President U Thein Sein visits Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—President U Thein Sein arrived Incheon International Airport in the Republic of Korea yesterday morning as he left Yangon for the United States of America to pay a working visit. The President was welcomed by the Myanmar Ambassador to ROK, military attaché, mission staff, the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar and personnel of Foreign Affairs Ministry of ROK.

The President then proceeded to the United States of America from there by Korea Airways and arrived in Washington where he was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to the United States of America U Than Swe, mission staff, and personnel of the US Department of State. The President then proceeded to Four Seasons Hotel. In the evening, he visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.—MNA

Bayintnaung Bridge No.2 to help curb traffic chaos

Following a fresh surge in car ownership, the populous city of Yangon has begun to face the worse-than-ever traffic problems on its major roads, particularly in rush hours.

From dawn to dusk, traffic congestion is acute on Bayintnaung Bridge and is worsening with the working visit. The Construction Ministry and Yangon Region government have sought a solution for this problem and under the agreement of the Union government, the two parties agreed to construct a new bridge across Hlin River—Bayintnaung Bridge No.2—200 feet from its brother.

Special Projects Group No.5 under the Construction Ministry is tasked with building the bridge and the construction started on 6 January, 2013.

The current Bayintnaung Bridge was put into service in the rains of July in 1994 but the increasing traffic has now gone far beyond its capacity with over 17,500 vehicles crossing it every day.

The main bridge upon completion will be 1220.53 feet in length, approach motor road on Mayangon side 1023.13 feet and on Hlinethaya side 1860.87 feet. It will be 4104.53 feet long in total with four-lane motor road flanked by six-foot-wide pedestrian walk. It can withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle.

The approach roads to the bridge on Mayangon and Hlinethaya sides have been completed 100 per cent now as the Special Projects Group No.5 is working on shifts erecting bored piles.

Myanma Alinn
19-5-2013
Trs: TKK
Development

Free parking lots construction meets 75 per cent completion in Yangon

Upon completion of free parking lots being built by Yangon City Development Committee on the vacant lands between Thidaw bus-stop in Ailton Township and Zay street in Botataung Township, flow of commodities and traffic on Strand Road will be speedier than ever before. Moreover, vehicles in the two townships will be parked at these free car parks easily.

YANGON, 19 May—So far construction of car parks where people can park their vehicles free of charge at spaces between the new and old Strand Roads in Yangon has been completed by 75 per cent. Packing lots on other places are also under construction.

MFF to form eight work committees for development of fisheries sector

YANGON, 19 May—“Eight work committees will be formed as a preliminary to ensuring development of fishery sector”, says General Secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Win Kyaing.

Before forming the eight work committees—financial work committee, livestock breeding work committee, research and development work committee, market work committee, safety of marine products work committee, fisheries work committee, fish and prawn processing work committee, a draft that includes guidelines for functions of each work committee will be drawn. Tasks asked by MFF and its affiliated association through discussions will be reported to the President Office through the Union Ministry. It is learnt that more sub-committees, if necessary, will be formed.—Kyemon

National Sports

Singtech ink sponsorship deal

MFF spoke words of thanks. Next, U Thuraein spoke on the occasion. Then the General Manager of Singtech Singapore gave an account of the purpose of sponsorship.

Afterwards, Zeyar Shwe Myay FC owner U Than Zaw and the Singtech GM signed the agreement and exchanged the notes.

Next, the Zeyar Shwe Myay FC owner presented a commemorative jersey to the Singtech GM.

Singtech is a Singaporean company manufacturing laptops, smart phones and GSM and CDMA handsets and having a substantial market share in ASEAN countries. Its sole distributor in Myanmar is Cyber City Company, a member of Kaung Htet Myanmar Group of Companies.

Accident

Vehicle stalled on tracks of approaching train

TOUNGGOO, 19 May—A vehicle, Mitsubishi Town Ace, was stalled on the railroad tracks due to its mechanical failure at a railway crossing near Leikkan sub-power station of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board in Pazundaung Township at about 11 pm on 16 May.

The vehicle driven from east to west suddenly stopped on the railway tracks as its tie rod was broken while crashing into a concrete block after its brakes failed. Passers-by lent a helping hand to move the car from the tracks as a train was approaching coincidently when the car had got stuck at the railway crossing.

The driver was fortunate to escape from the accident unhurt, but he was charged over violating the traffic rules.

Kyemon

Crime

Seizure of marijuana in Kyaiktio Township

KYAIKTIO, 19 May—A drug dealer was arrested following a tip-off to the police in Kinmonchaung Village of Kyaiktio Township on 14 May.

While Police raided the residence of Ye Thurein Tun (a) Ko Shine, 21, on Yaungchi St street in the village, they discovered 8.16 grams of dried leaves which are believed to be marijuana packed with a plastic bag among the flowery plant pots under a shrine in front of the house. The suspect was taken into custody at the local police station.—Kyemon

Transport

Hlinethaya-Sint O-dan water transport service to change its schedule

YANGON, 19 May—It is learnt that Tan Hlyat, a two-deck passenger vessel, plying the route between Shan creek jetty in Hlinethaya Township to Sint O-dan jetty near Nyaungbinlay Market will change its schedule for the better convenience of passengers.

The transport service of the ship is a joint venture between Inland Water Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar National Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar National Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar National Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar National Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar National Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar National Transport and FMI Flotilla Company.

The ship will depart from Sint O-dan jetty at 6 pm and arrive at Shan creek jetty in Hlinethaya at 6.45 or 7.15 pm. The ship has a seating capacity of 70—60 in ordinary class and 10 in upper class. Each passenger will be provided with life vest.

At the beginning of the service, the ship will ply twice a day. Based on a number of passengers, the ship schedule will be extended. Passengers will be able to enjoy a spectacular view from the ship along Yangon river by taking the water route.

Kyemon

Y Yangon-Mawgyun passenger vessels in regular operation

MAWGYUN, 19 May—For the convenience of local people who are relying on water transport service in Mawlamyineyung Township of Ayeyawady Region, passenger vessels plying between Mawgyun and Yangon of Inland Water Transport and private sector has resumed their service as of 17 May.

Y Yangon-Mawgyun Bala Ye Kyaw vessel of IWT departed from Lantat pontoon bridge in Yangon to Mawgyun at 6 pm on 17 May. The vessel returned from Mawgyun to Yangon at 3.30 pm on 18 May. Private-owned vessels departed from Mawgyun to Yangon at 3 pm on 17 May and Pathein Thu express vessel at 6 pm. On 18 May, Show Pye Tan express vessel departed from Mawgyun at 6 am.

All vessels from private sector are plying the route between Yangon and Mawgyun without days off, thereby contributing towards smooth and speedy flow of commodities and traveling of local people from Mawgyun to Yangon.

Kyemon
**Abe to make 3-day visit to Myanmar from next Friday**

TOKYO, 19 May—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to make a three-day visit to Myanmar from next Friday in a bid to strengthen bilateral ties, a Japanese government source said on Saturday. Abe, who will be accompanied by top executives from more than 30 Japanese companies, is expected to hold talks with Myanmar President U Thein Sein on improving the investment environment in the southeast Asian nation for expansion of Japanese investments there.

At the summit with U Thein Sein, Abe is also likely to unveil measures to help Myanmar’s development. In March, Tokyo announced it will provide Myanmar with yen-denominated loans for the first time in 26 years. Abe is keen for Japanese companies to benefit from the growth of Asian economies and to make a pitch for Japan’s infrastructure and to make a pitch for Japanese engineering and to make a pitch for Japanese infrastructure and to make a pitch for Japan’s sovereign debt crisis, the official said.

A draft conclusion of the EU leaders’ meeting obtained by Kyodo News said, “Against the backdrop of high pressure on Europe’s competitiveness and increasing energy demand from major economies, the EU’s energy policy must ensure the uninterrupted supply of households and companies at affordable and competitive prices.”

The draft said investments in new and intelligent energy infrastructure are “vital for jobs and growth and will help enhance competitiveness.” The regional body calls for “a predictable climate and energy framework post-2020,” according to the paper.

The European Union remains committed to emissions reduction targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, under which it pledged to trim its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. “The European Commission is already in ‘do nothing’ mode on climate change, and it will obviously put off a decision on ambitious targets,” the official said on the European Union’s post-2020 goals.

EU to dial back measures against global warming

BRUSSELS, 19 May—The European Union, which has spearheaded efforts to curb global warming, is adopting a change of focus in response to concerns over costs and the impact on companies in economically depressed Europe. Under this change, the European Union will prioritize the supply of energy at affordable prices over cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which impose burdens on industries, in a turnaround of the region’s energy policy, an EU official said on Saturday.

EU leaders will decide on the shift in energy policy at a meeting on Wednesday. The change reflects renewed interest by investors in energy and carbon-intensive industries for infrastructure in developing countries, which are thought to benefit from the construction of urban infrastructure in developing countries employing advanced technologies, such as energy-efficient public transportation systems and dispersed power systems utilizing renewable energy.

The conference was meaningful in promoting tangible countermeasures against global warming by enhancing regional cooperation in East Asia, the largest greenhouse gas emission district in the world,” Japan’s Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said after concluding the meeting.

Tokyo took the initiative in holding the meeting attended by China, India and ASEAN member countries as well as Russia and the United States. It was the second such conference following one in April last year. The amount of greenhouse gas emitted by the 18 attending countries accounts for about 60 percent of global discharge.

**Germany’s Merkel visits Pope, urges tougher market controls**

VATICAN CITY, 19 May—German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Pope Francis on Saturday and, apparently responding to his criticism of a heartless “dictatorship of the economy” for stronger regulation of financial markets. On Thursday, Francis appealed in a speech for world financial reform, saying the global economic crisis had made life worse for millions in rich and poor countries. Merkel visited Rome for a few hours specifically to meet the pontiff and speak with him privately in his library for 45 minutes, unusually long for a private papal audience.

She told reporters afterwards that the scandals and excesses criticized by Francis earlier in the week showed that vital checks and balances had not been functioning. “Skepsis have blown up because the rules of the social market have not been observed,” she said, adding that tightening financial market regulation would be a main objective of the meeting of leaders of Group of 20 economic powers in September. “We have made progress but we are nowhere near a point where one could say that the kind of derailment that leads to market crises could not happen again and so the issue will again play a central role at the G20 meeting this year.”

“She is true that economies are there to serve people and that has by no means always been the case in recent years,” Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran minister, said she and Francis had spoken mainly about globalization, the European Union and the role of Europe in the world. “Pope Francis made it clear that we need a strong, far Europe and I found the message very encouraging, said Merkel, head of the Christian Democratic Union, which has a strong Catholic component. In his first major speech about finance since his election in March, Francis had also urged states to take greater control of their economies and protect the weakest.

**Gunmen kill senior woman member of Pakistani party led by Imran Khan**

ISLAMABAD, 19 May—Gunmen killed a senior female politician from a reformist party in Pakistan on Saturday night, the latest violent incident in a bloody election campaign and one that set off a war of words between two major opposition parties. Around 150 people were killed in the run-up to national elections held last week, which handed a landslide victory to opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and his PML-N party. It marked the first time an elected government replaced another one in a nation that has been run by military leaders for more than half its history. Results from a handful of constituencies are still awaited amid accusations of vote-rigging. The shooting came hours after a key area was hit by allegations of voting fraud.

It was not immediately clear who killed Zara Shahid Hussain, a senior member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. The PTI has promised to reduce endemic corruption in the nuclear-armed nation of 180 million people. The PTI’s leader, former international cricket star Imran Khan, immediately blamed the killing on the Muttahida Quami Movement. The MQM has a stranglehold of politicians in Pakistan’s biggest city, Karachi. “Her death has sent shockwaves across the rank and file of the party,” Khan said in a statement.

**Sharif calls for party meet on 20 May to talk policies**

LAHORE, 19 May—PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, set to become Pakistan’s next Prime Minister, has convened a meeting of parliamentarians and legislators of his party here on 20 May to brainstorm a plan of action to deal with Pakistan’s pressing problems including terrorism.

Besides at the centre, the PML-N is set to form government in Punjab and Balochistan Provinces. PTI

**18 countries agree to work on enhancing environmental technologies**

TOKYO, 19 May—Representatives of 18 countries agreed on Saturday to enhance cooperation between public and private sectors to expand useful environmental technologies to simultaneously achieve economic growth and greenhouse gas reduction. The agreement came at the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue in Tokyo.

At the meeting, Japan announced its plan to comprehensively support the construction of urban infrastructure in developing countries employing advanced technologies, such as energy-efficient public transportation systems and dispersed power systems utilizing renewable energy.
CAPE CANAVERAL, 19 May—An automated telescope monitoring the moon has captured images of an 88-pound (40 kg) rock slamming into the lunar surface, creating a bright flash of light, NASA scientists said on Friday.

The explosion on 17 March was the biggest seen since NASA began watching the moon for meteor impacts about eight years ago. So far, more than 30 strikes have been recorded.

“It exploded in a flash nearly 10 times as bright as anything we’ve ever seen before,” Bill Cooke, with NASA’s Meteoroid Environment Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, said in a statement.

A NASA satellite orbiting the moon is now on a hunt for the newly formed crater, which scientists estimate could be as wide as 66 feet. The flash was so bright that anyone looking at the moon at the moment of impact could have seen it without a telescope, NASA said.

About 56,000 mph when it slammed into the moon and exploded with the force of five tons of TNT.

Yahoo to vote on $1.1 billion Tumblr buy: AllThingsD

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 May—Yahoo Inc’s board will meet on Sunday to vote on whether to offer $1.1 billion in cash for New York-based blogging service Tumblr, tech blog AllThingsD cited sources close to the situation as saying on Friday.

Such an acquisition would be CEO Marissa Mayer’s largest deal since taking the helm of the once-iconic Internet company in July 2012. Yahoo is keen on Tumblr because its younger user base would enhance the older website’s “cool factor,” the technology blog cited the sources as saying. The news could be announced as soon as Monday, it said. Yahoo has invited press to an event in Manhattan at which it promised to “share something special,” without elaborating.

Mayer, who spent 13 years at Google Inc, is trying to revitalize a former Internet powerhouse that in recent years has struggled with declining business. On its home page, Tumblr says it hosts 108 million blogs, with 50.7 billion posts between them. Yahoo declined to comment, while Tumblr did not respond to requests for comment.—Reuters

All eyes on Vodafone’s Colao for signs on Verizon

LONDON, 19 May—After months of speculation, Vodafone’s (VOD.L) Vittorio Colao will be under pressure next week to set out whether he may sell its prized stake in Verizon Wireless in what would be one of the biggest deals of the year.

Chief executive for five years, Colao has said only that he has an “open mind” on Vodafone’s 45-percent stake in the US operator, whose majority owner, Verizon Communications (VZ.N), is interested in buying out the British company’s share.

With a possible asking price around $120 billion, the topic may well dominate Vodafone’s annual results presentation on Tuesday, highlighting the pressures on profits elsewhere in the company and the dilemma faced by its Italian CEO.

A source familiar with the situation surrounding a possible bid for the stake by Verizon Communications said: “All their eyes are on 21 May Vodafone earnings, and what Vodafone will say about Verizon Wireless.”

Analysts are also expecting the group to post organic service revenue in the fourth quarter down 4.3 percent, due to increasing investment needs in the continuing torrid conditions in some of Vodafone’s biggest European markets.

China to invest big to support Beidou system

BEIJING, 19 May—China is expected to invest $1.13 billion to support the development of industries related to the country’s Beidou satellite navigation system before 2015, an industry insider said.

“Industries related to the Beidou system are entering a booming development stage,” Yang Qiangwen, a senior engineer at the higher Satellite Navigation Conference on Thursday in Wuhan.

According to the office’s figures, the central government has already invested 7 billion yuan to boost industries related to the Beidou system.

And as the support from the central government continues, Yang said that the Beidou system will bring new economic growth to the country.

Industry experts estimated that the Beidou system may unleash a potential market worth 225 billion yuan, which may be the reason for the country’s surging investments in the project.

The navigation systems is already being used in many areas across China.

The Ministry of Transport requires all long-distance buses and vehicles carrying dangerous goods in nine provinces, or around 80,000 vehicles, to install the Beidou system before June, or the vehicles’ permits may not be approved.

In an agreement with the China Satellite Navigation Office, said the ministry will launch an offshore rescue program using the Beidou service in 2014.

Xinhua

Plaintiffs in Mexico Yahoo case say will appeal court ruling

MEXICO CITY, 19 May—Two Mexican embassies in a contractual dispute with Yahoo Inc will appeal a court ruling that overturned an earlier $2.75 billion judgment in their favour, a director of the companies said on Friday.

Yahoo announced the decision by the Mexican appellate court on Thursday. Both Worldwide Directories SA de CV and Ideas Interactivas SA de CV will contest the ruling, said Carlos Bazan-Canabal, a director at the companies.

“We’re going ahead with the grounds of unconstitutionality,” said Bazan-Canabal, adding that the plaintiffs would provide more details next week.

Last year, a civil court in Mexico City awarded the companies some $2.75 billion in a preliminary judgment that took the tech world by surprise. Yahoo fought that decision, prompting the higher appellate court to support the development of industries related to the Beidou system.

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Xinhua

FCC nominee Wheeler will divest holdings if confirmed

WASHINGTON, 19 May—Tom Wheeler, nominated to become the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, pledged to divest stakes in AT&T Inc, Dish Network Corp, Google Inc and dozens of other tech and telecoms companies if he is confirmed. Divestments are common for nominees to avoid conflicts of interest.

Wheeler’s plan was disclosed in an agreement posted online by the Office of Government Ethics.

Wheeler is now a venture capital investor at Core Capital Partners and chairs the contract by Yahoo relating to agreements signed between Yahoo de Mexico and Ideas Interactivas between 2002 and 2004 over a venture for an on-demand search function as well as printed volumes.—Reuters

Vodafone’s new Chief Executive Vittorio Colao poses for photos after their company’s annual general meeting in a conference centre in Westminster, London, on 29 July, 2008. Reuters

With a possible asking price around $120 billion, Vodafone is trying to revitalize a former Internet powerhouse that in recent years has struggled with declining business. On its home page, Tumblr says it hosts 108 million blogs, with 50.7 billion posts between them. Yahoo declined to comment, while Tumblr did not respond to requests for comment.—Reuters

A Yahoo logo is pictured in Rolle, 30 km (19 miles) east of Geneva, on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

The Yahoo logo is shown at the company’s headquarters in Sunnyvale, California.—REUTERS

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Retirement can damage your health

LONDON, 19 May—Retirement has a detrimental impact on both mental and physical health over time, according to a new study published here on Thursday. Although initially there may be a small bounce in health, over the medium-longer term retirement causes a drastic decline in health, said the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Age Endeavour Fellowship, who recommended that the government should help people work longer and raise the state pension ages.

The study, named Work Longer, Live Healthier: The Relationship Between Economic Activity, Health And Government Policy, showed that, retirement decreases the likelihood of being in “very good” or “excellent” self-assessed health by about 40 percent, while it increases the probability of suffering from clinical depression by 40 percent and the probability of having at least one diagnosed physical condition by about 60 percent.

Philip Booth, Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs, commented that: “There is now general agreement that state pension ages should be raised. The Government should take firmer action here and also deregulate labour markets.”

EU watchdog backs Bayer acne drug for certain patients

LONDON, 19 May—Bayer’s acne pill Diane 35 and its generic versions are safe to use in certain women when other options have failed, the European Medicines Agency said on Friday.

Following a formal safety review, conducted at the request of French authorities, the agency concluded that the benefits outweighed the risks — provided measures were taken to minimize the chance of blood clots forming in veins and arteries.

The medicines should be used solely in the treatment of moderate to severe acne in women of reproductive age and only when alternative treatments, such as topical therapy and oral antibiotic treatment, have failed.

French authorities, who recommended that “over the coming months” the medicines be suspended, said it believes the next few months will be critical in the investigation.

The firm said it will notify Cohen and his fund whether they intend to redeem up to $1.7 billion. Investors submitted notices to notify Cohen and his fund whether they intend to redeem some of their money before the end of the second quarter on 30 June. The hedge fund extended the deadline for submitting redemption requests to 3 June from 16 May. In the first quarter of this year, outside investors have failed to keep details confidential.

SAC Capital won’t fully cooperate with government

NEW YORK, 19 May—Steven A Cohen’s hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors told investors on Friday it would no longer cooperate “unconditionally” with the US government’s insider trading investigation. In a brief letter to investors, the $15 billion hedge fund did not elaborate but said it believes the next few months will be critical in the investigation. The firm said that “over the coming months there will be more clarity about the outcome of these matters.”

The letter, which an investor in the fund who did not want to be identified read to Reuters over the telephone, also said while SAC believes in transparency, it may not be able to give frequent updates to investors. “In the past we have tried to be as transparent as possible,” the fund said. But SAC Capital added that going forward it may “need to keep details confidential.”

SAC’s letter to investors comes a few weeks before outside investors have to notify Cohen and his fund whether they intend to redeem some of their money before the end of the second quarter on 30 June. The hedge fund extended the deadline for submitting redemption requests to 3 June from 16 May. In the first quarter of this year, outside investors submitted notices to redeem up to $1.7 billion. The investor in the fund said he was not concerned by SAC’s announcement. He added that the fund is up 5.96 percent so far this year.

China to issue real estate registration rules by June 2014

BEIJING, 19 May—China will issue real estate registration rules by the end of June 2014, Hu Chunzi, vice minister of land and resources, said on Thursday. The move, which is in line with the central government’s requirements, aims to better implement property laws, safeguard real estate transactions and protect legal property rights, Hu said.

As the Chinese government has resolutely vowed to transform its functions and reform its administrative system, a key task is building a real estate registration system, the vice minister said.

Fuel pumps are seen at a Shell petrol station in London on 15 May, 2013.—Reuters

Oil price probe widens, senator wants Justice Department help

WASHINGTON, 19 May—A European probe into possible oil price manipulation has boosted the investigation of a small niche trading company that deals in physical oil products and owns storage facilities, was visited by inspectors from the European Commission on Tuesday, a source familiar with the investigation said on Friday. The visit occurred on the same day that authorities raided the London bureau of pricing agency Platts, and the offices of Statoil, Royal Dutch Shell and BP in the biggest cross-border action since the probe into rigging the offices of Statoil, Royal Dutch Shell and BP in the London bureau of pricing agency Platts, and the offices of Statoil, Royal Dutch Shell and BP in the biggest cross-border action since the probe into rigging the

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New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 20 May, 2013

BUSINESS & HEALTH

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Japan pledges $2 billion in support of African resource development

Tokyo, 18 May — The Japanese government on Saturday vowed to provide $2 billion in financial support for African development projects by Japanese companies in Africa over the next five years, and to enhance training of personnel in the continent’s resource industry. The initiatives were unveiled during a meeting that brought together ministers and representatives from 15 African countries in charge of resource issues after a Japan-Africa ministerial meeting regarding natural resources development closed in Tokyo on 18 May, 2013. — Kyodo News

UK inquest into ex-Russian spy’s death may be scrapped

LONDON, 19 May — Britain’s long-delayed inquest into the death by radioactive poisoning of Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko could be abandoned after the coroner partly upheld a British government request to withhold crucial evidence. Robert Owen, a senior judge acting as coroner, said on Friday keeping some of the evidence secret would make it impossible to hold a “full, fair and fearless inquiry” into the death of the vocal critic of Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Litvinenko, 43, died after drinking polonium-210, a radioactive isotope, that had been slipped into his tea at a London hotel in 2006. In a deathbed statement, he accused Putin of ordering his murder, a claim Russia has denied.

His death plunged relations between London and Moscow to a post-Cold War low, although British Prime Minister David Cameron visited Russia this month as part of efforts to improve ties. In a written ruling, the coroner partially upheld a request by British Foreign Secretary William Hague to withhold evidence relating to the possible involvement of the Russian state in Litvinenko’s death and whether it could have been prevented. The coroner also agreed to keep secret information that could undermine trust in the British government or “cause real harm to the UK’s international relations”. Without being able to assess all the evidence in open hearings, Owen said he would be unable to “discharge my duty to undertake a full, fair and fearless inquiry into the circumstances”. “The inquiry would be incomplete and a verdict potentially misleading and/or unfair,” he wrote in the ruling, which was partly censored for reasons of national security. Those involved have two weeks to respond and a further hearing is due on 11 June when the coroner will announce what happens next. A British government spokesman said: “The government will carefully consider this judgment.”

Brussels, Berlin lukewarm on Hollande’s euro zone vision

BRUSSELS, 19 May — European officials gave a lukewarm response to French President Francois Hollande’s sweeping proposals for deeper euro zone integration on Friday, noting that many of his ideas were already in circulation. A 2 1/2-hour news conference at the Elysee Palace on Thursday, Hollande set out plans for an “economic government” for the 17 euro zone countries, including its own budget and a full-time president. The sweeping vision also encompassed a harmonized tax system and the ability for the euro zone to borrow money by issuing its own bonds, a proposal that has been raised repeatedly over the past three years and been roundly rejected by Germany. "It is my responsibility as the leader of a founding member of the European Union … to pull Europe out of this emperor that has gripped it, and to reduce people’s disenchantment with it,” Hollande said, casting himself as something of a savior. “If Europe stays in the state it is now, it could be the end of the project.” The European Commission, the EU executive which presented detailed plans for closer integration in a “blueprint” published last November, said it was pleased Hollande was engaged on the same issues, calling it “food for thought”. Mubarak in 2011 to launch a claim Russia has denied. By ordering his murder, Putin, said on Friday keeping some of the evidence secret would make it impossible to hold a “full, fair and fearless inquiry” into the death of the vocal critic of Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Litvinenko, 43, died after drinking polonium-210, a radioactive isotope, that had been slipped into his tea at a London hotel in 2006. In a deathbed statement, he accused Putin of ordering his murder, a claim Russia has denied.

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**Fishery inputs prices soaring**

**Yangon, 19 May—** Prices of inputs for livestock breeding such as feeds are soaring, prompting Myanmar breeders to scale down or shut down their farming businesses, according to a Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

The export of feeds to neighbouring China from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Regions could damage the market, according to the federation, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fishery Federation. Standardization of feeds such as protein could be employed to stabilize the price of feeds, Dr Thet Hmu of Myanmar Aquafeed Producers Association said. Myanmar needs to produce 0.3 million tons of fish to satisfy local demand and further 0.1 million tons for foreign exports. Offshore fish production is currently shrinking and the country has to rely on fish breeding on shore. Participants of the meeting at MFF on 14 May said the high price of feeds could lay barrier to the fish production.

**Myanmar Alinn**

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**Odd News**

**Old bomb unearthed in Phaungpyin**

**Phaungpyin, 19 May—** A old bomb was excavated from the compound of the house of U Duang Nyo and Daw Ra May in Phaungpyin Township in Mawlaik District in Sagaing Region while undertaking earthworks with a machinery on 16 May morning.

**Commander of Phaungpyin station Lt-Col Myo Thant, the township administrator, the township police force commander and officials inspected the rusty bomb.**

It is three feet and nine inches long and five feet round and has the weight of 500 lbs. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**National Power Grid starts supplying Mongyai**

**Lashio, 19 May—** Myanmar Electrical Supply Enterprise has started supplying electricity from National Power Grid to Mongyai in Lashio District in northern Shan State.

A power plant has been built in Mongyai 48.18 miles from 66/33 KV (20) MVA Lashio power plant which supplied electricity to the former one through 66 KV power grid. The National Power Grid has sent 66/11 KV (5) MVA of electricity to the power plant since 12 May.

Three 110.4 KV (315) MVA transformers distributed electricity to the town, receiving 11 KV electricity from the power plant. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**Mandalay regional plan duties assigned**

**Mandalay, 19 May—** Goals of Mandalay regional plan are ambitious ones, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint said at a ceremony to assign duties assigned to respective department offices on 15 May morning.

The draft five-year plan which set specific goals for projects in the region was revised and approved by the Mandalay Region Hlutaw. Also present at the ceremony were members of Region government, Region Hlutaw representatives, Region/district and township level departmental officials. The chief minister stressed the need to consult with district and township supportive groups and Hlutaw representatives.

He also called for concerted efforts in translating the regional plan into reality. Director of Region Planning Office elaborated on regional plan goals for 2013-2014 fiscal year. The chief minister has already assigned specific duties to respective departments in the region. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**Inlay Lake waterlevel rising**

**Nyaungshwe, 19 May—** The water level of landmark Inlay Lake in Shan State shows signs of possible increase as it has been lowering the bar for three months since later March, with even more significant drop since 15 April.

The watercourses linking villages suffer from shallow water. The water level which had already been lower by 0.7 inch at the end of March than the ordinary level was reduced to 1.6 inches lower than ordinary at the end of April. The reduction continued and the number reached 1.7 inches on 5 May. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**National Power Grid to Dawna water-supplying project**

**Toungoo, 19 May—** The National Power Grid has sent 66/11 KV (5) MVA of electricity to the power plant since 12 May.

Three 110.4 KV (315) MVA transformers distributed electricity to the town, receiving 11 KV electricity from the power plant. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**CSCs issued in Loikaw**

**Loikaw, 19 May—** Immigration and National Registration Department of Kayah State made a field trip to Dawndu ward of Loikaw to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens on 16 May.

The cards were presented in a day to the citizens at the office of the ward administrator.

Deputy Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Aung Kyaw Thu led the workforce that issued CSCs to 51 eligible citizens in the ward in Moe Pwint-5 project where the cards are issued free of charge. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**Heavy rains inundate roads in Mandalay**

**Mandalay, 19 May—** Heavy rain in Mandalay and its environs that started pouring at noon till the evening caused flood in low-lying downtown areas on 15 May.

Mandalay City Development Committee’s sanitation division managed to ensure proper drainage by clearing dump and laying sand bags as barrier.

The rain inundated 30th, 31st, 73rd, 78th and 84th streets for a while.

The traffic blockage was caused by the heavy rain.

Thanks to combined sanitation efforts of MCDC and residents, the inundation waned and debris were cleared in the evening. — *Myanmar Alinn*

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**Mandalay City Development Committee’s sanitation division managed to ensure proper drainage by laying sand bags as barrier.**

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**High-speed car goes for tea in Toungoo**

**Toungoo, 19 May—** A Nissan Hilux on Yangon-Mandalay Highway went out control while passing over a motorcycle, hit Thawthikho clinic and then a teashop at the corner of Yangon-Mandalay road and Mingyi Nyo road in Toungoo yesterday.

A waiter of 7-Top teashop sustained injuries and was admitted to Toungoo Hospital. — *Myanmar Alinn*
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 20 May, 2013**

**Coordinated and synergetic efforts**

Now the country is focusing on microfinance works and promotion of cooperative societies for provision of financial capital for rural folks and urban grassroots, which is a part of the incumbent government’s people-centred policy.

Eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation project has also been in operation to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas, where majority of our people live, in smoothly and effectively undertaking national development endeavours.

Moreover, Farmland Act has been promulgated in an effort for development of agriculture, the core of the economy and farmland registration has been carried out to ensure farmland ownership in the interest of peasants, one of the country’s main working forces.

The microfinance works being carried out by the Ministry of Cooperatives at present are not only intended for welfare of people in the immediate future but also for systematically helping them to stand on their own without needing to take out loans in certain period of time.

People on their part must make effective use of the loans they take out for their businesses and they are also to repay the loans in full when the time is due.

Here the country needs to promote cooperative societies as the effective contributor to national economic growth. Some nations achieve success whereas some meet with failure in introducing microcredit works and it needs to take lessons from their stories of success and failure toward the end of bringing real benefits to the poor.

As cooperative works are making progress in many global countries including developed nations, we need immediate endeavors with new mindset and under new system for development of cooperative societies to be able to catch up with the successful cooperative associations across the globe. We believe that coordinated and synergetic efforts with local and international partners will do the job well.

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**NATIONAL**

**Myanmar would be able to restore former status before 1960s: President U Thein Sein**

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President U Thein Sein called on Myanmar families in Virginia and Maryland states and Washington to give a willing and strong hand in nation-building process of the motherland. The President met them at Myanmar Embassy in Washington on 18 May evening, sharing his passionate belief that Myanmar through collaborative efforts would be able to restore its former status before 1960s in South East Asian Region, being blessed with sound foundations like temperate climate, mineral riches, and fertile soil and geographical advantages of neighbouring with developing huge markets like China and India.

The President called the lack of stability and weak management major hindrance to development of the nation, calling for participation of the Myanmar nationals in US in nation-building process of Myanmar together with his government which since taking office has focused on tranquility and the rule of law and socio-economic development of citizens, the two major aspirations of people and is also taking steps to enable them take part in nation-building endeavours.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thanha and U Than Htay, deputy ministers, and departmental heads.

The President met Ambassador U Than Swe, Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN in New York Ambassador U Kyaw Tin, Military Attaché Col Myint Thein and staff and families at Myanmar Ambassador’s Residence and briefed them on promotion of international relations and political, administrative, economic and private sector reforms the government is undertaking.

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**Myanmar, ROK keen on strengthening diplomatic ties**

| Image 279x638 to 756x953 |

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met Prime Minister of ROK Mr Chung Hong-won at Imperial Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with Prime Minister of ROK Mr Chung Hong-won at Imperial Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand.—MNA

Mr Chung Hong-won was accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Khin Zaw and Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, and personnel and the Korean PM was accompanied by the deputy ministers and high-ranking officials.

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**You see, “New Myanmar” is famous all over the world today. Why?**

Ah, that’s because of the international community’s understanding of the image of “New Myanmar” that is in her smooth and swift democratization process.

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**Cartoon Tha Byay**
Dawei District IPRD holds talks on reading habit

DAWEI, 19 May—Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department donated publications and held talks on raising reading habit of rural people at the library of No.25 Infantry Regiment, here, yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Commanding Officer Lt-Col Zaw Latt Min and officials of the regiment, and their families.

Staff Officer of District IPRD U San Lwin Oo held talks with a title of “We help you studying knowledge” and donated 100 publications to the library and Deputy Head of District IPRD Daw Mu Mu Aye and staff shared knowledge about borrowing the publications under library disciplines.

Dawei District IPRD will send 200 books to regiment’s library two times a month for raising reading habit of Tatmadawmen and their families.

Toungoo Auxiliary Fire Brigade honoured

TOUNGOO, 19 May—A ceremony to honour auxiliary firemen from Ward-11 of Toungoo District who secured the first prize in fire fighting drill and exercise with fire engine to mark 67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was held at the hall of Basic Education Primary School, Kandaw, here on 16 May and Patron of Fire Brigade Supporting Command U Kyaw Hla (Thamadi) gave an opening remark.

Members of Toungoo District Fire Prevention Committee U Ye Myint and U Myint Thu, and the Head of District Fire Services Department made speeches. Then, Ward Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Myo and guests presented prizes and certificates of honour to the winner brigade members.

Later, Patron U Kyaw Hla (Thamadi) and Committee Member U Ye Myint presented K50000 each to the first prize winners.—Kyemon

Plan underway to construct detour in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 19 May—With a view to reducing traffic congestion in downtown Meiktila, plans are underway to construct detour.

Local people are facing traffic jam difficulties daily due to passenger buses and trucks which pass downtown Meiktila to continue their journeys to Yangon, Mandalay, Myingyan, Taunggyi and Kyaukpyu. The traffic accident will reduce with a decrease in the traffic jams. Only then will road transportation be more convenient, said Townselder U Zeyar Maung.

Although it has been arranged to construct a detour in Meiktila in the past, construction works have been stopped due to various reasons. The region level officials are holding discussion with respective road/bridge construction companies to construct the detour with the aim of fulfilling the wishes of local people.

Nation-building endeavours

Mining companies in Shan State (East) meets

TACHILEK, 19 May—Mining companies operating in Shan State (East) met at Tachilek Township General Administration Department in Tachilek this morning, focusing on operational difficulties, joining of Myanmar Mines Entrepreneurs Association and level of cooperation with the Mines Ministry.

Personnel from Myit Oo Aung Co, Sai Law Hein Co, San Parami Co, Wunna Theinhan Co, Nway Oo Yannan Co, Kyakaseangni Co, Heinhsinan Co and Lwekenlong Co from Shan State Mines Entrepreneurs Association attended the meeting.

Shan State (East) Mines Entrepreneurs Association and Myanma Ayea Mon Group of Companies signed a deal on upgrading of Silinga-Mawkwi road.—Kyemon

Certificates presented to student monks, laypersons in Mongnai

MONGNAI, 19 May—Cula convocation ceremony organized by Mongnai Township Religious Affairs Department of Langkho District in Southern Shan State was held at the Dhammayon in Garden Ward, here, on 14 May.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sawdaw Bhaddanta Naghinata and monks, Township Administrator U Myat Kyaw and departmental officials, and laypersons who had passed Abhidhamma exam. At first, they took Five Precepts from the Sayadaw and the Township Administrator supplicated on religious affairs. Then, the officials conferred certificates on 37 monks who passed government Parli Pahamayna exam in 2012 and nine persons who passed Abhidhamma exam in 2011 each.—Kyemon

Traffic accident occurs in Kyaukse

KYAUSKE, 19 May—a vehicle, Hilux truck, driven by Khaing Zin Lat (or) Ah Kyi,25,of Thangton Village in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region, from Mandalay to Yangon, crashed into a stationary twelve-wheeled truck near Paubking village in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region on about 3:30 pm on 16 May. The Hilux driver died on the spot with serious injuries. Three others including Aung Kyaw Min, 36, on board the Hilux were wounded and the injured were sent to Mandalay General Hospital via Kyaukse Hospital.

Thanywa Police Station filed a lawsuit against reckless driver Khaing Zin Lat.—Kyemon

Free eye surgery performed in Khamti Township

KHAMTI, 19 May—Under the arrangement of Ministry of Health, eye specialists led by assistant director Dr Tin Maung Swe of Nay Pyi Taw Trachoma Eradication Department and Khamti District Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Zeya and health staff carried out free eye surgery at Khamti District People’s Hospital on 11-15 May.

The medical team gave eye care to 1430 patients. On 14 May, Amonytha Hluttaw representative U Aung Chal Lwin, Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative U Mya Maung and officials provided the patients with pairs of sunglasses.—Kyemon

Historic pagoda collapses in TadaU

TADAU, 19 May—A historic Gutawthi Pagoda in Achoktan Area of Uti Village in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region collapsed at 3:15 pm on 15 May due to heavy rain. The TadaU Township administrative and officials, members of Township police force inspected the ruined pagoda. The five pieces of umbrella are kept at Gutawthi Monastery.—Kyemon

Health

Disaster

SWD opens drug addict treatment and rehabilitation course

LASHIO, 19 May—The drug addict treatment and rehabilitation course No. 42/2013 was opened at Social Welfare Department in Lashio of Shan State (North) on 16 May morning. Township Administrator U Maung Maung Lwin made a speech. Dr Daw Myint Myint Sein, Psychiatrist of Lashio General Hospital, shared knowledge about danger of narcotic drugs. In-charge of the training school U Zaw Min explained the purpose of the course. Namkyan Sayadaw thanked departmental officials for opening the course. Also present on the occasion were responsible persons of 42 NGOs and local people.—Kyemon

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Indigenous Indians occupy the entrance of the Planalto Palace during a protest against demarcation of indigenous lands and reserves in Brasilia, in Brasilia in this 18 April, 2013 file photo.—Reuters

EU finds time to tell restaurants how to serve olive oil

BRUSSELS, 19 May—Critics ridiculed European Union bureaucrats on Saturday for taking time off fighting the euro zone’s debt crisis to impose strict new rules on how restaurants serve olive oil. From 1 Jan, 2014, eateries will be banned from serving oil to diners in small glass jugs or dipping bowls, and forced instead to use pre-sealed, non-refillable bottles that must be disposed of when empty. The European Commission said the move is designed to improve hygiene and reassure consumers the olive oil in restaurants has not been diluted with an inferior product. But critics say the rules are a sop to Europe’s olive oil producers, and will only add to the frustration felt by many towards a bloated EU bureaucracy regarded as out of touch with the concerns of ordinary Europeans.

“If the European Union was logical and properly run, people wouldn’t be so anti-European. But when it comes up with crazy things like this, it quite rightly calls into question their legitimacy and judgment,” said Marina Yannakoudakis, a British Conservative member of the European Parliament. The Commission said its proposal was supported by 15 out of 27 EU member governments, including the continent’s main olive oil producers — Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal — which are among the countries worst affected by the euro crisis.

“The fact that the EU is the world’s major producer of olive oil — for up to 70 percent of the olive oil globally — perhaps this is even more than just a good consumer story for European citizens,” commissioner for agriculture and rural development Phil Hogan told Reuters. Commission spokespersons have described the measures as “a necessary step to protect consumers.”

“You can’t have consumers feeling, even if they are not aware of the details, that they are being misled or taken advantage of,” Hogan said on condition of anonymity. “We want to open up divisions (between the permanent five council members) ... just before Geneva,” he said. “If the Western council members are going to have that battle over how to act on Syria’s two-year civil war, will likely be left until after a planned Syria peace conference in Geneva next month, UN diplomats said. Russia, a close ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and China have used their veto power three times to prevent Security Council against Assad that was backed by the remaining three veto powers—the United States, Britain and France.

“Russia has long been deadlocked on how to vote on Syria’s war, but it may be better to have it after Geneva,” Western leaders have been cautious about the prospects of the Syria conference in Geneva achieving any breakthrough, and Russia’s departure from the table could be significant. The Syrian conflict started with mainly peaceful protests against Assad, but turned into a civil war in which the United Nations says at least 77,000 people have been killed. Islamist militants have emerged as the most potent anti-Assad rebels. Jordan recently invited the Security Council to visit and see first-hand the Syrian refugee crisis it was struggling to deal with, but diplomats said Russia had blocked the trip.
Afghan President to visit India next week

NEW DELHI, 19 May — Afghan President Hamid Karzai is to arrive in India next week for a three-day visit, sources said. During his visit from 20 to 23 May, President Karzai will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Mamnoon Singh in the national capital and issues like security and arms supplies to maintain peace in troubled-torn Afghanistan would be on their agenda, they said.

The Afghan President will also travel to the northern state of Punjab to receive an honorary doctorate from Lovely Professional University, a private varsity in the town of Jalandhar, which is to be conferred on him by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, the sources added.

India has presence in Afghanistan. It provides humanitarian assistance in terms of sending biscuits and wheat, as well as facilitating infrastructure construction like the Salma Dam and the Afghan Parliamoment Building. — Xinhua

Hopes fade for those still trapped in Freeport Indonesia mine

JAKARTA, 19 May — Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc said on Saturday that rockfalls were hampering rescue efforts after a tunnel collapse four days ago at its giant Indonesian copper mine, with hopes fading of finding alive any of the 23 still missing. Freeport closed the world’s second largest copper mine on Wednesday, a day after a tunnel fell in on 38 workers undergoing training. Five are known to have died. Several of the 10 rescued are still in hospital. The Grasberg mine in West Papua is in one of the most remote regions of the Indonesian archipelago.

“We continue to carry out these (rescue) efforts non-stop, 24 hours a day as quickly as can be done safe and to do everything possible to save lives, but as more time passes the possibility of there being any survivors becomes less likely,” Freeport Indonesia’s Mine General Manager, Nurhadi Sabrin, who heads the emergency response team, said in a statement. Rockfalls were slowing rescue efforts, he said. The company is using a device to detect vibrations to help find out if any of those trapped are still alive. “This device has detected vibrations that could be consistent with a human heartbeat, but this is still conclusive and could be caused by a number of other vibrations,” he said. We

Rescuers use a ground support split set and welded mesh to prevent rockfall during a process rescuing workers still trapped in an underground training class at the Grasberg complex in remote West Papua province on this 15 May, 2013 picture provided by PT Freeport Indonesia. — Reuters

Chinese arrested for attempting to smuggle rosewood

CHINNA, 19 May — A 44-year-old Chinese national bound for Hong Kong was on Saturday detained by Custom officials at the airport here when he attempted to smuggle 27 kg of rosewood in a suitcase, airport sources said.

Zhen Zifang, holding a Chinese passport, was proceeding to board a flight bound for Hong Kong early today when Custom officials found the wooden pieces in his suitcase, sources said.

The LDP wants citizens to open own websites to get more info from gov’t

The LDP eyes achieving this scheme within a year after a numbering system is introduced, probably in 2016, giving every Japanese citizen integrated access to their own tax, pension and medical benefit data.

The proposal notes a need to create legislation to strictly manage and protect confidential information. Light of worries the system could become a conduit for leaks and infringing privacy.

In the draft, the LDP also wants to utilize IT to ensure the security of roads and tunnels in the wake of a fatal accident in an expressway tunnel in which a ceiling collapse killed nine people last December. According to the draft, the LDP also aims to create a new government entity, tentatively called the “Cyber Security Agency,” staffed with several thousand officials and designed after the US Department of Homeland Security.

And in a bid to help women and elderly people secure employment, the LDP will also promote “telework” enabling people to work from home or elsewhere using IT, the draft said. The LDP is set to formalize the IT strategy by early June 2013 and submit it to the government as soon as Tuesday, in the hope of having it reflect in a growth strategy to be drawn up in June, the party sources said. — Kyodo News

India anticipates fruitful visit by Chinese premier

NEW DELHI, 19 May — As Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is about to pay his first official visit to India, politicians and observers here are expecting that the visit could boost bilateral ties. “This visit is special because it is the first visit abroad by the Chinese premier since he assumed office in March. The relationship between our two countries are now sound and good,” Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid told Xinhua in an interview. Khurshid believed the two neighbouring countries, despite their differences, have a lot in common and should “align their positions in many areas.India is ready to write a new chapter of our relationship with China,” he added. The upbeat tone is shared by Sitaram Yechury, a senior and national spokesman of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and a member of the upper house of the Indian parliament. “This will be a very important visit for India. It will not only strengthen but also multiply the ties between the two countries,” he said.

“We have ancient bonds as two great civilizations and now we are molding a modern relationship,” said Yechury, noting that the two countries are registering enviable growth rates while many other economies are struggling in recession or slowdown.

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“We have ancient bonds as two great civilizations and now we are molding a modern relationship,” said Yechury, noting that the two countries are registering enviable growth rates while many other economies are struggling in recession or slowdown.

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Japan Post to replace all outside directors in June

Tokyo, May 19—All of Japan Post Holdings Co’s 13 outside directors will resign next month when the postal service group’s new president is to be appointed as part of its government-led management reshuffle, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

The current outside directors include Takashi Nishikawa, former chairman of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, and Hiroshi Okuda, former chairman of Toyota Motor Corp.

Candidates under consideration to replace them include Canon Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Fujio Mitarai and Akio Mimura, former chairman of Nippon Steel Corp, which merged with another steel firm last year to create Nippon Steel & Sumimoto Metal Corp, the sources said.

The number of posts for outside directors may be reduced from the current 13, they said. The government has already sounded out Taizo Nishimuro, 77, a former head of Toshiba Corp to succeed Japan Post Holdings President Atsuo Saka.—Kyodo News

Unpublished manuscripts by cartoonist Tezuka unveiled

Tokyo, May 19—Nine unpublished manuscript sheets by the late Japanese cartoon artist Osamu Tezuka, known for works such as “Astro Boy” and “Black Jack,” have been found, cartoonist Leiji Matsumoto said.

The sheets are for four works, including “Metropolis” and “Yubijin” (“buoy island”), which were both published in 1949. Matsumoto, 75, who had obtained and kept them at his home, Tezuka (1928-1989) apparently did not need the sheets after reworking the cartoons.

The science fiction “Metropolis” depicts a futuristic world and includes a character named Mivichi. The manuscript has a drawing titled “Feature-length adventure cartoon superman Mivichi,” indicating Tezuka had considered the title before changing it to “Metropolis.”

The latest discovery also confirmed the existence of “Fuhyojima” for the first time. So far, only its synopsis and title have been found in a notebook discovered at Tezuka’s home in 1993.

The nine manuscripts will be included in a book on Tezuka’s early works to be published next month, and will be shown at a special exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo from 29 June. —Kyodo News
Entertainment

Beetles’ guitar auctioned to the tune of $408,000

Los Angeles, 19 May—A custom-made electric guitar played by the late John Lennon and George Harrison of the Beatles sold at a New York auction on Saturday for $408,000, said officials of the auction house. The semi-hollow-body left-handed guitar, manufactured by the Vox company, was sold to an unidentified US buyer at the “Music Icons” event organized by Beverly Hills, California-based Julien’s Auctions and held at the Hard Rock Cafe in Manhattan.

Julien’s said previously it expected the guitar, which was the centerpiece of Saturday’s sale, to fetch between $200,000 and $300,000. Harrison played the instrument, distinguished by two symmetrical flared shoulders on the upper body, while practicing “I Am The Walrus,” and Lennon used it in a video session for the song “Hello, Goodbye,” according to a statement from Julien’s Auctions.

Both songs were on the Beatles’ 1967 album “Magical Mystery Tour.” The Vox guitar was a prototype instrument custom-built for Lennon in 1966, said Martin Nolan, executive director of Julien’s. Lennon gave the Vox guitar as a gift in 1967 to Yanni “Magic Alex” Mardas, who was the electronics engineer for the band’s Apple Records label, the auction house said.

“I think the instrument, displayed in recent weeks at a museum in Ireland before the sale, was sold a few years ago by Christie’s Auction House for a little over $100,000. Nolan said the latest buyer, who sent a representative to Saturday’s auction to bid on his behalf, wished to remain anonymous.”

Lennon was shot to death in New York in 1980 by a deranged fan, and Harrison died of lung cancer in Los Angeles in 2001. The surviving members of the Beatles are Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.—Reuters

CANNES, 19 May—Na-
tive American actress Misty Upham never dreamt she would be walking the red carpet at Cannes to showcase a film shot on her re-

erestation.

Upham features in "Jimmy P" Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian”, focused on the relationship between a Native American woman, her adopted Blackfoot, and a Cree from Canada, are the first Native American women in the official selection at Cannes, although organizers of the festival, now in its 66th year, were unable to confirm it.

One of 20 films competing for the main prize at the 12-day event on the French Riviera, the movie was inspired by a true story in Devereux’s 1951 book "Reality And Dream".

Set in 1948, the film follows Jimmy as he checks into a military hospital in Topeka, Kansas, that specializes in mental illness for war veterans to be treated for numerous symptoms, including temporary blindness, loss of hearing dizziness.

"It looks like young heroes become Hollywood box office hits

Los Angeles, 19 May—The “Harry Potter” films generated 7.7 billion dollars in box office worldwide. “The Lord of the Rings” series made some 2.9 billion, and this year’s Oscar Best Picture “Life of Pi” was taken in 608 million since last Sep-

tember.

It looks like young heroes are not only saviors of the world, but also box office hits.

Indeed, one of the hottest film genres in Holly-

wood is always hero-themed movies. People could always learn more from these young heroes—a journey from being an ordinary child to a brave hero tells us to never look down on anyone, including yourself. From "The Spiderman" to "Harry Potter," from "Eragon" to "The Lord of the Rings," though these hero-themed films always bring similar story plots, audiences are still attracted, because they can always relate themselves to the young heroes in the films, who are just like anyone around us.

This summer, another young hero film, “Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monster,” is expected to attract millions of moviegoers. Based on the true situation of the novel writer’s son—who is suffering from dyslexia and attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)—the film will continue the adventure journey of Percy, son of God of Ocean in Greek myths, in his search for Golden Fleece.

In 2010, 20th Century Fox turned the first novel of the “Percy Jackson” series into movie, which made 226.5 million dollars worldwide. Compared to the gross revenues of the eight-film franchise “Harry Potter” and the three-film franchise “The Lord Of The Rings,” it is relatively small.—Xinhua

Vocal acrobatics of “La Donna del Lago” an “Olympic” challenge

London, 19 May—Even with one of the world’s most athletic op-
era singers at her side and plenty of practice, America mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato reckons the lat-
est London production of Gioachino Rossini’s “La Donna Del Lago” is the challenge of a lifetime.

DiDonato and Peruvia-

n tenor Juan Diego Flores told Reuters at the Royal Opera House production’s opening on Friday night that performing their tech-

nically demanding roles in the John Fulljames inter-

pretation is almost like an elite sport.

“When you’re on stage and you know you have to hit this incredibly difficult note, and there’s an exhilarating silence in the audience and everybody is etherized in on you, it’s like you’re running for gold in the Olympics,” DiDonato said.

 “La Donna del Lago” or Lady of the Lake is based on an 1810 Walter Scott poem in which Didonato plays the singer-haired Ele-

na. The enchanting Lady of the Lake who finds herself at the centre of - not one - but two love triangles.

Florez, who sings the role of her love-struck suit-

or King James V and is well known for his incredible vocal range, said the piece never gets easier.

"Everything about it is difficult," Florez said. "I have performed the part many times before but it is still a huge challenge.”

Elena’s father is fight-

ing with the clans against the king’s rule and has promised his daughter’s hand in marriage to the bruitish clan leader, Rod-

rigo.—Reuters

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Native American actress proud to walk Cannes red carpet

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Carpenter slays IndyCar giants to win 500 pole

Roger Federer to meet Norway's Alexander Bøe in Rome final, Serena rolls on

Swiss fairytale continues as they set up Sweden final
Deadly torrential rain affects 200,000 in Guangxi

NANNING, 19 May—Continuous rainfall has claimed a life while affecting about 200,000 people in southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local authorities said on Sunday. As of Saturday, the heavy rain, which originated off Fukushima Prefecture at a depth of about 46 kilometers, registered upper 5 in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, and 4 in several parts of Miyagi as well as Fukushima, according to the agency. Ishinomaki was one of the areas hard hit by the 130, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. So far no injuries have been reported, the Miyagi prefectural police and firefighters said. The agency believes the latest earthquake was an aftershock of the 2011 earthquake. “Aftershock activities have become less frequent but we urge the public to be careful since these events are unusually strong aftershocks like this one (today),” an agency official said.

No abnormalities were caused by the quake at the Fukushima Daichii and Fukushima Daini nuclear power plants in Fukushima Prefecture and the Onagawa plant in Miyagi Prefecture, according to the utilities that operate them. Sendai air traffic was suspended briefly on Saturday evening to check the runways, while train services on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line were partially stopped for about six minutes, their operators said. —Kyodo News

Canadian astronaut wrestles with gravity after spaceflight

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 19 May—Back on Earth, Canadian astronaut and cyberspace tweeter Chris Hadfield is getting a rough re-introduction to gravity after a five-month stint aboard the International Space Station, the former commander told reporters during a video webcast from Houston. Hadfield became a social media rock star with his zero-gravity version of David Bowie’s “Space Oddity” and a continuous stream of commentary on Twitter about his life in orbit. But living without gravity for five months has left him feeling dizzy, weak and prematurely aged. A veteran of three space flights, he is wearing a pressure suit under his clothes to help his circulation as his body adapts to getting blood back to his brain.

“Without the constant pull-down of gravity, your body gets a whole new normal, and my body was quite happy living in space without gravity,” Hadfield, 53, said in a videoconference call with Canadian reporters on Thursday, three days after returning to Earth. The video conference was posted on the Canadian Space Agency’s UStream channel. “Right after I landed I could feel the weight of my lips and tongue ... I hadn’t realized that I had learned to talk with a weightless tongue,” he said. He is suffering overall body soreness, particularly in his neck and back which are again having to support his head after months in weightlessness.

“It feels like I played full-contact hockey, but it’s getting better by the hour,” Hadfield said. “The subtle things and the big things are taking some readaptation to get used to and they are coming back one by one.” Hadfield, who is the first from Canada to command a space station crew, NASA astronaut Thomas Marshburn, and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko landed in Kazakhstan on Monday. He and Marshburn were then flown to Houston to begin rehabilitation. As a departing finale Hadfield created a music video rendering of Bowie’s classic “Space Oddity,” which as of Friday had 13 million hits on YouTube. Hadfield, who is the lead singer and bass guitarist in the all-astronaut rock band Max Q, said it is a song that the band is “never going to re-record” as there is “what he will do next.” “For now, I’m still trying to stand up straight.” —Reuters

Japanese astronaut speaks on phone after Russian Soyuz spacecraft landed

Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield speaks on the phone after the Russian Soyuz spacecraft landed some 150 km (90 miles) southeast of the town of Zhezkazgan, in central Kazakhstan on 14 May. —Reuters

Japanese Olympic coach Sekizuka set to take over at Jubilo

Iwata, (Japan), 19 May—Takahashi Sekizuka, the man who masterminded Japan’s sensational run to the semifinals of last year’s London Olympics, is on the verge of taking over as manager of struggling Jubilo Iwata, club president Yoshio Takahara said on Saturday. “I am talking to (Sekizuka) about various things and I reckon it will be a done deal soon,” Takahara said after a 4-2 defeat at home to Kawasaki Frontale kept three-time champions Jubilo second-from-bottom in the table with just one win from 12 games. Former Frontale boss Sekizuka watched the defeat with Takahara but left Yamaha Stadium before speaking to reporters. Hitoshi Morishita stepped down as manager two weeks ago after a disastrous start to the season and assistant coach Tetsu Nagasawa was installed as caretaker while Jubilo look for a permanent replacement. But Jubilo, whose failure to win in their first seven games marked their worst ever start to a J-League campaign, squandered a two-goal lead and were held 2-2 by FC Tokyo in Nagasawa’s first game in charge on 6 May. A 1-0 reverse at home to Kashima Anteliers followed before their latest setback against Frontale.

Kyodo News
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai of Thailand

Moontaekwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ring road construction gaining momentum

NAYPyiTAW, 19 May — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin oversaw construction works of Moontaekwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ring road and progress of Ngaphe-inn bridge and box culverts yesterday.

After inspecting progress in construction of a concrete bridge, chosen site for construction of Paunglaung river crossing bridge and earth works of Road Construction Special Group (5), the Union minister left necessary instructions.

Moontaekwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ring road which will be 22 miles in length and 12 feet in width is under construction by three special groups, one district group and four companies. So far seven miles and five furlongs long tarmac work, eight miles and two furlongs long earth work and four miles and five furlongs long gravel work have been completed and the remaining works are underway.—MNA

Kawthoung: A worthwhile place to visit

A historic border town of Taninthayi Region situated on the southernmost tip of Myanmar sharing borders with the neighbouring country, Thailand, is called Kawthoung. It is home to more than 70000 people whose livelihoods rely on border trade, fisheries, oil palm and rubber growing.

The coastal town with favourable climate patterns is a worthwhile place to visit.

Kawthoung is easily accessible by all modes of transport, by car, by boat or by air because an air port, a port for five star ocean liners and Kawthoung-Myeik Union Highway are facilitating public transport.

Kawthoung-Myeik motorway draw the interest of every visitor.

Kawthoung is also known as a place of smokeless industry thanks to daily arrival of tourists via Thailand. It thereby contributes more foreign exchange income of the country.

The town with scenically attractive areas has become a tourist attraction spot because of its famous Cape Bayintnaung (It is formerly called Cape Victoria) where a huge statue of King Bayintnaung stands and Salons (Mawkins) tribe inhibiting the waters of Kawthoung.

Byline: Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)