Myanmar still facing challenges in spite of international recognition

Everyone obliged to strive for achievement of national vision and national goal

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met responsible persons of political parties at the meeting hall of 500-acre farmer educative model mechanized farmland this morning.


The President said that democratization of the nation was only two years old and reform processes were undertaken in the country through trial and error methods as the whole society was not familiar with democratic practices.

The government was trying hard to translate the future of the nation into a success in peace process and political and economic sectors. Reform processes were being implemented by the Hluttaws, political parties, community-based organizations, the people, Tatmadaw and national races armed groups that are willing to build peace, not the government alone.

He continued that the country not only had won international recognition but also was still facing challenges. When reform process is in progress, Nation Building, State Building and Peace Building were being implemented simultaneously. He added that the national vision of the government was to build New Myanmar that ensures independent and transparent all-inclusive political process and economic competitive on an equal terms. National goal of the government was to get everyone involved in the process and establish an independent and open society. So the onus was on everyone to strive for the success of national vision and national goal.

Next, personnel from political parties expressed their opinions on building lasting peace, amendment to the constitution, administrative reforms, agricultural reforms, ensuring people see the tangible results of reforms in shortest time, and resolution of sectarian tensions in Rakhine State and Meiktila.

(See page 8)

Significant day temperature

 Gyobingauk  42°C
Minhla, 5 May — A fire broke out at the residence of Aung Lwin Oo, 24, in Thabye Myaung Village of Yaynanma village-tract, 30-mile south-west of Minhla Township Fire Services Department in Thayet.

**Heavy rains, savage wind gusts kills 11, hurt seven in Kalaw, Hsihseng, Kyaukme**

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 May — Due to heavy downpours and high winds at about 1.30 pm on 2 May in Shwetaw region of Shwebo Min Phone village-tract in Kalaw Township, roofs were blown out of the police outpost in the region, a tree had fallen on a building of Asia Gabarmyay Industry and Mining, leaving eight people inside dead and seven injured and destroying four vehicles.

While savage wind gusts and massive rains bashed the region where it killed three people and left four missing at 200-foot gold mine of Gold Star Inn gold mining block, the death toll had reached 11, seven were wounded and four others are missing in the disaster.

Moreover, the disaster wreaked havoc in Phyi Han Kyaukka road in downtown Monywa, damaging 45 houses in Hantabin Village, 15 in Kheton, 35 in Mawmar, 60 in Manlwe, eight in Parkan and six and one school building in Hehwe.

**Torrential rains with a burst of high speed wind lash Monywa**

Monywa, 5 May — Torrential rains and a vicious gust of wind that the town had never seen within past 40 years touched down on Monywa and its environs for 15 minutes on 2 May. Heavy rains and strong wind brought down trees, blew roofs off and brought down signboards across the town. Due to the impact of the sudden squall of rain, trees on Bogyoke road and Kyaukka road in downtown Monywa fell down and roofs of the grandstand of Monywa sports ground were blown off. Moreover, the wind gusts caused a tree fallen on a stationary jeep in front of Aung Hsu Htoo Paing lottery shop and toppled down concrete lamp posts. Staff of Monywa Township Development Affairs Department, police members and fire crews joining hands with local people and monks performed clearing debris and fallen branches in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. Electrical staff carried out repair works for power lines and landlines which were cut down by the strong wind and fallen electric posts.

**Illegal oil pumping sparks fire in Minhla Township**

Minhla, 5 May — A fire broke out at the residence of Aung Lwin Oo, 24, in Thabye Myaung Village of Yaynanma village-tract, 30-mile south-west of Minhla Township Fire Services Department in Thayet.

**Heroin seized at Yangon International Airport**

Yangon, 5 May — A combined force discovered 8.2 grams of heroin—1.4 gram of heroin from his left trouser pocket, 4 grams from his hand baggage, 1.2 grams from his eyeglasses box and 1 gram from his wallet— from Nyi Nyi Myint Thein (a) Nyi Nyi Lwin who is about to take a Bangkok-bound flight of TG 304 at the main X Ray checkpoint.

**Youth associations take part in greening Shwebo**

Shwebo, 5 May — As a gesture of honouring the International Workers’ Day, preliminary works for rainy season tree growing were carried out by Shwebo District Arid Zone Greening Department in cooperation with youth associations on both sides of the road to Shwebo Industrial Zone at 6 am on 1 May.

Participants performed choosing sites for tree growing, digging holes and putting fertilizers into the holes ahead of growing trees. It is planned to grow 150 shady plants there. Nearly 100 members of social organizations took part in the activity led by Assistant Director U Ba Lwin Oo of Shewbo District Arid Zone Greening Department, Staff Officer U Soe Han and U Wunna Tun of W.Com Centre.

**Unknown rider snatches gold chain in Pyay**

Pyay, 5 May — A 26-year-old doctor had fallen victim to an unknown snatcher in Pyay of Bago Region at about 9.45 pm on 26 April.

While Dr Cho Yee Yee Nyunt, 26, of Parami Sharp clinic in Pyay together with Phyo Yadana, 23, a pharmaceutical company staff, were travelling on a motorbike from Khatayya Myothit to Twabe Taungpawkyang, an unidentified rider who drove behind them snatched the gold chain of her as she reduced the speed to give a look back near Lapyaewun hostel and drove away.

As she informed the police that her gold chain with a bucket worth K 1 million was snatched by an unknown motorcyclist, Pyay police station opened a case and investigation is ongoing.

**Sandbank forming in Ngawun River attracts merry-makers**

Yekyi, 5 May — A sandbank formed in Ngawun River on the side of Daungkyi Village in Yekyi Township, serving as a beach for holiday-makers. People the far and wide of the region have come in flocks to visit the four furlongs long and 200 yards wide sandbank for recreation and local people from nearby villages are doing brisk trade, opening food stalls for visitors.

A man who is keeping a watchful eye on possible occurrence of unwanted problems said that he did not want to see a beach like Nyaung Chaungtha as alcoholic beverages are available there for merry-makers. He had concerns there would be problems for running of vessels and ships as waterway is narrow. He was also worried about possible danger of riverbank erosion on the east side of Ngawun River.
UN hiring of armed contractors raises concern about rights abuses

NEW YORK, 5 May — The United Nations has hired more than 30 armed private security contractors for its operations in volatile security regions but the arrangement has irked some member countries who voiced concern about possible human rights abuses and illegal actions in a recent General Assembly meeting.

The assembly consequently passed a resolution at its 4 April plenary session stressing that private armed security services be used only as an “exceptional measure.”

In a report provided to the General Assembly by the United Nations’ Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the private contractors were listed as working as part of UN political missions in countries such as Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Afghanistan and on peacekeeping missions in locations from Haiti to the Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond.— Kyodo News

ADB, IMF encourage Myanmar to carry on economic reforms

NEW DELHI, 5 May — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Saturday encouraged Myanmar to carry on its economic reforms aimed at achieving the goal of reducing poverty and development.

ADB and IMF officials said at a seminar on Myanmar held on the sidelines of an ADB annual meeting here that the country is on the right track to build its own economic and financial institutions for future development.

Stephen Groff, vice president of ADB, also cautioned that the country must have an “expectation management” for its people, as things will not change overnight but take time to move forward. But he said the government of Myanmar should also ensure that people know the country’s reforms will bring returns in future.

He called for efforts to encourage private sector to join Myanmar’s construction process, while stressing the importance of inclusive economic growth for solving the prominent issues faced by the country, such as poverty and underdevelopment.

Anoop Sing, IMF director for Asia and Pacific Department, said the government of Myanmar should be encouraged to work on macro-economic stability growth by putting inflation under control.

He said it is good to see the country has started building institutions for macro-economic stability with participation of state and private players like central bank and private funding.

This would generate investment for economic development, health and education from private sectors rather than solely the state budget, as well as bring revenues and build foreign currency reserves, he said.

MVA/Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) talks with representatives of model youth before joining a discussion to mark the country’s Youth Day on Saturday at China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing, capital of China, on 4 May, 2013. Xi on Saturday called on Chinese young people to contribute to the revitalization of the nation and “honne themselves at grassroots.”

Xinhua

US names new AfPak special envoy

WASHINGTON, 5 May — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday named James Dobbins, a career diplomat, as the new special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. “This is a pivotal moment for both Afghanistan and Pakistan, with interconnected political, security and economic transitions already underway in Afghanistan, and Pakistani elections just days away, marking an important and historic democratic transition,” the top American envoy said in a statement.

He said he has called leaders of the two countries to inform them of his decision. As the first special envoy for Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban in December 2001, Dobbins will take up a post long vacant in December when Mark Grossman stepped down. American and NATO troops have planned their exit from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 following a bloody and costly war that has entered its 12th year. Washington has been seeking a positive Pakistani role in this process and beyond.

“Given my own history with both countries, and players throughout the region, identifying the right person for this position was a key priority,” Kerry said, noting Dobbins will continue building on diplomatic efforts to bring the conflict to a peaceful conclusion, actively engaging with states in the region and the international community.” As the first special envoy, Dobbins represented Washington at the Bonn Conference that helped establish a new Afghan government.

A career foreign service officer, who turned 71 by the end of this month, Dobbins was special envoy for Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia for the administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He has also served as assistant secretary of state for European affairs as well as special assistant to the president for the Western Hemisphere. He is director of the International Security and Defence Policy Corporation in Washington DC.—Xinhua

Japan, India confirm to proceed with nuclear pact talks

GREATER NOIDA, (India), 5 May — Japan and India have confirmed they will continue talks for a bilateral pact for civilian nuclear energy cooperation, Japanese finance ministry officials said on Saturday.

Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh shared a view in their meeting that the issue is critical for both countries even though the nuclear energy talks between the two countries have stalled following Japan’s nuclear crisis triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, the officials said.

Aso, who doubles as finance minister, is visiting India to attend the Asian Development Bank’s annual meeting. — Kyodo News

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (L) and Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso shake hands in Greater Noida, India, on 4 May, 2013.— KYODO NEWS

Afghan peace mission ends in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 5 May — At least three people were killed and 40 injured on Saturday in two bomb blasts targeting an election office of the Ethnic Mutahida Quami Movement in the party’s Karachi stronghold, police and hospital officials said.

An MQM Press statement said its election office in Karachi’s neighbourhood Azzabadd was hit by two successive blasts at an interval of 30 minutes. According to police, the first explosion was caused by a bomb placed on a auto rickshaw.

The second bomb was set off by a suicide bomber on a motorbike, Azzibad police chief Zarfar Bukhari said.

Children were among those injured in the explosions, said the police. MQM has called for a day of mourning Sunday, the statement said. Meanwhile, Tehrik Taleban Pakistan, an alliance of militant groups in Pakistan, has claimed responsibility for the attacks. Pakistan’s GEO TV reported.

TTP, based in Pakistan’s tribal area, has vowed to attack Pakistan People’s Party, Awami National Party and MQM which ruled Pakistan in a coalition for five years until March 2013. Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan, governor of Sindh Province, condemned the attack and said security forces will continue their crackdown on terrorists in the run-up to Pakistan’s general election, slated for next Saturday. He added that the political parties will continue campaigning, despite the ongoing threats by TTP.

Dozens of people have been killed in recent weeks in attacks targeting electoral campaigning of PPP, MQM and ANP. — Kyodo News

Malaysia goes to polls in crucial general election

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 May — Malaysians went to polls on Sunday in maybe the closest general election ever-held in the country. — Xinhua

Former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, is eying a step forward after delivering a biggest setback in decades to the Barisan in 2008. Anwar and other opposition leaders have promised a fairer economic environment and an end to the race-based politics in a multi-racial country. They have also vowed to tackle corruption and cronyism that they said had flourished under Barisan’s rule.—Xinhua

Three killed in militant attacks on MQM office in Karachi

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Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak casts his vote at a polling station in Pekan, Malaysia, on 5 May, 2013. Malaysians went to polls on Sunday in the closest general election ever-held in the country.—Xinhua

Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak casts his vote at a polling station in Pekan, Malaysia, on 5 May, 2013. Malaysians went to polls on Sunday in the closest general election ever-held in the country.—Xinhua
IBM makes world’s smallest movie by filming atoms

**Power plant: bamboo**

**Food forest**

WASHINGTON, May 5 — Scientists from IBM on Wednesday unveiled the world’s smallest movie, made with one of the tiniest elements in the universe: atoms. **Capturing, positioning, and shaping atoms to create an original motion picture on the atomic level is a precise science and entirely novel,** said Andreas Heinrich, principle investigator for the research in a statement.

“This movie is a fun way to share the atomic-scale world while opening up a dialogue with students and others on the new frontiers of math and science,” Heinrich said.

IBM used a remotely operated scanning tunneling microscope to make the movie earlier this year. The microscope operates at a temperature of negative 268 degrees Celsius and magnifies the atomic structure over 100 million times.

Researchers used the microscope to control a super-sharp needle along a copper surface to “feel” atoms. Only 1 nanometer away from the surface, which is a billionth of a meter in distance, the needle can physically attract atoms and molecules on the surface and thus pull them to a precisely specified location on the surface.

In the end, the scientists rendered still images of the individually arranged atoms, resulting in 242 single frames.

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**An expert works at the ground receiving station in Vietnam National Remote Sensing Centre in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 3 May, 2013. Bad weather at the Guiana Space Centre at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana has prevented the launch of VNREDSAT-1 satellite. The launch will be delayed till 5 May. Xinhua**

**WMO annual climate report confirm 2012 as among top 10 warmest**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Thursday that the year 2012 was the ninth warmest on record despite the cooling influence of a La Nina episode early in the year. The WMO's statement on the Status of the Global Climate said that the global land and ocean surface temperature in 2012 was estimated to be 0.45 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average of 14.0 degrees.

This was the ninth warmest year since records began in 1850 and the 27th consecutive year that the global land and ocean temperatures were above the 1961-1990 average, according to the statement.

It said that during 2012, above-average temperatures were observed across most of the globe’s land surface areas, most notably North America, southern Europe, western Russia, parts of northern Africa and southern South America.

Nonetheless, cooler-than-average conditions were observed across Alaska, parts of northern and eastern Australia, and central Asia.

**IBM makes world’s smallest movie by filming atoms**

IBM makes world’s smallest movie by filming atoms

**US researchers develop insect-like flying robot**

Ramon Arvai, CEO and founder of Prezi, delivers a speech at the Seoul Digital Forum 2013 in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 May, 2013.

**Power plant: bamboo**

**Food forest**

WASHINGTON, May 5 — US researchers on Thursday unveiled a small, flying robot about the size of a house-fly that can execute the tricky maneuvers of the ubiquitous insect.

The first of its kind, the flying robot is providing researchers with new ways to study the flight of nature’s smallest flying insects, according to a study published in the journal Science.

The tiny robot weighs only 80 milligrams and is about half the size of a paperclip. Its two wafer-thin wings flap almost invisibly, 120 times per second. In test flights, it can fly for over 20 seconds without ever approaching a crash.

The demonstration of the first controlled flight of an insect-sized robot is the culmination of more than a decade’s work, led by researchers at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at the Harvard University.

“This is what I have been trying to do for literally the last 12 years,” said Robert J Wood, professor of engineering and applied sciences at the SEAS. “It’s really only because of this lab’s recent breakthroughs in manufacturing materials and design that we have even been able to try this. And it just worked, spectacularly well.”

To build such a tiny robot with little flapping wings, the researchers had to use some nontraditional approaches. The wafers, for example, were made from special piezoelectric materials, which can convert mechanical stress into electricity, then use the electricity to cause the robot’s wings to flap. The robot’s body is a double-layered structure, making it lightweight and simple.

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Canada’s Magna to cut jobs in Europe, US

**New Light of Myanmar**

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Big drugmakers think small with nanomedicine deals**

LONDON, 5 May — Is nanomedicine the next big thing? A growing number of top drug companies seem to think so.

The ability to encapsulate potent drugs in tiny particles measuring billions of a meter in diameter is opening up new options for super-accurate drug delivery, increasing precision hits at the site of disease, with, hopefully, fewer side effects.

Three deals struck this year by privately held Bind Therapeutics, together worth nearly $1 billion if experiments are successful, highlight a new interest in using small carriers to deliver drug payloads to specific locations in the body.

US-based Bind is one of several biotechnology firms that are luring large pharmaceutical makers with a range of smart drug nanotechnologies, notably against cancer.

And nanomedicine is also being put to work in diagnostics, with tiny particles used to improve imaging in scanners, as well as rapidly detecting some serious infections.

In future, researchers hope to combine both treatment and diagnostics in a new approach dubbed “theranostics” that would allow doctors to monitor patients via their medicines.

A recent hype about limited clinical success, scientists in the nanotechnology field finally see a turning point.

Japanese drug maker Honda Motor Co won US approval in February for Kadcyla, its first such antibody-drug conjugate, which treats breast cancer with fewer side effects like hair loss.

“All these developments have prompted companies to look at new avenues because the older ways of using drugs haven’t worked so well,” said Robert Langer, a pioneer of nanomedicine who runs the world’s largest biomedical engineering laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The work remains early stage and Peer of Tel Aviv University says all the novel carriers will have to be studied closely for potential toxicity. However, experience with liposomes is good and versions of gold nanoparticles have also been used safely for many years to treat rheumatoid arthritis.—Reuters

**Auto industry love for Mexico grows with new Audi plant**

SAN JOSÉ CHIAPA, 5 May — The automotive in-
dustry’s growing love affair with Mexico was celebrated here on Saturday as Audi executives laid the foun-
dation stone for its first assem-
blty plant in the Americas.

Volkswagen AG’s (VOWG_p.DE) premium brand is joining a parade of automakers who have an-
nounced plans to build cars in a country that is seen as a doorway not only to the rest of North and South America but to the world. Audi officials said the $1.3 billion ($837.2 million pounds) plant will open in three years and eventually be the German brand’s only source globally for its Q5 SUVs after it opens in mid-
2016.

“Mexico was chosen very deliberately,” Audi Chairman Rupert Stadler told more than 500 industry offi-
ticals outside the town of San José Chiapa in central Mexico.

“It is situated between North and South America, making it a linchpin be-
tween the two regions.” He added that Mexico was an “ideal export base.”

With numerous free trade agreements, a cheap, well-educated labour force, and proximity to the lu-
crative US auto market, combined with growing demand in South America, automakers have been lin-
ing up for two years to set up shop in a country that could eventually overtake Brazil as Latin America’s biggest economy.

Audi’s ceremony came two days after Japanese au-
tomaker Honda Motor Co (7267.T) said it would build a $470 million transmission plant in the central state of Guanajuato, near an $800 million assembly plant that is expected to begin opera-
tions in February 2014.

**US-born kids have more allergies, asthma**

NEW YORK, 5 May — Children born abroad and immigrate to the United States are about half as likely to have asthma and allergies as those who are born in the US, according to a new study. Researchers surveyed the parents of 80,000 children in one of six languages and found that association held even after they took into account where families lived and how often they moved, as well as their race and income.

“This is definitely something we see clini-
cally and we’re trying to better understand, what is it in our environment that’s increasing the risk of al-
lergic disease?” said Dr Ruchi Gupta, who studies allergies at the Northwestern Uni-
versity Feinberg School of Medicine in Chi-
cago but wasn’t involved in the new research. “Food allergies have increased tremendously,” she told Reuters Health. “We do see people who come from other countries don’t tend to have it, but immigrants who are maybe second gen-
eration, they’re identical (to US-born people).”

It’s not obvious what explains that pattern, researchers said. According to Gupta, two possible culprits are the so-called hygiene hypoth-
sis—which suggests kids in the US are too clean, and their immune systems never get exposed to common al-
lergens or the quality of American diets.

Lead researcher Dr Jonathan Silverberg from Beth Israel Medical Cen-
tre and St Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York said climate, obe-
sity and various infections might also be playing a role.

“The results of the study suggest that there are environmental factors in the US that trigger allergic disease,” he told Reuters Health in an email.

“Children born outside the US are likely not exposed to these factors early in life and are therefore less likely to develop allergic diseases.”—Reuters

**Auto industry love for Mexico grows with new Audi plant**

A worker cleans an Audi A3 in the final check area at the production line of the German car manufacturer’s new Audi plant in the Bavarian city of Ingolstadt on 11 March, 2013.—Reuters

**JPMorgan shareholders urged to reject three directors**

**Reuters**

The report by ISS ratchets up pressure on directors to reduce Dimon’s power at JPMorgan, the biggest bank based in the United States, as some stockholders push for more supervision of the outspoken executive.

A statement from JPMorgan spokeswoman Kristin Lemkam on Sat-

day said: “The company strongly endorses the re-

election of its current di-

rectors and disagrees with ISS’s position.”

ISS also renewed its recommendation from a year ago that CEO and Chairman of the Board Jamie Dimon give up one of those two titles. ISS said investigations of the derivatives loss, which surfaced right before last year’s shareholder meet-

ing, showed that JPMorgan executives need more inde-

pendent oversight and that the company is too big and too complex for one person to be able to do both jobs.

Shareholders will meet on 21 May in Tampa, Florida. They will vote on the re-election of the com-
pany’s 11 directors and on a non-binding proposal from four institutional sharehold-

ers calling on the board to have a chairman who is independent from manage-

ment. A similar advisory proposal failed to pass last year, receiving only 40 per-
cent of the vote. That vote was five points more than similar propos-
als at other companies that year.

The independent chair vote is developing into a major test for Dimon, 57. It comes as criticism, and sanctions from regulators, over poor risk manage-

ment have piled up since the “London Whale” losses surfaced at the bank, which has $2.39 trillion in assets, the most of any US bank.

**JPMorgan Chase & Co shareholders should vote against the re-election of three board members because they failed to properly oversee risk-taking that led to $6.2 billion of losses on the so-called “London Whale” trades, an influential proxy advisory firm said.**

ISS Proxy Advisory Services said in a report released late Friday that di-

gerators David Cote, James Crow and Ellen Flutter should not be re-elected at the company’s annual meeting this month because of “the pattern of stewardship and risk over-

sight.”

**Two men walk past the front desk inside of the headquarters of JPMorgan Chase & Co bank in New York, on 15 March, 2013. — Reuters**

**Graduate student Giulia Agliardi, from Milan, Italy, studies cancer cells in the Nanomedicine Lab at UCL’s School of Pharmacy in London on 2 May, 2013. Reuters**
Japan man offers money to Russian students

Russia's agriculture is so depressed, a 68-year-old former restaurant owner from Japan's Akita Prefecture, has been offering grants of his own money to students learning Japanese at a Russian university for more than 10 years.—Kyodo News

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia), 5 May—Koichi Muto, a 68-year-old former restaurant owner from Japan’s Akita Prefecture, has been offering grants of his own money to students learning Japanese at a Russian university for more than 10 years. Muto launched the programme in October 2001 for students and teachers in the Japanese language Department at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok after learning that many of them were struggling with financial hardship. At the end of February, Muto granted 55,000 yen each to six students and three instructors. He has helped more than 200 students and teachers since 2001, handing out more than 7 million yen.

Kyodo News

NPO member creates cookbook with refugees’ recipes

people more interested in the issue of refugees if we feature food, which is a subject familiar to everyone,” said Shinho Tanaka, 36, of the Japan Association for Refugees.

The recipes in the book titled “Flavours Without Borders” include spicy fried saury from Bangladesh, a shepherd’s salad long passed down among Kurds in the Middle East, and other dishes from such countries as Myanmar, Iran and Uganda. The book is written with both Japanese and English text.

Kyodo News

Israel bombs Hezbollah-bound missiles in Syria

WASHINGTON, 5 May—Israel has carried out an air strike targeting a shipment of missiles in Syria bound for Hezbollah guerrillas in neighbouring Lebanon, an Israeli official said on Saturday. Israel had long made clear it is prepared to resort to force to prevent advanced Syrian weapons, including President Bashar al-Assad’s reputed chemical arsenal, reaching Hezbollah fighters in Syria’s allies or Islamist insurgents taking part in a more than two-year-old uprising against his government.

Hezbollah, allied with Israel’s arch-enemy Iran, waged an inconclusive war with the Jewish state in 2006 and remains a potent threat in Israeli eyes. Israelis also worry that if Assad is toppled, Islamist rebels could turn his guns on them after four decades of relative calm in the Golan Heights border area. The target of Friday’s raid was not a Syrian chemical weapons facility, a regional security source earlier said. A US official, who also declined to be identified, had told Reuters on Friday the target was apparently a building.

The Israeli official who acknowledged the raid and described its target spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel’s government has not formally taken responsibility for the action or confirmed it happened. The attack took place after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s security cabinet approved it in a secret meeting on Thursday night, the regional security source said. CNN quoted unnamed US officials as saying Israel most likely conducted the strike “in the Thursday—Friday time frame” and its jets did not enter Syrian air space.

The Israeli air force has so-called “standoff” bombs that can deliver dozens of kilometres (miles) across ground to their targets once fired. That could, in theory, allow Israel to attack Syria from Israeli turf or from adjacent Lebanon. Lebanese authorities reported unusual intensive Israeli air force activity over their territory on Thursday and Friday.

A Lebanese security source said his initial impression was that Israeli overflights were monitoring potential arms shipments between Syria and Lebanon, potentially to Hezbollah. “We believe that it is linked to Israel’s concerns over the transfer of weapons, particularly chemical weapons, from Syria to its allies Lebanon,” said the official, who asked not to be named.

The Israeli air attack was the first since President Bashar al-Assad was toppled, Islamist insur- rection for Refugees. Muto, a former university student in Vladivostok on 27 Feb, 2013. Muto, a former university student in Vladivostok on 27 Feb, 2013.

Kyodo News

Novelist Haruki Murakami posts message of grief over Boston bombings

NEW YORK, 5 May—Acclaimed Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami expressed his grief over last month’s Boston bombings that took place in a message carried by the New Yorker magazine in its online edition Friday.

In an article entitled “Boston, from One Citizen of the World Who Calls Himself a Runner,” Murakami called the Boston Marathon “a badge of pride” to the city and its citizens.

“Even from far away, I can imagine how sickened and discouraged the people of Boston feel about the tragedy of this year’s race,” he said.

As a jogger who has run 33 full marathons worldwide in the past three decades, Murakami said, “Whenever someone asks me which is my favourite, I never hesitate to answer: the Boston Marathon,” which he said he has run six times.

Kyodo News

Slovenia, Russia agree to promote co-op on all levels

LJUBLJANA, 5 May—Slovenian President Borut Pahor met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov here on Friday, both pledging to promote comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. Pahor and Lavrov agreed to further promote bilateral friendly relations on all levels, including economy, culture, science and sports, as well as bilateral and multilateral political ties, according to a Press release from the president’s office.

Both expressed hope to continue the support for strategic partnerships between the European Union and Russia.

They also called for political solutions to issues in the Western Balkans. On bilateral economic cooperation, Lavrov said that the planned South Stream gas pipeline, which will supply 63 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas to Europe via the Black Sea, is one of key joint projects between Russia and Slovenia in energy and infrastructure.

The long-distance pipeline is planned to run under the Black Sea and through Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Austria, with branches through Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece and Italy.

The total length of the offshore section will be around 900 kilometres. Slovenia and Russia signed an agreement on the South Stream project in November 2012, and a joint venture between Gazprom and Slovenian pipeline operator Plinovodi has been set up.

The construction of the Slovenian section of the South Stream gas pipeline is due to begin in 2013, and the pipeline is scheduled for launch in 2017.

It was noticed that Lavrov’s visit to Slovenia occurred one week after a visit by Alexei Miller, the boss of Russian energy giant Gazprom. Following his talks with Pahor, Lavrov is due to meet Slovenian Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek in Ljubljana, and to sign agreements with his Slovenian counterpart Karl Erjavec on culture, science, education and sport for the period 2013-2015.
Japanese law firm makes Myanmar entry

YANGON, 5 May—Japanese law firm Nishimura and Asahi is poised to open Myanmar branch office in Yangon this month.

According to a Japanese legal practitioner who will take charge of Yangon office, the firm will focus on corporate legal services for foreign investors. The firm aimed at providing legal services to both fellow Japanese firms and other foreign companies entering Myanmar.

It will also act as a negotiator between local businesses and international trade partners. Nishimura and Asahi has branch offices in China, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

Clerical works are underway as the legal outlet plans to make the office fully operational in May. A host of foreign entities are planning their entry to Myanmar which hold “a lot of potential to grow”, said the Japanese legal specialist.—Myanma Alinn

Sand paintings business grows in Bagan

“IT takes two or three days to complete a sand painting,” she said.

An ordinary sand painting which mostly depicts scenes of Bagan and imaginative ways of living in ancient times fetches from K 6000 to K 12,000 (approximate to USD 7-14).

Sand painters could be found at work outside famous temples. The sand painters are said to follow the artistic ideas of mural paintings of ancient Bagan temples and regenerated them with new medium. Gubyaukgyi Temple is famous for its mural arts.—Myanma Alinn

Squalls destroy houses in upper Myanmar, Shan State

A total of 47 houses and trees by Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Singaing Township in Mandalay Region were flattened by squalls on 1 May.

Seven houses of Zawgyi village and 37 of Kyauktan village in the township were destroyed by the strong winds. Firefighters and local authorities are clearing debris and fallen trees.

Trees fell over shops and houses by squalls in Kahtla and Kyeegon villages in Kalay Township in Sagaing Region on 2 May. No casualties were reported.

Roof of Basic Education Primary School (branch) in Kahtla were ripped off.

The school might face difficulties to start of next academic year if the roof could not repair in time, according to a villager. The academic year starts on 1 June.

A man in Lebyin village of Indaw Township in the same region was struck and killed by thunder on 1 May.

A total of 170 houses in Mawma village in Kyaukme Township, which almost represent the whole village, were destroyed by the squalls on 2 May, leaving some 500 villagers homeless.

A total of 43 houses of Htantabin in the same township were also devastated by the stormy winds, displacing 130. A total of 60 villagers of Nawngpain village were also made homeless as the strong winds destroyed 21 houses.

Nawngpain village’s philanthropic group donated 100 CI sheets, food and clothes to Mawma village’s storm victims.

Township electricians are working on resumption of electricity supply while other departmental staff joined firefighters to clear debris.

On 3 May, heavy rain accompanied squalls in Kyaukme in northern Shan State, rooting out some trees, tearing off roofs and bringing down lamp posts. Consequently, the town witnessed electricity outage.

One woman sustained a minor injury at arm while evacuating herself from her house besides a near-fallen tree. Some houses of the town were flattened by the strong winds.

Myanma Alinn

Yangon-Myawady passenger bus plunges, two injured

Hpa-an, 5 May—Two passengers were injured in an accident in Gyaing village in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State in which Yazarmin Express bus bound for Hpa-an plunged off the road on 2 May.

The bus driven by U Hsan Tun Oo, 39, of Kyaihto pulled out at 5 pm 300 yards from toll gate of Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge.

The bus was plying about 9 pm on 3 May.

The amount of loss was more than K 10 million.

The fire was put out by firefighters of Township Fire Services Department at 9.40 pm.

Indawgaw police station charged driver U Myo Thein with reckless driving.

Myanma Alinn

Firefighters and authorities in Singaing Township clearing debris.

Strong winds destroy houses in Kyaukme.
Transition in progress

There is no doubt that we will face a lot of challenges and tensions during this transition period: some of them may even seem insurmountable at first. But we are confident that we will be able to face these challenges with synergy and cooperation of the government, parliament, judiciary, armed forces, ethnic forces, political parties, civil society organizations, and most importantly the Myanmar people.

Step by step our government is taking measures to build investor confidence and promote responsible investment in Myanmar. Myanmar is ready to work with the international investors as an equal partner. The government was working hand in hand with the legislative branch to promulgate the Foreign Direct Investment Law in the later part of last year.

Currently we are in the good process of implementing procedures and processes that are more transparent, accountable, legitimate and predictable. The FDI law is just one dimension in an integrated framework for political, economic, social and legal priorities that will shape the environment of Myanmar’s investment regime.

While encouraging investment, it is important to promote the welfare of the Myanmar people and protect the environment upon which their livelihoods depend. We have already formed the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Leading Authority in Myanmar to take the necessary actions to deliver on our commitment to implement EITI. In line with peoples’ wishes for responsible investment, the Government is serious about establishing a framework for dialogue about the governance of Myanmar’s natural resources.

We have already embarked on a transition that has never been attempted before. From authoritarian rule to democracy, from a state-centered economy to a free market, and from a war involving more than a dozen different non-state armed groups, to a just and permanent peace in the whole country, we have been implementing this transition and it is in progress at present.

Myanmar still facing challenges in spite of international... (from page 1)

briefing the political and economic reforms being undertaken for stability and economic development of the country, which are the two same aspirations of the people.

The President said the government placed an emphasis on capacity building and institutional structures required for reforms, in first two years. He believes citizens can experience the results of reforms in 2013. Though he does not believe the government in office can solve all the long-running problems, the President promised the incumbent government would spare no efforts to solve those problems, and build foundation for the next government to be able to solve those problems. The government is taking steps to bring about political devolution, shifting to people-centered administration and thus it is undertaking administrative reforms as the third phase of reform process, mentioned the President.

Parties and lawmakers can complain the weakness and faults of the executive branch with firm evidences, said the President who pledged to take care of defective administration, calling for participation of all.

Union Defence Minister leaves for Brunei

YANGON, 5 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin left Yangon International Airport here by air this morning to attend 7th ASEAN-Defence Ministers Meeting to be held in Brunei Darussalam.

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hlay Aung on 3 May met the chairperson of Ngapali Hotel Zone and hoteliers at Amazing Hotel & Resort and gave instructions on systematic development of Ngapali Beach tour.

The Union minister stressed the need for annual assessment of current plan in practice for sustainable development of Ngapali Beach. The Union minister inspected hotels under construction the following day. Ngapali saw a significant increase in number of foreign tourists this year, up 40 per cent in comparison with last year’s travel season.

The Union minister met executives of Myanmar Tourism Federation, new executives of Myanmar Tour Operators Association and chairpersons of hotel zones at the hall of MTF in Yangon this morning. He called for joint efforts for development of smokeless industry, speaking of the need of corporate social responsibility for benefits of local people of tourist sites.—MNA

National Hockey League kicks off

YANGON, 5 May—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, the Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman’s Cup National Hockey League kicked off at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch yesterday afternoon, opened by Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik. In the debut, Defence Ministry Youth team trounced Triangle Region Command 6-1. The ceremony was attended by President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Hnin Zaw Win, diplomats and spectactors.

Defence Ministry Youth, Tamatdaw (Navy), Tamadaw (Air), Northern Command, Triangle Region Command, Yangon Command, MPF, Nammyo and Mon State are taking part in the league.

Union Minister calls for CSR of hoteliers

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President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with those from political parties.—MNA
Ayeyawady Region government honours excellence award winners

Pathin, 5 May—Those from Pathin who won excellence award presented by President U Thein Sein and regional level excellence award were honoured at Pathin Hotel in Pathin on 3 May evening, attended by Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and officials. The region chief minister urged the awardees to take greater part in development of the region and presented certificates of honour to them. Owner of Golden Delta Co Ltd U Chit Khing won best exporter award, Max Myanmar Co Ltd Chairman U Zaw Zaw of Yekyi Township, U Shwe Kyaw from Thaungza Village-tract of Maubin Township and JAT U Hsang Min Ko from Dekhaung Village of Ngaputaw Township certificates of honour presented by the President.

Those who won regional level excellence awards were also presented with prizes. A prize winner spoke words of thanks and guests were hosted with dinner.—Kyemon

67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day observed by Myeik

Myeik, 5 May—The 67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was observed at Myeik Stadium in Myeik this morning, with the attendees saluting the State flag, fallen martyrs and firefighters. Myeik District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo spoke words of appraisal on the occasion. Three core and nine auxiliary firefighters were awarded with medals and certificates of honor for their brilliant performance.

Next, the firefighters of Myeik District and auxiliary fire service stations demonstrated their firefighting drill.—Kyemon

67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day held in Sagaing

Sagaing, 5 May—67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was observed at People’s Ground in Sagaing this morning, attended by District Management Committee Chairman U Myint Wai and departmental officials, Head of District Fire Services Department U Saw Lwin Myint and fire brigade members.

The district management committee chairman made a speech and officials accepted the cash donations of wellwishers.

Wellwisher U Kyaw Thura + Daw Theingi Tan and family donated a fire tanker worth K 2.2 million and a firefighting equipment worth K 120,900 through officials.

A total of cash donation at today’s ceremony was K 2,774,800.

Personnel leave for Mawtaung Border Trade Camp

A total of 35 departmental personnel led by in-charge of the border trade camp Assistant Director U Min Zaw of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Department left Myeik by car at 11 am yesterday to discharge duties at the trade camp.

Hsipaw faces drinking water difficulties

Hsipaw, 5 May—Phaphaik Dam, the lifeblood of Hsipaw Township in Shan State (North) saw low water level due to excessive heat in this summer. Wells and lakes dried up in Sanphaik and Shwepyitha new wards. So, local people in the township face shortage of drinking water. The staff from township development affairs committee under the supervision of Executive Officer Assistant Director U Thein Htaik Oo distributes safe water to needy people by using 1500 gallons water tanker.

Local people are appreciated the staff’s efforts for door-to-door distribution of drinking water free of charge. —Kyemon

Traffic lights installed on Anawrahta Road

Yangon, 5 May—Traffic lights are installed at the junctions of Anawrahta Road and 38th Street and of Anawrahta Road and Bo Son Pak Street where road users mostly pass. The drivers need to follow the speed designated by Road Transport Administration Department.
Wildfire on Southern California coast threatens 4,000 homes

Camarillo, (California), 5 May — A fierce, wind-driven wildfire spread on Friday along the California coast northwest of Los Angeles, threatening 4,000 homes and a military base as residents were evacuated ahead of the flames and a university campus was closed.

By nightfall more than 950 firefighters had built a pall of thick smoke drift ing over the beach community of Malibu and farther inland across Los Angeles County. Several farm buildings and recreational vehicles were engulfed and fire officers said 15 homes were damaged, along with five commercial properties. While 25 outbuildings were destroyed, no residential structures were lost and no containment around about 20 percent of the inferno, which has blackened more than 43 square miles (111 square kilometres) of dry brush and chaparral since erupting on Thursday morning. More firefight ers were said to be on the way and fire officials said they hoped that diminishing winds and higher humid ity would help them make headway overnight and on Saturday.

Fire managers said they expected it would take until next Monday to fully contain the blaze, which sent smoke as high as nine miles in the air. A 104 square-mile (269 square-kilometre) fire has blackened more than 43 square miles (111 square kilometres) of land to the poor and limiting how much property big landowners can have. The government has insisted no land will be taken from private land owners, but acknowledged that rural development and distribution of land are key to achieving peace. — Reuters

US X-51A aircraft sets record in final test

WAshington, 5 May — The US Air Force announced Friday its X-51A Waverider aircraft has achieved the longest hypersonic flight in history, Busing for three and a half minutes on scramjet power at more than five times the speed of sound. The final flight of the unmanned aircraft built by Boeing reached Mach 5.1 over the Pacific Ocean on 1 May. It traveled over 230 nautical miles in just over six minutes.

“It was a full mission success,” said Charlie Brink, X-51A programme manager for the Air Force Research Laboratory Aerosp ace Systems Directorate. “I believe all we have learned from the X-51A Waverider will serve as the bedrock for future hypersonics research and ultimately the practical application of hypersonic flight.”

With the test, the US Air Force has successfully delivered a 300-million-dollar, nearly decade-long hypersonic test programme that reportedly can be used to deliver strikes around the globe within minutes.

The X-51A took off from the Air Force Test Centre at Edwards Air Force Base in California, under the wing of a B-52H Stratofortress. It was released at approximately 15,000 metres and flew at about Mach 4.8 in about 26 seconds powered by a solid rocket booster. After separating from the boost er, the cruiser’s scramjet engine then lit and accelerated to Mach 5.1 at 18,000 metres. After exhausting its 240-second fuel supply, the vehicle continued to send back telemetry data until it splashed down into the ocean and was destroyed as designed.

“This demonstration of a practical hypersonic scramjet engine is a historic achievement that has been years in the making,” said Darryl Davis, president of Boeing Phantom Works, in a statement. “This test proves the technology has matured to the point that it opens the door to practical applications, such as advanced defense systems and more cost-effective access to space,” said Davis. This was the last of four test flights for X-51A. The first occurred in June 2010. It was hailed as a success, as the vehicle flew for nearly 200 seconds and reached approximately Mach 5. The next two flights, in June 2011 and August 2012, both failed. — XinHua

Bangladesh urges no harsh EU measures over factory deaths

Dhaka, 5 May — Bangladesh on Saturday urged the European Union not to take tough measures against its economically crucial textile industry in response to the collapse of a garment factory that killed 550 people.

The EU has threatened to cut off duty-free access offered by Western countries and low wages have helped turn Bangladesh’s garment exports into a $19 billion-a-year industry, with 60 percent of clothes going to Europe.

Colombia, FARC say progress made in talks

HAVana, 5 May — Colombia and Marxist-led FARC rebels reported important advances on Friday on the critical issue of agrarian reform in their talks to end half a century of war but the government complained the negoti aions were still moving too slowly.

The rebels also put a possible chill in the pro cess by rejecting the notion of legal prosecution for their actions in the conflict, which has left thousands of people dead and millions displaced.

The statements came at the end of the latest round of peace negotiations, which began in November and have yet to produce an accord on agrarian reform, the first of five points on their agenda. “There were important advances in this round of talks toward the construction of new agree ments,” the two sides said in a joint communiqué. They added that they had a draft agreement in hand on the agrarian issue, which includes distribution of land and rural development.

But lead government negotiator Humberto de la Calle told reporters “the pace of the conversations has been insufficient, in constant.” “We could have progressed much more,” said the former Colombian vice president. Conversely, Ivan Marquez, lead negotiator for the FARC, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, said his team was pleased at how far they had come. “We’re advancing. The peace delegation of the FARC feels satisfied with the gains we are making,” he said.

The peace talks are due to resume in Havana on Tuesday, with the FARC due to return to Cuba after a visit to Cuba.

The negotiations have been delayed by the government’s refusal to investigate those killed in the collapse of a building on which work was under way to build a factory.

The government has promised to pursue those responsible for the collapse of the building, which experts say could have been caused by a design flaw or poor construction.
Two civilians killed in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 5 May — Two people were killed in separate drive-by shootings in restive southern province of Pattani and Narathiwat on Saturday. Police said a man was shot dead on a local road in Pattani’s Mayo district on Saturday morning. He was identified as Wayeh Dorloh, 50, a resident of Mayo district. According to witnesses, Wayeh was travelling on his motorcycle on the rural road heading to a teashop in the village when a gunman riding pillion on another motorcycle fired on him with handgun. Wayeh was shot twice in the head and body and died on the spot. Police were investigating the incident. In Narathiwat, Abdulkhal Pataeboeun, 39, a driver of rice truck, was killed in a shooting in Rue-sod district. Police said the attack occurred about Saturday morning. Witnesses told police that Abduloh was driving his truck on the road when a gunman riding pillion of a motorcycle opened fire on him with M16 assault rifle. Abduloh was shot and lost control of his truck, which crashed a roadside tree. He got off the vehicle and ran for his life into the roadside forest, where the gunman followed and shot him again at close range to make sure he was dead. The assailants then fled. Police found nine spent M16 rifle cartridges scattered on the road. Police blamed separatist militants for the incident.—Xinhua

ADB annual meeting in India to discuss sustainable development

NEW DELHI, 5 May — The annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will start on Saturday in India, where member countries are set to discuss the region’s sustainable development amid expectations that growth will accelerate further.

Finance leaders and delegates from the 67 ADB member countries will gather in Greater Noida on the outskirts of New Delhi to discuss ways to deal with energy, disaster management and other key issues in the region.

At the two-day meeting, Takehiko Nakao, who took the helm of the ADB on 28 April, is expected to deliver an opening speech and explain the body’s agenda items.—Kyodo News

Maoists kill village panchayat member

MAHARGI (Odisha), 5 May — Maoists killed a village panchayat member, but released two others after abducting them from Mathili area of Odisha’s Malkangiri during the state police chief visit to the district.

The body of Budha Dhurua, naib Sarpanch of Mahupadar village, was found on a forest road this morning with his throat slit. Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Akhilwar Singh said.

Armed ultras had abducted Dhurua and two others from Mahupadar village on Wednesday night. PTI

China returns 10 children abducted from Vietnam

BEIJING, 5 May — Chinese authorities have returned 10 children who were abducted and taken from Vietnam.

The Ministry of Pub lic Security said yesterday that Chinese law officials had held a ceremony with their Vietnamese counterparts to officially send the children home. It says China rescued the children in 2011 after learning about the cross-border abduction cases. The children ranged in age from 10 days to 7 months at the time of their rescue.—PTI

Japan’s child population falls for 32nd year in row

TOKYO, 5 May — The number of children aged 14 and under in Japan fell for the 32nd straight year, standing at a record-low 16.49 million as of 1 April, the government said Saturday, reflecting the continued drop in the country’s birthrate.

The report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications showed that the number was down 150,000 from a year earlier and the ratio of children in the age group relative to the overall population hit a fresh record-low of 12.9 percent.

The figures were contained in a ministry report released ahead of the Children’s Day national holiday on Sunday. Kyodo News

Frigate commissioned for S China Sea fleet

BEIJING, 5 May — A frigate was commissioned for the South China Sea fleet of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy on Friday, the China News Service has reported.

The frigate Yueyang is capable of long-range surveillance, as well as air defense and anti-submarine operations, according to the report.

At a ceremony held in Sanya, a port city in south China’s Hainan Province, Jiang Weile, commander of the South China Sea fleet, endorsed a PLA flag and naming certificate for the naval unit that received the frigate. Xinhua
**Photos of 19th century Beijing to be auctioned in London**

LONDON, 5 May—Auction house Sotheby’s is to put on sale on 14 May a collection of photos on Beijing taken by Italian-British photographer Felice Beato in 1860. Beato (1832-1909) came to China in 1860 as a war photographer along with invading Anglo-French forces during the Second Opium War.

“These photos were the first views of China most people in Europe had ever seen,” Richard Fattorini, director of the printed books, manuscripts and topographical photographs section of Sotheby’s, told Xinhua.

“Today, many of the images gave us a rare view of the lost imperial gardens in Beijing.” It is known to all that the Anglo-French forces pillaged the Old Summer Palace, or Yuanmingyuan, in 1860 and destroyed many of its buildings as the plunderers set the garden on fire after lootings.

Four of the 18 photos disclosed some buildings in the Summer Palace, or Yiheyuan (called Qingyiyan then), were also flattened during the invasion. One photo, taken in October 1860 and used on cover page of the auction catalogue, recorded the belvedere of Wenchangge, or the Studio of Literary Prosperity. It was recognized as the only photographic record of that building, torched by the invaders in 1860. Another highlight of the collection is a six-plate panorama of Beijing under the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

“It is the first ever panorama of Beijing in 180 degrees, showing the interior of the city with the Forbidden City as the background,” Fattorini said.

The pictures taken by Beato from the South Gate of Beijing showed that houses and buildings were low and stood largely in orderly rows and the hill in the Summer Palace was clearly visible.

“It took him almost a whole day to get this,” Fattorini said. “And you need to move very quickly so as not to get strange shadows.”

This is very hard. Six individual photographs, and you need to apply the negatives to glass exposures under the same lighting conditions as you move the camera.

He is really a master of panorama.” Other photos featured a tomb in southeast Beijing’s Tongzhou, the Dagu forts, the Beihai Park, and the gateway of the Lama Temple. These 18 photos were later sold to Lieutenant Edward Courtenay and kept by his descendants, Fattorini said.

**Seven US troops killed in Afghan bomb, insider attack**

KABUL, 5 May—Seven US soldiers were killed in two separate attacks in Afghanistan on Saturday. NATO and Western officials in Kabul said, capping off one of the bloodiest weeks for international forces this year. The attacks underscored the dangers faced by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), even as they hand over much of the fighting to Afghans ahead of a planned withdrawal next year.

Five US soldiers were killed in the southern battling ground province of Kandahar when they were struck by an improvised bomb on Saturday, a spokesman for the US forces and provincial authorities said, adding that it took place in Maiwand District. Including Saturday’s attacks and three air crashes, 21 US military personnel have been killed in the last week. Three British soldiers were also killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb in the southern province of Helmand. Maiwand borders Helmand Province to the west and is considered one of the most volatile of Kandahar’s Districts. Two more US soldiers were killed when an Afghan soldier turned his gun on them in the western province of Farah.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the shoot-down, in an email from spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

Ahmadi said the soldier he described as an “infiltrated mujahid” turned his weapon on the US troops at a base in the Bala Boluk District of Farah killing four before he was killed. The Taliban routinely overstate casualty numbers.

**Researchers find active seabed faults near central Japan coast**

Tokyo, 5 May—Researchers have found active faults stretching over 100 kilometres in total near the coast of a central Japan peninsula which could cause a powerful quake affecting Tokyo and a major industrial region centering on Nagoya.

The faults mostly lie in the Pacific seabed southeast of the Izu Peninsula in Shizuoka Prefecture and the nearest one is only about 2 km from the coast, according to their recent study.

The faults could cause a quake with a magnitude of 8 or stronger if they all move at once, the researchers said.

A research team concluded after studying the government’s ocean floor topography and other data that bulges in the seabed around the peninsula resulted from fault movements. The faults can roughly be grouped in five blocks and a movement in a single block can cause a powerful tremor with a magnitude of around 7, they said.

Areas around the peninsula are prone to quakes, with those with a magnitude of 5 or larger occurring repeatedly. Researchers have long suspected an active fault lies off the eastern coast of the Izu Peninsula.

The researchers taking part in the study included those from the Hot Springs Research Institute of Kanagawa Prefecture, an organization conducting geological surveys and monitoring seismic activities.

**NASA to study storms that disrupt satellites**

WASHINGTON, 5 May — A NASA-funded sounding rocket mission will help better understand and predict the electrical storms in Earth’s upper atmosphere, which can interfere with satellite communication and global positioning systems.

The mission, called Equatorial Vortex Experiment (EVEX) will launch two rockets for a twelve-minute journey through the equatorial ionosphere from an atoll in the Pacific in the next few weeks.
Demi Moore reconciles with daughters

LONDON, 5 May—The 50-year-old actress was reportedly frozen out by her constant partying but Rumer and Demi were spotted together in Los Angeles over the weekend, indicating they have buried the hatchet.

The duo were in good spirits as they left a yoga class in West Hollywood and friends are hopeful their relationship is back on track.

— Reuters

Lindsay Lohan enters rehab centre after false start

LOS ANGELES, 5 May—Actress Lindsay Lohan has checked herself into a rehabilitation facility, following a day of confusion on Thursday over whether she was complying with court-ordered treatment for a reckless driving charge.

“She did check into the rehab (centre) and I will still be going through a vetting process,” said Attorney Terry White, the prosecutor in the June 2012 car crash case, told Reuters in an email on Friday.

White did not name the rehab centre, but celebrity news website TMZ.com said Lohan, 26, had entered the Betty Ford Centre in Rancho Mirage, 120 miles east of Los Angeles, early Friday morning.

Lohan must complete 90 days in a locked rehab centre by 31 July to comply with a March plea bargain. Under the deal, she avoided jail by pleading no contest to reckless driving and lying to police in the seaside town of Santa Monica when she said she was not driving a car that smashed into a truck.

“The Mean Girls” star, who has spent at least five stints in rehab in the past six years, threw prosecutors into confusion earlier this week when she switched her choice of rehab from the New York area to a centre in Newport Beach in Southern California.

She spent only minutes at the Newport Beach facility, White said on Thursday, before disappearing from public view.

— PTI

‘Iron Man 3’ kicks off US, Canada run with $15.6 million ticket sales

LOS ANGELES, 5 May — International hit “Iron Man 3” flew into US and Canadian theatres, kicking off Hollywood’s summer blockbuster season with $15.6 million in ticket sales late Thursday and early Friday.

The superhero sequel from Walt Disney Co’s Marvel studio is expected to finish the weekend with one of the biggest debuts in film history.

Box office analysts predict the movie will bring in $150 million or more from Friday through Sunday, likely ranking in the top five all-time openings.

The opening night sales fell short of the $18.7 million earned a year ago by Disney’s “The Avengers,” which brought together Iron Man, The Hulk and other Marvel superheroes.

“Avengers” went on to earn $207 million in its first three days, a record for the North American (US and Canadian) market.

“Iron Man 3,” starring Robert Downey Jr as billionaire businessman Tony Stark, has pulled in $345.4 million in overseas markets since it debuted April 24, Disney said on Friday. The film set opening day records in several countries including China and Russia.

In “Iron Man 3,” Stark fights to save the world from an extremist known as The Mandarin, played by Ben Kingsley.

— Reuters

Rolling Stones release low-priced seats ahead of LA show

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — International rockers the Rolling Stones are relaying their final tour dates with a series of low-priced tickets.

Three weeks after tickets went on sale, and a day before the British band take the stage on Friday, the Los Angeles Staples Centre was far from sold out for the “50 and Counting” gig.

Secondary ticket sellers StubHub had more than 300 tickets available 24 hours before the 3 May show, Good Seat tickets said they were slashing resale prices by 40 percent, and Epic Nation rolled out a 10 percent discount code.

The veteran rock band announced on their official website this week that they were releasing an additional number of tickets at a modest $85, the only price point that quickly sold out for the 3 May concert.

— Reuters

According to the website, some of the $85 seats will be among the best seats in house in the “Tongue Pit,” with others spread around the arena. Buyers will be notified of their seat location on the day of the show.

Concert promoters AEG denied they were cutting prices, saying tickets once thought to have an obstructed view had come to light after the tongue and lip shaped stage was set up.

— Reuters
Real victory delays Barca title another week

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Real Valladolid during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 4 May, 2013.—Reuters

MANCHESTER, 5 May—Leaders Barcelona will have to wait at least another week to wrap up the La Liga title after Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice to lead second-placed Real Madrid to a 4-3 comeback success at home to Real Valladolid on Saturday.

If Real had failed to win, victory for Barca against Real Betis at the Nou Camp on Sunday would have secured a fourth title in five years as they would have been at least 13 points clear with only four games left and 12 points available.

Jose Mourinho's Real side are refusing to relinquish their league crown without making it as difficult as possible for their bitter rivals in the final weeks of the campaign even if they gave up on the title several months ago after a poor start.

"We will keep working," Real's Portugal defender Pepe told Spanish television. "We know that it's a tough ask but we represent a very important club and we will honour the shirt to the end."

Valladolid, who have not won a point at the Bernabeu in more than a decade, took a surprise eighth-minute lead when Oscar Gonzalez stole in on the right and beat Real goalkeeper Diego Lopez with a low shot.

Real were level in the 26th minute when Marc Valfiante deflected an Angel Di Maria shot into his own net before Ronaldo nodded the first of his two headers six minutes later.

Valladolid struck back almost immediately when Javi Guerra finished off a swift breakaway in the 35th minute and Kaka restored Real's lead four minutes after the break. Ronaldo looked to have killed off the game after 85 minutes but Villarreal's Sala scored a late consolation before Ronaldo nodded the fourth in the 92nd.

Barcelona will have to beat Real Valladolid with only four games left and been at least 13 points clear with world number one Novak Djokovic.

"Considering what Nadal represents in Paris, the best player in the tournament's history, it seemed incongruous that he arrives in Paris Tournament Director Gilbert Ysern attends a news conference after the men's singles final match between Rafael Nadal of Spain and Novak Djokovic of Serbia was suspended for the day after rain stopped play during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 10 June, 2012.—Reuters

Walcott's 20-second goal keeps Gunners step ahead

LONDON, 5 May—Theo Walcott scored the quickest Premier League goal of the season after 20 seconds on Saturday to give Arsenal a 1-0 win at Queens Park Rangers and keep them a step ahead of rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the race for the Champions League.

Walcott pounced in the late kickoff at Loftus Road in west London just moments after Gareth Bale, newly crowned English player of the year, had celebrated a spectacular winner as Spurs beat Southampton 1-0 in north London.

Bale cut inside from the right and held off a defender before firing home from 25 metres in the 86th minute against his former club. At the bottom of the table, Wigan Athletic and Aston Villa also celebrated late victories to improve their chances of avoiding relegation to the Champions League.

Second-placed Manchester City drew 0-0 at Swansea City on Saturday.

With Newcastle United drawing 0-0 at West Ham United, and Sunderland not playing—against Stoke City—until Monday, the relegation picture is also tight and unpredictable.

Just five points separate eight clubs between Wigan, in 18th place, and the third relegation spot, and the Potters, who are 11th.

QPR and Reading, who beat Fulham 4-2 at Craven Cottage on Saturday, are already down.—Reuters

Man City’s Sinclair in hospital with blood clot

MANCHESTER, (England), 5 May—Manchester City midfielder Scott Sinclair was being treated for a blood clot on his shoulder on Saturday.

Sinclair did not travel with Manchester United for their 0-0 draw against his former club Swansea City earlier in the day and the Premier League club confirmed he was in hospital and in a comfortable condition. The 24-year-old Englishman has started only three games since joining the 2012 Premier League champions in August, and manager Roberto Mancini suggested on Friday he might need to leave the club to play regular football.—Reuters

Lorenzo celebrates birthday with home pole in Spain

JEREZ, (Spain), 5 May—World champion and birthday boy Jorge Lorenzo will start from pole position for Sunday’s Spanish Grand Prix to be held on the front row by compatriots Dani Pedrosa and Marc Marquez as the home nation dominated qualifying on Saturday.

Celebrating his 26th birthday with Yamaha rider Lorenzo, who was also fastest in Friday practice, set a best time of one minute 38.67 seconds at the sun-drenched Jerez circuit, with Pedrosa clocking 1:38.92 and Honda team mate Marquez 1:38.971.

Cal Crutchlow of Britain was fourth fastest on his Yamaha ahead of the third race of the season and the first in Europe with a time of 1:39.26 followed by Italian former world champion Valentino Rossi, also on a Yamaha, in 1:39.30.

Lorenzo’s job was made easier after Pedrosa, Marquez, Crutchlow and Rossi all suffered crashes during an incident-packed afternoon.

Lorenzo and rookie Marc Marquez top the championship standings on 41 points after two races, with Pedrosa on 33, Rossi on 30 and Crutchlow on 24.—Reuters

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Mickelson, Watney stumble but share Quail Hollow lead

New York, 5 May — Phil Mickelson and Nick Watney survived some late-round misadventures to emerge from Saturday’s third round tied for the lead in the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mickelson topped the leaderboard for most of the day and Watney took his turn alone in first place during the final stretch before both players fell back with double-bogeys to head into Sunday’s final round knotted at eight-under-par 208.

Watney shot a one-under 71 and Mickelson a 73.

Fellow American George McNeil bogeyed the 18th to fall out of a three-way tie for the lead and was alone in third place on seven-under 209.

The stumble by the leaders brought a slew of other contenders into the frame. Two strokes off the pace at six-under-par 210 were Brittons Lee Westwood (72) and David Lynn (71), Australian John Senden (67), John Robert Granell (69) and Americans Ryan Moore (68) and Derek Ernst (72).

AFP

Australian athletes compulsory to co-operate with doping authority

Canberra, 5 May — The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) has introduced new rules forcing athletes and officials to “truthfully answer” questions from the country’s doping authority.

Under the new policy announced on Saturday and approved on Friday by the AOC executive, athletes and officials must fully co-operate with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority even if doing so might incriminate or expose them to a penalty.

Also on Saturday, the Australian government was to announce 3.5 million dollars in increased funding to ASADA and other agencies to assist them with current doping investigations, including illegal supplement use in the Australian Football League and National Rugby League.

Reuter

Three dead in knife attack in downtown Beijing

Beijing, 5 May — A knife-wielding man stabbed two people to death and injured another in downtown Beijing on Saturday, local police said.

The assailant also died from injuries suffered while resisting police arrest.

The man attacked vehicles and passengers with a knife on a ramp of a road near Guangguemen Bridge at about 2 pm, the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau said in a statement. Of the three he injured, two died at hospital after emergency medical treatment failed and the other one was still under treatment, the statement said.

The attacker was besieged inside a private car by police officers and citizens at the scene before suffering injuries while wielding the knife to resist police arrest.

He was brought under control finally, but later died at hospital from injuries. The assailant is yet to be identified and police are investigating the killing spree.

Xinhua

Man poisoned to death by wife, paramour

Meerut, 5 May — A man was allegedly poisoned to death by his wife and her paramour, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place yesterday when Abrar(30) was given milk laced with poison by his wife Noorja Khan (27) and her paramour Mauju (27), they said.

Noorjahan had an illicit relationship with Mauju. Abrar tried to convince his wife several times but she was adamant on marrying her lover, police said.

PTI

Former professional baseball player Hideki Matsui (2nd from L) is greeted by fans at Narita airport, near Tokyo, on 3 May, 2013, after his arrival from the United States. Matsui returned to Japan to attend a retirement ceremony to be given by his first pro club, the Yomiuri Giants, at Tokyo Dome on 5 May, when he will also receive the People’s Honour Award along with his first pro manager and Japan Hall of Fame Shigeo Nagashima. Kyodo News

Yemen seizes 20,000 illegal Turkey-made guns

Sanaa, 5 May — Yemen’s Defence Ministry said on Saturday that it has seized a boat carrying 20,000 Turkey-made guns in Yemen’s coastal regions.

In a statement posted on its website, the ministry said the boat was seized on Thursday after soldiers of the Yemeni 17th Infantry Brigade stationed in Bab el-Mandab Strait clashed with the armed crew members on the boat in the Red Sea coastal area that belongs to the southwestern Taiz Province.

“The soldiers managed to capture the boat’s captain after gunfire, while other crew members fled,” the 17th Infantry Brigade commander, Saleh Misrivid Subary, was quoted by the ministry as saying. One soldier was injured in his right leg during shooting, he said. It was the fourth cargo loaded with Turkey-made arms that was seized by Yemen in half a year.

In February this year and November of last year, two cargoes carrying illegal Turkey-made weapons were seized respectively in the southern port city of Aden; and in December 2012, a cargo of 7,000 Turkey-made guns was captured in the Red Sea port of al-Hudaydah.

The Yemeni government did not mention who are responsible for smuggling arms into the country, but said investigations are underway. The improvised Arab country, already awash of roughly 60 million pieces of weapons, is struggling to resolve a Shi’ite rebellion in the north and a growing secessionist movement in the south, and to combat an active regional network of Al-Qaida wing based in its southeastern regions. —Xinhua

* * *
Myanmar exports over 1.4 million tons of rice in 2012-13 fiscal year

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Minister for Commerce U Win Myint today, Tender for export of 5000 tons of high-grade rice was opened at the Union of Myanmar Foreign Trade Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

Win Myint said that Myanmar is gaining momentum for development of agricultural sector under the supervision of lime ministries and the region chief ministers. He urged those present to try their best in exporting quality rice to foreign countries including Japan.

Then, Myanmar Rice Federation President U Chit Khaing and Director General Mr. Takeharu Imashiro of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan extended greetings.

According to work committee member Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe, UNICEF is taking measures to build temporary shelters near refugee camps in Sittway, Paiktab and Minbya townships and the government is coordinating with UNICEF for construction of schools in Kyauktaw, Kyaukpyu and Yanbye townships. The teachers-to-be-appointed will be provided with K 30000 by UNICEF and K 20000 by the Education Ministry a month. The Education Ministry will arrange for fulfilling the requirement of teachers, providing certain allowances to them.

PERSONNEL from departments concerned coordinated related matters.

Temporary schools to be built for Rakhine victims

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Socio-economic Development Subcommittee, one of the seven subordinates of Rakhine State Stability and Development Committee met at Rakhine State Hluttaw on 3 May, with secretary of the work committee, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung calling for urgent measures to help victims resume their livelihoods.

He called for provision of seeds, power tillers and fertilizers ahead of monsoon season as well as fishing boats and nets. Those required items will be distributed to affected townships upon their arrival, according to the state electric power and industry minister.

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Weather

Bay Inference

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. For subsequent two days Continuation of rain of thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar area.

Ayyeawady Bridge (Malun) to be put into service soon

By Kayan Soe Myint

Roads and bridges are fundamental infrastructures of national economy. They are also serving as social and economic infrastructures that provide Union brethrens with smooth and speedy transport services to be able to travel from one place to another. So many bridges across the major rivers of the country—Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittong and Thanlwin—are under construction, including Ayeyawady River (Malun).

As construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) built by Special Project Group 4 of the Public Works had reached cent per cent completion, the bridge is going to be commissioned in the second week of May.

Construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) at the place between mile post Nos (11/4) and (11/5) on Migyaukya-Pahtanago motorway near Sitkoebin of Ywahtit Village in Magway of Magway Region started after the stake-driving ceremony on 22 November 2009 in accord with the resolution of the coordination meeting of the committee for implementation of special projects.

The main structure of the bridge is 2315 feet long. The rail-cum-road bridge has a two-way motor lanes and a railroad. Each approach road on Migyaukya bank and Malunbank is 1312 feet long. The approach roads on Migyaukya bank and Malun bank are 1927 feet and 122 feet long respectively. A total of K 39693 million have been spent on construction of the bridge.

Moreover, they can travel to Nay Pyi Taw through Magway-Kanypar road, Bago through Yango-Mandalay expressway and then Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, Kawkareik and Ayeyawady via Bago.

It is learnt that Mya Tha Beik Pagoda and other religious edifices, Shweegyi Cave monastery of First Shwegyi Sayadaw and historic places like Minhla and Gwyaungchaung Fortes are situated in the neighborhood of Malun. Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) which is going to be put into service soon stands firmly there, serving the interest of local people on the west and east banks of Ayeyawady river.

Myanma Alinn

(5-5-2013)