy added: "Harry will always be welcome at the Lane."

Redknapp, in a statement issued by Tottenham, said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Spurs and am proud of my achievements. I have had a fantastic four years with the club, at times the football has been breathtaking. I am sad to be leaving but wish to thank the players, staff and fans for their terrific support during my time there."

The 65-year-old Englishman was known to be pushing Harry Redknapp during an English Premier League match between Tottenham Hotspur and Queen Park Rangers in October 2011.—INTERNET

Premier League wins extra £1 b in new TV deal

LONDON, 14 June—The English Premier League has confirmed its position as one of world sport’s most popular tournaments by announcing a new television broadcast deal worth over £1 billion ($1.55 billion) more than the existing agreement.

EPL chief executive Richard Scudamore said Wednesday they had sold their five television broadcast rights to Sky, one of their existing satellite broadcasters, and BT, best known as a telecommunications company, for a total of £3.018 billion. Sky have bought five of the seven available packages for the seasons 2013/14 to 2015/16, totalling 116 matches per year.

BT have acquired the rights for 32 matches that season but their package includes 18 of the 38 first-choice picks. It all means the

Redknapp, whose status as the media’s and fans’ favourite to become the next manager of England was ignored by the Football Association (FA) when they chose Roy Hodgson instead, did achieve Levy’s goal of a top four Premier League finish last season.—INTERNET

Messi haunts misfiring Ronaldo even at Euro

LYVY, 14 June—Cristiano Ronaldo could do with a goal — and without mention of Lionel Messi at Euro 2012. The 27-year-old Portuguese superstar has yet to score in the tournament and a succession of missed chances in the thrilling 3-2 win over Denmark ended with Danish fans chanting ‘Messi! Messi!’.

It was the last thing the Real Madrid player needed to hear the name of the three-time world player of the year and current best in the world while he needed Messi more than Ronaldo to win the match.

"Do you know what he (Messi) was doing this time last year? He was going out of the Copa America in the quarters."

Ronaldo’s lack of goals should not come as a complete surprise as he has scored just five times in 15 games at major finals since appearing at Euro 2004 in his homeland.

With the added burden of the captancy on his shoulders many have wondered — probably the same people who say that like Messi he leaves his best form at home when he dons his national jersey — whether he could handle it as well.—INTERNET

Argentinian superstar left Ronaldo trailing in second place in the La Liga scoring charts last season. Needless to say Ronaldo fired off his own riposte — hitting its target more effectively than he had done in the match.

CASH PRESENTED: A ceremony to give cash assistance to students of staff members from Shwepyitha Township General Administration Department was held at the hall of the department on 31 May. Township Administrator U Aung Moe Oo presents cash assistance to the students.

MYANMAL/IN

Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (C) during the Euro 2012 match against Denmark on 13 June. He has yet to score in the tournament and a succession of missed chances in the 3-2 win over Denmark ended with Danish fans chanting ‘Messi! Messi!’.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 15 June, 2012 15
Ministry of Health to produce doctors with a sense of devotion

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—To be able to keep abreast of the international community in the health cares and medicine, it is necessary to produce highly qualified human resources in health sector, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said. He added that the Medical Science Department has been producing those with a sense of devotion after adopting plans and work programmes as required by the State for producing human resources in health sector with the extended opening of new universities, applying modern technology. In doing so, post-graduation training courses have been introduced since 1964 with the aim of training and turning out medical professionals of international level, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at post-graduation medical studies seminar being held at the Ministry of Health this morning.

The Union minister stressed the needs for those concerned to devote much more attention to producing the well-qualified post-graduate physicians of various subjects, for only the Ministry of Health has to widely engage in choosing candidates, giving training and systematic scrutinizing and conferring degrees. Only then will it be able to produce highly qualified physicians.

Today the President himself called those responsible to train and nurture doctors not only to merely obtain degrees but also to be qualified in their studies and equipped with a sense of devotion, said the union minister.

In conclusion, the Union minister called on introducing curriculums, teaching programmes and assessing systems which are in accord with the changing health cares of the State and the changing medicine of the world. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, directors-general, rectors and officials, training chairmen of universities of medicine and related training courses and invited guests.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (14-6-2012)

Myitkyina (9.65) inches
Moguang (7.13) inches
Sittway (4.37) inches
Thandwe (3.98) inches
Taungup (3.78) inches
An (3.55) inches