Vice-President U Nyan Tun calls for parallel focus on preparation and rehabilitation tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Chairman of National Natural Disasters Preparedness Central Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for a parallel focus on preparation and rehabilitation works ahead of the cyclonic storm Mahasen, demanding for constant contact with the response teams on the ground.

The Vice-President met Union ministers, Lt-Gen Hla Min from Commander-in-Chief’s Office (Army), Subcommittee chairmen deputy ministers, the commander of western command and officials at An Township this morning.

Those present presented reports on preparations for the cyclonic storm Mahasen.

Kyodo News Agency opens Yangon branch

YANGON, 16 May—Kyodo News Agency has opened its branch in Yangon.

The opening ceremony was held at Chatrium Hotel, here, this noon, with an opening speech of Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut.

On the occasion, President of Kyodo News Agency Mr. Satashi Ishikawa and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata extended greetings.

The Kyodo News Agency was established in 1945. It has a total of 42 branches around the world providing news of the world, local news and information on economics and research in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean languages.

Since 1 April, 2013, Myanmar has allowed NHK, AP and Kyodo news agencies to open their branches in the country as the first batch.—MNA

Japan’s non-Profit Grant Aid signed

YANGON, 16 May—The handing over ceremony of the Japan’s Non-Project Grant Aid took place at the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, yesterday and it was attended by Mr. Mikio Numata, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Construction and U Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation and officials.

The Government of Japan, under its project scheme, granted 1.6 billion Yen (approximately 19.10 million US dollars) for contributing to restoration and disaster prevention efforts for the areas and people affected by Flood Disaster in 2011. Total of 176 machineries are already procured and 60% of the total equipment have been already distributed to related areas, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Rakhine States by using this grant aid. Remaining be the main effective force in rebuilding of infrastructural requirements not only for the rehabilitation of affected regions but also for the construction of cyclone embankments under construction in 11 road networks in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State due to previous disaster as well,” said Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.

It is expected that this assistance will develop to recovering and reconstruction of disaster affected areas in Myanmar and further strengthen the existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM
Passengers hurt in rollover crash on expressway

PYU, 16 May—A rollover crash happened to an express bus carrying passengers at mile post No (104/4) on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway at about 4.30 pm on 14 May. The Yangon-Toungoo passenger bus skidded out of control and overturned after hitting traffic islands. Excessive speed is believed to have led to the rollover car crash. Fifteen passengers on board were injured in the incident. The victims were sent to Pyu hospital where they are being treated in no critical condition. Myotchaung expressway police station filed a lawsuit against driver Thein Soe Paing, 50, of North Okkalapa Township for his dangerous driving.

Accident

New bus for Myanmar selected football players

YANGON, 16 May—Aseyawady Bank Limited, a branch of Max Myanmar Group of Companies, handed over a 45-seat bus to Myanmar Football Federation to be used in transportation of Myanmar selected men’s and women’s football teams.

As a gesture of praising MFF’s efforts for promotion of Myanmar football, the Max Myanmar Group of Companies in donation of such kind of facility to MFF as it had presented a 32-seat bus for Myanmar selected football teams four months ago.

Tentative U-23 selected Myanmar football team formed with 30 players

YANGON, 16 May—After receiving a 10-day training in Taunggyi as a preparation for SEA Games, tentative U-23 selected Myanmar football team was formed with 30 players before a friendly match with MNL foreign players team.

The friendly match between tentative U-23 selected Myanmar football and MNL foreign players team will be held at Kanbauk

Robbery suspects, caught within a day in Dawbon Township

YANGON, 16 May—Police arrested two young men suspected of an armed robbery occurred in the precinct of Mya Zedi pagoda in Yamonna ward-1 of Dawbon Township within a few hours on 13 May.

Soon after they were informed of the armed robbery in which Daw Khin Thaung, 81, of Yamonna ward-2 in the township was robbed of her earrings by an unknown young man with tattoos on his right arm while she was in prayer at the south-east corner of Mya Zedi pagoda in Yamonna ward-1 at about 8 am, police members of Dawbon police station launched a search for a robber to arrest as quick as possible. The old woman reported to the police that she had been threatened with a knife to pull out her earrings by the robber who is thought to be about five feet and six inches tall.

As she delayed to do it, the armed man pulled it out by himself. He then drove away on bike.

While police are hunting the robber based on his appearances, they had received a tip-off that Myint Than (a) Maung Maung who is believed to have committed the armed robbery and Ko Htet, his accomplice, were at a teashop in Yamonna ward-1. Police rushed there to arrest them, but only Ko Htet was captured at about 1.30 pm on that day. Then police seized a pair of earrings they pawned at a shop in Thakayta Township.

One inmate escapes from Bago correctional facility

BAGO, 16 May—An inmate who has been serving a 19-year prison term on three counts of burglary escaped from Bago correctional facility on 2 May. He is believed to have made his escape from the prison by climbing over the wall.

The prisoner, Aung Ko, was charged with three counts of housebreakings in Pyu and Kyauktada Township in Bago Region and Kyauktada Township in Bago Region in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The escaped inmate was from Dauk/U Township. He escaped from the prison after serving only six months and there are over 18 years remaining to serve. Actions are being taken to arrest him. —Kyemon

Three piglets born with physical deformity in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—While a pig gave birth to six piglets at Mayingyi village in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, three piglets were born with deformed heads and face. One of misshapen piglets has an elephant-shape head, another piglet a rhinoceros-shape head, and the third one a face that looks more monkey than a swine.

The birth of three misshapen piglets occurred at the house of Ko Than Naing and Ma Zin Mar Oo in Maungyi village of Khit-aye village-tract in Nay Pyi Taw Zeyathiri Township at about 9 am on 14 May. A female pig with four-month pregnancy that is breed at the house gave birth to six piglets, but three piglets were born with malformation. Newborn piglets have eight inches in length. The piglet with an elephant head has a trunk and two eyes that look elephant eyes. The piglet with a rhinoceros head has one eye and a horn above the eye.

“The mother pig started giving birth to piglets at about 9 am. She produced a male piglet first. Then the piglet with a rhinoceros head, the piglet with an elephant head and the piglet that has a monkey-like face were born one by one. They all are male. The fifth and sixth piglets are female. The two piglets with a rhinoceros head and an elephant head died three hours after birth.

MAI, Asiana ink codeshare deal

YANGON, 16 May—Myanmar Airways International-MAI and Asiana Airlines have signed an agreement to codeshare on a shuttle flight service between Yangon and Seoul at MAI Head Office in Sakura Tower, here, on 10 May.

Being the one and only airline with IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit) certificate in Myanmar, MAI has drawn attention of international airlines to operate codeshare on a mutual basis.

Under the agreement to codeshare between MAI and Asiana Air, sale of air tickets will be available for passengers with 8M code of MAI and flight number of MAI will be on the schedule of Yangon-Seoul-Yangon daily flight run by Asiana Airlines.

An MoU was signed between MAI and Korean Air (KE) at the head office of Korean Air in Seoul of the Republic of Korea in April. So far MAI has been interlinked with 33 international airlines through interline and it has agreed with 19 international airlines on “IET” (Interline E-Ticket). MAI also planned to renew the contracts with former codeshare partners—Thai Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Qatar Airways. Moreover, arrangements are being made to ink codeshare agreements with Air India, Air France and All Nippon Airways, it is learnt. —Kyemon

Crime

Odd News

National Sports

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NPA launches unit to supervise cyberattack investigations

Tokyo, 16 May—The National Police Agency launched a cyberattack analysis centre on Thursday in the wake of a series of digital attacks on private firms and governmental organizations apparently aimed at stealing information.

The centre, consisting of around 20 officials, will supervise investigations and information analysis by local police forces in response to cyberattacks. It will also exchange information with foreign intelligence agencies. To enhance countermeasures against cyberattacks, the NPA has set up special investigative forces at 13 prefectural police headquarters. The number of police officers involved in the mission has reached around 410 nationwide.

The agency has also established a framework to share information on digital attacks with private firms that have cutting-edge technologies, including companies in the defence business, and will expand it gradually.

“We need to comprehend what kinds of cyberattacks Japan is facing now,” an NPA official said. “Our efforts (to tackle the attacks) have just started.”

Kyodo News

Donors pledge about $4.22 billion to Mali recovery

European Union Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs (R) exchanges documents with Mali’s Foreign Minister Tieman Hubert Coulibaly (L) after signing the “Framework Convention,” as French’s President Francois Hollande (back R), European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (back C) and Mali’s interim President Dioncounda Traore observe the ceremony, at the donors’ conference on the development of Mali in Brussels on 15 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Brussels, 16 May—International donors pledged 3.25 billion euros ($4.22 billion) on Wednesday to help Mali recover from a conflict with al-Qaeda linked Islamists, exceeding the West African country’s target.

The development drive for Mali, one of the world’s poorest countries, is aimed at halting a resurgence of the rebels driven out of major northern towns by a French-led offensive this year.

“More than 3.25 billion euros have been mobilized at this conference,” French President Francois Hollande told the meeting, organized jointly by France and the European Union. More than 100 delegations took part in the conference, including 10 presidents or prime ministers.

The EU’s executive Commission will allocate 524 million euros to Mali. Large pledges by France, the United States, Britain, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, the Islamic Development Bank and others enabled the West African country to exceed its goal of raising two billion euros.

It needs the money to fill a funding gap in a 4.34 billion euro plan to keep the peace and build infrastructure over this year and next.

EU, French and Malian officials declared the conference a success. “It went beyond what we could have hoped for... This conference marks a new chapter in the fight of civilization against terrorism,” Malian President Dioncounda Traore told a news conference.

French and EU officials said that releasing the bulk of the money was dependent on Mali fulfilling its commitment to holding presidential elections on 28 July. “We cannot wait for the elections. One third of the EU commitment will be financed before, but two thirds depends on the elections,” French Development Minister Pascal Canfin told Reuters.

He also said Mali must push through reforms in justice, fighting corruption, public finances and decentralizing power.—Reuters

WTISD 2013: Message from ITU Secretary-General, Dr Hamadoun I. Touré

ICTs and Improving Road Safety

The theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013 is “ICTs and improving road safety”.

“ICTs play a catalytic role in creating opportunities for people in every walk of life.” Today, even as we take to the streets in our vehicles, we have the tools at our fingertips to communicate across the world, navigate through dense traffic and find our way in unfamiliar terrain. At the same time we can choose from a host of entertainment options to pass the time en route to our destinations.

While these technologies are becoming increasingly ubiquitous, we must ensure that we use them responsibly and with caution, especially while driving, in order to avoid accidents and injury.

Road traffic safety is a global concern for public health and injury prevention. Every year, 1.3 million people die in traffic related accidents and another 20-50 million people are injured mainly in developing countries around the world. As a result, Governments and individuals suffer an estimated USD 518 billion in global economic loss.

Driver distraction and road-user behaviour, such as “text messaging” and interfacing with in-vehicle navigation or communication systems while driving, are among the leading contributors to road traffic fatalities and injuries. My message is clear: Don’t be distracted by technology when driving, whether calling from your mobile phone, or setting the navigation system. Sending a text message or tweeting while driving is extremely dangerous and should be avoided at all cost.

At the same time, I call upon our Member States and industry partners to promote the use of safe interfaces and hands-free devices in vehicles and take action to eliminate technology-related distractions while driving. Along with promoting national policies to encourage the use of ICT in enhancing road safety, we must also promote the development and use of intelligent transport systems.

These measures will not only help prevent traffic accidents but also improve efficiencies in traffic management as a means of combating the effects of climate change.

I am pleased to say that ITU has been developing standards for safe user interfaces and communication systems in vehicles designed to optimize driving performance by eliminating unsafe technology-related distractions.

ITU has also been leading worldwide efforts in developing state-of-the-art ICT standards for Intelligent Transport Systems and driver safety that utilize a combination of computers, communications, positioning and automation technologies, including in-car radars for collision avoidance.

The theme for WTISD 2013 “ICTs and improving road safety” will be taken forward in the years to come in partnership with the automotive sector and with automobile associations worldwide under the banner of the F.I.A. – the International Automobile Federation – with whom we will be working closely to meet one of the most urgent global challenges of our times.

I urge you to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day this year by paying particular attention to improving road safety by harnessing the power of ICTs.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General

Bombs kill more than 35 people across Iraq

Baghdad, 16 May—Bomb attacks in Shi’ite areas of Baghdad and in northern Iraq killed more than 35 people on Wednesday, following weeks of violence by Sunni insurgents determined to unleash sectarian confrontation.

Tensions between minority Sunni and the Shi’ites who now lead Iraq are at their highest since US troops pulled out in 2011, with relations coming under more pressure by the day from the largely sectarian conflict in neighbouring Syria.

A string of car bombings hit Shi’ite neighbourhoods across the capital Baghdad on Wednesday evening, including one outside a side and another at a market, killing at least 22 people and wounding dozens more, police said. “I saw a bright flash followed by a strong explosion that shook the building. Glass was shattered everywhere, people immediately ran to the scene and started evacuating the wounded and the injured,” said Jabar al-Rubaie, a policeman at the scene in Sadr City District in Baghdad.

Kyodo News

Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 15 May, 2013. —REUTERS
China missile hit highest suborbital level since 1976: scientist

WASHINGTON, 16 May—China launched a large missile on Monday that reached 6,200 miles above the earth, its highest suborbital launch since 1976, according to a US scientist at Harvard University.

Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, said the rocket was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in western China, and China said the rocket carried a scientific payload which studied the earth’s magnetosphere.

He said the rocket could possibly be used in the future to carry an anti-satellite payload on a similar trajectory, but there was no evidence to indicate the launch was intended to test such a capability.

The United States remains concerned about China’s development of anti-satellite capabilities and said it would continue to monitor developments.

A Pentagon spokesman said a global criminal justice system is the world’s favored destination for outsourcing.

Last week, US prosecutors said a global criminal gang stole $45 million from two Middle Eastern banks by breaking into the two card processing companies based in India and raising the balance and withdrawal limits.

The episode is reopening debate on banking work requiring a high degree of confidentiality to offshore locations. “It is the weakest link,” said Shane Shook, an expert with US cyber-security firm Cylance Inc who has helped financial firms conduct investigations into some major cyber crimes.

India’s $108 billion IT services industry is the world’s favored destination for outsourcing. Over 40 percent of exports by the industry are support services for the global financial sector, ranging from investment bank back-office functions to research, risk-management and processing of insurance claims.

Lured by a tech-savvy English-speaking population and wages that can be one-fifth those in the West, more than three-quarters of global banks have a direct or indirect presence in India. Indian IT firms, led by outsourcers such as Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, argue that security breaches are rare.

Hedge fund billionaire Loeb says Sony reminds him of Yahoo

WASHINGTON, 16 May—US researchers said on Tuesday they have found a resistant strain of wheat that can reduce nematode numbers in soil and protect the next rotation of tomato plants.

The wheat had the effect they were hoping for — the resistant wheat plants reduced nematode numbers in the soil by 64 percent, while the non-resistant plants were 40 percent more damaged by nematodes.

Finding crops resistant to nematodes may be difficult due to the pest’s wide distribution and ability to reproduce, but the researchers said they had tried a number of different rotation crops before turning to wheat. The researchers were surprised to find a strain of wheat called Laskiss which has a resistance gene that could dramatically change the way farmers plant tomorrow’s crops.

Hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb says he is reminded of the company Yahoo

Monday’s rocket launch was similar to launches using the Blue Scout Junior rocket that were conducted by the US Air Force in the 1960s for research on the Earth’s magnetosphere, McDowell said in an emailed response to questions.

The launch came less than a week after US Deputy Defence Secretary Ashton Carter unveiled what he called “long overdue” effort to safeguard US national security satellites and develop ways to counter the space capabilities of potential adversaries.

The Pentagon also released an 83-page report on Chinese military developments that highlighted China’s increasing space capabilities and Beijing’s work to carry an anti-satellite payload into orbit in 2007, creating an enormous amount of debris in space.

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New Light of Myanmar

Visitors tour the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China’s Sichuan province on 18 Oct, 2007.—Reuters
China uses space technology to modify artificial heart

TIANJIN, 16 May—A sheep implanted with a new type of artificial heart developed by Chinese scientists using cutting-edge aerospace technology has lived for 62 days thus far, the heart’s developer announced on Monday.

The development of the heart was jointly conducted by scientists from the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology and TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital in north China’s Tianjin Municipality.

The sheep, nicknamed “Tianjiu,” is in sound condition after receiving the blood pump on 14 March, said Liu Xiaocheng, president of the hospital.

He said researchers used magnetic suspension and hydrodynamic bearings — both examples of aerospace technology — to design and produce an implantable third-generation ventricular assist device (VAD), a mechanical pump used to support heart function and blood flow in people with weakened hearts.

The device is the first of its kind to be fitted with a battery and controller. The sheep experiment is similar to a clinical implantation, the scientists said.

Once the device is marketed, it may end suffering for the 16 million people in China with failing hearts, as many patients are waiting for heart transplants.

China began research on VAD in the early 1990s. Clinical use of commercialized VADs had yet to take place until now.—Xinhua

For Japan lenders, Abenomics’ pain first, gain later

TOKYO, 16 May—Japan’s top three banks forecast weaker annual earnings as aggressive monetary easing squeezes them out of a profitable government bond trade and forces them to rely more on bread-and-butter lending where margins remain razor-thin. The cautious outlook delivered by Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc (MUFJ) (8306.T), Mizuho Financial Group Inc, and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc (SMFG) (8316.T) highlights the tough transition facing the industry after the central bank’s radical easing in April, including a plan to purchase $2-3 billion cost savings by 2016.

The logo of HSBC bank is seen at its office in the Canary Wharf business district of London on 1 April, 2013.—REUTERS

HSBC targets additional $2-3 billion cost savings by 2016

HONG KONG, 16 May—HSBC (HSBAL) said on Wednesday that it would target additional cost savings of $2 billion to $3 billion in 2014-2016, as Europe’s biggest bank cuts jobs and sells noncore businesses to bolster profitability under a restructuring plan led by CEO Stuart Gulliver.

In a strategy update, HSBC (0005.HK) also said it would aim for a cost-efficiency ratio in the low 50s", up from 48-52 percent previously, a goal it had been struggling to achieve amid sluggish growth outside Asia. It maintained a long-term target for return on equity of 12 to 15 percent.

The plan set out by Gulliver in May 2011 called for a complete overhaul of the bank by reducing costs, exiting sub-unprofitable and unprofitable businesses and focusing on growth markets. When the $2 billion announced since 2011 are complete, HSBC will have cut $85 billion in risk-weighted assets, the bank said on Wednesday.

“We will continue to exert tight cost discipline whilst streamlining processes and procedures,” Gulliver said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. HSBC’s restructuring plan also targets higher income from collaboration between the firm’s Commercial Banking, Private Banking and Global Markets divisions. The business unit collaboration effort realized $900 million in added revenues between 2011 and 2012, the statement said, with an additional $2 billion in incremental revenues targeted by 2016. —Reuters

Roche banks on new drug data to defend cancer business

ZURICH, 16 May—Swiss drugmaker Roche hopes published this week will show it has a viable follow-on product to help fend off cheaper competition for its best-selling cancer drug, which loses patent protection in Europe later this year.

Roche is set to present full results early on Thursday of a late-stage study for its GA101 drug in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL), ahead of the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in Chicago from 31 May to 4 June.

Niko Andre, Roche’s head of medical affairs for oncology, said the data would make clear GA101’s true potential as a new treatment option in CLL.

“The data will speak for themselves,” he said.

Roche is the world’s largest maker of cancer drugs and GA101 is a key test of its ability to defend its business against cheaper copies, known as “biosimilars” because they are not identical matches of branded medicines. GA101 is a follow-on to Roche’s top-selling MabThera, also known as Rituxan. The treatment for blood cancer and rheumatoid arthritis had sales of $7 billion in 2012, but goes off patent in Europe at the end of this year.

The new drug typifies Roche’s strategy of protecting its existing sales once top sellers lose exclusivity by developing better versions of its original medicines.

Roche has already made a running start in protecting its breast cancer drug Herceptin, off patent next year, by winning approval for two new drugs against the disease, Perjeta and Kadcyla. Although the GA101 data are just for CLL, which is a smaller treatment area than non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NHL) and accounts for roughly 15 to 20 percent of Rituxan sales, analyst Fabian Wenner at brokerage Kepler Cheuvreux thinks the data will provide a good indication of its potential efficacy in NHL.

“NHL will be the real acid test. But the full data (in CLL) are the first kind of validation and that’s important,” Wenner said. “Headline data have shown a stronger efficacy and a longer endurance in the body, which bodes well for the NHL.”—Reuters

M&S’s make-or-break clothing strategy gets early thumbs-up

LONDON, 16 May—Fashion media and analysts welcomed broadly Marks & Spencer’s (MKS.L) new clothing strategy and a preview of autumn/winter fashion ranges, giving the firm’s boss some respite from pressure over falling sales.

Britain’s biggest clothing retailer said on Tuesday it would focus on better quality and styles in womenswear, deliver more compelling and clearer sub-brands, and make shopping easier in stores, as they gained traction.

“I’ve seen for a long time,” Singer, arguing that investors should not underestimate the potential from the changes if they gained traction.

M&S will present the autumn/winter ranges to the bulk of Britain’s fashion media on Wednesday and Thursday but some key fashion editors have already viewed the ranges and like them.

Lisa Armstrong of The Daily Telegraph called it “the most convincing effort I’ve seen for a long time,” The Times’ Laura Craig said “M&S is back in the game,” and the Guardian’s Jess Cartner-Morley said the collection “could be a high street game changer.”

Liz Jones, the influential fashion columnist at the Daily Mail newspaper, had a sneak preview last week and said she was “pleasantly surprised”, praising much improved quality.

HSBC targets additional $2-3 billion cost savings by 2016

The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is seen at the company’s headquarters in Basel on 5 April, 2012.—REUTERS

Roche banks on new drug data to defend cancer business

The logo of HSBC bank is seen at its office in the Canary Wharf business district of London on 1 April, 2013.—REUTERS
The Freeport Indonesia mine said it would travel to the remote West Papua site later on Wednesday to assess rescue operations and decide on when to resume production at the Grasberg mine, which also holds the world’s largest gold reserves.

Thirty-nine workers were attending an underground training class near the mine when a tunnel collapsed on them early on Tuesday morning, the company said. Rescue crews evacuated 14 people, four of whom died, the company said. The Grasberg mine, which employees more than 24,000 workers, was not significantly affected, but production was suspended to pay homage to those involved in the accident.

"There is no direct impact on our operation but as a sign of sympathy we have suspended the operation," Rozik Soetjipto, president director of Freeport Indonesia, told reporters. "I will go to the site tonight and from there we can decide what is the next step." Rescuers were using jacks, saws and other hand tools to free the remaining workers, as the tight space in the collapsed underground tunnel prevented them from using heavy earth-moving equipment, the company said.

A Western diplomat in Paris said the “Friends of Syria”, an anti-Assad group of mainly Western and Arab countries, would meet in Jordan on 22 May to discuss the US-Russian initiative.

Kerry and Lavrov, who met for an hour on Tuesday night on the sidelines of a meeting of the eight-nation Arctic Council, emphasised they were working in tandem on the Syria plan.

A Russian official in Cairo, who intended to blow up cars at the US and French embassies in Cairo, was recently busted in Egypt, had been exiled from prison during the 2011 upheaval that ousted former President Hosni Mubarak, the state security prosecutor’s office said.

Hemida had been extradited to Egypt from Algeria, and Agida extradited from Iran, MENA reported. Agida is also accused of planning to carry out terrorist attacks against the Egyptian army in Sinai.

The suspects have confessed communication with al-Qaeda, but denied any intention to carry out terrorist attacks.

Amr Agida, Mohamed Abdel-Halim Hemida and Mohamed Mostafa Bayomi respectively, were arrested with 10 kg of materials used for manufacturing high explosives.

The suspects escaped from prison during the 2011 uprising in Egypt’s police arrested three suspects linked to al-Qaeda, who intended to blow up vital premises in the Egyptian cities of Cairo and Alexandria.

Amr Agida, Mohamed Abdel-Halim Hemida and Mohamed Mostafa Bayomi respectively, were arrested with 10 kg of materials used for manufacturing high explosives.

US students create electricity-generating shoes

HOUSTON, 16 May—Four US students have developed shoes that extract energy with every step to power portable electronics and, perhaps someday, life-preserving medical devices, US media reported on Wednesday.

Four engineering students at Rice University in Houston, for a project required for graduation, created Pedi-Power shoes, which deliver 400 milliwatts of energy through wires that connect the shoes to a belt-mounted battery pack, according to an online version of Texas Medical Centre News. The students, Carlos Armada, Julian Castro, David Morilla and Tyler Wiest, focused their attention where the rubber meets the road to create a shoe-mounted energy generation.

They knew of a previously patented device that draws energy from the motion of the knee, and decided to apply those principles to the foot, according to the report. Working with the Motion Analysis Laboratory at Shriners Hospital for Children in the Texas Medical Centre, the students discovered that the force at the heel delivered far more potential for power than any other part of the foot, so they selected the heel portion of the shoe to generate power. When the Pedi-Power shoe hits the ground, a lever arm strikes first. The arm is attached to a gear box that replaces much of the shoe’s sole and turns the gears with each step. The gears drive a motor mounted on the outside of the shoe that generates electricity to send up to the battery. Right now the shoe is simply a prototype, and is too large for day-to-day wear. The students expect the project to be picked up by another team at Rice in the fall, with the hope they can refine the materials, shrink the size and boost the power output, all of which will get Pedi-Power closer to being a commercial product, according to the report. --Xinhua

LDP to propose US Osprey aircraft for SDF

TOKYO, 16 May—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party plans to propose that Japan’s Self-Defence Forces be equipped with US Osprey transport aircraft, party sources said on Wednesday, as Japan remains vigilant about the worsening security environment in East Asia.

The introduction of the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey would show Japan’s resolve to enhance its defence capabilities, mainly on remote islands, despite safety concerns that triggered local opposition to the first deployment of the aircraft in Japan by the US military last year.

The LDP is expected to include the introduction of the Osprey aircraft in its proposals for new defence programs that will define Japan’s longer-term defence policy, and final proposals will be worked out by the end of May.

The government under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is widely viewed as a nationalist both at home and abroad, is planning to com-
National Sports

Myanmar boat race team targets more golds in SEA Games

Myanmar boat race team in training in Yangon’s landmark Inya Lake.

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—As XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar in coming December draws nearer, authorities nor owner has picked it up. Bagu is one of major cities in Myanmar close to the commercial city Yangon and also a tourism site. Residents are demanding the removal of the trucks as soon as possible.

Kyaiktyiyo Pagoda BOT elected

MAW LAMYINE, 16 May—New Kyaiktyiyo pagoda board of trustees was elected at General Administration Department Office in Kayitkyo Township in Mon State on 8 May. State ministers U Thein Win and U Khun Pe Myint, departmental officials and 31 candidates were present at the election. The new BOT has yet to receive the state government’s approval.

Labutta prepares to face cyclone

LASHIO, 16 May—The Labutta Township Administrator, district and township departmental officials, members of disaster risk education committee, and NGOs/INGOs met at Wyawathy Hall for preparation on 13 May in the wake of Cyclone Mahasen. Public awareness raising and preventive measures were conducted in the township. Palmphlets were also distributed to rural villages.

Kungyangon on alert as Cyclone Mahasen nears

KUNGYANGON, 16 May—Township General Administration Department, Township Information and Public Relations Department, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, other departments and social organizations have conducted public awareness campaigns in the township since 13 May as Cyclone Mahasen formed in Bay of Bengal approaches land. Cyclone warnings issued by Meteorology and Hydrology Department in Nay Pyi Taw are being informed to the public in real time as part of preparedness for the cyclone.

Disaster

Muse prepares for cyclone impacts

MUSE, 16 May—Department personnel in Muse Township are raising public awareness in the wake of Cyclone Mahasen formed in Bay of Bengal. Signboards and billboards were erected to inform the public of the disaster management.

Donation

Dhammayon in Nay Pyi Taw handed over

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—A consecration ceremony of Buddha Image in a Dhammayon in Mingala Thikehdi ward in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held on 12 May, in conjunction with the ceremony to hand over the facility. Myanmar National League for Democracychairperson, Dr. Nyan Win, and other officials were also present.

Lashio to receive more electricity

LASHIO, 16 May—Head of the power plant U Thet Aung said, “The electricity supplied by Shwe Sar Yan power plant will extend to Hopaik, Mansi and 20 MVA from 66/33 KV Lashio main power plant are received and distributed to downtown areas and nearby

Educative talk on disaster risk management given in Dagon Myothit (South) Township

YANGON, 16 May—An educative talk on cyclone awareness was held in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region on 13 May. It was hosted by 18th ward Dhammayon.

Kungyangon on alert as Cyclone Mahasen nears

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New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 17 May, 2013

NATIONAL

Top the chart of rice exporters

Myanmar is an agro-based country and 70 percent of the population is living in the rural areas. Rice economy of the country is 60 percent of the State economy. Agriculture sector is crucial for country’s economy which accounts for more than a third of the economy. Myanmar was one of the world’s top rice exporters for much of the first half of the 20th century until it was overtaken by Thailand. It shipped a record 3.4 million tonnes in 1934.

However, the export market diminished through the country’s decades of economic isolation. Myanmar rice exports have been down after 1956. Thanks to a series of political and economic reforms, EU lifted economic sanctions against Myanmar. Myanmar could enter into the world’s rice market and stands fifth on the list of world’s rice exporting countries. Myanmar rice has been exported a record over 1 million metric tonnes within this financial year 2012-2013, breaking a 46-year old record.

The country was left behind in the agricultural development compared to other countries. It needs to educate farmers and use better equipment. Productivity in Myanmar’s agriculture sector has been hampered by such factors as antiquated practices and poor seed quality. Myanmar needs to transform from conventional to mechanized farming system. Japan and other organizations will help Myanmar’s farm sector development.

Myanmar-Vietnam discussion on 6 June

YANGON, 16 May—A 45-member business delegation led by Vice Mayor Mr. Nguyen Thi Hong of Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam will hold discussions with Myanmar’s entrepreneurs at UMFCI Office Tower on Minyekyawswa road, Lanmadaw Township, here, on 6 June.

The discussion will focus on investment in real estate, housing, construction and construction material, fruits and vegetables, agriculture, foodstuff, textile, tourism, electronic, marine products and oil and gas etc.

Those wishing to attend are to register at UMFCI (headquarters) not later than 5 June.

University/colleges mountaineers honoured

YANGON, 16 May—A ceremony to honour mountaineers from Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Universities’ Hiking and Mountaineering Association Professor Dr. Khin May Ohn (Retd. Rector of Yangon University of Nursing) extended greetings. Then, Foundation Chairman Saya U Myo Thant (Parton of Yangon University Hiking and Mountaineering Association) explained future tasks of the association. Honouring medals will be awarded to those mountaineers at 18thget-together of the Foundation in Royal Rose Restaurant, Yangon on 23 June.

Health care services given at relief camps in Sittway

NAVTW, 16 May—Two medical teams comprising one doctor and three health assistants each of Rakhine State Health Department under the Health Ministry are providing health care services to the peoples who take shelters at relief camps in Sittway Township. They provided medical treatment to 82 patients yesterday.

There was no outbreak of serious cholera and diarrhea diseases at the relief camps. The Health Ministry opens clinics at the relief camps for giving health care to the people as of today.

Photo shows residents in Sittway without damage after cyclonic storm Mahasen. — MNA

No people faces life-threatening condition in Rakhine State during Cyclonic storm Mahasen

NAVTW, 16 May—Cyclonic Storm Mahasen fizzled out after hitting Bangladesh coast when it crossed near Chittagong and it is moving slowly northeasterly direction and weakened into a tropical storm according to observation in this evening, Meteorology and Hydrology Department said.

No casualties occurred in Rakhine State, according to Rakhine State Government, but it caused strong wind and scattered rain from this morning to evening— MNA

Cyclone News

NAVTW, 16 May—According to the observation at 20 hrs MST today, land depression which has crossed Bangladesh Coasts. It is forecast to move Northeastwards and gradually weaken as a low pressure areas and dissipate.

Partly cloudy will be over Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Squalls and rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine Coast.

Current stage is coded as green colour, it means free from the danger of the storm at Rakhine State. It is latest news for the storm.

MNA
Myanmar fashion designers to take part in 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week

Photo shows Myanmar fashion designers who will attend 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week to be held in Kyoto of Japan.

YANGON, 16 May—Myanmar fashion designer will take part in 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week to be held in Kyoto of Japan on 28-31 May. Myanmar designers are Ma Myintzu (Zu Zu Collection), Pyi Soe Aung, Ma Pont (My Favorite), San Bouk Rarr (Shayi) and Thet Hnin Aye (Dozo).

Under the arrangement of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar designers also attended Bangkok International Fashion Show and International Leather Exhibition held in Thailand. Myanmar Fashion Designers Group (MFEG) has planned to create dress designs for the demonstrators and the country placard barriers at opening and closing of XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar.

Solar panels in high demand in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 16 May—People in Mohnyin Township are facing blackout. Even though the township has installed 66 KV power grids and power stations, main power grids cannot distribute electricity.

People use more solar panels to solve power shortage problems. Now, solar panels are in high demand there. Thanks to it, solar panel installers get high incomes. GSM tower next to 66 KV power station is installed with solar panels.

Administrators proficiency course opened in Thandaunggyi

THANDAUNGGYI, 16 May—The opening ceremony of proficiency course for ward/village tract administrators in Thandaunggyi Township, Leiktho and Bawgali sub-townships was held at the administrator’s office in Thandaung on 13 May.

At the ceremony, Hpa-an District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Naing of General Administration Department made a speech and Township Administrator U Thein Win explained the disciplines of the course.

A total of 70 administrators from wards/village-tracts of township and sub-townships in Thandaunggyi are attending three-week course.

Agriculture

Cold season groundnut production boosted in Katha Township

KATHA, 16 May—a total of 0.10 acre model plot of 5.00 acres of Hsinpadetha (11) cold season groundnut was harvested at Farmer U Set Tun’s plot (657) in Shwepyithit village in Katha Township in Sagaing Region on 12 May.

It produced 16 baskets of cold season groundnuts per acre. Therefore, 110 baskets of cold season groundnuts would be approximately boosted per acre.

Farming work permits presented in Kaw Township

BAKO, 16 May—a farming work permit presentation for farmers of Phosu Village in Kaw Township, Bago Region was held at Basic Education Primary School, here, on 9 May.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committee U Kyaw Swa Ohn and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Hla Hmay explained the purpose of presenting farming work permits and rights, and disciplines of farmers.

The Chairman of Village-tract Farmland Management Committee accepted 319 farming work permits and a person on behalf of farmers spoke words of thanks.

A plan is underway to present farming work permits to 23740 farmers of Kaw Township in 2013.

MRCS provides aid to strong wind victims

KYAUTAN, 16 May—A ceremony to hand over aid provided by Myanmar Red Cross Society to 39 households whose huts and houses collapsed in the strong winds that hit Kanpyaung Village of Kyautan Township in Yangon Region on 9 May. On 14 May, Chairman of Township Red Cross Society Branch Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Aye Sanda Khaing and officials presented treated mosquito nets, blankets, tarpaulin, plastic buckets and carpenter materials and household goods to the victims at the office of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Photo shows Myanmar fashion designers who will attend 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week to be held in Kyoto of Japan.
**IMF board OKs Cyprus loan, warns of risks**

**WORLD**

**New Light of Myanmar**, 16 May—The International Monetary Fund’s executive board approved a $1.3 billion, three-year loan to Cyprus on Wednesday, part of a larger international bailout to help the Mediterranean country avoid defaulting on its debt.

But IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said Cyprus’s bailout was subject to “substantial risks,” as the economy is likely to contract for the next two years.

“The macroeconomic outlook is subject to high uncertainty and risks to the programme are substantial,” Lagarde said in a statement. “There is no room for implementation slippages. Full and timely implementation of the programme is critical to maintaining credibility and achieving the programme’s objectives.”

Cyprus had to comply with certain conditions—including winding down its second-largest bank and imposing losses on large depositors—in order to receive the bailout from the IMF and the European Union, which totals 10 billion euros ($13 billion).

The approval of the IMF’s board means Cyprus immediately gets $10.7 million.

The Washington-based global lender said the financing package is meant to stabilize the country’s financial system, achieve sustainable government finances and support economic recovery.

Lagarde said Cyprus’s first priority must be to stabilize the banking system. The outsized banking sector led to the country’s problems in the first place, after it was burned by losses on loans to crisis-hit Greece.

Independent auditors on Wednesday said the banking system is more vulnerable to money laundering than previously thought. The government also must consolidate public debt to about 100 percent of GDP by 2020 in order to ensure it is sustainable, the IMF said.

The IMF said its projections for the programme assume Cyprus’s economy will contract 9 percent this year and 4 percent in 2014, before starting to recover in 2015, similar to falling economic activity in other countries with a banking crisis.—Reuters

**Australia, Sweden sign agreement on submarine design, technology**

**CANCERBA, 16 May** —Australia and Sweden have achieved a “significant milestone agreement” relating to Intellectual Property rights for submarine design and technology, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said in a statement on Thursday.

According to the joint statement with Sweden’s Defence Minister for Defence Ka-rin Enstrom, this followed extensive negotiations between Australia’s Defence Materiel Organization and the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration.

“The agreement gives effect to Australia’s rights to use and disclose Swedish Intellectual Property rights for complete submarine design and technology,” Minister Smith said on Thursday.

“Defence materiel cooperation has been a key feature of the Swedish-Australia relationship, most notably in the area of submarine technology where our collaboration over the construction and support of the Collins submarines has spanned two decades, and more recently, with the vital ‘sense and warn’ capability provided to protect our troops in Afghanistan,” he added.

In 1987, Australia ordered six submarines of the Collins Class designed by Swedish firm Kockums AB. The submarines were built in Adelaide and will be in service for 20 years. Australia is now planning for their replacement with 12 new boats with the recent 2013 Defence White Paper settling on two options - an evolution of Collins or a completely new design.

Smith said the government announced last year it would engage Kockums to undertake initial design studies for the evolved Collins.

But before that could occur, Australia needed to reach an agreement with Sweden on use of Collins and other Swedish technology for the Future Submarine Programme.—Xinhua

**First responder to US fertilizer plant blast pleads not guilty to bomb-possessing charges**

**HOUSTON, 16 May** —A volunteer paramedic who was among the first responders to a deadly fire and explosion last month at a Texas fertilizer plant on Wednesday pleaded not guilty to allegations that he possessed materials for a pipe bomb.

By agreement between the defence and the prosecution, an afternoon hearing on Wednesday was cancelled after Bryce Ashley Reed waived his arraignment, according to local TV channel KHOU.

US authorities announced on 10 May that they have launched a criminal investigation into the 17 April explosion in the Texas town of West, after arresting Reed on the same day and charged him with possessing an explosive.

But officials did not say if the arrest of Reed is connected to the 17 April blast that killed 14 people, injured around 200 and destroyed hundreds of homes in the vicinity. Local sheriff’s deputies were called to a residence where they found components for a pipe bomb.

Reed, 31, told authorities the materials for explosive devices were his, according to reports. Authorities said earlier this month that investigators have determined that a stockpile of ammonium nitrate at a fertilizer plant in the US town of West was the source of the deadly that virtually leveled the town.

However, the ignition source for the ammonium nitrate, an explosive chemical, remained undefined. Fire alone cannot cause ammonium nitrate, a scientific usually used to make fertilizer, to explode. The investigation continues into other factors, such as intense pressure or extreme heat, that may have ignited the explosion, according to media reports.

State and federal agents will release this week the findings of an investigation into the West explosion, according to reports.

**H1N1 virus found in marine mammals for first time**

**WASHINGTON, 16 May** —US researchers said Wednesday they have detected for the first time the H1N1 virus in elephant seals off the coast of central California. The H1N1 strain is the same one that emerged in humans in 2009 and it’s the first report of that flu strain in any marine mammal, researchers at the University of California, Davis reported in the journal PLOS ONE.

“We thought we might find influenza viruses, which have been found before in marine mammals, but we did not expect to find pandemic H1N1,” said Tracey Goldstein, lead author of the study. “This shows influenza viruses can move among species.”

Between 2009 and 2011, the researchers tested nasal swabs from more than 900 marine mammals from 10 different species off the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California. —Xinhua

**La Paz, 16 May—Bolivia and Brazil have signed an agreement on launching joint anti-drug operations, Vice Minister of Social Defense Felipe Caceres said Wednesday.**

During Monday and Tuesday’s meeting with Brazilian officials in Santa Cruz, the two sides discussed ways to reduce Bolivian drug supply and Brazilian demand, Caceres told a press conference.

The deal also includes exchange of intelligence on drug trafficking and other crimes, such as human trafficking and money laundering, as well as natural resources smuggling.

“There will be joint operations to fight organized crime by air, land and rivers,” added Caceres. He also said that Bolivia has approved a budget of 20 million US dollars for the anti-drug fight, with additional funding of 16 million dollars.

The next meeting of the bilateral anti-drug talks will be held in July in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo. Bolivia and Brazil share a 3,700-kilometer borderline and the most vulnerable points are in San Matias, Puerto Quijarro and Cobija.—Xinhua

**Rescuers evacuate stranded residents on the old Jinghuan Street in Nanchang City, capital of east China’s Jiangxi Province, on May, 2013. A heavy rainfall hit Jiangxi Province on 14 May. The average rainfall of the Province reached 46.4 millimetres, with that of Nanchang climbing to the highest of 71 millimetres on 15 May.—XINHUA**

**Policemen inspect the blast site in Jalalabad, capital of east Afghanistan’s Nangarhar Province, on 15 May, 2013. A policeman was killed, another policeman and seven civilians were wounded when an IED went off in Jalalabad on Wednesday.—XINHUA**

**Bolivia, Brazil to launch joint anti-drug operations**
Malaysia’s Najib unveils new Cabinet after bruising election

PUTRAJAYA, 16 May—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak unveiled his new Cabinet on Wednesday that he hoped wins back public confidence after his coalition won the national election but with a reduced vote.

Touted as a “transformational Cabinet,” the line-up, he said, includes “the experienced, the technocrats and those that represent the youth.”

Najib’s ruling 13-party National Front coalition, popularly known as BN, won 133 of 222 seats in the federal Parliament, extending its 56-year rule for another five years in the general election 10 days ago.

The opposition obtained 89 seats in parliament, up from 82 in the 2008 election. However, BN saw its share of the popular vote fall to 47 percent versus the 51 percent obtained by the opposition alliance led by Anwar Ibrahim.

It was the worst result in BN’s history which has traditionally controlled two-thirds of the Parliament.

Najib took over from former Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in April 2009 after the latter was forced to resign following the 2008 general election, which saw BN lose its two-thirds majority in Parliament for the first time.

But BN still maintained over 50 percent of the popular vote then. Besides losing the popular vote, Najib is also under pressure as the opposition refused to acknowledge the results amid accusations of vote-rigging.

Japan Railway to offer technical support to Thai state railway

FUKUOKA, 16 May—Kyushu Railway Co (JR Kyushu) will sign next week a cooperation agreement with the State Railway of Thailand with the focus expected on providing support in running scheduled and tourist trains as well as managing train station buildings.

At a news conference on Wednesday, JR Kyushu President Kairaku Koji said, “We would like to offer cooperation as we have been told that they would like to incorporate our measures to enhance safety and on-time performances. We also hope to learn the spirit of Thai hospitality.”

The specifics of cooperation are expected to be worked out by a task force. The two sides will sign a document on 24 May.

At least six dead after Cambodian factory collapses

PINNOM PENH, 16 May—At least six people died when a shoe factory collapsed in Cambodia on Thursday and many others were injured, a member of the trade union at the plant said, amid concerns about safety standards at some Asian factories producing cheap clothing.

Cambodia has seen a rush of investment in recent years, especially into the shoe and garment sector, with Western and Asian firms attracted by its low-cost labour.

“The factory was a go-around and attempted to abort the landing, but it was too late. Lion Air could not be reached for comment. The NTSC said it expected to release its final report within the next 12 months.”

Singapore remains 4th most desirable place to live, work

SINGAPORE, 16 May—Singapore remained as the fourth most popular place in the world to live and work for professionals, a survey by recruitment firm Hydrogen and business school ESCP Europe released on Wednesday.

The city-state’s ranking was the same as in the survey last year, while the top three destinations were also still the United States, Britain and Australia. But the top three saw their dominance coming up again.

The report showed that 24 percent of the respondents picked the United States as the top relocation destination, 11 percentage points higher than the 13 percent last year. Britain and Australia each got 13 percent of the votes, up from 9 percent in last survey.

Singapore got 9 percent of the votes, up from 6 percent last year.

The report said Singapore has emerged as the “leading technology hub as well as a key finance one.”

Singapore is very high up the value chain in terms of what it does in technology.

Singapore has an exceptionally well-educated workforce, is a very innovative country and is producing the new tech entrepreneurs and engineers who are creating much of the high tech industry of the future, for example in life sciences, medical equipment and biotech.” Simon Walker, Hydrogen’s Asia managing director commented on the report.

Thailand, Bangladesh boost bilateral trade

BANGKOK, 16 May—Enhanced Thai-Bangladeshi cooperation will double the trading volume between the two countries to 1.7 billion US dollars in the next three years, Thai News Agency quoted the country’s commerce minister as saying on Wednesday.

Commerce Minister Boonsong Teriyapirom said after a meeting of the Thai-Bangladeshi trade committee that the two countries had agreed to map out an operation plan to minimize their trade imbalance, jointly organize trade exhibitions, and exchange trading knowledge to facilitate Thai and Bangladeshi investors.

Thailand will set up a committee to specially study the possibility of selling essential products to Bangladesh on a government-to-government basis, he said.

The two countries had also agreed to promote business and investments and abolish obstacles to boost bilateral trade, he said.

Singapore still among top three shoe producers

SINGAPORE, 16 May—Singapore has emerged as the third largest shoe producer in the world, according to a report by Wing Star Shoes Co Ltd.

The report said Singapore had overtaken Vietnam to become the third largest shoe producer in the world, after China and Vietnam, respectively.

Singapore, which saw its share of the popular vote rise to 47 percent, was ranked higher than Vietnam, which saw its share of the popular vote rise to 47 percent.

Document preview

Visitors view new plastic models from the Mobile Suit Gundam robot animation series at the Shizuoka Hobby Show 2013, a major toy exhibition in the city of Shizuoka, central Japan, on 16 May, 2013.—Kyodo News

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A rescue team swims beside the wreckage of a Lion Air plane near Ngurah Rai airport in Denpasar, Bali, on 15 April, 2013.—REUTERS

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A University of Tokyo team demonstrates in Tokyo on 15 May, 2013, a system to project the screen of a smartphone on a fast-moving object such as paper or a human palm.—KYODO NEWS
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV AYSAN VOY NO (001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS LAND & SEA LOGISTICS**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (343)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE NO (343) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2013 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 Claims Day.
Angelina Jolie caps journey from wild child to doting mother

Cannes / Los Angeles, 16 May— As a tattooed wild child wearing her husband’s blood in a locket and haranguing Brad Pitt away from Hollywood rival Jennifer Aniston, Angelina Jolie was dream fodder for the tabloid Press. But her transformation into a humanitarian campaigner and now post-er girl for the fight against breast cancer with her revelation that, faced with a high cancer risk, she had undergone a double mastectomy has elevated her to heroine status in the media.

Her deeply personal account of the decision to undergo the operation, published in the New York Times, won her wide praise for her courage and Pitt’s support of her move has put the couple in the spotlight and in a business suit more typical of Wall Street than Hollywood, to pledge an end to sexual violence and rape in war zones.

A month earlier, in her role as a special envoy for the UN Human Rights Council, Jolie accompanied Hague to refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo, never giving an indication of the personal health traumas she was going through at that time. The actress, whose past roles have included the “Lara Croft: Tomb Raider” films, still makes big studio entertainment such as next year’s “Maleficent,” a twist on “Sleeping Beauty” in which she stars as the wicked sorceress who puts a curse on the princess.

She also combined her humanitarian campaigning with acting, marking her directorial debut with 2011’s “In the Land of Blood and Honey,” a love story between a Muslim woman and a Serbian man with the Bosnian war as a backdrop. Industry insiders at the Cannes film festival this week, the year’s biggest movie industry gathering, were stunned by Jolie’s maternity announcement but said the way she released the news, in her words in the Times, was a sign of her maturity. Jolie and Pitt, 49, also are talking about marriage.— Reuters

US actress and humanitarian campaigner Angelina Jolie leaves a G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting in London in this 11 April, 2013 file photo. Reuters

Singer Shakira will leave NBC’s ‘The Voice’ after season

Los Angeles, 16 May — Pop singer Shakira will leave NBC’s television singing competition programme “The Voice” after only one season as a judge in order to spend more time with her family.

The Colombian singer told entertainment news outlet “Access Hollywood” after Tuesday’s episode of “The Voice” that she wanted to spend more time with her infant child and finish up a new album. “Not for next season,” Shakira, 36, said when asked if she was coming back. “I was really struggling with the fact that I had to leave my nest with my little baby,” she added. “So now I need to stay with him for a little bit and also work on my next album. You never know, maybe I will be back for the future seasons.”

Singer Christina Aguilera is expected to rejoin the show’s panel of four judges in the fall after a one-season hiatus. Shakira and R&B singer Usher were added as judges this season, replacing Aguilera and singer Cee Lo Green, who had been on the panel along with country singer Blake Shelton and Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine since “The Voice” began in 2011.

Singer Shakira performs during her concert in Caracas, on 27 March, 2011. Shakira is currently on her The Sun Comes Out World Tour.— Reuters

Kangana Ranaut started working early at the age of 17.—PTI

Kangana Ranaut: Gangster dramas lucky for me

Mumbai, 16 May — Himachal girl Kangana Ranaut entered filmdom with hit crime-romance Gangster — A Love story and the actress, whose latest release Shootout At Wadala also did well, feels gangster thrillers are lucky for her. “I think gangster-based films are very lucky for me. My debut film Gangster in 2006 was successful, then came Once Upon A Time In Mumbai and now Shootout At Wadala,” the 26-year-old said here on Tuesday at the success bash of Shootout At Wadala.

Directed by Sanjay Gupta, Shootout At Wadala is the story of Mumbai police’s first official encounter in which they shot dead gangster Manyu Surve. In the film, John Abraham plays Manyu, while Kangana Ranaut is seen as his love interest Vidya Joshi. In her seven-year-long career, Kangana tried her hands at romance and comedy as well with Woh Lamhe, Double Dhamaal and Tum Weds Manu. If these films did well at the box office, Kangana too got accolades for her performances.

When asked about her reaction on being sidelined in favour of other actresses —Priyanka Chopra, Sunny Leone and Sophie Choudry during Shootout At Wadala pr-release promotions, Kangana said: “This is producers’ decision how they want to promote their film. Actors should not interfere in such things and actors like me don’t even do that.” “These are minor things, so there is no point feeling sad or ignored. Moreover, whatever is best for the film should be done,” she added. She concluded by saying: “I have been working since I was 17 and have completed seven years here. So when you have that much experience, you know that films come and go. They are not everything. We do also have our own life.” — PTI

Colombian pop star Shakira performs during her concert in Caracas, on 27 March, 2011. Shakira is currently on her The Sun Comes Out World Tour.—Reuters
**Valcke guarantees Sao Paulo World Cup stadium**

**FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke**

**Rio de Janeiro, 16 May**—FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke has guaranteed Sao Paulo’s World Cup stadium will be ready on time, one day after claiming the venue could be taken off the tournament schedule due to construction delays. Valcke met with Itaquerao stadium officials on Wednesday and said he was confident the December 2013 deadline would be met. “We are very satisfied with the meeting and with the fact that we could talk face-to-face,” Valcke said. “Sao Paulo will be an example for other cities to deliver the stadium in time, by 31 December. “The discussion with Corinthians was very fruitful since we understand both we want the same goal, to have the stadium ready. It is also a special project because of the legacy it leaves for the east zone of Sao Paulo.”

Local officials last week said the Itaquerao stadium would not be ready until at least March next year due to complications involving the installation of temporary seats. Another Itaquero spokesman Andre Sanchez denied work on the venue was behind schedule. “This was an excellent meeting. There was some misunderstanding but (we) are aware of our responsibilities,” Sanchez said. “I have always been sure that we would host the opening game of the 2014World Cup and now I am even more. The schedule agreed with FIFA will be respected.” —**Xinhua**

**Rangers play to two outdoor games at Yankee Stadium in 2014**

**Los Angeles, 16 May**—The New York Rangers will play two outdoor games at Yankee Stadium early next year as part of the National Hockey League’s (NHL) Stadium Series, the league said on Wednesday. The Rangers will face off against the New Jersey Devils on 26 January and then battle the New York Islanders on 29 January in the first hockey games to be played at the Major League Baseball stadium which seats over 50,000 people.

“The Stadium Series affords the opportunity to have all three NHL teams in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area play, outdoors, at one of the nation’s most iconic stadiums in the world,” NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. “We’ll be able to create a multi-faceted, multi-day experience for our fans.”

Next season’s four-game Stadium Series kicks off on 25 January when the 2012 Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings take on the Anaheim Ducks at Dodger Stadium, home of Major League Baseball’s Los Angeles Dodgers. The series concludes on 1 March when the Chicago Blackhaws host the Pittsburgh Penguins at Soldier Field, home of the National Football League’s Chicago Bears. Outdoor games have been staged by the NHL in some of baseball’s and American football’s iconic stadiums for a decade.

“We have long thought that Yankee Stadium would be a great venue for outdoor hockey,” said Lonn Trost, New York Yankees chief operating officer. “In addition to being a first-class baseball facility, Yankee Stadium was designed to house unique and memorable events. Another focal point of the NHL season is the Winter Classic on New Year’s Day, which next year will pit the Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs at Michigan Stadium, the football venue for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.” —**Reuters**

**Maradona accused of attacking journalists**

**New Delhi, 16 May**—Diego Maradona accused of attacking journalists kicked a photographer following his arrival at Argentina’s Ezeiza international airport on Wednesday, local media reported.

The 52-year-old and his 22-year-old girlfriend, Rocío Oliva, were surrounded by journalists and fans upon arriving at the airport and allegedly asked his security team to use physical force to disperse onlookers.

The couple was then followed by media crew as he drove to the home of former girlfriend Veronica Ojeda to meet his three-month old son, Diego Ferrando, for the first time.

“The way, in heavy rain, Maradona made the car stop, got out with a Has-a-van in his hand, took some stones from the edge of the highway and started throwing them at reporters’ cars and at a photographer’s leg,” a paparazzo told La Red radio.

“The 1986 World Cup winner is currently living in Dubai, where he coached local outfit Al Wasil before being sacked in July last year.” —**Xinhua**

**Boxer Floyd Mayweather tops highest-paid US athletes’ list**

**New York, 16 May**—Undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr is the highest-paid professional athlete in the United States with expected earnings of at least $90 million this year from just two bouts, according to Sports Illustrated magazine.

The 36-year-old welterweight—considered the best defensive boxer of his generation—topped the magazine’s Forbes 50 list, issued on Wednesday. Mayweather also took the top spot last year, earning an estimated $85 million, again from just two fights, the magazine reported.

Mayweather Jr’s golden parachute is estimated to earn more than $48 million, landing him the top spot on the magazine’s annual list of highest-paid athletes worldwide. The International Boxing Federation (IBF) had previously ruled the 36-year-old could not contain his excitement after his win over eighth-ranked Tsongoa, ripping off his shirt to celebrate as he clinched the match. —**Reuters**

**Shirt-ripping Janowicz stuns Tsongoa, Murray hurt**

**Rome, 16 May**—Jerzy Janowicz ripped off his shirt after stunning Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Juan Martin del Potro visited the Pope before the start with a lower back problem that forced the world number two to retire after levelling his second round match against Marcel Granollers.

“He will have to wait for Paris,” Briton Murray told the ATP website. “I’d be very surprised if I were playing in Paris.”

“Tsonga was then able to recover and pull ahead of Murray with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Garbine Muguruza of Spain while China’s Li Na went through with a 6-3, 6-1 win over compatriot Zheng Jie. All eyes were on Murray who said he was doubtful for the French Open after suffering a lower back problem that forced the world number two to retire after levelling his second round match against Marcel Granollers.”

**Chicago Cubs outfielder Alfonso Soriano came in as the 50th highest-paid US athlete with an estimated $18.2 million. Candidates for the list must be US citizens and compete in a US-based league. Internationally, soccer great David Beckham is estimated to earn more than $48 million, landing him the top spot on the magazine’s annual list of highest-paid athletes worldwide. The International Football Federation (FIFA) had previously ruled the 36-year-old could not contain his excitement after his win over eighth-ranked Tsongoa, ripping off his shirt to celebrate as he clinched the match.” —**Reuters**
Enhanced English-language education sought in elementary schools

Tokyo, 16 May—A governmental panel on education reform will propose enhancing English-language education in Japanese elementary schools by making it an official subject for fifth and sixth graders, according to a draft proposal by the group obtained by Kyodo News on Wednesday.

As a way of nurturing people who can play an active role in matters affecting international competition, the panel headed by Waseda University President Kaoru Kamata will suggest boosting English-language education in elementary schools, at which English is currently taught only once a week.

The upgrading of English to an official subject in elementary schools would require more training for teachers to be conducted, the evaluation of student achievement and the preparation of textbooks approved by the education ministry.

The education reform body will also call for English to be taught without any Japanese being spoken in some classes at junior high schools and increased student exchanges with foreigners through activities such as camping.

The group will propose establishing “special zones for international education,” in which local government would invite prominent overseas universities to open branch campuses. To increase the number of college students studying abroad, the panel will urge universities to give credits to students who intern at companies overseas, for the duration of the academic year to be shifted from spring to fall, and for experience of studying abroad to be given weight in exams for national public service personnel.

Kyodo News

80-yr-old Japanese starts climbing Mt Everest

Tokyo, 16 May — An 80-year-old Japanese climber has launched his bid to become the oldest person ever to reach the summit of Mt Everest, his management office said on Thursday.

If all goes as planned, Yuichiro Miura will conquer the world’s highest peak around 24 May to break the record held by Nepali climber Min Bahadur Sherchan, who achieved it in 2008 at 76. It has been reported, however, the Nepalese is also bidding to scale the mountain at the age of 81 to defend his record. — Kyodo News

Indian university opens gallery on friendship between China, Tagore

Kolkata, 16 May — A prestigious Indian university here on Wednesday opened a gallery about the friendship between legendary Indian poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore and China. The gallery, to be permanently exhibited by the Rabindra Bharati University, enlightens on Tagore’s contribution to and historical position in cultural exchange between China and India. It consists of eight rooms highlighting different features of Tagore’s relations with China. Indian Consul General in Kolkata Zhang Lizhong said at the inauguration ceremony that Tagore is not only a poet and philosopher well known to Chinese readers, but also a great sympathizer of the Chinese people’s struggle for better fate in the first half of the 20th century.

He denounced both the opium trade imposed by the British on China and the aggression of China by Japanese imperialists, said Zhang. B Basu, minister-in-charge of Education of the state of West Bengal, said that civilizational exchanges between China and India started in immemorial times and Tagore is one of the pioneers in seeking cultural exchanges with China in the 20th century. He said the on-going India-China exchanges of culture will make more meaningful and eventful relations between the two countries.

The items displayed in the gallery are provided by Chinese and Indian institutions including the Shanghai Archives Bureau and scholars on Tagore who provided 250 Chinese books on the Indian writer.

The Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing offered the first Chinese edition of lyrics by Tagore to the exhibition in 2011.

Professor Liu Yuening, the publisher of the edition, also gave dulcimer performances in collaboration with Indian musicians at the ceremony to the effect of a new style of China-Indian music combination.

Xinhua

Singapore, China enhance collaboration in traditional Chinese medicine research

Singapore, 16 May—Singapore’s Ministry of Health (MOH) said on Wednesday that they have inked a 5th Plan of Cooperation (POC) with China’s State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) in the area of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), mainly in research collaboration.

The MOH said it is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the ministry and the SATCM in 1999, which provides for the POC once every three years, and an annual meeting of the Sino-Singapore Committee on TCM Cooperation held alternately between Singapore and China. The MOU aims to “formulate cooperation plans and facilitate the mutual exchange of information and expertise on the teaching, practice and regulation of TCM between both countries.”

The latest 5th POC has widened the collaboration in TCM research, which represents “an area of relevance for Singapore following MOH’s research grant set up this year for research collaborations between western scientific researchers and TCM institutions for better patient outcomes.” — Xinhua

France to invest 12 bln euros to bolster local firms’ competitiveness

Paris, 16 May—France planned to invest via its Public Investment Bank, 12 billion euros (15.45 billion US dollars) by 2017 to inject new breathe into the competitiveness of the domestic companies, a bank official said on Wednesday.

Addressing the department of financing capacity, the Public Investment Bank was created to offer enough liquidity to firms in financial troubles to help them improving their competitiveness enough to well position their products and services in global markets.

—Xinhua

Vietnamese, Japanese students exchange at UNESCO Sites

HANOI, 16 May—The Japanese government is providing scholarships for Vietnamese students to study in Japan. Students will be selected and fund scholars will be selected and funded by the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

—Xinhua

Sri Lankan army personnel march during the Victory Day parade rehearsal in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, on 15 May, 2013. Sri Lanka celebrates War Heroes Week with a military parade scheduled for May 18. The parade celebrates the fourth anniversary of the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels in May 2009, ending a 37-year long separatist conflict.— Xinhua

Singapore: Minister of Health (MOH) Ng Eng Hen (left) and the Singaporean army chief of staff (right) review soldiers during the Victory Day parade in Singapore.—Xinhua

Members of the National Ballet of China perform at the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in Beijing, capital of China on 14 May, 2013. The performance was part of the activity of “introducing high arts to schools”, which was started in 2006 and was aimed at improving the aesthetic faculties of the young.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 14 May, 2013 shows the Fuji Mountain seen behind blossoming Shiba Sakura in Japan’s Yamanashi Prefecture. According to local media, the Fuji Mountain will likely be added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites next month after an influential advisory panel to the UN cultural body made a recommendation.—Xinhua

18-5-13 09:30 am ~ 20-5-13 09:30 am (MST)
Partly damaged cars to be confiscated and sent to foundry

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 May—Vehicles with damaged bonnet and body will be confiscated in line with legal procedures and sent to foundry, according to Automobile Import Supervisory Committee meeting.

Two injured in Monghsat plane accident

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 May—A MA 60 plane flying Yangon-Monghsat-Heho-Monghsat-Yangon skidded while landing on the runway of Monghsat airport at about 11.51 am today.

The plane carrying 55 passengers and crew left Yangon International Airport at 7.56 am and landed at Heho Airport. Then, it left Heho at 11.08 am and arrived at 11.51 am at Monghsat Airport.

The plane skidded and stopped at about 200 yards from the runway No. 12. The weather condition was normal when the accident occurred.

Daw Nan Myint Aye of Monghsat and Ma Nway Oo Maw of Mahlabweinjauk got injured in the accident. The injured were sent to Monghsat Tatmadaw Hospital. Left fan, landing gear and engine of the plane were damaged. A total of 36 passengers for Monghsat-Yangon schedule were transported to Yangon with other flight. The accident is assumed to be resulted from break system failure while landing, according to the Minstry of Transport.

Evacuees provided with health care services

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 May—Medical treatment is being given to evacuees in Rakhine State by medical teams of local stations. The medical teams provided health care services, foods and water to 232 peoples taking shelter in Oath Monastery and Mental Wellness Monastery in Sittway. 57 people from Ohntawlay relief camp taking shelter in Sittway local station, 152 persons at Kanyintang Village Basic Education Primary School, 263 people at 4th Mile Basic Education Middle School, 185 peoples in Malyamya Monastery in Zedtaung Ward in Kyaukpyu today.

Evacuation efforts in Sittway

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 May—Evacuation efforts in Sittway and monasteries in Arkyeik-tawgon of Sittway. Preparations were stepped up before the cyclonic storm Mahasen hits Rakhine State.

Border guard force gives medical treatment in Matmung sub-township

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 May—Border guard force provides medical treatment under the supervision of Commander of Matmung sub-township border guard force Major Sai Yi on 13 May. On 14 May, Major Sai Yi and party together with their families donated 30 bags of rice worth K 450,000 to Pinyardipa Monastery in the sub-township.