Friendlier relations with world countries intend to ensure betterment of people, promote trade and to make them understand Myanmar

NAY PII TAW, 2 May—The following is the translation of President U Thein Sein’s speech through radio programmes to the entire people the length and breadth of the nation.

Esteemed people,

I would like to explain Myanmar’s reforms during this April as I always give speech on our country’s current affairs through the radio.

The previous month, I paid goodwill visits to New Zealand, Australia and European countries. Paying goodwill visits to these countries is to further cement relations with international community as well as to make cooperation in all sectors needed for our country. Here, I would like to give a message that I could make coordination with these countries on cooperation in technology, environmental supply, and religious affairs.

During April, establishment of better relations with world countries was an important milestone. On 22 April, EU lifted all sanctions against Myanmar except for arms embargo. Myanmar soon would be able to solve the political, economic and social conflicts which are the consequences of international sanctions thereby promoting socio-economic status of Myanmar people. On 29 April, Lattended the summit held in Bangkok of Thailand and delivered a speech as to cooperation with UN ESCAP in regional economic and social affairs and unexpected natural disasters.

And I accepted UN ESCAP’s honorary prize there. Reengagement with international community can help Myanmar rejoin with the global economy. It would be beneficial to development of our country. On the other hand, we are to make preparations for world economic crisis and its unexpected impacts.

Remarkable thing during my goodwill visit to China is that I attended economic forum in Hainan Island. I would say this visit is a more memorable one for me because Hainan Island took a part in our country’s road to independence and was also the place where the thirty comrades came to learn the arts of war. We need to see the fact that we are sharing border with China, the world’s fastest-growing economic power, as a strong point and create opportunities for development of our country.

Myanmar has been focusing on economic development, poverty alleviation and improving socio-economic status, adopting related policies, objectives and projects. I would like to inform you that we have started electrification and low-cost housing projects out of those projects.

While our government is striving for better economic performance, we acknowledge that technology and human resources also known as the human capital are pivotal for sustainable development, especially the future generations take the main role in creation of competent human resources. As our government is undertaking education reforms, we have placed a special emphasis on production of all-round youths for State-building. Currently, we are rejuvenating the long-disappeared scouts in basic education schools. It is aimed to cultivate the democratic practice of coordination and teamwork in children since their tender age. By so doing, the younger generations will become duty-conscious, responsible and accountable leaders and citizens with magnanimity for the motherland.

I would also like to inform you that our government with the aim of ensuring national reconciliation has granted amnesty for a total of 93 inmates from prisons across the country, making them to reunion with their families.

This April 2013 marks a historic moment in Myanmar with certain success in politics, economy and international relations of the country and it also coincides with time-honoured New Year Water Festival. I in all seriousness would like to express my special thanks to all of you for I saw a traditional, love-drenched water festival with no discrimination against race or religion and any troubles, best representing the image of polite Myanmar society.

May you have a peace of mind and fit health.

Union Religious Affairs Minister meets Japanese guests

NAY PII TAW, 1 May—Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint held talks with members of Federation for Japan-Myanmar Friendship, Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Mr. Albert L. Cobetto and Ms Kaoru Watanabe, at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday afternoon. They discussed power supply for monastic education schools, medicine and treatments for rural health care, potable water supply, and religious affairs.

Delta Division of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport increased ferry charges from K 50 to K 100 as of 28 April.

An official at Pansodan jetty told Myanma Alinn news crew, “We’ve already informed the passengers about the increase of ferry charges to K 100 in advance. As from 28 April, one passenger will be charged K 100 and one-way ticket for a foreign passenger will cost 2 USD. The number of passengers today is at the low because today is day off.”

The ferries ply 46 routes a day between Pansodan jetty and Dalla jetty from 5.30 am to 9.30 pm.

Asked about the rise, an owner of a boat running the same route said, “We charge K 100 per passenger and K 1000 for hire. I can’t say further about the future rise.”

The Pansodan-Dalla ferries are now equipped with seats and TVs for passengers.

Pansodan ferry charges increased to K 100

Pansodan jetty of Yangon and Dalla seen in Yangon River.

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NAY PII TAW, 1 May—Over 300 representatives of Union Solidarity and Development Party at region and state level led by Head of Department of Party Headquarters U Tin Htay who attended the youth
Minbu (Saku) hosts over 100-year-old standing Buddha Image

**MINBU, 1 May—** A standing Buddha Image that is more than 100 years old and other ancient artifacts are being kept at Kyaukhmaw monastery in Ywathayar village of Minbu (Saku) Township in Magway Region.

Although there were 100 teak posts, four chambers and two brick staircases at Kyaukhmaw monastery, two chambers were damaged by the worst of the weather as time went by. Now a standing Buddha Image built in the time of the first presiding Sayadaw of the monastery is being kept there.

“The Buddha Image is nearly 150 years old. The Image with the posture of levitation was carved from hardwood. Records said it was the work of woodcarver Saya Cheint of Mandalay. The image glittered with ancient gold is five feet tall. The Image is being preserved as a cultural heritage up to date”, says the present presiding Sayadaw U Paññajota.

**Relief aids for fire victims in NyaungU Township**

**NYAUNGU, 1 May—** With formation of relief committees comprising local authorities and townsenders, relief supplies are being provided to 119 victims from 19 houses which were reduced to ashes in the fire in Yin Hsan village of NyaungU Township on 20 April.

A relief camp is being kept open in the compound of Hsutaungyae Dhammayon monastery of Mandalay Region. Hlutaw representative U Than Huy, the deputy commissioner of NyaungU District and the NyaungU Township administrator and wellwishers provided fire victims with foodstuff and clothing worth K3.4 million. Social organizations in NyaungU and other wellwishers also made cash and kind donations.

So far various kinds of personal goods, 200 bags of rice and K 10 million have been presented to fire victims.

**Seizure of stimulant tablets at checkpoint of Tachilek-Maesai Friendship Bridge**

**TACHILEK, 1 May—** Stimulant tablets were seized at the checkpoint of Tachilek-Maesai Friendship Bridge.

(1) Friendship Bridge in Tachilek of Shan State (East) while conducting a search of a motorbike driving from Tachilek to Maesai by police at about 9.30 am on 27 April.

Police discovered 11 stimulant tablets in the hat of Cha Laung who drove the motorbike and arrested him. Tachilek police station filed a lawsuit against him and investigation is ongoing.
Japan’s crown prince, princess attend coronation of new Dutch king

AMSTERDAM, 1 May — Japan’s Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako attended on Tuesday the coronation of the new Dutch king at a historic church with members of other royal families. Prince Willem-Alexander became the Netherlands’ first king in more than a century after his mother Queen Beatrix abdicated following 33 years on the throne. For the ceremony, the 49-year-old Japanese crown princess, who has been struggling with a stress-induced illness for a long time, made her first official overseas trip in 11 years.

In addition to government officials and key parliamentary figures, members of royal families from about 20 countries across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere were among those attending the ceremony at the Nieuwe Kerk, a Protestant church which has been the site for Dutch royal coronations

After the new Dutch king takes his vow at the Nieuwe Kerk, the royal families from across the globe were scheduled to pose for photos and then move to the Royal Palace nearby for a reception.

In Tokyo, Japan’s Imperial Household Agency said Emperor Akihito has sent a congratulatory telegram to the new Dutch king. Ahead of the coronation, Crown Prince Naruhito attended a banquet on Monday organized by the Dutch queen and his wife skipped the banquet to reduce her workload.

Moscow, 1 May — Japan and Russia should seek a “win-win” relationship, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Tuesday, intensifying efforts to promote Japanese technology and culture that he said would lead to further development in Russia. The two countries are “neighbours who would be “winners” in any relationship, the prime minister said.

Russia will deepen their economic relations particularly in those emerging economies.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said during his scheduled afternoon Press conference that he does not expect the controversy to affect Abe’s visit, although Turkish sports minister Suat Kilic was upset by Inose’s remarks.

Tokyo Gov Naoki Inose (2nd from R) attends a Japanese cuisine event at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow, Russia, on 30 April, 2013. — Kyodo News

Tokyo Gov Naoki Inose (2nd from R) attends a Japanese cuisine event at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow, Russia, on 30 April, 2013. — Kyodo News

Tokyo Governer Inose backtrack, apologizes for remarks on Istanbul

Tokyo, 1 May — Major Japanese companies’ earnings reports for fiscal 2012 indicated their earnings improved thanks to the yen’s downturn against other major currencies since late last year.

For 186 nonfinancial companies that are listed on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and have released earnings for the year to March, consolidated pretax profit rose 14.0 percent from the previous year to 5.62 trillion yen, the securities firm said.

Improvements were conspicuous for export-oriented companies benefiting from the yen’s depreciation, despite a sluggish European economy under the sovereign debt crisis and a Chinese boycott of Japanese products due to a bilateral territorial row, the firm said. Group pretax profit for export-oriented transportation equipment manufacturers scored a 51.4 percent jump from the previous year.

Japanese firms improve earnings on back of yen’s decline

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Electrical appliance manufacturers, which also depend heavily on exports, also saw their pretax profit increase 16.3 percent. Among domestic demand-backed companies, retailers including restaurant chains improved their earnings due to a rebound in private consumption.

But steelmakers posted a substantial profit decline due to rising resource prices. Power and gas utilities expanded their losses because of rising fuel import costs.

Kyodo News

Gunmen surround Libyan justice minister

Tripoli, 1 May — Gunmen in pick-up trucks surrounded Libya’s justice ministry on Tuesday to step up demands for former aides to be exonerated from being brought to court by Tripoli authorities.

The unrest prompted the General National Congress to postpone its next sitting, scheduled for Tuesday, to Sunday. A spokesman said this was due to give lawmakers time to consider legislation that protesters are calling for. “This is definitely an attempt to impose their agenda on the political process. It’s not massively out of character — we have seen this before — but it is definitely a worrying trend,” said a Western diplomat in Tripoli. The justice ministry was surrounded by gunmen occupying the roads outside the building with around 20 pickup trucks, including one with Grad missiles positioned at the gates.

A rival demonstration in support of the government was also planned in Martyrs Square on Tuesday afternoon. If passed, the law sought by protesters could force out several long-serving ministers as well as the congress leader, depending on the wording adopted.

Reuters

Members of armed revolutionaries stage a protest in front of the Libyan Justice Ministry in Tripoli on 30 April, 2013. — REUTERS

Japan starts state-led sales promotion in Russia

Japan starts state-led sales promotion in Russia

Kyodo News

Tokyo, 1 May — To- ky o Gov Naoki Inose apologized on Tuesday for remarks he admitted were “inappropriate” about ri- val 2020 Olympic bidder Istanbul during a recent interview with The New York Times, just a day after claiming his words were taken out of context by the newspaper. “I’d like to apologize for comments that were inappropriate,” said Inose, who also chairs the Tokyo bid committee. “I’m sorry what I said may have provoked any kind of misunderstanding among the Islamic community.”

“I’d have to admit I was naïve. We’d like to continue with our bidding, and we’ll respect the other bidders while we do it,” he told reporters. In-
**New Light of Myanmar**

**Science & Technology**

**Scientists present novel investigation of gravity effect on antimatter**

**Santa Barbara, 1 May—**Some of the most important scientific breakthroughs ever made by scientists including Einstein and Newton came about as the geniuses allowed their minds to wander, researchers say.

According to a new study by the University of California, Santa Barbara, doing simple tasks that allow us to daydream is key to solving trickier questions playing on our minds, scientists find.

They found that some of the most important discoveries made by scientists like Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton came about as the geniuses behind them allowed their minds to wander, the Telegraph reported.

The study showed that people who returned to a difficult task after taking a break and doing an easy task boosted their performance by around 40 percent.

However, there was little or no improvement for people who did another demanding task during the break, used it to restor did not have a break at all.

The results indicate that doing simple tasks that allow us to daydream is key to solving trickier questions playing on our minds, scientists find.

“Many influential scientists claim to have had their moments of inspiration while engaged in thoughts or activities not directly aimed at solving the problem they were trying to solve,” said lead author Benjamin Baird.

“This study demonstrated that taking a break involving an undemanding task improved performance on a classic creativity task far more than taking a break involving a demanding task resisting or taking no break,” he added.

**Daydreaming behind Einstein and Newton’s genius**

Einstein is believed to have begun his theory of relativity while he daydreamed about riding or running beside a sunbeam to the edge of the universe - after he was expelled from school for rebelling against rote learning.—*Reuters*

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**Sharp to post worse-than-forecast annual loss: sources**

**Tokyo, 1 May—**Sharp Corp, which supplies Apple Inc. with screens for its iPhone and iPad, will post a bigger-than-forecast net loss for the year that ended on 31 March in part because low output at its factories forced it to write off excess capacity, two sources with knowledge of the result said.

Japan’s leading maker of liquid crystal displays had a 500 billion yen ($5.1 billion) net loss for the year, worse than the 450 billion yen deficit it forecast in November, the sources said on condition that they not be identified.

Its operating profit for the second half of its business year was 20 billion yen, compared with the company’s forecast for 13.8 billion yen, the sources added.

The company needed a second-half operating profit to allow its lenders to jutify a bail-out that rescued it from failing last year.

The write-off of excess capacity, however, higherlights softer demand from Apple, which has seen its profit growth slow dramatically from more than 60 percent over the past five years to a projected rate of less than 5 percent for the next decade.

At the start of the year, Sharp was forced to curtail production of 9.7-inch screens for Apple’s iPad, sources told *Reuters* in January.

That has stepped up the urgency for Sharp to find new customers and uses for its leading-technology displays and may make it harder for the company to convince investors and lenders it remains a viable company.

Sharp, which will announce its results for latest business year on 14 May, said in statement through the Tokyo Stock Exchange that it had not released the earnings number, without commenting directly on whether it would report a bigger loss than forecast.

In addition to the write-offs, the company is also taking a charge to put aside cash for possible fines from a display price-fixing investigation in Europe, the sources said.

The expanded net loss was first reported in the Nikkei business daily.

The news sent Sharp’s shares falling as much as 5.6 percent on Wednesday to 319 yen, their lowest in nearly three weeks, compared with a 0.2 percent drop in the benchmark Nikkei average. The shares have lost more than half their value since the start of last year as the company’s troubles mounted, while the benchmark has risen 63 percent.

Sharp in October received a $4.4 billion bailout from banks including Mizuho Financial Group and Mitsubishi Financial Group in return for mortgaging nearly all its factories and offices in Japan and pledging to cut 10,000 jobs.

It has since raised additional cash by selling equity stakes to Qualcomm Inc, which in December agreed to invest as much as $120 million in the Japanese company, and South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co, which in March said it would inject $103 million in return for a 3 percent stake.

It is also in talks to offload its overseas television assembly plants. But with a 200 billion yen convertible bond falling due in September, the company is struggling to find more money to take over the investments from Qualcomm and Samsung will not be enough to cover its financing needs, leading analysts to speculate it will need to find fresh funding sources.

($1 = 97.4100 Japanese yen) —*Reuters*

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**Scientists help older adults boost their memory**

**Toronto, 1 May—**Br—Distraction can actually help older adults overcome age-related forgetfulness and boost their memory to that of younger adults, according to a new study. Scientists at Baycrest Health Sciences’ Rotman Research Institute (RRI) and the University of Toronto’s Psychology Department have found compelling evidence that older adults can eliminate forgetfulness and perform as well as younger adults on memory tests.

“Older brains may be doing something very adaptive with distraction to compensate for weakening memory,” said Renn Biss, lead investigator. “In our study we asked whether distraction can be used to foster memory—boosting rehearsal for older adults. The answer is yes!”

“To eliminate age-related forgetfulness across three consecutive memory experiments and help older adults perform like younger adults is dramatic and to our knowledge a totally unique finding,” lead author Lynn Hasher said. “Poor regulation of attention by older adults may actually have some benefits for memory.”

The findings, published online in Psychological Science, have intriguing implications for designing learning and training strategies for the mature, older student and equipping senior-school with relevant visual distraction cues throughout the living environment that would serve as rehearsal opportunities to remember things like an upcoming appointment or medications to take, even if the cues aren’t consciously paid attention to. In three experiments, healthy younger adults recruited from the University of Toronto, aged between 17 to 27, and healthy older adults from the community, aged 60 and 78, were asked to study and recall a list of words after a short delay and again, on a surprise test, after a 15-minute delay.—*FTI*
BUSINESS & HEALTH

New York, 1 May—Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) interventions for babies born very small and early have drastically reduced infant deaths in the United States, but in doing so they’ve contributed to more intellectual disabilities, according to a new study.

But disability rates may also be rising due to procedures that save the lives of children who go on to have limitations in social and practical skills, according to researchers led by Dr. Jeffrey Brosco.

“We actually track medical interventions, in some sense, cause a fair amount of the social and practical disability as well as (preventing it),” said Brosco, from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. “Of course, that doesn’t mean doctors should stop performing life-saving procedures in the NICU and elsewhere, but they do add to the work toward public health efforts, he added.

“There’s a great debate regarding the value of medical versus public health and social interventions in improving child health,” said Dr. Jeffrey Baker, a medical historian who studies medical technology, ethics and child health and the Duke University School of Medicine.

However, the study team could not pinpoint any single specific medical intervention introduced during those 50 years that caused disabilities to increase, it wrote in JAMA Pediatrics.

Reductions in intellectual disabilities tied to vaccines and screening have been in the 10-to-15 percent range, according to Baker, meaning the negative effects of medical interventions at least partially cancel out the gains when it comes to disability.

“Americans in general, I think, are infatuated with the role of medical technology and almost tend to see it as synonymous with good health. It is really just part of a much bigger picture,” he said.

Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) employees work at the bourse at TSE in Tokyo on 24 April, 2013.—Reuters

Tokyo, 1 May—The dollar eased on Wednesday as investors waryly awaited the outcome of the US Fed’s Reserve’s two-day policy meeting later, while the euro drifted on expectations for a rate cut when the European Central Bank meets for a rate cut when the euro drifted on expectations for a rate cut when the euro drifted on expectations for a rate cut when the euro drifted on expectations for a rate cut.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan (nifty: 000033) was 0.2 percent, slightly above the level at the end of last week, with top gains of the day (PMI) falling to 50.6 from March’s 11-month high of 50.9 as new export orders and input prices contracted. China’s manufacturing activity from Teva Women’s Health Inc, a unit of Plan B One-Step contraceptive were closed for the Labour Day holiday and trading was thin.

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The PMI was also below the 51 forecast, based on slightly above the average of 188 respondents that China is in a situation where sluggish growth is going to continue for longer, which is not great from a commodities point-of-view,” said Damien Boey, an equity strategist at Credit Suisse in Sydney. Australian markets are sensitive to data from China, its biggest trading partner. Japan’s Nikkei stock average (.N225) eased 0.2 percent on some disappointing earnings guidance. The Nikkei posted its best April in 20 years, reflecting a sharp improvement in investor sentiment as Japan promotes more aggressive policies to end its stubborn deflation and bolster growth. (T.)—Reuters

Kodak expects to exit bankruptcy as soon as July

San Diego, 1 May—Eastman Kodak Co (EK-DK,PK) said on Tuesday it expects to emerge from bankruptcy as soon as July as a commercial imaging business under the control of its creditors.

It said in court documents filed with the US bankruptcy court in Manhattan that it expects to issue new stock with the majority of it going to its second-lien note holders.

The holders of the second-lien notes include investment funds P. Schoenfeld Asset Management, D.E. Shaw and the Bennett Management Corp. A new board will be appointed and the company said the new directors will be identified later.

The company did not say how much it expects to pay its unsecured creditors, who are owed as much as $2.2 billion, but they would also receive some shares in the reconstituted Kodak.

Kodak’s bankruptcy plan is subject to a vote of creditors and court approval. Kodak must first gain court approval for its disclosure statement which describes its bankruptcy plan and the risks associated with it and is meant to help guide creditors in their voting on the plan. A hearing on the disclosure statement is expected in June.

Kodak sought protection from creditors in January 2012 after it failed to embrace modern technology and becomes one of the biggest corporate casualties of the digital age. The company said it had $6.75 billion of liabilities when it entered Chapter 11 reorganization.

Kodak’s bankruptcy exit plan comes a day after it clinched a key deal to sell its personalized imaging and document imaging businesses to its UK pension fund for $865 million. The pension fund also agreed to give up a $2.8 billion claim against Kodak, resolving the biggest unsecured claim filed in the case.

New York-based Kodak launched its first camera in 1888 and grew to dominate the market for photographic film. Although Kodak invented the digital camera, it put the project on the back-burner and spent years watching rivals stake a claim to the market while physical film sales plummeted. The company hopes to put all that behind it once it exits bankruptcy and focuses on selling printing equipment and services to businesses.—Reuters

FDA approves Plan B for girls as young as 15

Washington, 1 May—The US Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday said it would allow the Plan B One-Step contraceptive to be sold without a prescription to girls as young as 15 years of age.

The announcement partially reverses a December 2011 decision that prevented the sale of the emergency contraceptive to all marketing of reproductive age, which was also overturned by a US district judge in New York on 5 April. The FDA said its approval was not related to the judge’s ruling.

Instead, the agency said it was responding to an amended marketing application from Teva Women’s Health Inc, a unit of Plan B maker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. Teva originally applied to sell Plan B to all females of reproductive age, but changed its latest bid to those 15 and older after 2011. The amended application was pending when Judge Edward Korman handed down his ruling, the FDA said.

The pill known as “Plan B” has long been at the centre of political and religious battles. The FDA initially decided in 2001 that the drug to all reproductive age females, but was ordered to bar girls under 17 from the drug after a US health and human services secretary was challenged in court.

“Research has shown that access to emergency contraceptive products has the potential to further decrease the rate of unintended pregnancies,” FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said in a statement.

“The data reviewed by the agency demonstrated that women 15 years of age and older were able to understand how Plan B One-Step works, how to use it properly and that it does not prevent the transmission of a sexually transmitted disease.”

The FDA said the product will now be labeled “not for sale to those under 15 years of age ‘proof of age required’ not for sale where age cannot be verified.” Product coding is designed to prompt cashiers to request and verify the customer’s age. Teva has also arranged to have a security tag placed on all product cartons to prevent counterfeiting and to all females of reproductive age, but changed its latest bid to those 15 and older after 2011. The amended application was pending when Judge Edward Korman handed down his ruling, the FDA said.

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Bomb in Damascus kills 13 day after attack on prime minister

WASHINGTON, 1 May — Experts say Asia and Iran are the keys to maintaining a strong — but evolving — US-Saudi Arabia energy relationship. Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi is expected to share his optimistic view on the future of Asian oil demand at a packed auditorium at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia, the main source of global spare oil, and security personnel said the toll was likely to rise. Pro-government Al-Ikhbariya television showed firefighters running through thick smoke after the blast in Marjeh Square. Two bodies could be seen on the ground. The target of the attack was not immediately clear. Footage showed the former Interior Ministry building near the site of the blast on one of the capital’s main roads. Interior Minister Mohammad al-Sherif said the bombing was a “bankrupt response” to recent gains by the Syrian rebels who were laying siege to Damascus, the state television reported.

Shaar, who was wounded by a car bomb blast in December, said the United States, the West and Israel were directing the group that carried out the bombing. Monday’s attack on the prime minister’s convoy killed six people in what has become a common tactic by rebels. A resident of Damascus, who lives one mile from the blast site, said the explosion shook the doors of her house.

“It must be huge for me to hear it like that. Casualties must be horrific because it is a super busy square at this time of day,” she said on Skype. — Reuters

A visitor looks at a painting in the preview of “Hong Kong Eye” exhibition in Hong Kong, south China, on 30 April, 2013. A contemporary art show “Hong Kong Eye” is scheduled to open on 1 May in Hong Kong. The art show will exhibit more than 60 works by 24 artists, including paintings, sculptures and installations. — Xinhua

Cable plane crashes in E Afghanistan, killing seven

KABUL, 1 May — Monday’s cable plane crash, which took place in Bagram District, eastern Afghan Province of Parwan claimed the lives of all seven people aboard, a provincial source said on Tuesday.Bagram, lying some 50 km north of Afghan capital Kabul, is the main military base of US troops in Afghanistan.

The sources also said that five of the victims were Americans.

Police chief of Parwan Province Abdul Rahman Sarjari told Xinhua on Monday that the accident took place on the runway of Bagram airfield due to technical problems shortly after the plane took off. The type of the aircraft and the name of the company owning it were not clear yet. Following the incident, Taliban insurgents group, fighting an insurgency of more than one army clashed and captured the plane. The armed outfit in spring offensive codenamed “Khalid Bin Waleed” which was ordered the bombs in Andria, police said. Italian police are still looking for two other Tunisian men who they believe have returned to their home country. No international arrest warrant has been issued for them. Investigators believe the six men tried to recruit among illegal immigrants in Italy, who then went on to training camps in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Iraq and Yemen. In some cases the new recruits carried out attacks in Iraq, sentiment” and aversion to states viewed as enemies in the context of religious war, a police statement said.

Reuters

A-bomb survivors bring “no nukes” message to New York school

NEW YORK, 1 May — A Japanese-born Korean and a “Hiroshima Maiden” who both lived through the 6 August atomic bombing of their city in the closing days of World War II recalled their experiences as guest speakers at a Brooklyn school on Monday and promoted their messages of peace.

Clifton Truman Daniel, the grandson of former President Harry S. Truman who ordered the bombs dropped over Hiroshima and three days later in Nagasaki, also joined the survivors in the programme.

“If you have not started yet, be aware, become more aware of what nuclear weapons means and have an awareness towards abolition of nuclear weapons and wars and also the disarmament of nuclear weapons,” Lee Jongkleum, 85, told students at a packed auditorium at the Brooklyn Friends School. Lee was sixteen in 1945 when the bomb exploded over Hiroshima. After hearing a “loud explosion” and seeing a “golden yellow” flash he fell face first onto the ground. He awoke in complete darkness, but later began witnessing horrifying sights of people “who had their skin dropping off,” and heard haunting pleas for help, but could not assist them.

A-bomb survivors bring “no nukes” message to New York school
International Certified Basketball Referee Course conducted

YANGON, 1 May—The opening ceremony of International Certified Basketball Referee Course was held at the hall of Myanmar Basketball Federation at Aung San Stadium, here, at 27 April morning.

Vice-President of Myanmar Basketball Federation U Myint Then spoke on the occasion. Sports Director Mr. Labournor Koteba explained the purpose of opening the course.

The course was conducted for the first time in Myanmar. The two-day course run on 27 and 28 April.

The certificate holders basketball referee will discharge referee duty in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar in 2013. A total of 17 trainees from Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar attended the course.

Myanma Alinn

Korean-Myanmar entrepreneurs discuss joint venture works

YANGON, 1 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) U Win Aung held talks with Mr. Yoon Heul-Ro, Director-General for Asia Region from Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Commercial Attaché Dr. Park Choulbo from Korean Embassy at UMFCCI Headquarters, here, on 25 April.

They discussed matters related to economic promotion between the two countries, jointly holding Korea-Myanmar Business Forum and CEO Summit in mid-June in Korea and joint venture for economic development between Korean and Myanmar entrepreneurs.

Myanma Alinn

Myanma vows to cooperate with donor organizations to fight against AIDS

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Myanma vowed to cooperate with donor organizations including UNAIDS to achieve goals in combating AIDS, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint attended the senior officials’ meeting in Vancouver of Canada on 22 April.

The meeting was also attended by the Executive Director of UNAIDS Headquarters in Geneva, US Global AIDS Coordinator of PEPFAR, the Vice-President of Uganda, the Health Minister of Malawi and the Deputy Health Minister of Argentina. He also discussed that, if the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria would allot fund requested by Myanmar, it would help the country achieve its goals.

MNA

Farmland permits issued to farmers in NyaungU

NAYPUU, 1 May—A ceremony to issue farm works to farmers of 15 wards and village-tracts in NyaungU Township was held at the hall of Settlement and Land Records Department in NyaungU of Mandalay Region on 27 April morning.

Chairman of District Farmland Management Committee U Tun Tun Win was opened at the training course that runs from 22 April to 5 May.

Myanma Alinn

Formation of Fund Management Board with local scholars discussed

Myanma oil tanker sinks in Hlaing River

YANGON, 1 May—Myanma oil tanker of the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy sank at Chokey Shoal (near Thilawa Port) in the Hlaing River without oil pollution at 4:20 pm on 29 April. But no one was dead in the incident.

The mishap started at 4:20 pm yesterday when Myanma vessel steered by Senior Navigator U San Tin hit MV. MALACCA highway steered by Senior Navigator U Myat Soe (Pilot 39), that was heading for the mouth of Yangon River after unloading automobiles at Thilawa MIPL Port.

On 27 morning, Myanma vessel unloading oil at Mawlamyine Port and left for Yangon Port to inform the Pilot Vessel.

The incident occurred at North Latitude 16 39.967 min and East Latitude 96 14.506 min.

The vessel with 3-meter deep draft is 63.5 meter long, 13 meter wide and, and weighs 498.09 tons carrying 1125 tons of loads.

Vessel warnings would be issued and a signal light is put at the place where the vessel sank.

The place is not on the path of huge vessels, it was learnt.

Action will be taken in line with the law.

Myanma Alinn

Basic fire fighting course commences

TAKTOK, 1 May—The basic fire fighting course, conducted by Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was opened at the fire station of Ta Tkon Township on 23 April.

Chairman of the Township Fire Preventive Supervisory Committee Township Administrator U Aye Lu made a speech.

Staff Officer of the Township Fire Services Department U Kyaw Lwin explained disciplines of the course.

A total of 50 trainees from six wards are attending the training course from 23 April to 5 May.

Myanma Alinn

Reckless driving kills motorcyclist in Pale Tsp

PALE, 1 May—A Kenbo motorcycle driven by Ma Yi Myint, 23 of Taungwyithit Village in Pale Township together with Ma Darli, 19 of her sister on pillion seat plunged into the left side of Pale-Gangaw road at mile post 52/7 on 24 April.

In the incident, motorcyclist Ma Yi Myint was injured to protuberance, mouth, nose, and knee and died on the spot, and her sister Ma Darli had no injury.

Lekan Police Station of Pale Township opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driver Ma Yi Myint under the law.

Myanma Alinn
Perspectives

Thursday, 2 May, 2013

People’s Power

At Tuesday Excellence Award Ceremony, President U Thein Sein concluded his speech with the resounding call, “Let’s build the nation through the people’s strength.” In his over-two-year presidency, he has already been lauded for his much-touted reforms. While the country was in democratic transition two years ago, he came to power with a people-centred agenda and obviously listened to the voices of the people. The President has recognized the power of the people in ruling the country and spoke up for it.

He said the reason why the government is formulating people-centred policies is that the country we live in is a multi-ethnic and multi-religion country and we need inclusiveness in the reform processes in the country’s committed bid for development.

Democracy embodies the power of the people in various aspects. With democracy in its infancy, we the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have started to learn how to best utilize our democratic rights to shape our government, our country and our future. But we still need to understand well the extent of the power in our hands, and where, when and how to use it.

Many humble people used to say the people of our country are not mature enough for democracy. That’s wrong. Democracy is a political system that respect human rights and grant fundamental rights to each and every citizen of a country with utmost respect to human dignity. There is no single human being in this planet whose rights should be neglected and dignity disrespected. It may take time to get used to a new system. The transition especially calls for tolerance of all parties.

In the very distant future, the people of our country will surely learn how to steer the country well to development, utilizing the power of people in a smarter manner.

Respect paying of E-Major alumni of Dagon University

Yangon, 1 May  — The seventh respect-paying ceremony of English Major alumni of Dagon University was held at Royal Rose Restaurant in Shwegondine, here, today.

Retd Rector Daw Sein Sein Myint and Rector Daw Swe Swe Pwint of English Department of Dagon University spoke words of advice. Then, the old students paid respects to the faculty members and presented gifts to them.

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

In accordance with the resolutions passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of 1980 which could reconstruct the unity of the Sangha of All Orders within one hundred years in the history of Buddhism of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the different levels of the Sangha Organizations throughout the country could be formed thoroughly. The different levels of the Sangha Organizations in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are as follows:-

1. State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee
2. State Sanghamahanyakya Committee
3. State Central Working Committee of the Sangha
4. State and Regional Sanghanayaka Committees
5. Township Sanghanayaka Committees
6. Village/tract Sanghanayaka Committees

According to the principles of the Sangha Organizations adopted by the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, all members at the different levels of the Sangha Organizations shall be elected after the duration of five years’ term is terminated.

Members of State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee, State Sanghamahanyakya Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of Myanmar attended by Sanghamarat representatives who represent over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha in the Republic of Myanmar. They shall elected only by majority of Sanghamarat representatives.

Members of Region State and Sanghanayaka Committees, Township Sanghanayaka Committees and Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees shall be elected by majority of the members of the Sangha at their respective meetings. The main aims and objectives of those various Sangha Organizations from the out the noble tasks of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

puzzles: 1. Suddhamma Gana (Sect)
2. Shwevin Gana (Sect)
3. Dhannamun Dhamma Mahadwara Nikiya Gana (Sect)
4. Dhannamun Vinaya Nolnamunadwara Nikiya Gana (Sect)
5. Anaukaungha Dwara Gana (Sect)
6. Veluvan Nikiya Gana (Sect)
7. Sanghonnika Mahathipatha Hogettwin Gana (Sect)
8. Gannavimott Kuto Gana (Sect)
9. Dhannmayottt Nikiya Mahayin Gana (Sect)

The different levels of Sangha Organizations throughout the country represent these nine Ganas (Sects) of the Sangha of All Orders.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister’s Cup 6-10 May

Dawei, 1 May  — A coordination meeting to hold Taninthayi Region Chief Minister’s Cup (three districts) women’s football tournament was held at the region government office on 29 April with an address by Chairman of Leading Committee for organizing the event. State Chief Minister for Forestry and Mines U Tin Soe.

An official from region Sports and Physical Education Department explained the purposes of holding the tournament followed by discussion.

The soccer tournament will be held from 6 to 10 May and women’s teams from Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung Districts are to participate in it.

Kyemon
18 suspects charged with Okkan arson attacks

YANGON, 1 May—Crowd set fire to seven houses in Yadanakon Village of Kyokyarkon Village-tract, about two furlongs west of Okkan, Taikkyi Township, here, at 4:30 pm yesterday.

A total of 130 houses—53 in Okkan, 77 in Yadanakon, Panipin, Chaukthe, Thekon Villages—and 15 shops in Okkan and 9 along Yangon-Pyay Road, totaling 24 were destroyed by arson fire, it was learnt.

About 18 persons are being investigated by the police over the riot.

President of Australian Senate Senator Hon John Joseph Hogg and party visited Commonwealth War Cemetery in Htauukkyant here, paid a floral tribute and signed the visitors’ book this morning.

The delegation was seen off by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and wife, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and wife, Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Bronte Nadine Moules and officials of Hluttaw Office at Yangon International Airport as they left for Australia.

MNA

Security forces in action in Okkan on 30 April.

Law and order restored in Okkan...

(Yangon, 1 May) Ten persons were injured in violence. Six persons were admitted to Okkan station hospital, one to Taikkyi People’s Hospital, Ko Zaw Zaw Naing and U Eismai to Yangon People’s Hospital. Ko Zaw Zaw Naing died at about 1 am this morning.”

He said lawsuits had been filed against those involved in violence and arson attacks. The police have arrested 18 suspects.

“Whatever I would like to inform the public is that we need to have self discipline, avoid the trap, cooperate with police force and to be united. We need the unity of both communities. Regardless of race, every citizen should fully enjoy the rights embodied in the constitution. We will bring those who had committed crimes to justice,” police Lt-Col Thet Lwin said.

Trs: TKK+HKA

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**Mandalay receiving more foreign tourists**

Mandalay is seeing an increase in airport arrivals of foreign tourists via the flights of Thai Airways.

The tourist destinations in Mandalay such as Yangon, Sagaing, Pyay, and Bagan are popular among tourists who visit those sites with cars, sidecars and bicycles either in group or alone.

The tourist destinations in Mandalay are packed with globetrotters who visit those sites with cars, sidecars and bicycles either in group or alone.

Tourists also love to discover pagodas and stupas in Amarapura, U Pein Bridge, Sagaing, Pyay, Oo Lwin, and Bagan-Nyang-U with strong taste for archaeological cultural heritage and unexploited nature. Tourists from China, Thailand, France, Italy, Spain, US, Australia and Japan are said to top the tourist arrivals.

—Kyemon

**US technology giant to help Myanmar boost IT in education**

**Yangon, 1 May—**

Myanmar Computer Federation will team up with US chipmaker Intel to organize a workshop on boosting the use of technology for educational purposes. The chief of Intel’s World Ahead will attend World Economic Forum in Myanmar in coming June.

MCF President U Khun Oo welcomed the support of one of the world’s largest IT companies at MCF & Intel’s World Learning seminar at Myanmar ITC Park in Yangon on 29 April.

The seminar was also attended by Mr Chris S Thomas, Chief Strategist of Intel Headquarters and Director of Architecture of Intel World Ahead, Mr Bernd Nordhausen, Senior Solutions Architect, and an official of USAID.

—Kyemon

**Midwifery course concludes in Katha**

**Katha, 1 May—**

Under the rural development and poverty alleviation programme, the concluding ceremony of midwifery course (2012-2013) which started on 1 November 2012 with the assistance of Sagaing Region Government was held at the meeting hall of Katha District Hospital yesterday.

At the ceremony, Katha Township Administrator U Zaw Min Htai gave conclusion remarks and District Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Sein Aye explained the purpose of the course. Then, the Township Administrator and Chairperson of District Sagay Region Government was held at the meeting hall of Katha District Hospital yesterday.

—Kyemon

**Mandalay marks World Veterinary Day**

**Mandalay, 1 May—**

Myanmar Veterinarians Association and Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department organized an educative in commemoration of World Veterinary Day at the department’s office in Pyi Gyidagaun Township here on 2 April.

It was attended by the Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation chairman and members, heads of region, district and township livestock breeding and veterinary departments and breeders.

Professor of Medical Department of University of Veterinary Science Dr Ye Htut Aung delivered talks on vaccination. Pet dogs and cats in Mandalay were vaccinated against rabies at the office free of charge.

—Kyemon

**Traffic accident leaves one dead**

**Yangon, 1 May—**

A Super Custom on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township collided with Mark II in front of Konemyintha, at about 2 am on 30 April.

U Aung Khai Win, U Nyan Soe and Maung Nyan Win Tun in Mark II were severely injured in the accident. They were hospitalized and U Aung Khai Win was pronounced dead at the hospital at 8.05 am. Mayangon Township Police Station filed a lawsuit against the drivers.

—Kyemon

**Self-reliant concrete street being paved in Myeik**

**Myeik, 1 May—**

Works for paving self-reliant concrete is being carried out on Thiri Mingala (3rd) Street by local people from Parami (1) Ward in Alegyun Region of Myeik of Taninthayi Region starting from 18 April.

The earthen street is under flood in rainy season. The 15 feet and 6 inches wide and 520 feet long concrete street is under construction by spending over K 8 million.

—Kyemon

**Electricity available at Kyonkadon village in Pyapon Township**

**Pyapon, 1 May—**

Kyonkadon village in Pyapon Township of Pyapon District held a ceremony to mark the successful implementation of self-reliant village electrification program at ward-9 of the village on 29 April as construction of a 110/0.4 KV (160) KVA sub-power station and installation of service line have been completed.

Similar courses are going to be supplied with electricity many years ago while electricity is available at other wards.

The earthen street is under flood in rainy season. The 15 feet and 6 inches wide and 520 feet long concrete street is under construction by spending over K 8 million.

—Kyemon

**Four legged kid in Loilem receives ‘nothing’ from hospital**

**Loilem, 1 May—**

Parents of a four legged child brought their girl to General Hospital of Loilem District on 30 April for surgery only to return to their mountain home after a few hours at the hospital which is accused of leaving the child uncared for.

The child with four legs, two female reproductive organs and two amuses was born to farmer parents in Loilem village in Pantmol village-tract in Panglong Subtownship three months ago.

The parents Khun San Dwe and Nan Hnaung Hnaung said they want their kid to be an ‘ordinary’ girl.

“Doctors and nurses of the hospital did nothing, no injection, no diagnosis and even no remarks,” a local who visited the child in the hospital said.

—Kyemon

**Gambler detained**

**Yangon, 1 May—**

Based on a tip-off, police raided the house of U Win Htay on Aung Myitta Street in No. 1 Ward, Mayangon Township on 20 April evening.

Twenty-four sheets of two-digit-gambling-related notes, 95 sheets of vouchers, 8 sheets of carbon paper, winning number forecast, a stapler, a calculator, four ball-point pens, and the bet of K 52800 were seized from the house of U Win Htay who was detained by the police for trial.

—Kyemon
**Regional**

**Malaysia**

He dropped to avoid diverting votes from the main opposition party—was a reminder of how young voters are shaping politics in the Southeast Asian nation as never before and unnerving the long-ruling coalition.

**Japan**

TOKYO, 1 May—Japa- nese and Taiwanese of- ficials will hold a two- day meeting in Tokyo on Wednesday to prepare for the formation of a joint fish- ing committee.

The move comes af- ter the two sides signed a bilateral fisheries pact last month on fishing rights, Taiwan’s Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement that the two sides will discuss details of the committee’s establish- ment and operations as well as implementation of the agreement.

Under the deal, Japan and Taiwan will designate an area in Japan’s exclusive economic zone as jointly managed waters, where reciprocal fishing is allowed.

The pact also states that neither party can manage or take measures against fishing vessels of the other side.

The jointly controlled zone excludes, however, what Japan regards as its 12-nautical-mile “territorial waters”.

Tokyo and Taipei also agreed to establish a “spe- cial cooperation zone” where each party applies laws and regulations to its own nationals and fishing vessels.

Under the agreement Taiwan now has 4,530 square kilometres of waters to use, including three other areas outside of Taiwan’s “temporary law enforce- ment line.”

**Singapore**

Singapore commissions second Archer-class submarine

SINGAPORE, 1 May — Singapore’s Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday at Changi Naval Base that the RSS Swordsman, the city-state’s second Archer-class submarine, officially entered into service. RSS Archer was firstly commis- sioned by the Republic of Singapore Navy at the end of 2011.

After its launch in Swe- den’s Karlskrona in October 2010, the RSS Swordsman “underwent various com- prehensive and extensive sea trials in Sweden before returning to Singapore on 31 Dec, 2012”, the minis- try said in a statement. It has undergone extensive refurbish- ment, upgrades, and tropicalisation to adapt it for operations in Singapore’s local conditions.

“Its combat and sensor suites have been upgraded and an Air Independent Pro- pulsion (AIP) system was added to give the submarine greater stealth, extended reach and expanded op- erational capabilities,” the ministry said, adding that the submarine will join RSS Archer and operate along- side the Challenger-class submarines under the navy’s 171 Squadron.

The ministry added that the pioneer crew of the submarine had undergone a comprehensive training programme, including a Submarine System Train- ing Phase, where they were taught to operate the various submarine systems, and a Team Training Phase, where the crew conducted mission- oriented trainings.

Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minis- ter for Finance Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam said at the commissioning ceremony that the two Archer-class submarines, together with the Challenger-class subma- rines as well as the country’s stealth frigates, naval heli- copters, missile corvettes and mine-countermeasure vessels will safeguard Sin- gapore’s maritime interests and protect their territorial integrity.—Xinhua

**Japan**

Japan’s FY 2012 housing starts up 6.2% 

TOKYO, 1 May—Hous- ing starts in Japan rose 6.2 percent in fiscal 2012 from the previous year to 893,002 units, the seventh consecutive year-on-year increase, the government reported on Tuesday.

Low lending rates and strong demand related to reconstruction from March 2011 earthquake- tsunami disaster helped increase the figure for the year ended on 31 March, ac- cording to the data released by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. “Consumer sentiment also improved as the yen weakened and Japa- nese stocks rose after the turn of the year as a result of Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe’s economic policy,” the ministry said. Among the disaster-hit prefectures, housing starts surged 48.1 percent in Miyagi, 53.5 per- cent in Fukushima and 56.8 percent in Iwate By region, starts rose 3.1 percent in the Tokyo metropolitan area, 3.5 percent in the Kinki area surrounding Osaka and 3.0 percent in the Chubu area centering on Nagoya. In March alone, housing starts in Japan rose 7.3 per- cent from a year earlier to 71,456 units, the seventh straight month of increase. 

Starts on owner-oc- cupied houses grew 11.4 percent, while those on homes for sale by develop- ers inched down 0.3 per- cent. Rental housing starts gained 10.7 percent. The ministry said housing construc- tion has been gradual- ly picking up in Japan. The ministry also said it will continue to closely moni- tor how employment and income conditions as well as the pace of reconstruc- tion from the 2011 disaster affect housing construction. —Kyodo News

**India**

India’s total population is now 1.21 billion

NEW DELHI, 1 May—In- dia’s total population stands at 1.21 billion, which is 17.7 per cent more than the last decade, and growth of fe- males was higher than that of males.

According to the final cenus released by Home Minister Sushilkumar Shin- de today, India’s total popu- lation as on 1 March, 2011 is 1,210,726,932 or 1.21 bil- lion—an increase of 181.96 million persons in absolute number of population dur- ing 2001-11. There was an increase of 90. —PTI

PM

**Villagers of Zhuang ethnic group stage a dance during a performance held for tourists in Bailue Village, Guangnan County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 30 April, 2013. The county arranged the performance in the hope of displaying local cultural and landscape, and drawing tourists during the three-day May Day holiday.—Xinhua

**Mt Fuji to become World Heritage site**

TOKYO, 1 May—Ja- pan’s iconic Mt Fuji has been recommended for registration as a World Heritage site by an advisory panel to UNESCO, the government said on Tuesday.

The highest peak in Japan is expected to be formally listed in June when the World Herit- age Committee of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meets in Cambodia.

The advisory panel, known as the International Council on Monuments and Sites, or ICOMOS, rejected a request from the Japanese government to add a group

**Japan, Taiwan to meet on establishment of joint fishing committee**

Taipei, 1 May—Japa- nese and Taiwanese of- ficials will hold a two- day meeting in Tokyo on Wednesday to prepare for the formation of a joint fish- ing committee.

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**Rise of young voters shifts Malaysia election balance**

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 May —Malaysian Prime Min- ister Najib Razak escaped a direct showdown with youth when a 23-year-old student gave up his bid to challenge him in his home constituency in the 5 May general election. But Moh-ammed Bukhary Mohammed- sofian’s quixotic plan to run against Najib—which he dropped to avoid divert- ing votes from the main opposition party—was a reminder of how young voters are shaping politics in the Southeast Asian na- tion as never before and unnerving the long-ruling coalition.

He is one of 2.6 mil- lion Malaysians registered to cast their ballots for the first time, making up roughly a fifth of Malay- sia’s 13.3 million eligible voters. That is much higher than the 638,000 new vot- ers five years ago. Analysts say an upsurge in interest in politics following the oppo- sition’s best-ever election showing in 2008 has driven more young people to reg- ister. Their numbers make young Malaysia a crucial, possibly decisive, source of support in an election that promises to be the closest since independence. They are also a force that could blur the traditional race- based faultlines that have shaped the political land- scape in the multi-ethnic country.

An unbroken 56-year grip on power has given the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition control over main- stream media and the abil- ity to spend freely in the election campaign as they preside over a period of strong economic growth. Although a coalition win with a reduced parliamen- tary majority is seen as the most likely outcome, the opposition says that the new voters are the “X Fac- tor” that could create Mal- layasia’s biggest electoral shock since independence in 1957.

“I know what young people want. They want a voice and that means change,” Bukhary, a third- year Islamic political sci- ence student at Universiti Malaya, told Reuters. An opposition win would bring unprecedented uncertainty to politics in Malaysia, whose government is the longest serving in the dem- ocratic world, and herald a major shake-up in five decades of cozy relations between government and business.—Reuters

Malaysian Izaziti Zaidi (R), 24, and her friends show placards in support of Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak during the launch of the “Voices of My Generation” youth programme in Kuala Lumpur on 12 April, 2013.—Reuters

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Japan’s FY 2012 housing starts up 6.2%
CONGRATULATIONS

We heartily congratulate

U Aung Ko Win

Patron of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

For receiving the State Excellence Award

(First Prize among the entrepreneurs serving the highest tax payments to the State Budget’s Revenue)

recognized as the highest taxpayer in Myanmar for FY 2011-2012,

Conferred by the President of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Union of Myanmar President’s State Excellence Awards Presentation

Ceremony held on 30th April 2013 for the first time under the new government administration.

We wish him continued contribution to our society and country in coming years.

President and Executive Committee/Central Executive Committee Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)
**Singer Emeli Sande eyes US market after setting UK chart record**

LONDON, 1 May—Scot-tish singer-songwriter Emeli Sande scored a new chart re-cord on Sunday with her debut album after a stellar year in Britain that has paved the way for her next challenge - the US market.

Sande smashed a rec ord held for nearly 50 years by The Beatles when her debut album, “Our Version Of Events”, kicked off a year of suc cesses for Sande who sang the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 London Olympics and won best British female artist and best album at the BRIT Awards. Sande also notched up three No 1 singles in the UK with “Read All About It” with Professor Green, “Next To Me” and “Beneath Your Beautiful”, a collaboration with Labrinth. Now the former medical student has set herself a new challenge, tackling the US market, where she has yet to make a name for herself.

Her single “Next To Me” is currently 46th in the UK chart and she is in the United States this month to promote her album. “I’m really excited about taking music over there so you can hear the story of the whole big thing.”

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**British actress Helen Mirren**

Helen Mirren crowned top actress at top UK theatre awards

LONDON, 1 May—Helen Mirren was crowned best actress at Britain’s top theatre awards on Sunday for reprising her Oscar-winning portrayal of the queen, while a stage version of a novel about a boy with autism was on track to be the top winner of the Olivier awards.

Mirren, 67, has won stellar reviews for starring in “The Audience”, Peter Morgan’s play about the private weekly meetings between Queen Elizabeth and the 12 British prime ministers during the six decades of her reign.

Mirren is no stranger to royalty having won an Academy award for the same role in the 2006 film “The Queen”. The actress said the queen certainly deserved an Olivier award after receiving one of Britain’s most prestigious entertainment honours, a BAFTA, earlier this month for her support for the film and television industry.

“I think she deserves one for the most committed and consistent performance of the 20th century and probably the 21st century,” said Mirren on accepting the award from Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe.

Her co-star, Richard McCabe, won the award for best supporting actor for playing the prime minister Howard Wilson.

But the biggest winner of the 37th Olivier awards looked set to be “The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time” that opened at the National Theatre in London in 2012 and transferred to London’s West End theatre District this year.

The play, based on Mark Haddon’s 2003 award-winning novel, was nominated for eight awards and picked up several in the first half of the glitzy awards ceremony at London’s Royal Opera House. Luke Treadaway, who won the best actor award for playing 15-year-old Christopher, a maths prodigy with autism who sets out to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbour’s dog, said: “It’s a brand new adventure and it’s chapter two of this whole big thing.”

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**Wahlberg’s “Pain & Gain” knocks Cruise from box office lead**

NEW YORK, 1 May—Mark Wahlberg’s dark comedy “Pain & Gain” brought enough box office muscle to knock Tom Cruise out of the No 1 spot on movie charts in the United States and Canada.

Another box office heavyweight, Robert Downey Jr, scored big overseas with the international debut of Marvel superhero sequel “Iron Man 3.”

“Pain & Gain” took in $20 million at US and Canadian theaters over its first three days, according to studio estimates released on Sunday. Cruise’s sci-fi thriller, “Oblivion,” slipped to second place with $17.4 million.

“Iron Man 3” hauled in $195.3 million in 42 international markets, distributor Walt Disney Co said, a total that surpassed the international opening of “The Avengers.” The movie arrives in the United States and Canada on Friday to kick off Hollywood’s lucrative summer blockbuster season.

Receipts for “Pain & Gain” beat pre-weekend forecasts for a debut of at least $15 million. The film is based on the real-life story of Miami bodybuilders who kidnap a wealthy deli owner and plan to steal his fortune. When their plot goes awry, the criminals scramble to escape being caught. “We were estimating high teens, so anything with a two in front is good,” said Don Harris, president of domestic theatrical distribution at Paramount Pictures, the Viacom Inc unit that released the movie.

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**Actor Mark Wahlberg and his wife Rhea Durham arrive at the premiere of his new film “Pain & Gain” in Hollywood on 22 April, 2013. Reuters**
Relieved Dortmund survive at Real to reach final

MADRID, 1 May—Borussia Dortmund held on by their fingertips to clinch a place in the Champions League final on Tuesday with a 4-3 aggregate win despite losing 2-0 after conceding late goals in a nerve-shredding finish at the Bernabeu.

The German side, who will play in their second final after winning the competition in 1997, survived early pressure from a fired-up Real in the last-four second leg clash before wasting several chances to kill off the home team.

Real, chasing the 10th European crown that has eluded them since 2002, looked down and out before substitute Karim Benzema struck in the 83rd minute and Sergio Ramos smashed in a second goal five minutes later to give Jose Mourinho’s side hope.

With the raucous crowd on its feet and willing their team on, the Real players desperately sought the goal that would have taken them through but Dortmund held out to set up a clash with Bundesliga rivals Bayern Munich or Barcelona.

Bayern have a 4-0 advantage over the La Liga leaders after their stunning victory in Munich last week. Dortmund’s success put them into their first European final since the 2001/02 season, when they lost the UEFA Cup showpiece to Feyenoord, while Real are the only team to be eliminated in the Champions League semi-finals for three years in a row.

“It was tight at the end,” Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp said in a teleconference. “We had our huge chances before that. Had we scored then it would have been over. Overall we played too little football but we won 4-3 over two games and deserve to be in the final.”— Reuters

Golf-Singh cleared of doping after deer antler spray admission

NEW YORK, 1 May—Vijay Singh has been cleared of doping by the PGA Tour despite admitting that he used a spray containing elements of a banned substance.

Although he never failed a drugs test, Singh was deemed to have breached golf’s rules on doping when he told Sports Illustrated earlier this year he had used deer antler spray.

The spray was found to have contained small extracts of IGF-1, a growth hormone on the World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) list of prohibited substances.

The PGA Tour imposed a sanction on Singh following his admission but the Fijian appealed, saying he was unaware the spray contained any banned substances.

He was later cleared when WADA informed the PGA Tour the use of deer antler spray on a statement released on Tuesday.

“It’s a small strain and he’s hoping to be OK for next week but you know it’s a day by day … maybe for the two or three days. It just a problem of sprinting,” Simms said in a telephone interview. Asked if the injury was serious, Simms replied: “No. He hopes to be running in Cayman by next week, so that’s what you’re calling a strain, which is you can’t walk, but you can walk OK. He’s not limping or anything.”

Bolt was scheduled to run his first 200 metres of the season against Jamaican Olympic bronze medallist Warren Weir and American Wallace Spearmon in the meeting.

His next scheduled race is a 100 metres in the 8 May Cayman Islands meeting.

“I’m told it is only a grade one strain so hopefully I will be OK soon.” Bolt started his season in style on 31 March on Rio de Janeiro’s Copacabana Beach with a 14.42 seconds clocking over 150 metres on the purpose-built track.— Reuters

Mourinho not sure his future is at Real Madrid

MADRID, 1 May—Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has dropped another hint he was considering his future by saying he might not be with the Spanish giants next season after they lost in the Champions League semi-finals on Tuesday.

Following Real’s 4-3 aggregate defeat by Borussia Dortmund, the former Chelsea manager was asked if he would remain in Madrid next term and he told ITV Sport:

“Maybe not. I don’t know but I want to be where people love to be.”

Real came within a whisker of pulling off a remarkable comeback after losing their semi-final first leg 2-1 to Dortmund last week but came up just short with a 2-0 win at the Bernabeu to go out of the competition.

A third exit in succession at the last-four stage prompted further questions on Mourinho’s future at Real.

The former boss of Porto and Inter Milan, who won the Champions League with both clubs, has been surrounded by rumour he might leave Madrid after this campaign with England his most likely destination despite having a contract until 2016.

“I know I am loved in England, I am loved by the fans and the media,” Mourinho told a news conference. “They treat me fairly.

They give me credit when it is due and criticise when it is deserved. “I am loved by some clubs, especially one,” he added referring to Chelsea. “In Spain it is different, some people hate me, many of you in this room.

“It is a difficult decision. I like the club (Real) the president, we have a good team. I need to be honest and fair. “We will sit down and talk at the end of the season.”

Real Madrid to play Swiss Indoors at Roger Federer’s hometown

BASEL, (Switzerland) 1 May—Rafael Nadal is scheduled to play at Roger Federer’s hometown tournament for the first time in nine years.

Organizers of the Swiss Indoors announced their star attractions for the Oct. 19-27 event in Basel. The field is headed by five-time champion Federer, Nadal and defending champion Juan Martin del Potro.

Nadal last played in Basel in 2004, losing in the first round to Rainer Schuettler of Germany.

The Spaniard also lost early to compatriot Feliciano Lopez in 2003, the only year he and Federer both played at Basel. The Swiss Indoors, played on carpet then, is now a hard-court tournament.

Nadal has a 19-10 career record against Federer, including a quarterfinal win last month at Indian Wells.

Injured Bolt to skip Jamaica meeting

KINGSTON, 1 May—Six-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt has been ruled out of Saturday’s Jamaica International Invitational meeting because of a slight hamstring strain, his agent said on Tuesday.

The sprinting star’s manager, Coach Glen Mills decided not to risk anything at this early stage of the season, agent Ricky Simms told Reuters.

“It’s a small strain and he’s hoping to be OK for next week but you know it’s a day by day … maybe for the two or three days. It just a problem of sprinting,” Simms said in a telephone interview. Asked if the injury was serious, Simms replied: “No. He hopes to be running in Cayman by next week, so that’s what you’re calling a strain, which is you can’t walk, but you can walk OK. He’s not limping or anything.”

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“I’m told it is only a grade one strain so hopefully I will be OK soon.” Bolt started his season in style on 31 March on Rio de Janeiro’s Copacabana Beach with a 14.42 seconds clocking over 150 metres on the purpose-built track.— Reuters

Raw New Light of Myanmar
Armenia, Iran sign legal cooperation deal

YEREVAN, (Armenia), 1 May — Prosecutor generals of Armenia and Iran signed a cooperation agreement on Tuesday, the Armengress news agency reported. According to Armenian Prosecutor General Aghvan Housepian, the development of economic relations had facilitated the growth of trade and flow of tourists between the two countries.

“This has created a need to regulate these relations on the legal level as well,” Hoveyda told a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Ghomal Hossein Mohseni Ejei.

Gholam Hossein also noted that political and economic ties were not complete without judicial and legal partnership. The agreement would become a basis for further development and expansion of legal cooperation between the two countries. The Iranian delegation arrived in Armenia on Monday.

Heavy rain kills six in S China

NANNING, 1 May — Floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain have claimed six lives while affecting more than 420,000 people in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the local government said on Monday.

The rain, which started Monday morning, has hit multiple counties, according to a statement from the regional department of civil affairs. The statement said landslides and building collapses triggered by the rain had killed six people and injured another 14 as of 7 pm Monday. The rain has displaced 17,200 people, the statement added.

Over 12,000 hectares of farmland were affected and a total of 270 houses collapsed, it said. An initial investigation showed that direct economic losses caused by the rain have amounted to over 69 million yuan (11 million US dollars). Local authorities are carrying out disaster relief work and relocating residents. —Xinhua

Chechen linesman gets life ban, $16,200 fine for assault

MOSCOW, 1 May — The Russian FA (RFU) upheld a life ban for Chechen linesman Musa Kadyrov on Tuesday and fined him $16,200 for assaulting a player in a league match.

The incident occurred at the end of Sunday’s reserve game in Grozny between local side Terek and Amkar Perm. When a raging Kadyrov dropped his flag and ran onto the pitch, attacking Amkar defender Ilya Krichmar.

Kadyrov, seen on video pushing 18-year-old Krichmar to the ground, then kicking and punching him, was banned for life by the Chechen soccer association on Monday.

The RFU’s disciplinary committee upheld the decision, banning Kadyrov from any involvement in the game, and fined him 500,000 roubles ($16,200) for a “direct attack on players which could have caused a real risk to their health”.

“Kadyrov must pay the fine out of his own pocket,” committee head Artur Grigoryants told reporters. Kadyrov told local media that he would not appeal the ban.

Krichmar was suspended for four matches and fined $490 for “unsportsmanlike conduct”, effectively banning him for the rest of the season with only four games left.

London, 1 May — For Rafael Nadal to bridge a 7,000-point gap with Novak Djokovic in the ATP rankings looks like a tall order, even for a player of his qualities, yet he could still threaten the Serb’s hopes of ending 2013 as world No 1.

With the French Open looming large on the horizon, Nadal is back in the claycourt groove as he continues his comeback from a knee injury that sidelined him for seven months.

The Spaniard has won four titles in six tournaments since returning in Chile in February, finishing runner-up in the other two, yet remains in unfavourable territory outside the world’s top four.

Starting in Madrid next week, however, where he suffered a surprise third-round exit last year to compatriot Fernando Verdasco, fifth-ranked Nadal can start making inroads. While the Mallorcan must defend 3,000 points at the Rome Masters and then at Roland Garros, where he will be chasing an eighth French Open title, the second half of the year looks like being a win-win situation for the 11-times grand slam champion.

A stunning second-round defeat by Czech Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon last year proved to be his fling with 2012, meaning the Spaniard will have six months to harvest ranking points and close the gap on those above him.

Don’t write Rafa off the No 1 spot, says Gilbert

Spain’s Rafael Nadal drinks during a break in play in his men’s singles final match against compatriot Nicolas Almagro in the Barcelona Open tennis tournament, as trophies are covered with plastic sheets to keep them dry from the rain, in Barcelona on 28 April, 2013. —Reuters

Djokovic is hoping to finish a third successive season as world No 1 but Brad Gilbert, former world number four and coach to Andre Agassi, believes Nadal has will be breathing down the Serb’s neck later this year.

“To me this is the most cut-throat part of the season,” Gilbert told ATPWorldTour.com. “You’ve got two Masters 1000s back-to-back and then the French and Wimbledon. That’s 6,000 points up for grabs over a short stretch, and what happens during this time will set the tone as to who has a shot of finishing No 1.” Djokovic is in good position now but it still could be a tight race.”

Djokovic, world number two Roger Federer and number three Andy Murray will all be defending titles against Nadal’s French Open success last year.
Ywama Tyre Industry commissioned into service

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views raw materials for production of Tyre Industry (Ywama) of Myanmar Economic Corporation.—MNA

Yangon, 1 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed opening of Tyre Industry (Ywama) of Myanmar Economic Corporation in Insein Township, here, this morning. Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pressed the button to launch the industry. The opening was attended by senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, officials of MEC, businessmen, Vice-Chairman of Mesnac Company and officials concerned and invited persons.

The newly-opened industry is the 35th facility of Myanmar Economic Corporation. An MoU on purchase of materials for tyre production was signed with Mesnac Company of China on 22 June, 2010. The facility's construction started on 17 February, 2011. It has 18 buildings.

Chairman of Myanmar Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo and Mesnac Company Chairman Mr. Li Zhao Feng unveiled the signboard of the industry.

Next, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveiled the stone inscription and then put his signature to the first tyre produced by the Ywama Tyre Industry.

Chairman Mr. Li Zhao Feng & Oo and Mesnac Company Chairman Hsaung Oo and Mesnac Company Chairman Mr. Li Zhao Feng unveiled the signboard of the industry.

Photo shows an interview with Police Lt-Col Thet Lwin on violence in Okkan.

NewscrewofMyanmar News Agency (MNA) went to Okkan in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region after a violence broke out there 30 April evening with mob throwing stones to religious buildings and ransacking the shops.

We there met Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein who was there to give clothes, blankets, towels, cooking utensils and soaps provided by the Relief and Resettlement Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to victims. Yangon Region government has also presented rice, oil and drinking water for the victims.

Taikkyi Township Administrator U Zaw Soe said, “Yangon Region government provides the sufferers with rice and oil and the wellwishers also taken drinking water and foodstuffs for them. There are 90 households of victims in total. Myanmar Police Force and security forces are providing security and law and order has been restored now. Local order section 188 (partial curfew) has been in force since the April.”

In an interview, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Myint Aung from Taikkyi Township Constituency (2) said, “Order has been restored now. Plans are under way for resettlement of the burnt houses and the township development needs of the area.”

Law and order restored in Okkan: MPF, security forces join hands to provide security

Photo shows an interview with Police Lt-Col Thet Lwin on violence in Okkan.

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An interview with local people in Okkan after restoring peace and tranquility.

By: Nyunt Than (MNA) Photos: Ye Hlut / Than Oo (MNA)