LET'S BUILD THE NATION THROUGH PEOPLE’S STRENGTH

IFAD to offer USD 36 million of loans for Myanmar’s farm sector development

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May—President U Thein Sein looked into thriving Palethwe hybrid summer paddy at mechanized farming (3000 acres) plantation irrigated by Ngalike dam near Hotel Zone in Deikhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 6:30 am today.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing reported to the President on cent per cent reclamation of 3000 acres of mechanized farmlands, completion of inlet and outlet cannels and production roads and harrowing of Palethwe hybrid summer paddy.

The President urged officials to help the farmers through the farm-to-market system for getting the benefits from practising multiple-cropping patterns and growing summer paddy by transforming into mechanized farming system. It also needs to show how their individual efforts in the drive will bring the benefits to them. Efforts are to be made to encourage the farmers for emergence of mechanized farming system across the country.

He urged officials to grow main staple food, paddy in the irrigated farms and disseminate knowledge on crop pattern and markets through media, he said.

(See page 8)

NPED Ministry, WB Group jointly organize Introduction to the World Bank Group

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May—Introduction to the World Bank group was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here this morning, attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Win Shein, Country Director Ms Annette Dixon from the World Bank and members, departmental heads and officials.

The workshop is aimed at ensuring the emergence of fruitful results of World Bank’s projects in Myanmar. It focused on undertakings of International Development Association, monetary process, measures for fruitful results and World Bank’s projects.

After the meeting, our news crew interviewed Union Minister U Soe Thane, Country Director Ms Annette Dixon and Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung of Foreign Economic Relations Department of the National Planning and Economic Development Ministry.

Q: Sir, May I know the purpose of holding the workshop and cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank?

(See page 8)
**LOCAL NEWS**

**MAI to start thrice-a-week Yangon-Mandalay flight**

YANGON, 9 May—Myanmar Airways International will operate Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon flight service as its first domestic route, it is learnt. As, three weekly return flights between Yangon and Mandalay will be run on every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, leaving here for Mandalay at 6.30 am and arriving in Mandalay at 7.40 am and leaving for Yangon at 2 pm and arriving in Yangon at 3.10 pm.

**Compensation for confiscated farmlands awarded in Kantbalu Township**

KANTBALU, 9 May—A ceremony to pay compensation to farmers who gave up their farmlands for construction of canal of Min Myin Dam in Kantbalu Township of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region took place at the office of the township administrator on 1 May. At the ceremony, 104 farmers from Puntha Village and one from Imma Village were presented K 40 million each as compensation for their farmlands they gave up.

**Illegal gold miners taken into custody in Mogok Township**

MANDALAY, 9 May—According to Mandalay Region Police Commander’s Office, illegal gold miners who were carrying out gold mining near Namt Pein creek in Mogok of Mandalay Region were charged over gold mining without an official gold mining licence granted by the Ministry of Mines. A combined force including police members arrested Aung San, Thant Zin, Lwin Aung, Kyaw Aung, Aung Kyaw Soe, Tun Kyaw, Than Maung and Myint Zaw together with engine, diesel containers, and materials used for gold mining while mining gold near Nampein creek on Mogok-Kyaume road in Mogok Township at about 11.40 am on 2 May.

**Barber shot dead at his shop in Tachilek**

TACHILEK, 9 May—A barber was shot dead by an unknown gunman in his shop which has been kept open since one month ago at a quarter on 12th street in Hsansaung ward (Ka) in Tachilek of Shan State (East) at about 7 pm on 6 May. U Sai Kyauk, father of the victim, of ward-2 of Sanpya Village in Kengtung informed the police that his son, Sai Lon Shan, was found dead with gunshot wounds lying on the floor beside a barber chair when he arrived there as he was informed of his son’s death by one of the friends of his son while he was at the house of Nann Si Kham, his daughter. According to witnesses, a gunman was a tall man with a brown complexion dressed in the blue pants and wore a black crash helmet and he fired three shots from his 9 mm pistol. Tachilek police station filed a case and investigation is ongoing.

**Crime**

**Owner charged over plywood factory food poisoning**

HOMALIN, 9 May—With regard to two cases of food poisoning occurred at Lapye Naga plywood factory at Yaypha village in Homalin Township of Khamti District in Sagaing Region, U Law Lu (a) U Shi Htan Yu, factory owner, was charged over the food poisoning.

**Motorcyclist killed in speed-related fatal accident**

PAKOKKU, 9 May—A motorbike crash occurred near Shwe creek bridge in ward-1 of Pakokku Township, Magway Region at about 2.30 pm on 27 April.

**Trawlery plunges in Ayadaw**

MONYA, 9 May—A trawlery loaded with Thanaka woods overturned in Zayitkyae Village in Ayadaw Township in Monya District and Sagaing Region at 11 pm on 5 May. The vehicle driven by Soe Nwe of Banthwgon in Ayadaw Township was bound for Shwebo from Ayadaw. The high speed is to blame for the accident. 

**Mobile team seizes illegal good-loaded light trucks**

WAW, 9 May—According to a tip-off given by a duty-conscious person, Mobile Team seized various kinds of car spare parts and clothing from two light trucks while conducting a search of them at the strategic junction of old and new Sittoung bridges into a tree near the bridge. The fatal road accident was due to excessive speed. Pakokku police station filed a case and investigation is ongoing.
UN Security Council condemns detention of peacekeepers in Golan

NEW YORK, 9 May—The UN Security Council on Wednesday issued a statement strongly condemning the “armed elements” of the Syrian opposition for holding four peacekeepers in the Golan Heights.

“The members of the Security Council strongly condemned the detention of four United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) peacekeepers from the Philippine Battalion within the Area of Limitation in the vicinity of Aj’alim,” the Press statement said, referring to the area where the peacekeepers were monitoring a 1974 cease-fire agreement between Syria and Israel. The 15-member council also demanded their “unconditional and immediate release” and called on the parties “to cooperate with UNDOF in good faith.”

The four were detained on Tuesday while out on patrol. They are still being detained, but there are indications that “the four peacekeepers have not been harmed and efforts are still underway to have them released,” UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon’s spokesman, Martin Nesirky, told reporters at a briefing on Wednesday.

The latest incident follows the abduction of 21 UNDOF peacekeepers, also from the Philippines, on 6 March, who were later released.

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Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (3rd L) holds talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (4th R) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 May, 2013.—Xinhua

Chinese Premier meets Israel PM, urging cooperation

BEIJING, 9 May—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday underscored the country’s commitment to seek stronger cooperation with Israel and boost the Middle East peace process. Li made the comments in an hour-long talk with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Great Hall of the People.

He reviewed the robust cooperation growth of China-Israel relations since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in 1992, citing rapid development of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The premier said the new Chinese government has placed great importance on developing ties with Israel, calling on the two countries to step up exchanges between governments, parliamentaries, parties and non-governmental organizations, and work more closely in education, tourism and other people-to-people fields.

He said the Palestinian issue is at the core of factors influencing peace and stability in the Middle East, stressing dialogue is the only effective way to finding peaceful solutions.

He told his guest that China expects Israel and Palestine to work together, take substantive measures to remove obstacles and create conditions for the restoration and progress of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, which is in the interests of Israel and Palestine and works for regional and world peace and stability. S friends of Israel and Palestine, China has always taken an objective and fair stance and would like to make joint efforts with all parties to promote the Middle East peace process, Li said.

On the economic front, he called on the two countries to expand two-way trade and add value to it, deepen science and technology cooperation. Li proposed the two countries jointly build industrial zones and technology transfer centres to create the best of their advantages.

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Bangladesh government fire kills eight; collapse toll tops 900

DHAKA, 9 May—Eight people were killed when a fire swept through a clothing factory in Bangladesh, police and an industry association official said on Thursday, as the death toll from the collapse of another factory building two weeks ago climbed above 900.

The fire, in an industrial district of Dhaka, came amid global attention on safety standards in Bangladesh’s booming garment industry following the catastrophic collapse of Rana Plaza, on the outskirts of the city, in the world’s deadliest industrial accident since the Bhopal disaster in India in 1984.

“It is not clear to us how the accident happened, but we are trying to find out the cause.” Mohammad Atiqul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), told Reuters.

On Wednesday the Bangladesh government said it had shut down 18 garment factories for safety reasons following the 24 April collapse of Rana Plaza, which housed five garment factories making clothes for Western brands.

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People’s Republic of China—China opposes US report on Chinese military

BEIJING, 9 May—China’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman on Tuesday rejected a Pentagon report that misrepresents China’s military development. “We firmly oppose the report and have made representations to the United States,” Hua Chunying said at a daily Press briefing.

Her comments came after the US Department of Defence on Monday released its annual report on China’s military, expanding its coverage to include more aspects, while still overlooking the country’s peaceful defence policy.

The 83-page report, titled Military and Security Development involving the People’s Republic of China 2013, includes more information on China’s cyber capabilities and activities. While recognizing that China has increased diplomatic engagement and advocacy for the issue of cyber security, the report claimed some of the cyber attacks against US government computer networks in 2012 “appear to be attributable directly to the Chinese government and military.”

Hua said the Pentagon report unjustly criticizes China’s justified and normal military development, plays up China’s military threat and damages trust and cooperation between the two countries. The spokeswoman stressed China has always adhered to the path of peaceful development, pursued a military strategy which is defensive in nature and become a staunch force in safeguarding peace and stability in Asia, the Pacific region and the world.—Xinhua

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Putin says satisfied with Russia-US cooperation

MOSCOW, 9 May—Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday he was satisfied with the level of cooperation between Russia and the United States. “It is good that our contacts with colleagues from the United States are maintained at all level regularly,” Putin said during his meeting with visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Recalling two recent telephone talks with his US counterpart, Putin expressed his hope that over major international issues including the Syrian crisis, the Iranian nuclear programme and the situation around the Korean Peninsula. As for the reply of a message from Obama to Putin delivered by US National Security Adviser Tom Donilon who visited Moscow last month, Peskov said Putin was still under preparation and would not be given to Kerry during his visit here.

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A fire fighter works to control a fire at a factory belonging to Tung Hui Group, a large garment exporter, in Dhaka on 9 May, 2013.—REUTERS

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US court scrutinizes class suit against Google e-book project

NEW YORK, 9 May — A US federal appeals court on Wednesday questioned the reasoning behind a class-action lawsuit against Google Inc over its effort to digitize millions of books, suggesting that many authors could benefit from the project.

Billionaires are at stake in the long-running dispute, in which The Authors Guild as well as groups representing photographers and graphic artists argue that the Google Books project amounts to massive copyright infringement.

US court scrutinizes class suit against Google e-book project

WASHINGTON, 9 May — A 70-million-year-old dinosaur skeleton from the Gobi Desert that was smuggled to the United States in pieces and auctioned for more than $1 million was returned on Monday by the US government to Mongolia.

The huge Tyrannosaurus bataar’s skull was on display at a repatriation ceremony near the United Nations, where officials of the US Attorney’s Office in Manhattan and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) formally turned over the nearly complete skeleton to Mongolian officials.

Mongolia demanded the return of the 8-foot-tall (2.4 metre), 24-foot-long (7.3 metre), mostly reconstructed cousin of the Tyrannosaurus rex last year after commercial paleontologist Eric Prokopi sold it at a Manhattan auction last spring for $1.05 million. Prokopi, based in Gainesville, Florida, bought and sold whole and partial fossilized dinosaur skeletons. US authorities filed charges against Prokopi in October and seized the skeleton, which is comprised of fossilized bones welded to a metal frame.

“Tyrannosaurus bataar is one of the most important repatriations of fossils in recent years,” ICE Director John Morton said in a statement. “We cannot allow the greed of a few looters and schemers to trump the cultural interests of an entire nation.”

Morton said the repatriation was “a good example of the difference our laws can make in the world.”

The corporate logo of Zynga Inc, the social network game development company, is shown at its headquarters in San Francisco, California on 26 April, 2012.—REUTERS

Target tests if Facebook-driven deals bring shoppers into stores

Given a glaring weakness in mobile games, however, one of Zynga’s current priorities is porting FarmVille 2 to mobile devices so players can move from PCs to smartphones and back without losing their data. That presented technical challenges that the company is ironing out, Pincus said.

“FarmVille,” the franchise that took Facebook users by storm four years ago and launched Zynga to stardom.

Target tests if Facebook-driven deals bring shoppers into stores

The ideal is to make that seamless experience between Web and mobile so you can take your farming experience from work to home,” Pincus said.

“FarmVille” has defied expectations that claims an equivalent amount of revenue, or the 600-strong Rovio, the publisher behind the “Angry Birds” games.

Pincus badly needs a reliable hit franchise. In the past nine months, Zynga has shuttered 20 titles and closed offices in Baltimore, Boston and Tokyo. It has trimmed 5 percent of its workforce, though its headcount of nearly 3,000 still dwarfs that of fierce rivals like Supercell, a Finnish company with 100 people that play the game each day still hovers near all-time highs of 8 million, even six months after launch.

Looking for a comeback, Zynga embraces austerity and FarmVille

It could particularly help writers whose works are more obscure, by telling readers where they could buy their books, he said.

“A lot of authors would say, ‘Hey, that’s great for me,’” Leval said.

Robert LaRocca, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, argued that a survey of class members that Google conducted was flawed. That survey, plaintiffs said in court papers, showed that 500 authors, or 58 percent of those surveyed, approved of Google’s project.

“We think the vast majority of the class would not port us,” he said. The case derives from the Mountain View, California-based company’s 2004 agreement with several research libraries to digitize books with a goal of helping researchers and the general public find material.

Google has since scanned more than 20 million books and posted snippets of more than 4 million online. The project could have “enormous value for our culture,” said Circuit Judge Barrington Parker.

The case involves a class-action lawsuit against Google’s appeal, which is comprised of fossilized bones welded to a metal frame.

Looking for a comeback, Zynga embraces austerity and FarmVille

Almost 18 months after going public, Zynga is staying off fierce competition from newer or nimble rivals that mimic its games.

Supercell, founded in 2010, has scored with “Hay Day,” an iPad game that contains elements resembling FarmVille. With just one other game under its belt, Supercell says it is on track to make more than $800 million in revenue this year, roughly equal to the $860 million that Wall Street expects from Zynga in 2013.
Tim Hortons names new CEO; profit and stock drop

TOLEDO, 9 May — Tim Hortons Inc (TH.TO), named a long-time Nestle executive as its new chief on Wednesday, a job that will be no easy task given drooping demand at the Can-adian coffee and doughnut chain and a push by a US hedge fund for better returns.

Reuters

Tesla first-quarter profit tops forecasts, lifts sales outlook

DETROIT, 9 May — Tesla Motors Inc (TSLA.O) reported first-quarter profit on Wednesday, trouncing Wall Street esti-mates, as the 10-year-old automaker delivered nearly 5,000 Model S electric cars during the first three months of the year.

The company, led by billionaire Elon Musk, said it expects to deliver 21,000 Model S cars worldwide, up 5 percent from its earlier target of 20,000. Eventu-ally, global demand for its Model S electric car may surpass 30,000 vehicles a year, it said.

The automaker reached its profit milestone at a time of increased difficulty for other “green” car startups, including Fisker Auto-motive. Tesla’s recent fortunes surprised analysts, suppli-ers and even Tesla execu-tives.

The automaker re-portedly adjusted first-quarter earnings of 12 cents per share, triple the 4 cents per share expected by analysts, on average, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Tesla also reported higher-than-expected rev- enue of $562 million. The company sold 4,900 cars in the first quarter, topping its initial forecast of 4,500.

The first-quarter re-sults sent Tesla shares up 17 percent to $65.50 in after-hours trading on the Nasdaq. Tesla shares have risen more than two-thirds this year.

The Model S, Tesla’s second model after the more expensive Roadster, is Tesla’s effort to reach a broader group of buyers. A Model S equipped with a 60 kilowatt battery starts at around $70,000 before a $7,500 tax credit. Tesla said revenue from credit sales would tumble over the course of the year. Even so, the car marker reiterated that it expects to make gross mar-

News Corp results beat estimates, spin-off on track

NEW YORK, 9 May — Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp reported quarterly earnings that beat Wall Street expectations, aided by growth at its cable net-works, and said it is on track to split off its slow-grow-ing publishing busi-ness by the end of June. Its revenue rose 14 percent from a year earlier to $9.5 billion in the quarter, ended 31 March, News Corp said on Wednesday. The com-pany posted adjusted earnings of 36 cents per share, just beating the 35 cents expect-ed on average by analysts, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

News Corp shares rose 3.6 percent to $33.00 in after-hours trading, after closing at $31.86 on the Nasdaq. One-time items, including the purchase of a controlling stake in Ger-man pay TV operator Sky Deutschland and the sale of an ownership stake in New Zealand’s Sky Network Television, helped lift net income to $2.85 billion, a jump from $937 million a year earlier.

The New York-based company said it is on track to separate its cable chan-nels, movie studio and other fast growing entertainment assets from its newspapers, including The Wall Street Journal, near the end of its fiscal year in June.

Its entertainment assets helped boost revenue and earnings for the quarter, led by its cable networks busi-ness, which includes the Fox News Channel, FX and regional sports networks. Operating income at the ca-

Freddie Mac posts second-biggest profit in its history

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Freddie Mac (FMCC, OB), the No 2 provider of US mortgage money, on Wednesday said it reaped its second-largest profit ever in the first quarter, a reflection of housing market gains that have taken the steam out of efforts to revamp the nation’s home loan system.

The government-controlled company reported net in-come of $4.6 billion for the first three months of the year, up from $577 million in the year-ago quarter. It cited rising home prices, falling mortgage delinquen-cies and increased refinance activity for the improved performance.

It was the company’s sixth straight quarterly profit and the largest since a $5.7 billion gain in the third quarter of 2002. “The strong rebound in the hous-ing market ... continues to be reflected in our excellent financial performance,” Freddie Mac Chief Execu-tive Officer Donald Layton said. It said it would make another $7 billion payment in June, and suggested it could record gains on $30.1 billion worth of assets it had written down as early as in the second quarter, leading to an even bigger payment.

Freddie Mac and Fan-nie Mae, which together own or guarantee about half of US home loans, have tapped $187.5 billion in taxpayer aid since being placed in conservatorship. But they have both returned to profitability, helped by the Federal Reserve’s ag-gressive efforts to lower in-terest rates.

Could vaginal delivery be safer for preemies?

NEW YORK, 9 May — Very premature babies have fewer breathing problems when they’re born through vaginal delivery compared to cesarean section, a new study of more than 20,000 newborns suggests.

Based on those cases, researchers found that regard-less of why a C-section was performed — whether because of pregnancy-related complications or the labour process, the contractions, that natural squeezing probably does something to clear out the lungs so that when babies are born they have a better breathing status,” said Dr Erika Werner, who led the new study at Johns Hop-kins School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Friday, 10 May, 2013
Public announcement on actions of ministries concerned on letters of suggestion sent to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

Undertakings over the question about customs and port clearances of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue

1. Starting from 4-3-2013, it takes 20 minutes to handle a container at the port through green channel, 30 minutes through yellow channel and 50 minutes through red channel under Risk Management system.

2. Port clearance procedures were eased from seven steps to six steps.

3. To avoid loss of files submitted by agents and companies to Customs Department, steps are taken systematically with the use of Acknowledgement Receipt from E-Customs, documents together with ID from Noting Section and Time Sheet.

4. Office works of the Customs Department are being carried out by fulfilling the needs of manpower and work procedures were eased from six steps to five steps. C.M.P and exports cases are completed in a single day.

5. Regarding overage vehicle substitution program and import of vehicles through individual special permit, fines exemption is awarded to the vehicles which are one model year old.

6. Regarding changes in orders and laws of Customs Department, adequate time for the change will be taken into consideration if an order or directive is issued.

7. While conducting checks on goods at Yangon International Airport by customs staff, directives have been always given to them to do their jobs humbly through close supervision.

Undertakings over the question about banking service

1. Relaxation of restrictions at Myanmar Economic Bank started on 4-3-2013 and officials themselves are monitoring the banking service at the counters.

2. In accord with anti-money laundering law, all banks across the country have been informed by the Central Bank of Myanmar that recommendations of two people who have savings accounts at bank are needed to open a new savings account or to supply foreign currency. Other ranks of Myanmar Economic Bank are allowed to give recommendations to the customer who is willing to open a new savings account in order to facilitate the process of opening a savings account at bank.

3. No questions will be needed to open a new savings account if all necessary requirements are fulfilled while documents are under scrutiny for opening of a new savings account at Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank.

4. It is required to translate B.O.D Resolution (Board of Director Resolution), among documents submitted by companies, written in Russian, Japanese, Chinese and other languages into English to make Notary. Another recommendation of Myanmar embassies concerned in respective countries is needed. The document written in English is not required to make Notary and the account is opened quickly.

5. E-Pension system with fewer restrictions is a very quick system that saves a lot of time in drawing pensions through E-Pension cards. Only those who are unable to draw pension in person are to use certificate of general power.

Undertakings over the question about the Department of Road Transport Administration

1. Since March 2012, short-term driving courses (three-day course for motorbike driving and five-day course for vehicle driving) have been organized at region/state district office of the department, aiming at emergence of qualified drivers and developing awareness of traffic rules.

2. Only the driving licence is a valid document that allows driving vehicles and it is irreplaceable. Traffic rules enforcement agencies cannot accept temporary or permanent substitutions with other documents. Office Order was sent to all offices under the department that are allowed to conduct driving courses that only Myanmar Driving Licence officially issued by the Directorate of Road Transport Administration is a valid driving licence to show at the time when the vehicle is checked.

Undertakings of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise on import of gas lighter

1. With respect to the suggestion letter on delay in importing gas lighters by Zulu Alpha Co., Ltd, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy has formed an inspection team comprising an officer from Mining Department on 24-1-2013 to inspect whether or not company’s workplace is safety.

2. The Ministry of Energy has inspected it in line with the procedures. It is known that the Ministry could not take any actions against the company as the company informed that they has already got import license from Ministry of Commerce and refused to get inspected.

Undertakings for smooth running of local and foreign passengers at Yangon International Airport

1. The following works have been carried out
   (a) extension of Airport Inspection Counters
      (i) The number of Overseas Arrival counters has been extended to 21 from 18 on 17-9-2012
      (ii) The number of Overseas Departure counters has been extended to 16 from 10 on 24-11-2011
   (b) Issue of Visa on Arrival
      Visa-Arrival at Yangon International Airport was issued to passengers from 27 countries on 1-6-2012 and extended to another 22 countries on 1-2-2013 and Nepal on 18-3-2013, totaling 50 countries.
   (c) General relaxations
      (i) relaxation on Form-D requirements on 15-3-2013
      (ii) start using arrival/departure rubber stamps as automatic-dated ink system on 1-4-2013
      (iii) giving training to inspection staff
      (iv) Thanks to the above-mentioned points, inspections are being made as of 1 April, 2013 in line with the following standards.

(aa) Arrival
   -30 seconds for a Myanmar passenger and 45 seconds for a foreigner

(bb) Departure
   -45 seconds for a Myanmar passenger and a foreigner

2. If there are complaints about the undertakings of respective ministries and any enquiry, anyone may contact Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee

Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee

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**Myanmar secures two gold medals in 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Vietnam tops the chart of medals in 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship held as pre-meet for XXVII SEA Games at Wannathikdi Sports Ground today. Athletes from Myanmar, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Laos are participating in the championship. Vietnam leads the medal charts with nine gold, three silver and one bronze medals followed by Myanmar with two gold, two silver and eight bronze; the Philippines with one gold, five silver and five bronze; Malaysia with one silver and five bronze; Thailand with one gold, two silver and three bronze; Singapore with one gold and one bronze; Indonesia with one silver and three bronze and Laos with one bronze.—MNA

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**World**

Assad’s forces capture strategic town in southern Syria

A Free Syrian Army fighter is seen near a mortar in Khirbet Ghazaleh, Daraa, on 3 May, 2013.—Reuters

ASAMAN, 9 May—The Syrian army captured a strategic southern town from rebel fighters on Wednesday after a ferocious two-month bombardment, in an advance likely to result in President Bashar al-Assad’s forces regaining control of an international transit route, opposition sources said. The fall of Khirbet Ghazaleh, situated in the Hasaun Plain on the highway to Jordan, came after a Russian-backed Syrian opposition military council failed to supply weapons to the town’s defenders. This new engagement among opposition fighters over what they saw as a lack of Jordanian support for their efforts to defeat Assad’s forces in the region, according to rebel commanders and activists in the area. The Haaran Plain, which extends to the Israeli occupied Golan Heights, is the birthplace of the revolt against four decades of family rule by Assasad his late father, which erupted in the city of Deraa in March 2011.

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**Azevedo looks to resurrect WTO with patient diplomacy**

BRASILIA, 9 May—Roberto Azevedo, picked on Tuesday to head the World Trade Organization, is in every respect the quintessential Brazilian diplomat: a well-spoken, competent and smooth negotiator with a knack for wooing adversarial into his corner. A career diplomat with two decades of experience dealing with trade disputes, Azevedo will need those qualities more than ever to bridge the gap between developed and developing nations if he wants to rebuff stalled global trade negotiations and breathe new life into the Geneva-based WTO.

It is a huge task. With the global economy still struggling, protectionism is on the rise and faith in free trade — and the WTO itself — is running low in many countries. Azevedo has built his career advocating for a country with a less-than-stellar record when it comes to free trade. Brazil is the most closed major economy in the Americas, according to International Monetary Fund data, and it played a key role in derailings talks last decade to create a hemisphere-wide free trade area. But Azevedo insists that Brazil’s official-led trade policies won’t influence his actions as director-general of the WTO when he succeeds France’s Pascal Lamy on 1

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**Robertito Azevedo, Brazil’s permanent representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), speaks during an interview with Reuters in London on 14 March, 2013.**

**Reuters**

September: “As Director of the WTO, I will not be representing Brazil,” he told Reuters last week.
**MYANMAR delegation attends 46th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and related meetings**

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein attended the 46th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and related meetings, paper-reading session and workshops held at India Expo Centre and Mart (IECM) in New Delhi of India from 2 to 5 May. The meeting was also attended by representatives of ADB member countries, officials of international financial institutions, development partners and civil society organisations, media men and diplomats.

The Union minister and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin took part in the 16th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting on 3 May. The meeting focused on economic prospects and policy matters, global and regional economy, means to address challenges, regional economy, ways and means to address challenges, establishment of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, multilateral participation in Chiang Mai programme, loan insurance and investment, integration of ASEAN+3 bond markets and work progress and future tasks. After the meeting, a joint-statement was issued at the press conference.

At the informal meeting between ASEAN-Japan Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the Union minister discussed matters related to financial and economic integration, calling for further strengthening of ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

On 4 May, Union Ministers U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw and Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyin attended a workshop on “Progress of Myanmar Reform Processes” held at IECM in New Delhi and acted as members of the board of chairmen together with the Vice-President of Asia and Pacific Regional Office of ADB and the Director of Asia and Pacific Regional Office of IMF.

On 5 May, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw acted as a member of the board of chairmen of connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia meeting, jointly-organized by Asian Development Bank Institute and Myanmar at IECM. The Union minister made clarifications on progress in ongoing reform processes of Myanmar, investment law and bylaws, liberalization in financial sector, establishment of economic zones, implementation of development plan and poverty alleviation scheme, and capital and technological needs for upgrading of Asia Highway in Myanmar.

Union Minister U Win Shein met the President, the Vice-President and the Director-General of ADB, the US Assistant Secretary of Treasury, the Australian MP and officials of OPEC Fund, JICA and Mizuho Corporate Bank separately and held talks on further economic and financial cooperation with Myanmar.— MNA

**Mandalay Region Chief Minister visits construction sites**

**Mandalay, 9 May**—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Region Social Affairs Minister U Win Hlaing and officials, visited construction site of a nine-storey building in the compound of Mandalay General Hospital on 5 May. He inspected installation of newly arrived equipment of cancer department there. Medical superintendent Dr U Win, and officials of Aung Chan Aye Construction Company and UKT Construction Company conducted round and elaborated on progress in construction of nine-storey 400-bed building.

The hospital would be able to provide more effective treatment to cancer patients with three linear accelerators. He also inspected progress in construction of Mandalay football stadium and sports ground. At construction site of the stadium, the Chief Minister called for completion of the project on schedule and systematic sewage management and drainage system. Head of cancer department of Mandalay General Hospital Dr Khin Cho Win briefed the Chief Minister on newly arrived Linear Accelerator.

MCDC opens clerical works, computing, English courses

**Mandalay, 9 May**—Mandalay City Development Committee is conducting clerical works and computing refresher course and English language proficiency course.

The courses opening ceremony was held at City Hall at 8 am on 6 May. Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Moung delivered an address at the opening ceremony.

He said the course is aimed at boosting capacity of individual staff. He called on the staff to learn civil service law, rules and regulations and follow them and to serve the people, combining capacity, experience to secure confidence of members of the public.

The advanced clerical works refresher course No. 1/2013 is being attended by 47 staff and will run through 14 June while the computing refresher course through 5 July is being attended by 20 staff. A total of 30 staff are attending English language proficiency course No. 2/2013 through 31 July. A total of 87 staff are taking the classes.

**Free healthcare provided to elder persons**

**Monywa, 9 May**—Free healthcare services are provided weekly to the elder persons in Debayin Township in Shwebo District in Sagaing Region. Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Health Department provided free health care to the elders and monks over 60 at Township MCWA office on 3 May.

Dr Aung Kyaw Win, head of Township Health Department, provided treatment and educational talks to patients every Wednesday.

It eases the elders’ mind about their health, Daw Htay Htay Thaung, an older person receiving treatment, said. 90 elders are receiving treatments there.—Myanna Alinn

**Library opened in Sedoktara Township**

**Sedoktara, 9 May**—Pwint Yadana Library was opened in Pwintdauk village in Sedoktara Township in Minbu District at 11 am on 5 May.

*Head of District Information and Public Relations Department U Tun Win*

**City Hall opens construction site of library**

**Mandalay, 17 May**—City Hall opens construction site of library in Sedoktara Township. There was an address at the opening ceremony.

**Refresher course for police officers opened**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May**—A refresher course for police officers of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force was opened at No. 5 Police Station here on 6 May.

**Moung delivered an address at the opening ceremony.**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May**—Khin Win delivered a speech at the ceremony, calling for efforts to help the library endure. He also donated books and publications to the library through its officials.

*The government funded K 1 million on the construction of the library plus K 95,260 contribution by the people.*

*It has the length of 24 ft, width of 14 ft and height of 12 ft. It is the brick building with CI sheet roof.*

*Myanna Alinn*

**A total of 24 police officers from eight police**

A total of 24 police officers from eight police stations are attending the course that will run through 17 May.

**Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Police Col Aung Aung delivered an address at the opening ceremony.**

*Myanna Alinn*
Civic education

Our country is now on the road to democracy. Thanks to the efforts of the new government, Myanmar becomes a well-known country in the international community. A flood of foreign investments is flowing into the country. In its taking steps towards a democratic country, civic education plays a crucial role. It needs to equip our citizens with civic education.

Civic education may be defined as the process of educating citizens on their rights, duties and responsibility to empower and motivate them to identify what areas of the political and governance processes they can effectively participate in; what they can do to influence political outcomes and thereby improve the quality of governance at both local and national levels.

It is a critical and active empowerment tool for promoting citizens’ participation in democratic and development processes. It empowers citizens both as individuals and as part of collective groupings in the society, with knowledge, requisite skills, motivation and confidence to assert and exercise their rights and responsibility in holding the government accountable. This enhances the government’s transparency and contributes greatly to its credibility and public confidence in its systems.

In a democratic society, the possibility of effecting social change is ever present, if citizens have the knowledge, the skills and the will to bring it about. That knowledge, those skills and the will or necessary traits of private and public character are the products of a good civic education.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop with Myanmar Dairy Sector Representatives on Presentation of Draft Dairy Activities Concept Notes held at the Ministry yesterday.

The Union minister called for production of technology-driven value-added dairy products for export, measures to generate more incomes of dairy cattle breeders and participation of all in establishment of small-scale milk processing plants in each and every region. It is required to draft a sustainable plan for development of Myanmar dairy cattle breeding sector to which New Zealand government offered to render assistance, he added.

Next, Mr. Geoffrey Movamotis, leader of the group of designating the plan, elaborated the planning programme and those present took part in discussions. The plan which is under discussion to be drawn will last five years from 2013 to 2018. The first stage will last one and a half year and the remaining period will be designated as the second stage that will push ahead taking lessons from the first stage.

Ms. Annette Dixon
(Country Director, The World Bank)
answering questions.

The WB has already granted USD 80 million as a first phase and extended USD 440 million of loan after writing off old debts owed by Myanmar. The WB will continue to help Myanmar. It needs to understand the aid programme as well as its procedures. As such, we will understand how to facilitate the work. It is related with budget year. Thanks to the workshop, those from relevant Ministry understand the process as it has to run the projects with IDA donors. We get such benefits.

The WB will provide USD 700 million of loan in the coming years. Projects for poverty alleviation and public services are being implemented. We need to understand their works and then can implement the projects through mutual understandings. This is the purpose of today workshop.

International recognitions brought about by sweeping reform processes initiated by the government led by the President during the period of two years led to the start of aid programmes. Budget has limits. Likewise, investment will be possible only if the investors see the country attractive, loans and other aids are also limited. If assistance of WB and ADB that provide loans with low interest is realized, the country will develop like neighboring countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam that see all-round development as they were granted loans with low interest.

Q: Let me know the main tasks of the WB and which sectors it focuses to cooperate with Myanmar and further cooperation in the future.

Ms. Annette Dixon
(Country Director, The World Bank)
A: Our projects are intended to help the government’s reform process for the sake of the people. We place emphasis on infrastructural development in Myanmar. Development of electric power sector is also prioritized. It is planned to cooperate with the departments concerned for ensuring the wider use of mobile phones among the public. Development of education is no exception sector.

To make financial management of the government to be effective and efficient in the projects, cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Revenue is underway. World Bank is taking steps to join hands with the government for the sake of the people. Works will be carried out, listening to the voices of the people.

Q: May I know work progress regarding the projects which are under cooperation between Myanmar and World Bank.

Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung (Deputy Director-General, Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development)
A: At World Bank’s cooperation with Myanmar could start this year after 25 years. Cooperation in poverty alleviation scheme and infrastructural development in Myanmar is in progress. Further cooperation will be made in the areas of village electrification, telecommunications, ICT, education and mining. Close cooperation goes on. I heard World Bank will open its branch offices in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. So it is learnt that World Bank is cooperating with the government as well as regional organizations.

The World Bank Group is an organization that provides loans and array of technical assistance to developing countries across the world. It is formed with IBRD, IDA, IFC, ICSD and MIGA that are playing their respective roles in the drive to alleviate poverty and to improve living standards of the people. — MNA
**NATIONAL**

**11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship kicks off**

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents gifts to an athlete at 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—As a dress rehearsal for XXVII SEA Games, the opening of 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship was held at Wunnatheikdi Gymnasium, here, this morning, attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Kyi.

Mr Milan Kwee extended the greetings.

After that, Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered an opening speech and opened the ceremony.

Afterwards, the Vice-President greeted sports teams and presented gifts to them. The Vice-President and wife enjoyed the competition. Athletes from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are participating in the three-day competition hosted by Myanmar.

“We have much time for preparation of SEA Games and get a lot of experience. This is the first time in Myanmar. It is expected that our federation will secure six gold medals in the competition,” said Secretary of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Mya Han and Vice-President of ASEAN Taekwondo Federation Mr Milan Kwee.

Joint Secretary U Mya Thein said, “Athletes are under training camps for two years. I expect our athletes will win gold medals in the coming SEA Games.”

With respect to the completion of sports grounds and gymnasiums, Director U Khin Maung Kywe of Max Myanmar Company Ltd said, “Football ground is cent per cent complete. Gymnasium has been completed by 90 percent. Other buildings will complete in coming May and June.”

Director U Kyaw Moe Win of Sports and Physical Education Department said, “International experts will inspect sports grounds and gymnasiums ahead of six months before the SEA Games. Sports grounds and gymnasiums have been completed by 85 percent.”

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Former member of House of Councilors of Japan and President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe, at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this afternoon.

They exchanged a cordial view on further promoting relations between Tatmadaws of the two countries, cultural cooperation between Myanmar and Japan, Myanmar’s peace and stability and development and Nippon Foundation’s aids to Myanmar’s education, health, human resources and technological development.

Also present at the call together with the Senior General were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief.

The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Chairman of the Nippon Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa and officials.

**Ministerial meeting on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries held**

Ministerial meeting on MoU and drug control cooperation between six countries held.—MNA

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—**The Ministerial meeting on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries was held at Grand Ballroom of Thingha Hotel, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Director Mr. John Sandage of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered addresses on the occasion. It was also attended by delegates from the six countries of MoU on drug control cooperation, representatives from UNODC (headquarters) and resident representatives of UNODC, departmental heads and officials concerned.

The Union Minister highlighted the menace of drugs and importance of international cooperation. He pointed out that Myanmar has only two years to go to complete its 15-year plan and the plan has been extended another five years to effectively carry out anti-drug drives. He also stressed Myanmar’s seriousness on Drug Free ASEAN in 2015.

Laotian delegation leader Mr. Kau Chansina, the former patron of 2011 Ministerial level meeting on MoU on Drug control cooperation, handed over the duties to Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko who would chair the meeting.

Resident Representative Mr. Jeremy Douglas of UNODC elaborated on current condition of drugs abuse and drug trafficking.

The heads of the member countries made speeches and approved the report of the high-ranking senior officers’ meeting held in Yangon from 6-7 May. The heads of the member countries approved Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries and they signed the MoU.

Next, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, on behalf of the heads of the member countries, explained the history of MoUs, success and the purpose of signing the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, and answered the questions raised by local and foreign media.
Kyaukpadaung Township gets one more transformer

KYAUKPADAUNG, 9 May—A new 66/11 KV-5 MVA transformer was installed in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region.

KYAUKPADAUNG

Three-day course is aimed at

Trainer of Nepal presented

Kyemon

Group, concluded at Hotel

Myanmar Peace Center and

Township of Mandalay

MVA transformer was

Electricity Supply Enterprise from Township Electrical supervisor and line in-charge are being carried out by the materials for power line and installment of related erecting of new pylons.

Electricity Supply Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power has allowed the installation of transformer there in 2012-2013 financial year.

The transformer distributes power to 12 wards and 14 villages.

Officials inspect newly-installed transformer in Kyaukpadaung.

New pylons erected in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 9 May—Erecting of new pylons and installment of related materials for power line are being carried out by the supervisor and line in-charge from Township Electrical Engineer’s Office of Electricity Supply Enterprise in Mandalay.

The 24 hour electrification works are being implemented by adopting plans in Kengtung. Efforts are being made to supply 24 hour electricity in cooperation with national entrepreneurs.

Conflict reporting course concludes in Mandalay

KYEMON

Mandalay

The conflict reporting course, jointly conducted by Myanmar Peace Center and International Media Support Group, concluded at Hotel Queen in Chanayethazan Township, here, on 7 May.

Mr Binod Bhattachari, International Media Support Trainer of Nepal presented completion certificates.

Three-day course is aimed at promoting the qualifications of reporters who cover the conflict news and peace process.

Those who want to attend the course in Yangon, Sittway, Mawlamyine and Pathein may dial 09-450063912 and 09-450044210. Those eligible will have to take the course free of charge.

Maize farmers earn high income

YEDAIGH, 9 May—Livelihoods of local people in Kyaukchaung Village in Yedashe Township largely rely on maize growing.

Now they enjoy benefit from their maize plantations.

U Thein Hlaing, one of maize growers said that his effort in maize growing earned him K 2.2 million this harvest season and he expected to get more profit to be able to buy farm equipment.

Nyaungdon Nyaung Chaungtha draws holiday makers

NYAUNGDON, 9 May—A large mass of sandbank is forming near Nyaungdon riverbank that used to experience bank erosion in Nyaungdon, 34 miles from Hinthada Township of Yangon Region.

It has become a new place for local people and Yangonitese to do outdoor recreation activities.

As Nyaungdon river possesses characteristics of being freshwater river originated from Ayeyawady River, having clean and clear water, a level river bed and a large mass sandbank, Nyaung Chaungtha is always crowded with flocks of holiday makers on weekends.

“People were allowed to visit Nyaung Chaungtha for recreation starting from 27 February 2012. It has become a new business place for our vendors who are doing a brisk trade. I feel very happy,” says a local vendor.

A visitor expresses his feeling like this: “It is my third visit to Nyaung Chaungtha. It’s safe here if visitors stay in the prescribed swimming area. Deaths from drowning were due to drunken swimming.

For those who cannot afford to go Chaungtha, it has become their option for recreation. Even tourists flock to this beach,” he said.

Want to donate drinking water in Twantay Township?

TWANTAY, 9 May—Kyimyindine Township and Gyaungwinjei, Gyaungwinelky, Kyunkalay and Chaungphyar Villages near Seikkyi-Khanangto Township are facing drinking water scarcity in the summer.

Township Development Affairs Committee distributed drinking water to Kyunkalay and Chaungphyar Villages with the use of two bowser’s yesterday.

“We provide safe water to villages which are under water stress in the summer, an official of the township development affairs committee, said officials.”

Water donors may dial 045-50012.

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAI PYI TAW, 9 May—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

The phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are: Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-214444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24997), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).—MNA
Japan aiming to develop 10 times faster supercomputer

Tokyo, 9 May — Japan’s science ministry has decided to develop a next-generation supercomputer by 2020 that will operate 100 times faster than the country’s fastest supercomputer “K” amid tough global competition, ministry officials said on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will seek funding for the design of the new supercomputer in its budget request for fiscal 2014, the officials said. The K supercomputer, jointly developed with Fujitsu Ltd and the state-backed Riken research institute, was the first in the world to perform 10 quadrillion computations per second. But as of November, it has slipped into third place globally in computing speed. It now ranks behind the Titan and Sequoia supercomputers in the United States.

According to a biannual ranking of the world’s 500 fastest supercomputers, the K supercomputer ranked first in 2011 but slipped to second place in June 2012. The ministry is hoping to use the next-generation supercomputer to develop drugs and contribute to disaster prevention by predicting earthquakes and tsunamis, among other purposes, the officials said.

It is envisioned that the new supercomputer will achieve an exaflop capability, performing a quintillion computations per second.

With supercomputers regarded as a barometer of a nation’s scientific and technological capabilities, other countries such as the United States and China as well as some European nations are planning to develop exaflop-capable supercomputers by around 2020. The science ministry is hoping to keep the cost of developing the new supercomputer below the $1 billion yen required for the development of the K supercomputer, the officials said, adding where the supercomputer will be built has yet to be determined.

Kyodo News

Twice-defeated political aspirant challenges Imelda Marcos in polls

ILOCOS NORTÉ PROVINCE, (Philippines), 9 May — Ferdinand Ignacio portrays himself as engaged in a “David and Goliath” battle with former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos amid next Monday’s mid-term elections.

The 47-year-old lawyer sees himself as David, the courageous boy in the popular Bible story who defeated the giant Philistine warrior Goliath by a single stone slung at the latter’s forehead.

But whether Ignacio can duplicate David’s feat by prevailing over 83-year-old Marcos will be determined by voters in this northern Philippine province, known as “Marcos country” for being a stronghold of the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in 1989.

Ignacio, who ran unsuccessfully for a provincial post in the 2007 and 2010 elections, is challenging the former president’s widow, known the world over for her vast collection of shoes and jewelry, for her seat in Congress. A third candidate, Lorenz Madamba, is also in the race, though he appears to have much smaller support among the electorate.

“Everybody has a right to run, so let the people choose. After all, the voice of the people is the voice of God,” Marcos said last Sunday while preparing to campaign in about a dozen towns here. Marcos was first lady of the Philippines for over two decades until the so-called People Power Revolution of 1986 ended Marcos supremacy in the country and forced the family to flee into exile.

Marcos family members reentered politics in the late 1990s and have seen winning elections in Ilocos Norte ever since. She is seeking for a second term as representative of Ilocos Norte’s second district at the House of Representatives to fulfill what she called her desire to be a “mother” to all.

Kyodo News

New Zealand government rules out patents on computer software programmes

WELLINGTON, 9 May — The New Zealand government is standing firm in its plans to allow the patenting of computer programs in the face of fierce opposition from the high-tech industry, which feared it would be opened up to harassing lawsuits from foreign multinational corporations.

Commerce Minister Craig Foss released a supplementary order paper to the Patents Bill currently before Parliament, which clearly stated that computer programmes should not be patentable.

He would like to thank the New Zealand software and IT sector for their engagement over the last few months. I’m confident we’ve reached a solution where we can protect genuine inventions and encourage Kiwi businesses to export and grow,” Foss said in a statement.

The main opposition Labour Party called it a humiliating backtrack from plans that had caused uproar in the country’s burgeoning IT industry and threatened to smoother innovation.

“Last year Craig Foss gave in to patent lawyers and multinational software players and sought to impose a software patents system on our IT sector,” Labour’s communications and IT spokesperson Clare Curran said in a statement. “Now, finally Craig Foss has fessed up and admitted he got it wrong. This is a victory for our industry, which is worth around 11 percent of our GDP.”

The Institute of IT Professionals (ITPI), New Zealand’s largest IT representative body, said the clarification had removed a major barrier to software-led innovation.

“It is in New Zealand’s best interests for software to continue to be covered through the provisions of copyright in the same way that movies and books are, rather than through the patent system, which has significant problems,” ITPI chief executive Paul Matthews said in a statement. “The patent system doesn’t work for software.”

Xinhua

China’s Spring Airlines preparing to launch domestic flights in Japan

TOKYO, 9 May — China’s budget carrier Spring Airlines Co is preparing for the launch of domestic flights in Japan, promoting procedures with the transport ministry, the chief of its Japanese unit said on Wednesday.

“We are at the stage of promoting procedures with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, so we want to announce our business strategy later,” Hiroshi Ugai, president of Spring Airlines Japan Co, told a news conference.

If the transport ministry approves Spring Airlines to launch domestic flights, the carrier will join existing low-cost carriers Peach Aviation, operating out of Kansai International Airport, and Jet Star Japan and Air Asia Japan, operating out of Narita International Airport.— Kyodo News

Mitsubishi Heavy to work with Chinese firm in ship repair business

TOKYO, 9 May — Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd said on Tuesday it has agreed to collaborate with China’s Chengxi Shipyard (Xinrong) Co in the business of installing ballast water treatment systems.

The two companies will combine Mitsubishi Heavy’s advanced technologies accumulated from its experience in ship conversion work and Chengxi Shipyard’s ship conversion abilities and cost competitiveness, Mitsubishi Heavy said.

They will closely collaborate throughout the BWTS retrofitting process from marketing, system selection and designing to actual installation work.

Mitsubishi Heavy added that it will not only provide the drawings necessary for undertaking BWTS retrofitting work but also dispatch supervisors to the Chinese shipyard when necessary and train Chengxi Shipyard engineers in Yokohama.

Chengxi Shipyard is a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corp, one of the country’s two largest state-owned shipbuilding groups.

Kyodo News

Sultan of Brunei to visit Japan on 12-17 May, meet with PM Abe

TOKYO, 9 May — Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei will visit Japan on 12 to 17 May, with plans to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe next Monday, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the two leaders are expected to discuss strengthening ties between Japan and Brunei, a country rich in natural gas that is chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year.

The sultan is also expected to meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during his stay.

Kyodo News
Tuesday it has entered the Vietnamese market, starting production at a newly completed factory.

The company is producing powdered detergents and drinks at the factory in Dong Nai Province with the aim of achieving sales of around 490 million yen in fiscal 2013 ending March next year.

House Foods expects demand for products such as puddings to grow as the average age in Vietnam is only 27.4 years and Vietnamese have a tradition of

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

YANGON UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
INVITATIONS FOR APPLICATION OF MA(EFL) COURSE

1. The First Year academic programme leading to the MA (English as a Foreign Language) degree for the 2013-2014 academic year will be opened in June 2013.
2. Those who wishes to attend the course should (a) be Myanmar citizens (b) fulfil the requirements for admission to the First Year academic programme leading to the MA (EFL) degree.
3. Applications should be submitted by 16 May 2013 at the latest. Enquiries on admission may be made during office hours at Student Affairs Department, Yangon University of Foreign Languages.

Ph: 514371, Ext *809.

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

TENDER NO (1/2/3/4) (E S) A.M.D. (2013-2014)

1. Open Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

2. Tender Closing date: 23-5-2013, 16:00 hrs

3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AOM office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours (from 10-5-2013). Only Tenders Purchased from AOM will be accepted.

4. For more details, Contact: 067-431242.431243

DIRECTOR GENERAL

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION DEPARTMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ER TURKU VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after

THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO.
SECOND BEST TIME IS NOW.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (4)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (4) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after

23-5-2013, 16:00 hrs

2. Tender Closing date: 23-5-2013, 16:00 hrs

3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AOM office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours (from 10-5-2013). Only Tenders Purchased from AOM will be accepted.

4. For more details, Contact: 067-431242.431243

DIRECTOR GENERAL

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION DEPARTMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ER TURKU VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO.
SECOND BEST TIME IS NOW.

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THE DIGICEL CAREER OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 11TH MAY

Come and talk to Digicel about career opportunities in Myanmar. Park Royal Hotel, 33 alan Pya Pagoda Street, Yangon. 3pm to 7pm

Hotline Contact Numbers: 094 395 7890
094 395 7893 | 094 395 7894

JOBS.DIGICELMYANMAR.COM
Man United fans digest shock, ponder Fergie-less future

Manchester, 9 May—Shock, uncertainty and an air of inevitability hung in the air on the red side of Manchester on Wednesday as fans digested Alex Ferguson’s retirement announcement.

Some milled around Old Trafford, where the “Sir Alex Ferguson” stand and statute of the Scot are the very best, waiting for word to break on the news that had been expected but never confirmed as Ferguson, who is 71, had said he would retire at the end of the season.

Ferguson was expected to address the media on Wednesday as fans prepares to digest the news.

But others calmed their nerves with a pint in the pub.

While many former players had spoken of their shock at Ferguson’s decision, for a lot of supporters there was a sense that with the manager aged 71 and with the club having just re-claimed the Premier League title from Manchester City, the news was not entirely unexpected even if it was unwelcome.

“I’m gutted he’s going. But all the stuff that has been there—the fact (manager) Jose Mourinho looks like he’s going to be free from Real Madrid and also the rumours of Cristiano Ronaldo (coming back) to tie in with that,” said pundit Laurel Dawson.

While former Chelsea boss Mourinho is among those being mentioned as a possible successor to Ferguson, the hot favourite is Everton boss David Moyes.

“I have been a season-ticket holder for 32 years and will not be renewing if we get Moyes,” Dawson added. “I’ve got a friend who has eight executive seats at 5,000-pound-seach and he’s not renewing them either. It’s the right time, wrong replacement. He has no real Champions League experience, he is unproven, it’s a massive risk to spend 1,500 pounds on a season ticket.

It’s not all bad and I’ve still got Rome to look forward to next week. It was a great match from her and hopefully we’ll have some more great matches in the future.”

Reuters

Real thump nine-man Malaga to delay Barca title

Madrid, 9 May—Real Madrid made sure Barcelona will have to wait at least until Sunday to wrap up a 22nd La Liga title when Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 200th goal for the club in a 6-2 win at home to nine-man Malaga on Wednesday.

Barca need two more points to wrest the league crown back from their arch-rivals and secure a fourth title in five years and a win at third-placed Atlético Madrid on Sunday would be enough for Tito Vilanova’s side. Barca have 88 points from 34 of 36 matches, with Real in second on 80 from 35. Atlético, four points further back in third, secured a berth in the Champions League group stage with a 3-1 win at struggling Celta Vigo earlier on Wednesday.

Both matches had been brought forward due to the King’s Cup final between Real and Atlético on Friday 17 May. Real coach Jose Mourinho, who seems certain to leave after a disappointing season, was again whistled by a significant section of the home support at the Bernabeu when his name was read out before kickoff.

The Portuguese has clashed with several members of the squad in recent weeks, including club captain Iker Casillas, who was again left out of the team, and fans cheered when the Spanish goalkeeper’s name was read out in the list of substitutes.

Reuters

Singapore to host WTA Championships

Singapore, 9 May—Singapore will host the glittering annual finale of the women’s tennis season from 2014 until 2018, the WTA said on Wednesday.

The Southeast Asian city-state beat Tianjin in China and Mexico’s Monterrey for the right to stage the WTA Championships after Turkey’s Istanbul ends its three-year stint in October.

“Your sensational city, the amazing city of Singapore, has won the right to host the WTA Championships for the next five years from 2014,” WTA chairman and chief executive Stacey Allaster told reporters.

Reuters

From red carpet to testy challenge for Woods at Players

Ponte Vedra Beach, (Florida), 9 May—Tiger Woods may get the red carpet treatment wherever he goes but that will be of little help to the world number one at TPC Sawgrass, site of this week’s Players Championship.

Woods won his only Players title in 15 starts in 2001 and in addition to a field that includes the world’s top 30 golfers, and 38 of the top 40, there is the diabolical Pete Dye layout that has frustrated contenders for four decades.

The 14-times major winner measures success by only the biggest championships, but he grudgingly admits that next in line after the Masters, US Open, British Open and PGA Championship would be the Players Championship.

“We think we have our four major championships, and that’s it,” Woods said when asked if the Players could be considered the fifth major.

“But if there was going to be another one, this would be it. This is the best field that we have.“

Reuters

Tiger Woods of the US watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during a practice round before The Players Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on 8 May, 2013.—Reuters

Azarenka boils over in surprise Madrid Open

Russian Ekaterina Makarova knocked a point for smashing her racket on the way to a surprise 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 defeat by unseeded Russian Ekaterina Makarova in the Madrid Open second round on Wednesday.

The Belarusian world number three, runner-up in the last two editions of the premier clay event and coming back from an injury layoff, appeared firmly in control against her 24th-ranked opponent after cruising through the first set.

However, Makarova raised her game to take the second set and after Azarenka smashed her racket at 3-3 in the deciding Australian Open champion’s game fell apart and she suffered her first defeat of the year.

The umpire had already warned Azarenka at the end of the first set and when she took out her frustration on her racket she was given a point penalty.

“I just felt it was a weird call for me because I had no idea I had a code violation,” she told a news conference.

“But, I mean, it happened. It didn’t help, for sure, it’s okay. It’s my own fault,” added the 23-year-old.

Azarenka’s vanquisher in the 2011 Madrid final, Czech Petra Kvitova, was another high profile casualty on Wednesday.

A statue of Manchester United’s coach Alex Ferguson is seen outside the club’s Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, northern England on 8 May, 2013.—Reuters

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Reuters
Old Trafford set to give Ferguson emotional sendoff

**LONDON, 9 May—**Emotions will be running high at Old Trafford on Sunday for Alex Ferguson’s last home game as Manchester United manager with his retirement overshadowing the presentation of the Premier League trophy to the champions.

Ferguson will take his seat in the dugout for the final time with Swansea City the visitors for his home farewell after the Scot announced on Wednesday that he will step down at the end of the season following more than 36 trophy-laden years at the helm.

Fans unable to get a ticket will be able to line the streets and toast the Scot on Monday evening when Uniteded embark on an open-top bus parade through the city.

After that, Ferguson will bow out at West Bromwich Albion on the final day of the season.

While there is nothing at stake from Swansea’s visit, United have long since sealed a 20th English title and their opponents set for a top-10 finish, the battle for the remaining two Champions League places and one relegation spot is guaranteed another twist or two in the dying embers of the season.

Chelsea (69 points), Arsenal (67) and Tottenham Hotspur (66) remain in the mix with the defending champions Chelsea missing the chance to all but guarantee a top-four finish when they were twice pegged back by Spurs in a 2-2 draw on Wednesday.

They get another chance when they visit resurgent Aston Villa on Saturday (12:45 pm), Paul Lambert’s side having revenge firmly on their minds after an 8-0 mauling by Chelsea in December.

Spurs visit Stoke on Sunday (1:30 p.m) while Arsenal, not in action at the weekend, face relegation-threatened Wigan Athletic at the Emirates on Tuesday.

Wigan’s build-up to their first FA Cup final appearance against Manchester City on Saturday night has been far more relaxed had they managed to hold on to a 2-1 lead against Swansea on Tuesday. Instead, Roberto Martínez’s side imploded to lose 3-2 and their perennial Houdini act of escaping the trapdoor is now in serious jeopardy.

Wigan’s defeat, which kept them third from bottom on 35 points, will have been greeted by relief by the teams above them with Newcastle, Norwich and Sunderland holding a three-point cushion with two games to play.

Southampton, on 39, and Aston Villa and Fulham with 40 are not yet assured of safety. One win from their last seven games has plunged Newcastle into a duel that has left fans contemplating the spectre of a second demotion in five seasons after they were demoted in 2009. —Reuters

**Imran badly hurt after falling from forklift**

**LAHORE, 9 May—**In a freak accident, cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan was today badly hurt and received head injuries when he fell off a forklift that was hoisting him on to a stage at his election campaign meeting here.

Imran, 60, fell from the forklift along with his security personnel accompanied him towards the stage.

**Photo exhibition at UN showcases Beijing’s development in tourism**

**UNITED NATIONS, 9 May—**A photo exhibition showcasing the tourism resources and historical and cultural traditions of Beijing, China’s capital city, debuted at the UN headquarters on Wednesday. The exhibition, themed “Urban Sustainable Development and Tourism,” displays 50 photos showing the scenery of tourist attractions of Beijing, an ancient oriental capital and international metropolis, as well as its cultural treasures, such as the Summer Palace and the National Grand Theater.

Jointly sponsored by the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN, the Beijing Municipal Government and Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development, the exhibition will last till 15 May. After the opening ceremony of the exhibition, the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF), an international tourism body launched by the Beijing municipal government, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Health and Environment Organization of the UN at the headquarters of the world body.

Hosted by Li Baodong, China’s permanent representative to the United Nations, the luncheon meeting was attended by UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson, Beijing’s Mayor Wang Anshun and the ambassadors of some other countries. “The growth of urbanization and tourism is a natural consequence of globalizing interdependent world. Much of the growth in the recent decades as we know, has been boosted by China and other Asian countries,” Eliasson said while addressing the meeting. The UN official also praised the establishment of the WTGF as “a concrete example of the Chinese government’s commitment to sustainable urban development in tourism.” —Reuters

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

* (10-5-13 09:30 am - 11-5-13 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay
- Versatile Youth
- News
- Music
- News
- Glue Sniffing
- Be Cautious for Safety
- News
- Fad and Fashion in Myanmar
- News
- Investment Promotion Strategies ‘A Danish Experience’
- News
- A Trip to the City of Rakhkita, Rakhine
- News
- Glue Sniffing
- Be Cautious for Safety
- News
- Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association
- News
- Myanmar Movies “By means of Love”

**Myanmar TV**

* (10-5-2013, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Parinta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 3. Dance & Song of National Races
- 4. Documentary
- 5. News
- 6. Teleplay
- 7. Drama Series
- 8. How It’s Works
- 9. TV Drama Series
- 10. News
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 12. CLEVER
- 13. Myanmar Series
- 14. A Trip to the City of Rakhkita, Rakhine
- 15. Musical Programme
- 16. News
- 17. Myanmar Movie
- 18. Documentary

**Opening day of Billabong Rio Pro surfing event canceled**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 May—**The opening day of competition at the Billabong Rio Pro was canceled on Wednesday due to poor conditions.

Event organizers at Barra da Tijuca beach in Rio de Janeiro said they would reconvene at 6.30 am on Thurs-day to consider a possible 7am start, if wind conditions were favorable. The Colgate Palt Girls Rio Pro was also suspended. “After assessing conditions throughout this morning, we’ve opted to call a lay day for competition today,” Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) head judge Rich Porta said.

We anticipate conditions to improve over the next several days and will return again tomorrow morning to make another call.” Eleven-time world champion Kelly Slater leads the 2013 ASP World Tour rankings with 11,750 points ahead of Mick Fanning (11,700), Taj Burrow (11,700), Adriano de Souza (10,500) and Joel Parkinson (9,730).—Xinhua
NAY PSI TAW, 9 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun receive[d] former member of the House of Councilors of Japan and President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They had a cordial discussion on implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, measures for long-term power supply and acquisition of potable water in TSEZ’s related building plans and potential for Japanese companies’ investments in Dawei Special Economic Zone, aids to peace making and socio-economic development.

Present at the meeting together with Vice-President U Nyan Tun were Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Aung Than Oo and U Myo Aung, and departmental personnel.

The visiting delegation was accompanied by staff from Japanese Embassy.

NAY PSI TAW

NAY PSI TAW, 9 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receive[d] a delegation led by Chief Executive Officer Mr Ira Magaziner of New York-based Clinton Health Access Initiative at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein and departmental heads.

At the call, they focused on capacity enhancement of health staff and control of TB, malaria and AIDS diseases which is prioritized in health sector of Myanmar, and provision of medical equipment and pharmaceutical distribution technology and financial assistance.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association

Inlay Lake’s conservation, regional development tasks briefed

NAY PSI TAW, 9 May—A briefing on implementation of tasks for conservation of Inlay Lake and regional development tasks took place at Aureum Palace Hotel in Nyaungshwe yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat made speeches.

Union Minister U Win Tun said that the ministry carries out conservation of Inlay Lake and develops its environs laying down the plans. The Lake faced drop in water level from yesterday morning due to the rainfalls and cold weather. Therefore, visitors at home and abroad flocked to Phaungdaw U Pagoda and Inlay region.

Union Minister U Htay Aung and the Chief Minister made clarifications on hotels in the region, and answered the queries raised by those present. After the briefing, the Union Ministers and the Chief Minister together with media men looked around progress of construction works being undertaken in the hotel zone in the Inlay region.—MNA

Mawtaung border trade camp commissioned into service

NAY PSI TAW, 9 May—Mawtaung border trade camp of Taninthayi Region went into operation starting from yesterday morning.

At the opening of the border trade camp in Taninthayi Township, Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko said that thanks to the trade camp, trade volume between Myanmar and Thailand would increase. Myeik–Taninthayi–Mawtaung Road would be upgraded for secure and smooth transport thereby contributing to creating job opportunities in the region, he said.

Next, the Chief Minister and officials concerned observed the commodities flow at the border trade camp.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Pro-Rector (Academic) Dr Myat Lwin of Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport as Rector of the same university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.