Pyuchaung Hydropower Project to generate 120 million kwh/Year

NAV PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min yesterday afternoon inspected fixing of Spiral Casing at Unit 1 and Unit 2, installation of penstock steel pipeline at the exit of power intake tunnel, completion of concrete works at the tunnel, construction of sluice gate and land preparations for construction of the switch yard at Pyuchaung Hydropower Project being implemented by Construction 3 of Hydropower Implementation Department on Pyu Creek, seven miles southwest of Pyu in Bago Region.

The Union minister stressed the need for officials to strive for timely completion of the project and supervise worksite safety and then viewed progress of main embankment construction tasks.

The main embankment of the project is being built by platoon commander Daw Cho Win Mon, Sgty Thida Aye, Sgty San Mya Thida and Private Thet Hnin Wai, K 20,000; Daw Tin Tin Ei (Bayinnaung), K 30,000; Warrant Officer Class 1 U Kyaw Tun Wai (Red) and wife Daw Htay Htay, K 15,000; Sgt Zaw Win Maung and wife Daw Cynthia Khin Soe, K 11,000; Ma Su Hlaing Phyo, Ma Thawba San and Maung Hnin Lin, K 11,000, one bale of cloth and one bale of slipper; Ma Khin Su Su San and Maung Phyo Pyae Sone, K 11,000, two bales of cloth and one bale of handbag; U Aung Kyaw Min and Daw Myo Mee Tham, K 3000; Ko Zarni Win Naing and wife Ma Thi Thin Naing, one bale of cloth; U Hlaing Moe and wife Daw Saw Le Le, K 20,000; U Thit and wife Daw Htay Yi, K 3000; UKhin Soe and Daw Than Myint and U Zaw and Daw Than Than Oo, K 11,000; U Tun Tun Oo of Myanmar Regin Company, K 10,000; UKyi Nyein (Hydro-power-Nay Pyi Taw), K 0.2 million; and UKi Hin and wife Daw Kyin Yoe, two bales of cloth and one bale of school uniform. FSD Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials accepted the donations and the deputy director-general spoke words of thanks.

Donation amounted to K 158,035,676 to date.—MNA

Cash and kind donated to local people in Rakhine State

YANGON, 23 June—Cash and kind were donated to local people in Rakhine State who lost their property and possessions in a series of recent events in the state at the donation ceremony held at the hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Chairman of Supreme Group of Companies Dr Sein Myint and wife Daw Mayt Thanda donated K 1 million; Col Tin Shein (Retd) and wife Daw Aye Mon Shein, K 0.5 million; Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organiza- tion and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, K 0.3 million; sisters of Maekha-Maekha Khaung Kon, K 0.25 million; Ma Win Nwenni Cho and sister Ma Thae El Phyu (Yangon), K 0.125 million; U Tin Tun Khaiing and wife Daw Moe Soe, and Ko Zaw Min Aung and wife Daw Moe Moe, 63 dozens of exercise booksworth K 0.1 million; Lt-Col Aung Htoo and wife Daw Tin Win Phyo, K 0.1 million; Lt-Col Aung Din (Retd) and wife Daw Yin Min Tun, K 0.1 million; Lt-Col Mann Shwe (Retd) and wife Daw Wah Wah Aung, K 0.1 million; U Thet Khaiing and wife Daw Cho Cho Win, K 0.1 million; U Sit Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Ye Myint, K 0.1 million; U Hla Win Shein (Kawhmu Township), K 0.1 million; Daw Pu Sein (west Kyaunggon, Shwepyitha), K 0.1 million; the abbot of Maha Bodhi Monastery in Mogauing street in Yankin Township, K 0.1 million; family of late Major Pyae Phyo Myo, K 50,000; Col Khaiing Soe and wife Daw Yi Yi Myint, K 50,000; Major Zaw Myint Aung (Red) and wife Daw Nyo Mi San, K 50,000; Ko Chit Ye and Ko Thein Than Toe, K 50,000; Ko Aung Aung and wife Ma Nwe Ni Wai, K 30,000; U Win Noe and wife Daw Than Than Hnin, K 20,000 and one bale of cloth; deputy director Daw Aye Aye Soe of Education Ministry, two bales of cloth; deputy fire brigade head of admin division of FSD (Head Office) Daw Zin Nwe Soe; Colonel Tin Shein (Retd) and wife Daw Aye Mon Shein, K 0.5 million, Yangon Region Welfare Supervisory and Maternal and Child Women’s Affairs Organization.

The donations mainly consisted of foodstuffs donated by wellwishers for local people in Rakhine State.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the power station by Ministry of Electric Power No. 1. On completion, two 20-megawatt generators will generate 120 million kilowatt hours per year. The project would be completed in 2013.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

(23-6-2012)

Hhami (9.06) inches
Kyauktaw (4.65) inches
Maungtaw (3.62) inches
Myitkyina (2.68) inches
Shwegyin (2.13) inches
Paletwa (1.85) inches
Tougoo (Airport) (1.85) inches
PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 June, 2012

Maximum results

Mostly, the national budget cannot be an adequate single financial force for the developing countries in their missions for multiple sectoral progresses covering the national development goals and the UN Millennium Development Goals. Naturally, they need international aid, loans and technological assistance.

In consequence, our government in office formed the Central Committee for Management of Foreign Aids, the Work Committee and the National Economic and Social Advisory Council for the effective management of any financial or material assistance we receive from international community while learning the international experiences in facilitating the work.

Normally, benefactor states or organizations have their own specific programmes, interests and focusing areas, and the receiving countries on their part too have their own special, pressing and normal issues for the effective implementation of their development plans and reform strategies.

So we need comprehensive and integrated plans in carefully and wisely spending the financial resources we receive from the government budget allotments, international aids and domestic and foreign investments as effective as we can. A large chunk of government budget allotments and aids should be saved for far-flung areas where the private sector has less interest in making investments as the profit prospects are low while using most of the local and foreign investments in regions which are economic for private companies.

In taking loans from abroad we must take into account the interest rate, other terms and conditions and our promising areas and projects and priority concerns. We need considerable investments in infrastructure projects including education, health, electricity, communications, roads, bridges and ports as they serve the long-term interest of the State and the people.

As the current year sees the government launching the second phase of reform strategy at top gear, all levels at government bodies must do their best in managing financial and material resources though wider bottom-up approach to get maximum results in every sector.

Union H&T Minister stresses better services and quality products

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—As Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services (Restaurant Branch) earns the largest amount of income for the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, those in charge of the branch are to draw better plans with reforms for earning more income, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan in the meeting with those in charge from Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services (Restaurant Branch) (Nay Pyi Taw Head Office), Upper Myanmar branch and Lower Myanmar branch and six top sales branches at the ministry, here, this morning.

After that, the Union Minister stressed the need to try hard for providing better services with quality products, and the customers, practise thrifty not to cost unacceptable expenses and make field trip to the grassroots level for knowing capability of each staff in the worksite.

The attendees reported on plans to earn increased incomes.

Later, Managing Director of MHTS U Hla Htay and Deputy Minister U Htay Aung gave supplementary reports. —MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends tree-planting ceremony

YANGON, 23 June—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe yesterday morning attended a monsoon tree-planting ceremony held near Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon.

At the ceremony, he presented saplings to those present from the departments, Bago Region Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, to plant them at designated places.—MNA

Walk and race contests mark International Olympic Day 2012

YANGON, 23 June—The mass walk activity to mark the 2012 International Olympic Day was held in front of the Ministry of Sports in Kyaukcausans Grounds of Tamway Township this morning.

Vice-President of Yangon Track & Field Federation U San Tun launched the mass walk activity, and the athletes led by Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu walked round the Kyaukcausans Grounds.

Next, the deputy minister launched the 15-km men’s and women’s race. After that, the deputy minister presented prizes to the men’s open event, member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Sway Myint, prizes to winners in the women’s open event, General Secretary of MOC Director-General U Thaung Htike of SPED, winners in the men’s U-20 event, MOC member MWSF executive Prof Dr Daw Khin May Ohn winners in the women’s U-20 event, Vice-President U San Tun, winners in the men’s U-18 event and MOC member MWSF executive Dr Daw Pandora Aung Gyi winners in the women’s U-18 event.

The deputy minister and party enjoyed the International Olympic Day commemorative volleyball tournament at Aung San Gymnastum and Judo contest at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road.

Dy Education Minister visits Yangon University, Dagon University

YANGON, 23 June—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe this morning met Rector Dr Tin Nyein, pro-rectors and faculty members of Yangon University this morning and gave instructions on upgrading of education standard, uplift of faculty members’ proficiency and promotion of education to cooperate with international community.

The deputy minister viewed renovation of Convocation of Yangon University.

At Dagon University, the deputy minister met Rector in-charge Dr Hla Htay, pro-rectors, officials and sports subcommittees. Then he inspected construction of multi-functioned gymnasium, the gymnasium, university football ground and gym.

After that, he met trainees of GIS training course at Centre for Geospatial Technology of Geography Department. —MNA

Tree growing ceremony hails Myanmar Women’s Day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—In commemoration of the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, Mon State Women’s Affairs Organization held the tree growing ceremony at Paryiath Dhaama Beikyen in Myeikyan Ward of Mawlamyine this morning.

Present on the occasion were the Speaker of Mon State Hlutaw, the Chief Justice of Mon State High Court and wife, state ministers and wives, the state advocate-general, the state auditor-general, the state, district and township level departmental officials and wives, Chairperson of Mon State Women’s Affairs Organization Daw San San Lwin and members, chairpersons of Mawlamyine District and Township WAOs and members, members of social organizations, trainees of nursing training school and Education College and guests totalling 673.

The Speaker of State Hlutaw and those present grew 550 saplings of shade and flowery plants.—MNA

Hockey matches hail International Olympic Day 2012

YANGON, 23 June—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, the 2012 International Olympic Day sports activity was launched at MHHF, here, this morning.

The activity, three student hockey teams from North Okkalapa, Thakaya and Mingala Taungnyunt townships which attended the summer basic hockey course 2012 MHF, here, this morning.

After that, the Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu walked round the Kyaukcausans Grounds.

The deputy director-generals of SPED awarded the winners in the weightlifting contest. Later, he watched water polo contest at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road and presented prizes to the winners.

The attendees reported on plans to earn increased incomes.

After that, he also watched water polo contest at the national swimming pool, the Champion Challenge Cup Tournament (bodybuilding) 2012 and IOD commemorative body-building and physical culture contest at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township.

The deputy directors-general of SPED awarded the winners in the weightlifting contest. Later, the deputy minister met party enjoyed IOD commemorative sailing contest at Myanmar Sailing Federation.—MNA

Photo shows three student hockey teams from North Okkalapa, Thakaya and Mingala Taungnyunt townships.—NLM
Pakistan’s newly elected PM, cabinet take oath

ISLAMABAD, 23 June—Pakistan’s newly elected Prime Minister Raza Pervaiz Ashraf took oath of his office in Islamabad on Friday night. President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath-taking ceremony which was attended by former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, chairman of the Senate, speaker of the National Assembly, senior political leaders, military and civilian officials, members of the parliament’s dignitaries and journalists. Ashraf replaced Yousuf Raza Gilani who was disqualified by the Supreme Court on Tuesday over contumacy of court to become the 25th prime minister of the country. The president also administered the oath to federal ministers and ministers, who had been members of Gilani cabinet.

President Zardari congratulated the newly elected prime minister over his election and said his election reflects continuation of democratic process in the country. He also praised the National Assembly for smoothly running the house during the election process. He hoped that the new prime minister would focus on solution to the energy running the house during the election process. He hoped that praised speaker of the National Assembly for smoothly continuation of democratic process in the country. He also who had been members of Gilani cabinet.

Also administered the oath to federal ministers and ministers, leaders, military and civilian officials, members of the Senate, speaker of the National Assembly, senior political leaders, military and civilian officials, members of the parliament’s dignitaries and journalists.

US looks forward to working with Pakistan’s new PM to restore ties

WASHINGTON, 23 June—The US government said on Friday it looks forward to working with Pakistan’s newly-elected prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf to bring the strained US-Pakistan relations back on track. “We remain pleased that the leadership issue appears to have been settled,” State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters at a news briefing. “We obviously look forward to working with the new prime minister and hope that this will open space to continue to roll up our sleeves and get back on track with all of the things that we want to do with Pakistan,” she added. Ashraf took oath of his office in Islamabad Friday night at a ceremony administered by President Asif Ali Zardari, to replace Yousuf Raza Gilani, who was disqualified by the Supreme Court on Tuesday over contempt of court. The US-Pakistan relations have been soured since May 2011, when the US led NATO forces in Pakistan to kill al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden, without noticing Islamabad in advance. The ties took a turn for the worse in late November last year, when a US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan launched an air strike on a Pakistan’s border post, killing 24 soldiers. Pakistan closed NATO’s land supply routes in retaliation and has been demanding for an apology from Washington for the incident. Past talks on reopening the routes have yielded no tangible results.
Prehistoric ‘giant wombats’ unearthed

BRISBANE, 23 June—

Australian paleontologists say they’ve unearthed a large group of prehistoric “giant wombat” skeletons that provide clues to the species’ extinction.

Remains of about 50 diprotodons, the largest marsupial that ever lived, were found in Queensland and are believed to be between 100,000 and 200,000 years old, researchers said.

“We were very excited when we realized the true scale of what we had found,” said Dr. John Hopwood, a paleontologist at the University of Queensland.

The group of diprotodons, which had been classified as Megalopara, was the largest known to date, he said.

Scientists believe the diprotodons lived in Australia about 30,000 years ago.

In a court filing Tuesday, Yahoo attorney Kevin Smith asked a San Francisco federal judge to push back certain deadlines in the case today,” Mazen, Yahoo’s president of engineering, said.

The extension would “facilitate settlement,” he wrote.

Yahoo declined to comment.

Internet

Most US readers unaware of e-books at libraries

NEW YORK, 23 June—

According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 26 percent of e-book borrowers said they had borrowed at least one e-book from their local library in the past year.

But only 12 percent of Americans 16 and older who read e-books had borrowed at least one from a library in the past year.

“Most important thing libraries can do is make sure e-books are accessible through the rest of the library system,” said Micah May, director of strategy at the New York Public Library.

Simon and Schuster, Macmillan and Hachette don’t lend new e-books through libraries, according to Library Journal.

Print readers expressed interest in e-books, though. “I wouldn’t mind borrowing e-books, 46 percent said they’d be at least somewhat likely to borrow a device pre-loaded with books, while 32 percent would be at least somewhat interested in loaning a device to a friend or download e-books,” the report said.

Those who borrow e-books are much heavier readers than those who don’t, averaging six more books than non-borrowers last year.

The lack of knowledge about libraries and e-books means many readers still buy, with library cards prefer to buy their e-books, while 46 percent said they prefer purchasing printed books.

The purchasing numbers lessen with those who borrow e-books: 33 percent of e-book borrowers prefer to buy e-books and 57 percent prefer to borrow them.

Reading is still important to many Americans. Fifty-eight percent of those 16 and older who read e-books, while 69 percent said the library was important to them.

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Sony to invest $997 million to boost output of CMOS sensors

Tokyo, 23 June—Sony Corp said on Friday it would spend 80 billion yen ($977 million) to boost production of image sensors as part of its strategy to boost income from digital imaging.

Sony, which posted a record net loss in the year to 31 March, said it will complete the investment by September 2013 at its CMOS image sensor plant in Nagasaki in southern Japan, with half of the output made for the company's own products.

With its television unit hampered by weak demand and intense competition from foreign rivals such as Samsung Electronics, the company is looking for ways to boost revenue and profits in other divisions.

Sony expects sales at its TV unit, which has lost more than $12 billion in nine years, to fall 11 percent to 17.5 billion yen this business year.

The company’s new president, Kazuo Hirai, in April said that Sony’s future lay in mobile devices such as the Xperia smartphone, gaming and digital imaging. He said the target for group sales of 8.5 trillion yen in two years, with an operating margin of more than 5 percent.

IKEA to enter India, invest 1.5 b euros in stores

Mumbai, 23 June—Swedish retailer IKEA, the world’s largest furnituremaker, said it is opening up in India, making a crucial step for the Indian government whose plans to liberalise foreign-invested real estate sales related to foreign investment have damaged market confidence.

The company, known for its huge stores selling flatpack furniture and accessories, said it would invest 1.5 billion euros to open 25 stores in Asia’s third-largest economy this financial year as part of its initial investment plans.

IKEA’s plans, announced by the Indian government after a meeting between the company’s CEO and India’s trade minister in Russia, could give a boost to the embattled government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, which wants to complete December to back down on plans to allow in foreign supermarket operators.

While the government removed foreign investment caps in single-brand retail in January, it imposed a condition that foreign retailers source 30 percent from local small and medium-sized enterprises, dampening the enthusiasm of retailers for the plan.

“We will be studying the order before deciding the next course of action,” Tata Motors spokesman Anshita Pillay said.

Shares in Tata Motors were flat in the afternoon, after having risen slightly following the ruling.

Health Tip: Does your child have a seasonal allergy?

It may be difficult to tell if your child’s sniffles are caused by the common cold or seasonal allergies. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers these telltale signs of seasonal allergies:

* Persistent red, watery eyes, sneezing and runny nose that last for weeks at a time, and seem to emerge at the same time each year.
* A tingling or itching feeling in the mouth or throat.
* A dry red rash in the skin creases, ankles or wrists.

If your child has the skin condition eczema, he or she is more likely to develop seasonal allergies. — Internet

Roche’s breast cancer drug extends survival in study

Zurich, 23 June—A late-stage study showed that women with an aggressive type of breast cancer lived significantly longer when treated with Roche’s new breast cancer drug Perjeta, the Swiss drugmaker said on Friday.

The phase III study found a combination treatment of the drugs Perjeta and Herceptin plus chemotherapy lengthened the amount of time disease worsening, compared to those just treated with Herceptin and chemotherapy. Perjeta, also known as pertuzumab, was inserted approval by US health regulators earlier this month.

Roche is hoping that it will become the standard treatment for women with a form of cancer known as HER-2 positive, which makes up about a quarter of all breast cancers and has no cure.
Endangered Sumatran rhino gives birth in Indonesia

Andalas, was himself the first father of the new born, in captivity in more than a century, boosting survival hopes for the species, say conservationists.

“Ratu gave birth to a male baby at 00:45 (1745 GMT) on Friday,” Indonesia’s National Forestry Ministry’s spokesman Masyud Masyud said.

“Ratu gave birth to a male baby on Saturday — only the fourth birth in captivity in more than a century,” he added. The US-based International Rhino Foundation executive director Susan Ellis said in a press release, published on Friday before the birth, that a veterinarian team would immediately harvest placental cells that can be used to generate stem cells. Stem cells have the potential to be useful for many purposes in the near future, including curing diseases and helping to reproduce, it said.

An Iraqi policeman secures an area in Baghdad in 2011. Attacks in Iraq killed at least 14 people and wounded dozens more on Friday, security and medical officials said, in the latest in a wave of violence across the country.

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Be healthy, be strong

These days when slim, skinny and thin models are in fashion, women especially young girls, watch TV advertisements and models walking the catwalk showing fashionable gowns and dresses, with awe and envy. They would be willing to pay their fortunes to be like them. They eat and try to lose weight. Some skip meals, feel dizzy and get gastric ulcers and all kinds of disorders. Some take slimming pills which are detrimental to health. However much they may advertise and say it is harmless, these pills are sure to contain chemicals which would suppress the appetite and go against nature. I read in a foreign newspaper some time ago, that a TV celebrity had to have a life-saving liver transplant after she nearly died from liver failure. She had taken diet pills to make her slim. At least a dozen other women had reported having health problems after taking these pills. Although they may be produced with herbs, they are adulterated with western synthetic chemicals which are harmful to the human body.

The new people especially young girls should think twice about taking these pills and eat nutritious food with a lot of fibre and also take vitamins that would make them grow healthy and strong. It is vital to have a balanced diet with the necessary proteins, carbohydrates and minerals. But because of modern day lifestyles most people rely on ready-made foods and do not get the required amount of nutrients and become weak and ill.

Luckily up to now, I have not suffered any major illnesses. It is I think due to the nutritious diet given to me by my parents when I was young. My father, a naval officer never drank alcohol. He just drank juice, milk, Ovaltine and Holiks, did exercise and walked a lot. He lived up to the ripe old age of eighty-eight. He would have lived even longer if he had not fallen down and broke his hip bone causing other complications.

Vitamins are essential. Lack of Vitamin A causes shortsightedness and dry skin. We should eat liver, drink milk, take cod-liver oil, eat vegetables and fruit. Lack of Vitamin B1 causes beri-beri and disorder of the nervous systems. Cereals, beans and meat are rich in Vitamin B1. Lack of B2 can slow and stunt growth. So to grow tall and strong we must eat cereals and dairy products. Vitamin C is essential to keep away scurvy and you can get this Vitamin from citrus fruits and fresh vegetables. Lacking in Vitamin D causes our bones to grow soft, so we should eat eggs and take milk and cod-liver oil.

Deficiency of Vitamin E causes weak muscles, so we much drink milk, eat cereals, vegetables and some fat. Calcium is also necessary for our bones and teeth. We can get this vitamin from milk and vegetables. Recently, Vitamin K was found to show promise in the treatment of Parkinson’s Disease, a condition characterized by lack of movement, tremor and muscle stiffness. Research shows that Vitamin K succeeded in undoing the effect of one of the genetic defects that leads to Parkinson’s Disease.

Millions of people do not eat enough fruits and vegetables, putting them at risk of cancer. Research shows that a diet based on plant foods such as wholegrains and pulses as well as fruit and vegetables can protect against a range of cancers. It confirmed that foods containing fibre reduce the risk of bowel cancer.

With this knowledge in mind the young will be able to eat nourishing food and grow up to be healthy, strong and studious citizens who will have the ability to serve our beloved Motherland.

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Thakayta Township designates crime free month

YANGON, 23 June—The crime free month from 18 June to 17 July in the area of Thakayta Township Police Force in Yangon East District was implemented at the office of Thakayta Township Fire Services Department on 18 June.

It was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Zaw Win Naing and guests.

ESSAY CONTEST: In commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, a painting and an essay contest were held at No 2 Basic Education High School on 17 June, Township Administrator U Thein Win and officials viewed participation of students in the essay contest.

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Uniforms provided to offspring of vendors in Letpadan

BAGO, 23 June—Letpadan Township of Thayawady District Development Affairs Committee of Bago Region held the ceremony to provide school uniforms and cash assistance to 41 students.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Thita, Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min Aung Aye Aye Aung, Executive Officer U Aye Win of Township Development Affairs Committee, microfinance service committee members, vendors and students.

Officers presented one set of uniforms worth K 123,000 in total amount to 41 students.

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Agricultural loans disbursed in Kyonpyaw Township

KYONPYAW, 23 June—Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank of Kyonpyaw Township in Pathein District disbursed loans for cultivation of monsoon crops for 2012 as of 15 June. A total of 46 farmers from Kansu Village have been disbursed with K 9.6 million for 193 acres of farmlands.

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Uniforms, cash assistance provided in Wakema

YANGON, 23 June—Wakema Township General Administration Department presented uniforms and staff members at Manaw Thukha Hall of the township on 15 June, with an address by Township Administrator U Soe Tun.

Next, the township administrator and Chairperson of Township Family Disciplinary Committee Daw Ohnma Ko Ko Hsi presented uniforms to staff and cash assistance to offspring of staff. The township GAD gave uniforms worth K 208,000 and cash assistance K 436,000.—Myanna Alin

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Winners awarded in cultural course

YANGON, 23 June—A ceremony to award the students who passed the Buddhism cultural course of Dagon Myothit (South) Township was held at Mahayadaw Nyaung Oo monastic education on Minyekhaungbon Road in Ward 56 of the township on 17 June.

Patron of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddan Narapati gave advice, Township Administrator U Myint Lwin supplicated on religious affairs.

In the ceremony, the Township Administrator and officials presented K 380,000 and certificates to the students.

San San Kyi
Union Sports Minister takes part in mass walk activity hailing International Olympic Day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—
It is about 65 years that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a member of International Olympic Committee so as to communicate with international sports organizations in sports sector since 1947. Being IOC member, Myanmar Olympic Committee holds sports activities every 23rd June on which IOC was established like other members.

To hail International Olympic Day, a mass walk activity and a circular cycling race, all of which were held in front of Myoma Market here this morning, participated by Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan.

After the Union Minister had watched starting of the circular cycling race, he lead the mass walk activity comprising members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, staff of the Ministry of Sports and respective ministries in Nay Pyi Taw, locals from Zabuthiri Township, sports men getting training in Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Camp, coaches and youths, totalling some 2500 participants.

Exercise books donated to village BEPSs in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 23 June—
Mohnyin Degree College donates exercise books to Basic Education Primary Schools of its surrounding areas yearly.

On 20 June, Principal of the degree college Dr Kyi Shwinn and faculty members donated exercise books to BEPSs in Ywathitong, Kantawgon and Htantabin villages. On behalf of the Township Education Officer, Headmistress Dr Watthan Myat Thin of Basic Education High School No 1 and school heads of BEPSs attended the donation ceremony.

At the ceremony, exercise books worth K 300,000 were presented to students of respective BEPSs. Since its establishment in 2003, Mohnyin Degree College has been donating exercise books to village BEPSs and this year’s donation was for the 10th time of its kind.

Chairman of National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoys cycling contest to mark International Olympic Day 2012 in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market.—MNA

Afterwards, the Union Minister enjoyed basketball round matches (second round) of Champion Challenge Cup, held at Nay Pyi Taw Pyimana (Punglaung) Gymnasium. He paid attention to progress of installation of target switches at the shooting training hall of the Sports Training Camp (Low e), where he enjoyed Wushu second-round matches (Samsou and Judo) matches of Champion Challenge Cup, being held at Wushu training hall and Jude training hall, and gave encouragement to weightlifters practising at Weightlifting training hall and youth’s performing aerobatics movements at Aerobatics training hall.

The Union Minister greeted in-charges of the sports training camp and coaches and managers of respective sports teams at the meeting hall of the camp, and he was among fun seekers watching Judo final matches at weight-classes at Judo sports training hall.

At the awarding ceremony, the Union Minister presented Men’s Championship shield to Kayin State Team (Men) and Women’s Championship one to Mon State Team (Women) and Men’s/Women’s Champion shield to Ayeyawady Region Team. The Union Minister had enjoyment from Tennis Tournament (Men/Women) of Champion Challenge Cup at the tennis court in Zabuthiri Sports Zone.

Nyaungshwe gets branch of Asia Green Development Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—
A ceremony to open Nyaungshwe branch of Asia Green Development Bank was held in front of the bank branch in Nyaungshwe of Shan State yesterday morning.

It was attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Shan State Minister for Finance and Revenue U Khin Thein Maung and Executive Director of Asia Green Development Bank U Ye Min Oo formally opened the bank branch and looked round there.

AGM HELD: Annual General Meeting of Shwayon Win Trading Cooperative Ltd for 2011-2012 fiscal year was held at Basic Education Primary School No 32 in Ponnagon Ward of Tanway Township on 16 June. Chairman of the cooperative U Khin Maung Yi explains formation of cooperative limited.—MYANMA ALIN

Those willing to attend the meeting are to enlist at UMYFCCI Office not later than 25 June.—MNA

Trafficked victims handed over to parents

TACHILEK, 23 June—
Eight Myanmar women who fell the victim of human trafficking and then kept under care of the Homes of the Social Welfare Department of Thailand were handed back to Myanmar at No 1 Friendship Bridge in Tachilek on 20 June.

Assistant Director U Lin Htan of Additional State Office of Social Welfare Department, Chairman of Tachilek District Women’s Affairs Organization Dr Htay Htay Win, Stt Officer U Thein Wai of Township Immigration and National Registration Department, IP Yin Yin Aye of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad and officials took back the victims.

Officials cordially met five women from Mongshu and three from Kunhing and gave cash assistance to them. Then, they were sent back to their parents.—MYANMA ALIN

Mohnyin Degree College Principal Dr Kyi Shwinn presents exercise books to students of Htantabin Basic Education Primary School.—NLM 001

CASH DONATED: In memory of Daw Khin Mar Oo, U Soe Win and family donated K 1 million to fund for construction of Nagayon Buddha Image in compound of Maubin Home for the Aged on 17 June. Chairman of the Construction Committee U Soe Win accepts cash donation. MYANMA ALIN

Myanmar-Hong Kong business meeting on 26 June

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—
Hong Kong businessmen led by Director Ms Tina Phan of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) holds industry-wise meeting in cooperation with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Rarkroyal Hotel on 26 June.

Those willing to attend the meeting are to enlist at UMYFCCI Office not later than 25 June.—MNA

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Union A & I Minister supplies staff with cash assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing attended the ceremony to present cash assistance to officers and staff of the ministry, who are serving in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, held at the ministry here this morning.

On the occasion, the Union Minister addressed, and Deputy Ministers for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw followed.

The Union Minister, the deputy ministers presented assistance—one set of uniform, one blanket and K 10000 for each of 2376 staff—through the respective directors-general of the departments.—MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects DHF preventive measures

YANGON, 23 June—Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint inspected preventive measures against dengue fever in Thanlaw Township this morning. The measure against the seasonal disease were also carried out in other townships in the region.

The mayor then inspected sanitation tasks in the towns of Yangon Region.

He also visited construction sites of Ngamoeik Bridge (Parami) and new market sheds.—MNA

Cash donated to people of Rakhine State

MANDALAY, 23 June—Chinese Yunnan Buddhist Temple donated cash for people who lost shelters and properties due to recent incidents in Rakhine State at Mandalay Region Fire Services Department at the corner of 29th Street and 81st Street yesterday evening. Present on the occasion were Region Planning and Economic Minister U Aung San, Director of No.1 Region/State Fire Services.

Winners in article and photo contests announced

YANGON, 23 June—Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation yesterday announced winners in article and photo contests hailing Myanmar Women’s Day that falls on 3 July.

Ma Aye Myat Myat (Aye Myat Myat-University of Foreign Languages) won first prize in the article contest while Aung Naing Win (SPED) stood first in the photo contest.

Winners are awarded at the Myanmar Women’s Day ceremony on 3 July. They are required to report to MWAFF in Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067-419174 and Fax: 067419179) not later than 28 June.—MNA

Agricultural loans disbursed to local farmers

HE LHONE THA, 23 June—Manager of Hlaingthaya Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Branch of Kayin State U Tun Tun Oo and staff disbursed K 231 500 000 to 58 farmers from Partikyaw Village-tract on 15 June. The bank disbursed K 0.00 per acre in 2012 rainy paddy cultivation.—Township MADB

Students in Kyaiklat get knowledge on traffic rules

KYAIKLAT, 23 June—As Pyapon District Traffic Police Corps IP Chit Sein gave talks on traffic rules. A similar talk was given at Kyaiklat BEHS No.2 in the afternoon.—District PRD

Drive carefully

Myanmar Women’s Day

3rd July

Rainy-season tree-planting ceremony held in Ministry of Transport

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—A ceremony to hold rainy-season tree-planting and put fingerlings by Ministry of Transport, took place at the front of the Ministry here this morning. At the ceremony, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Hwi Wai also planted a starflower plant in commemoration of the ceremony. And Deputy Minister U Win Shein and wife Daw Su Nyunt Oo also planted a Padak plant.

After that, the Union Minister enjoyed tree-growing of departmental heads and their wives, and staff. The Union Minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife, the departmental heads and staff put fingerlings into No.33 dam. The ministry has been planting saplings in Nay Pyi Taw since 2006 and a total of 13550 plants have been planted and 35,800 fingerlings, put so far. The Ministry planted 550 saplings this year.—MNA

U Aung Zan. Wellwishers may make donation at the donation acceptance centre of Mandalay Region government at the region fire services department.

The Buddhist temple chairman donated K 5 million for the sufferers through region minister

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Drive carefully

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 24 June, 2012 9
Crime reduction talks given in Pinlebu

PINLEBU, 23 June—At U Aung Myat Hall of Basic Education High School in Pinlebu Township, the talks on crime reduction, danger of narcotic drugs and traffic rules were given on 10 June morning.

After Township Administrator U San Lwin gave a speech, Township Judge U Min Shwe talked about crime reduction and Township Police Force Police Captain Myint Wai about prevention against narcotic drugs.

Later, Commander of Township Police Station IP Mya Thaung gave talks on traffic rules and prevention against trafficking in person.

Essay, painting and poster contest held at Yankin Education College

YANGON, 23 June—In commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, the essay, painting, cartoon and poster contests was held at Yankin Education College in Yankin Township of Yango East District on 15 June.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Htay Win and Staff Officer U Myint Aung of Township General Administration Department and township level departmental officials viewed participation of students in the contest.

Drug possessor seized in Hopin

HOPIN, 23 June—Drug Special Squad of Kachin State together with witnesses searched the hut near Thubyuchaug forest in Myayzeya Ward in Hopin Sub-Township of Myo Lwin on 9 June morning.

At the hut, Kyaw Myo Lwin, 38 of Seikon Ward in Hopin Sub-Township robbed Constable Thurein Tun with the use of 10 inches sword.

The policeman was injured at his right arm.

Although the authorities concerned urged Kyaw Myo Lwin to give up, the latter continued attacks. So, the leader of the squad shot his right knee. In the incident, powder like heroin weighing 0.5 gram, one pencillin bottle and 0.001 gram of expected heroin in one box and K 161,000.

Injured Constable Thurein Tun and Kyaw Myo Lwin were rushed to Hopin People’s Hospital. The authorities concerned took action against the offender.

Trials on Ca Cevix on 24 June

YANGON, 24 June—A talk on endoscopic surgical operations for Ca Cevix will be given at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon from 9 am to 11 am on 24 June.

OG specialists from Pacific Healthcare Singapore will give talks.

Those wishing to attend the talk may take out invitation cards from Room 203 of HBBC on the first floor at 365/367 Upper Block of Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township, free of charge.

Cash, books donated to village library in Ingapu Township

INGAPU, 23 June—A ceremony to donate cash and books to Shwe Myintmo Library was held in Nyaungon Village of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District on 10 June afternoon.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htaw Moe Han made a speech. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Htaw Win and Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Win Shein gave talks on durability of the library and increase of books.

Next, wellwisher U San Myat and family of Shwe Myintmo Robe House donated 700,000 and Dr Kyaw Shwe and family of Hinthada 200 copies of books.

Streets trees grown in village of Thanatpin Township

THANATPIN, 23 June—The tree growing ceremony was held in Phayegyi Village of Thanatpin Township of Bago Region on 6 June.

The ceremony was participated by Senior Forester U Thein Shwe of the Township Forest Department, village-tract administrator U Aung Ko Latt and local people, Headmistress Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Basic Education Post-Primary School and students. They planted 600 Eucalyptus plants for establishment of one-acre forest per acre.

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STUDENTS HONOURED: A ceremony to honour outstanding students in 2011-2012 academic year was held at North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital on 19 June. Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Win Kyaw presents prize to three-distinction winner Ma May Pwint Phu Thowe, daughter matron Daw Khin May Win.—KYEMON
Kenya wildlife agency decries death of lions due to human wildlife conflict

NAIROBI, 23 June—The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) on Friday decried the loss of two lions to both poachers and incidences of human wildlife conflict. KWS Assistant Director Paul Mbugua told journalists in Nairobi that the estimated population of lions in the country stands at 2000 with 30 of them at the Nairobi National Park. “KWS is concerned that rapid population growth has seen humans encroach on wildlife migratory paths leading to loss of wildlife, including lions,” Mbugua told journalists in Nairobi.

According to the wildlife agency, the country has lost nine lions, six alone in the past week and four elephants since January due to conflicts with people. Data from KWS also indicates that total wildlife mortality resulting from human wildlife conflict since January is 50, including 26 primates. Mbugua noted that areas that were once inhabited by wildlife have now been occupied by humans leading to increasing conflict. “Since the beginning of the year, 18 people have lost their lives as a result of human wildlife conflict, while another 65 have suffered injuries,” the assistant director said.

On Tuesday, angry residents at a local village in the outskirts of Nairobi speared to death a total of six lions. The wildlife body is yet to arrest any suspects but said it has launched investigations to ascertain the cause of the deaths and also dispatched rangers and a veterinary capture teams to search for the lions who escaped during the incident. Mbugua noted that some communities are still engaging in the age old practice of killing lions in order to show their prowess but it results in loss of precious resource for the country.—Xinhua

Death toll of Taleban attack on hotel in Kabul rises to 23: Afghan gov’t

KABUL, 23 June—The death toll of a Taleban attack on a hotel in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul has risen to 23, the Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement on Friday evening.

“The terrorist attack on Spozhmai Hotel in Qargha Lake has left 18 people including 17 civilians and a policeman dead,” the ministry said in a statement. The clash, according to the statement, began at 11:00 pm local time on Thursday when the attackers occupied the hotel building, overlooking the lake, some 10 km west of Kabul, and was at over 10:30 am on Friday.

“The five suicide attackers opened indiscriminate gunfire on guests and hotel servants shortly after occupying the building besides holding several civilian hostages,” the statement said, adding that five more people including four civilians and a policeman were injured in the incident.

Meantime, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Interior Minister Basemilah Mohammad and the top US and NATO commander in the country General John R. Allen have strongly condemned the attack.

General Allen blamed the Haqqani network for the attack. A Taleban-affiliated group of fighters, the Haqqani network, which mostly operates in eastern Afghanistan provinces and capital Kabul, has been responsible for many high-profile attacks including suicide bombings and improvised Explosive Device (IED) against security forces. Taleban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group announced that it would launch a spring rebel offensive dubbed “Al- Farooq” from May this year against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Russia rejects artificial timetable for Iranian nuclear talks

ST PETERSBURG, 23 June—No artificial timetable to solve the Iranian nuclear issue should be set, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday. “It seems the process is underway. The talks should not be protracted, but it is wrong to set some artificial deadlines and ultimatums saying like ‘unless by July or August the final agreement is reached’” — which is definitely impossible in such terms, “we shall cut the negotiations and start some belligerent actions,” Lavrov told Russia-24 TV channel. He said that threats to use force against Iran were not helping the situation, adding that the Moscow talks between Iran and the six world powers on 18-19 June were useful. “There were no agreements reached on the essence of the Iranian nuclear problem, but the meeting, from our point of view, was quite useful,” Lavrov said. During the Moscow talks, Iran and the P5+1 group, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, thoroughly exch-anged their views and agreed to meet again in Istanbul at July as the expert level. The Western countries suspect that Iran is developing nuclear bombs under the cover of its nuclear programme, while Iran insists on the programme’s peaceful nature.—Xinhua

A dog owner guides her dog onstage during the 24th annual World’s Ugliest Dog Contest at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma, California, on 22 June, 2012. —REUTERS

A woman prepares to export butterfly pupae in a hatchery in Calli on 31 June, 2012. Alas de Colombia is a company dedicated to the breeding, conservation and export of native butterflies which are used for gifts and, when they die naturally, are also used to create accessories and crafts.—REUTERS

Russian cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield and NASA astronaut Thomas Marshburn. The new crew members will join the current crew, which includes Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield and NASA astronaut Joseph Acaba, who have been in orbit since mid-May.—Xinhua

Participants take part during a rehearsal for the Chinese Queen beauty pageant contest in Panama City on 22 June, 2012. Nine participants will compete in Panama’s annual Chinese Queen contest on Saturday, and the winner will represent Panama in this year’s Central American Chinese Queen beauty pageant contest held in Guatemala, according to the organizers.—REUTERS

Yemeni security forces detain local al-Qaeda leader

ADEN, 23 June—A local leader of Yemen-based al-Qaeda branch was arrested by soldiers of Yemeni security apparatus on the outskirts of southern port city of Aden, a police officer said on Friday. Security soldiers managed to capture a leading member of the al-Qaeda terrorist group suspected of links to a suicide bombing attack that killed a high-ranking military commander earlier this week in Aden, the local police officer told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. “Sami Dhyyan, the captured al-Qaeda leader, was behind assassinating Major General Salim Qatan, the commander of military forces in southern Yemen.”—Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TAMPA VOY NO(451)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPA VOY NO (451) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:00 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SLOWEST GREENLAND SHARKS HUNTS SLEEPING PREY

LONDON, 23 June — Researchers have measured the swimming speed of the ocean’s slowest shark. Data-logging tags revealed that Greenland sharks “cruise” at 0.34m per second — less than 1mph.

The study showed that, even when the languardfish embarks on a burst of speed in order to hunt, it is far too slow to catch a swimming seal. Since the species is known to eat seals, the scientists think it probably hunts sleeping prey.

The shark species was already known to be the world’s slowest swimming shark, but its sluggishness surprised the scientists.

Yuuki Watanabe from the National Institute of Polar Research in Tokyo, who took part in the study, said, that, when you account for the size of its body, the Greenland shark is the slowest fish in the ocean.

One NATO soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 June—One NATO soldier was killed on Friday following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed.

“An International Security Assistance Force service member died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today,” the NATO-led ISAF said in a press release issued on Friday. The brief statement did not provide more details and the nationality of the victim, only saying “it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.”

The Taliban insurgents, who have been waging more than a decade-long insurgency, announced on 2 May that they would launch a spring offensive starting on 3 May to target Afghan forces as well as US and NATO troops across the country. A total of 208 NATO soldiers with the majority of them Americans have been killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

RISING SEA LEVELS TO HIT CALIFORNIA HARD BY 2100

Washington, 23 June—Seas could rise higher along the California coastline this century than in other places in the world, increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage, dune erosion and wetland destruction, the US National Research Council reported on Friday. Rising sea levels have long been seen as a consequence of climate change, because as the world warms, glaciers melt and contribute water to the Earth’s oceans. At the same time, ocean waters tend to expand as they heat, pushing sea levels higher.

The report looked at how much seas could rise by 2100 along the US West Coast, and found that the water off California’s coast could rise between 16.5 inches and 66 inches by century’s end, compared to what they were in 2000. The high end of the range is higher than the projection for the global rise in sea levels, which runs from about 20 inches to 55 inches, scientists said in the report.

That global range is higher than predictions made in 2007 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: between 7 inches and 23 inches, with an additional 6.7 inches if rapid ice change in the polar region is involved in the calculation.

CHANGI AIRPORTS INK JV FOR FOUR RUSSIAN AIRPORTS

SINGAPORE, 23 June—Singapore’s Changi Airport International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore Airports Group, announced on Friday a joint venture agreement for a 30 percent stake in a company in developing four airports in Russia.

The other two shareholders of the JV are Russian giant Basia Element Group and Russia’s largest bank Sberbank, with respective stakes of 50 percent and 20 percent.

The JV will invest in and further develop four airports in Russia, including airports of Sochi, Krasnodar, Anapa and Gelendzhik, which have the joint value over 500 million US dollars, according to the joint press release. Changi Airport International has long been involved in investments of various airports throughout the world and consulting services to foreign airports.

A tank is seen during a media day of the live-fire drill in Pocheon, northeast of Seoul, on 19 June, 2012. South Korea and the United States launched combined maritime maneuver drills on Saturday in the Yellow Sea with the participation of the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington. According to Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), the three-day exercises mobilized about 10 warships and submarines. Apart from the carrier George Washington, South Korea’s King Sejong destroyer also took part in the drills.

The drills, taking place near a South Korean island off the west coast town of Taean in the Yellow Sea, also involved some 8,000 personnel from the two allies’ navies and airforces, along with South Korea’s F-15K fighter jets and the US F-18 Super Hornet aircraft. The intention of the exercises is to boost the operability of the combined forces between the two allies, the JCS said. According to the plan, the two sides will conduct maneuvers to jointly detect. The exercises came as a follow-up of a two-day, bilateral naval drill with Japan in waters off South Korea’s southern island of Jeju which just ended on Friday.

Also on Friday, the two allies held their largest-ever live-fire drill in Pocheon. The series of military drills came amid persistent tensions on the peninsula in a cover for a long-range missile test and drew condemnation from the UN Security Council.

Air Force announced on Thursday plans to shed more than 5,000 jobs, about 10 percent of its workforce, by 2014. The struggling Franco-Dutch airline, which posted an €890 million loss in 2011, said all departures would be voluntary. — Internet

Air Force to axe 5,000 jobs by 2014

"Air France has chosen to work in complete transparency and to privilege social dialogue to find structural and sustainable solutions, included in corporate agreements," it said. If new framework agreements are signed by staff then “Air France has pledged not to make redundancies and to implement various measures to support the necessary reduction in staff numbers,” it said.

The struggling Franco-Dutch carrier Air France-KLM has launched a major cost-saving programme after posting a loss of €890 million euros ($1.0 billion) for 2011 and a first quarter net loss in 2012 of 368 million euros. Shares in Air France-KLM shot up by 6.0 percent after the job cuts announcement.

The company said that the new framework agreement is “a major component of the company’s recovery” and the carrier needs to increase economic efficiency by 20 percent by the end of 2014. Air France said the Central Works Council would have draft agreements for signing by unions on 28 June.

"If the agreements are signed, the accompanying measures to reduce staff numbers will exclude the use of forced departures before the end of 2013,“ Air France said. The efficacy of the plan will be evaluated in the second half of 2013 and if the 20 percent improvement is achieved “the use of forced departures will also be avoided in 2014,” the company said.

"All aircraft will be fitted with the new framework agreement," the company added.

One of the new agreements came into force on 2 July. It covered the airline's long-haul flights and covered 60,000 staff in France.

Air France announced on Thursday plans to shed more than 5,000 jobs, about 10 percent of its workforce, by 2014. A total of 5,122 jobs will be shed and the struggling carrier said in a statement that all departures would be voluntary provided a new framework agreement can be signed with unions.

The study showed that, even when the languardishark embarks on a burst of speed in order to hunt, it is far too slow to catch a swimming seal. Since the species is known to eat seals, the scientists think it probably hunts sleeping prey.
Thief repeatedly targets Reese’s cups
Police in Ohio said they are searching for a man who stole $400 to $600 worth of Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups and chips from a gas station over several months. Lorain police said the man has been coming to the Sunoco gas station on Oberlin Avenue during the past several months, usually after midnight, and running off with the candy and chips before clerks can contact police, the Lorain Morning Journal reported.

The most recent incident took place at 1 am, on 20, June police said. The suspect was described as a black man, estimated to be 18 years old, standing at 5 feet, 10 inches and weighing about 140 pounds.

Zoo apes get stimulation from iPad apps
Officials at the Houston Zoo said the “Apps for Apes” program, which provides apes with iPad apps designed for children, helps mentally stimulate the primates.

Zookeeper John C. said the facility is the first in Texas to participate in the “Apps for Apes” programme, which was developed by New York primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall.

The programme helps to stimulate the primates mentally in the absence of wild conditions, the Houston Chronicle reported.

“Chimps and orangutans and other apes are very intelligent,” chimpenhouse director Helen Boepple said. “In the wild, the problems they must solve are finding food and shelter. They don’t have to do that at the zoo. This is enrichment. It helps them use their minds.”

Zoo spokesman Brian Hill said zookeepers have noticed similar reactions in apes and human children when they solve the puzzles on the iPad apps. “You see the same reaction on their faces when they solve a problem and get something right,” he said.

An Ohio robber stole $400 to $600 of Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups and chips from a gas station.

Lily Allen recording new album
LONDON, 23 June—British pop singer Lily Allen announced via Twitter she is working on a new album.

This will be her first new music since her second album, “It’s Not Me, It’s You,” which was produced by Greg Kurstin, was released in 2009, the BBC said.

The 27-year-old recording artist suffered a miscarriage in 2010 and celebrated the birth of her daughter in 2011.

“You will be pleased to

Man stuck upside down in tree
Firefighters in Alaska said they were called to rescue a man who was stuck dangling upside-down about 25 to 30 feet up. The Fairbanks Fire Department said the 53-year-old man, whose name was not released, climbed the tree on the old Ice Park side on Phillips Field Road for exercise because “it was something he wanted to do.” The Fairbanks Daily News Mirror reported Thursday.

The man said he used foot spikes and a belly belt to climb the tree and ended up stuck upside down when he leaned back to rest. The Fire Department rescued the man using as platform/ladder truck.

“He had a cellphone on a lanyard around his neck and called his buddy who called 911,” the Fire Department said in a news release. “It was suggested that when he does this in the future he not do it alone ... have a buddy with him. He picked up his gear once medics checked him and walked back to his car. Everyone then went home.”

‘Sherlock Holmes’ tops DVD sales chart
LOS ANGELES, 23 June—“Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows” is the top-selling DVD in the United States, Rentrak reported on Thursday.

Coming in at No.2 on the DVD and Blu-ray sales chart for the week ending on 17 June is “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance,” followed by “Safe House” at No.3, “Act of Valor” at No.4 and “John Carter” at No.5.

Rounding out the top tier are “Terry Perry’s Good Deeds” at No.6, “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island” at No.7, “True Blood: The Complete Fourth Season” at No.8, “Terry Perry’s Aunt Bam’s Place” at No.9 and “Game of Thrones: The Complete First Season” at No.10.

“Safe House” is the No.1 DVD and Blu-ray rental for the week ended on 16 June. “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance” is No.2, “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows” is No.3, “Man on a Ledge” is No.4, “This Means War” is No.5, “Act of Valor” is No.6, “John Carter” is No.7, “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island” is No.8, “The Grey” is No.9 and “Gone” is No.10.

‘Sesame Street’ movie in the works
LOS ANGELES, 23 June—20th Century Fox is developing a film based on the classic American children’s television series “Sesame Street,” The Hollywood Reporter said.

Joey Mazzarino, a longtime writer on the show, is writing the script, while Shawn Levy and his 21 Laps production company, Michael Aguilar, Mark Gordon and Film 360’s Guymon Casady are producing the picture.

The series premiered in 1969 and is a mix of live-action, animation and Jim Henson puppets such as Big Bird, Elmo, Oscar the Grouch, Cookie Monster and Bert and Ernie.

The entertainment industry trade newspaper did not say on which characters the new movie would focus or what the story might be.

American actor Robert Downey Jr, Swedish actress Noomi Rapace and British judge Lord Leach attend the premiere of “Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows” at Empire, Leicester Square in London on 8 Dec, 2011.

Internet

Nick Stahl’s wife ends search
LOS ANGELES, 23 June—Nick Stahl’s wife told TMZ on Thursday she has stopped looking for the Hollywood actor, who has been missing for more than a week after leaving rehab.

Rose Stahl reported the “Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines” and “In the Bedroom” star missing twice in the past two months.

The 32-year-old actor checked into rehab to be treated for drug addiction after going missing the first time but walked out of the facility last week against doctors’ orders and hasn’t contacted his loved ones since.

Rose Stahl told TMZ she is no longer actively trying to find her husband and bring him home. “I’m backing off,” she said. “He knows exactly where he is. It’s the lovely thing to do for him, myself and our daughter.”

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Germany thrashes Greece to reach Euro 2012 semis

Gdansk, 23 June — Germany showed their champion-level strength by sweeping past Greece 4-2 to reach Euro 2012 semifinals on Friday night. Philipp Lahm’s powerful strike, Sami Khedira’s volley, Miroslav Klose’s header and Marco Reus’ last shot inspired Germany to keep 100% record at this tournament and play either England or Italy in the battle in Warsaw on 28 June. “No matter whom we will meet, the next step for us is to go to the finals. We want to achieve it,” said German playmaker Mesut Ozil, who was voted as the man of the match.

Greece, who upset Russia to progress from Group A, failed to find their rhythm throughout this lop-sided match despite being boosted by Giorgos Samaras’ equalizer and Dimitris Salpingidis’ late penalty. Germany has refreshed their advantageous record against Greece by six wins and three draws, ignoring the passion of their fanatic supporters at the 39,150-capacity Gdansk Arena, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel also appeared in the stands. “The Chancellor showed her praises and congratulations to us,” added by Ozil.

Germany head coach Joachim Low made a bold selection by giving four changes to his starting lineup for the tournament opener. Jerome Boateng returned from suspension to his regular right back slot and Greece’s head coach Fernando Santos. The youngest squad at this tournament started solid and gave no chance to the opponents, dominating the game with a near 70% possession and 26 shots in total, which are three times of Greece.

The fullback Lahm showed his attacking talent with six minutes left in the first half. The German captain cut from left flank, rounded a defender and struck a swerving shot near the edge of the area to send the ball in the dead corner. Greece launched a counterattack 10 minutes into the second half when left winger Samaras ran onto a sharp pass to the near post and made a cool finish before a desperate save from Schuerrle and veteran Miroslav Klose all made their first tournament, Germany and Spain are favorites to win the title. Schuerrle and veteran Miroslav Klose all made their first

Semen Jacobson of Sweden eyes repeat at storm-hit PGA event

Connecticut. Jacobson of Sweden fired a four-under par 66 to seize a one-stroke lead in Friday’s storm-halted second round of the US PGA Travelers Championship.

Herman back on the right track at PHS

Wichita Open

WICHITA, 23 June—Jim Herman wasn’t happy with his performance at last week’s U.S. Open at The Olympic Club, finishing 36 holes at 10-over and missing the cut. So he came to Wichita for this week’s Nationwide Tour event determined to do something about it. His first 36 holes this week are anything but an indication, Herman is definitely on the right track.

He then holed 15- and 25-footer at the short par-4 11th hole, which gave him a two-stroke lead over Stanford product Joseph Bramlett, a runner-up earlier this year at the Chico Classic presented by PacifiC Rbtales, and veteran Robert Durman, the winner of the 2001 Verizon Byron Nelson Classic on the PGA TOUR and the 2008 Atlantis Regional Foundation Classic on the Nationwide Tour.

Herman’s stretch of four-under par is at the back nine started with a five-footed at the short par-4 11th after almost driving the green. He then holed 15- and 25- foot birdie putts and the next par-4 on the fairway to two-putting from 20 feet for birdie at the par-5 14th. His last birdie of the day came at the par-4 15th when he holed an eight-foot putt.

Herman’s two-day total this week was also just one stroke off Camilo Benedito’s best first 36 holes on the 2012 Nationwide Tour, recorded at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open. The Palm City, Fla. resident was a 36-hole co-leader earlier this year at the Stadion Classic at the University of Georgia tournament and eventually finished solo sixth in Athens. His only victory on the Nationwide Tour came at the 2010 Moonah Classic in Australia where he was the solo leader after the first two days.
Seven Czechs killed, 44 injured in Croatia bus crash

ZAGREB, 23 June — At least seven Czech tourists were killed and 44 injured in a bus crash on a major highway in Croatia on early Saturday, police said. The accident happened around 4 am some 200 kilometers (124 miles) south of Zagreb, on the highway connecting the Croatian capital with the central Adriatic coastal city of Split. According to Croatia's state TV said the bus crashed through the metal barriers in the middle of the highway and overturned in the opposite lane near a tunnel. The TV quoted eyewitnesses saying that the bus started "swaying" on the highway moments before it crashed through the barriers. Initial photos form the scene of the crash showed the twisted metal remains of the bus positioned on its side, with bodies covered with white sheets spread on the pavement. The TV said that among the killed is one child.

Most of the injured passengers were hospitalized at the nearby town of Gospić while three of the most seriously hurt, including two children, were flown to Zagreb by a helicopter. Gospić General Hospital doctor Marija Vrkčan Iljičevskata told the Croatian TV that those hospitalized there were not seriously injured, mostly having fractures of extremities and concussions. The highway was closed for traffic because of the crash. The cause of the accident was under investigation.

Remote Indian state becomes rock music hub

New Delhi, 23 June — In the far north-east of India, cut off from the rest of the country except via a narrow land bridge, perhaps the only way to make yourself heard is loud, really loud, rock music. For White Fire’s drummer Elangbam Kumar, that explains why their cover version of the Guns N’ Roses song “Welcome To The Jungle” has become an anthem for the band and a big hit with their fans in the remote state of Manipur.

The state, which is 1,000 miles (1,700 kilometres) from the capital New Delhi, has been divided among competing tribes and grinding poverty. The state, which is 1,000 miles (1,700 kilometres) from the capital New Delhi, has been divided among competing tribes and grinding poverty.

Serena Williams: Venus and I are not ready to retire

NEW YORK, 23 June — Former Wimbledon champion Serena Williams has hit back at suggestions that she and sister Venus could be ready to retire from tennis. After over a decade as the sport’s most dominant forces, both Serena and Venus head into Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, without a grand slam title between them since 2010.

The American sisters both in their 30s now and have never hidden their desire to pursue off-court interests in fashion and show business. That, combined with a decline in their performances, has led to a belief they could be ready to call it quits.

Venus, 32, has struggled to recover from Sjogren’s syndrome, an autoimmune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain, and the five-time Wimbledon champion will be unseeded at the All England Club for the first time since 1997 after dropping to 55th in the world rankings. Serena, 30, remains a powerful force, but she hasn’t won a grand slam since her fourth Wimbledon triumph in 2010 and her first round exit from the French Open against Virginia Razzano last month ranked as her worst ever result at a major.

Even so, Serena is adamant she and Venus love the sport too much to contemplate retirement. I have no intention of stopping and don’t think she (Venus) does either.—Internet

Tree growing ceremony held in Minbu

MINBU, 23 June — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar Women’s Day, Minbu Township held the tree growing ceremony near Minbu Station on 17 June morning. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Myint, Assistant Director U M Khaw Haung of District Forest Department, members of District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations and local people totaling about 540 planted saplings.—Township Forest

CASH DONATED: In commemoration of the birthday, U Aung Than Nyaw Thant Thar Aung donated 100,000 to the fund of Home for the Aged through Head of the Home U Maung Maung in Yedashesa recently.

Weather forecast for 24th June, 2012

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NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye this morning attended the ceremony to honour the teachers and the students who passed matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year from Basic Education High School No 18 and No 19 in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said that education in international community plays a crucial role for development of the State. An intelligent skills of human are very important in technology age, the government is giving encouragement to emergence of outstanding educated persons in all aspects, he said. The Union Minister stressed the need for the students for trying hard to achieve success in learning. As today’s youths are to discharge duties of the State in the future, they have to set precise and firm aims to become intellectuals, intelligentsia and leaders, he said.

Next, Union Minister Dr Mya Aye delivered an address.

After that, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing presented K 90,000 each and one wrist watch each to two four-district winning students in the matriculation examination.

The Deputy Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department and the township education officer presented cash awards to three two-district winning students and one distinction winning students.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing gave one set of Sky Net TV receiver each to Dekkhinathiri Township Education Office and No 19 BEHS. Union Minister Dr Mya Aye presented one sets of computer and copiers to BEHS No 18 and No 19.

Managing Director U Khin Maung Aye of KMA Co donated K 2 million, Managing Director U Tun Yin of Capital Diamond Star Group Co K 2 million and Marketing Manager U Kyaw Si of Myat Mon Yadana Co K 2 million to the education fund. Union Minister Dr Mya Aye accepted the cash donations.

Daw Khin Thant Sin, wife of Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, donated 83 sets of school uniforms to 35 teachers from BEHS No 18 and 48 teachers from BEHS No 19.

The Union ministers then cordially greeted parents, teachers and students.

Blood donors honoured at Kyaukse Hospital

KYAUKSE, 23 June—Kyaukse Township People’s Hospital of Mandalay Region honoured blood donors in commemoration of World Blood Donor Day at the hospital on 14 June. Medical Superintendent Dr Yin Thanda Lwin made a speech. Pathologist Dr Than Tun Aung explained function of the blood bank. Chairman of the hospital supervisory committee Deputy Commissioner of Kyaukse General Administration Department U Ohn Than presented a certificate of honour wellwisher Daw Thein Nyunt and family of Yanponhnit Village who donated air conditioner.

Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than, Townsvll Administrator U Khin Maung Than, Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Aye Aye Win and Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw San San Wai presented certificates of honour, T-shirts and brooches to blood donors. Later, blood donors donated blood at the national blood bank branch in Kyaukse.—Myanma Alin

Pakistan’s newly elected PM, cabinet take oath

PAKISTAN, 23 June—Pakistan’s newly elected Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and his cabinet took oath in the presense of President Asif Ali Zardari at the presidential palace here on Tuesday.

Federer’s eyes on Nadal, Djokovic at Wimbledon

LONDON, 23 June—Roger Federer insists he is still hungry enough for grand slam glory and will do whatever it takes to break Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal’s grip on the top prizes.

For years, Federer reigned supreme at Wimbledon, winning the grass-court grand slams six times, while also enjoying huge success at most of the other major events.

The Swiss star amassed a record 16 grand slam crowns and occupied the world number one ranking for a total of 385 weeks.

But those halcyon days must seem like a distant memory to the 30-year-old, who heads into Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, without a grand slam title to his name since the 2010 Australian Open.

That barren run includes successive Wimbledon quarter-finals by Novak Djokovic and Nadal.

“Such a Nadal and Djokovic’s stranglehold on the sport that they have made the last four grand slams final a private battle for supremacy. Having won so much in his illustrious career and with other priorities now — Federer is a father to young twin daughters — it has been suggested that his appetite for success has started to fade.

But Federer is adamant he is still willing to put in the hard work required to keep up, and ultimately defeat, Djokovic and Nadal. “My confidence is very good. I’ve won many tournaments, so many matches the last year or so that I feel perfect in this regard,” Federer said on the eve of his 14th Wimbledon appearance.—INTERNET

New records set at regions and states level in swimming event

YANGON, 23 June—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Swimming Federation, the 2012 International Olympic Day commemorative water polo and swimming contests were held at the National Swimming Pool in Dagon Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyaw, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee-Deputy General Manager of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htauik, General Secretary of Myanmar Swimming Federation U Myo Wunna Tun and executives, guests and spectators enjoyed competition of athletes.

In the first match of Water Polo Contest, Ministry of Defence (B) beat Ayeyawady Region. In the second match, Ministry of Defence (A) won over TNO Sports.

Among 28 swimming matches, athletes set two new records of the Regions and States old records.

In the men’s 200-m butterfly event, Thihua Aung broke the record 2 min 46.25 sec in 2010 of Win Tun Myat with new record 2 min 30.69 sec. In the women’s 200- butterfly event, old record 3 min 03.38 sec of Ei Ei Thet in 2010 was broken with new record 2 min 57.97 sec.—MNA

Over 400 saplings planted in TadaU Township

TADA U, 23 June—TadaU Township of Mandalay Region organized the rainy season tree growing ceremony near Paunghelegyi Lake of the township on 16 June morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Zaw Min and officials, Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Thu, Head of Township Forest Department U Win Htauik and staff, departmental personnel members of social organizations and local people grew 425 saplings of shade and flowery plants. Myanma Alin

Germany thrashe Greece to reach Euro 2012 semis

MESSE OEDER (R) of Germany vies with Koris Katsounis of Greece during the quarterfinal match between Germany and Greece at Euro 2012 in Gdansk, Poland, on 22 June. —PAGE 14

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