Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, accompanied by Union ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell and officials, visited Mt Vernon Estate where there was the residence of US first President George Washington in 1799 located in Virginia Gardens of the US at 8:45 am local standard time yesterday.

The President and party were welcomed there by Chairman of the Mt Vernon Board of Trustees Mr. Curt Viebranz and Relations Manager Mr. John Marshall who explained salient points of Mt Vernon Gardens and Home.

Next, the President visited the Mt Vernon Home of the President George Washington and observed the late president’s plantation home. He then laid a wreath at President George Washington’s Tomb.

President George Washington had lived at the home for 45 years from 1754 to his final day. At present, Mt Vernon Gardens and the Home are kept open as the museum.

President U Thein Sein left for Washington along Potomac River by the vessel Virginia’s Jewel of World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

CEO Mr. Robert Carter of WWF hosted a luncheon to the President on board the vessel Virginia (See page 9).

President U Thein Sein enjoys luncheon hosted by CEO Mr. Robert Carter of WWF on board vessel Virginia.

MNA
International Scouts meet Myanmar counterparts

YANGON, 20 May — A meeting between representatives of Asia and Pacific Regional Scouts and old and youth scouts in Myanmar took place at Thiri Yadana Hall of Basic Education High School No (4), here, on 18 May. Director-General of No (3) Basic Education Department U Min Zaw extended greetings. Next, Chairman of Asia and Pacific Regional Committee Dr. Chao Shao-Po spoke words of thanks. Then, scout veterans recounted their experience to today’s scouts. MNA

Car and bike crash kills one on bicycle

YANGON, 20 May— A vehicle, Toyota Crown, crashed into the back of a bicycle at the corner of Kaba-Aye Pagoda road and Thitsar street in ward-10 of Mayangon Township on 13 May, leaving one of two young men on a bicycle dead. The vehicle driven by Aung Khang Phyoe, 29, of Latha Township from north to south on Kaba-Aye Pagoda road knocked down Aung Naing Oo, 24, and Htet Lwin Oo, 27, who were on the bicycle of South Okkalapa Township near the traffic lights at the corner of Kaba-Aye Pagoda road and Thitsar street at about 1.15 am on that day. The crash caused heavy damage to the bicycle and two riders severely wounded. Aung Naing Oo who got serious injuries to his head, arms and legs is being given special care at Yangon General Hospital, but Htet Lwin Oo was pronounced dead on his way to hospital after sustaining serious injuries to his head in the accident. Mayangon police station filed a lawsuit against driver Aung Khang Phyoe. Kyemon

Mongkai accessible to everyone by road

YANGON, 20 May — Mongkai in Loilem District of Shan State (South) is a town linking Shan State (South) with Shan State (North). The town is situated on Loilem-Pan-Kay Tu-Hsipaw Union Highway linking the southern part of Shan State with its northern part. Loilem-Pan Kay Tu-Hsipaw road started serviceable in 1996 and it was also inaugurated in 2003 after it was upgraded. “I have no idea whether bad weather and maintenance problems weaken its durability. The road is very bad during the past one or two years, making all passengers difficult not only in summer but also in rainy season. Every vehicle has experience of stopping for the night in the middle of the journey,” says a passenger who had have this experience on the road. Now, it was over. The 34 miles long Loilem-Pan Kay Tu-Hsipaw road was constructed with the contribution of K 292 million from the budget of Union Government during 2012-13 FY. Box culverts were also built for 50 bridges along the road by Loilem District and Yamethin District Public Works. Moreover, the government spent K 384 million for upgrading of Kunhing-Mong Naung-Kehsi-Pan Kay Tu road and Mongkai-Kat Phwee rural road were upgraded into tarred ones. New and upgraded roads thereby contribute to better socio economic status of local people. — Kyemon

Water supply satisfies thirsty Dala wards

YANGON, 20 May — Supply of drinking water by water bowers of YCDC is helping relieve local thirst in Dala Township which is under water stress, it is learnt. The water has reached the wards with a desperate water shortage as of 8 April and so far 165600 gallons of water have been distributed up to 3 May. Wellwishers also made drinking water donation there, supplying more than 4000 purified drinking water containers with a storage capacity of 200 liters each. Officials said that Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister had ordered to carry out supply of water with the use of 10 water bowers, ensuring each and every house within easy reach of water supply. According to data, there has been a great scarcity of water in Nyaungdon ward, 11/14 ward, Yazathingyan ward and staff housing ward.— Kyemon

MFF President meets Myanmar women’s football team

YANGON, 20 May— President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw spoke words of encouragement to the players of the selected Myanmar women’s football team who will take part in 2014 Asian Cup qualifying matches at MFF head office, here, on 17 May. It was also attended by MFF General Secretary U Tin Aung and in-charges, Chairman of women football committee Daw Khin Sabei Kyi, Secretary Daw Myat Myat Oo and Head Coach Kumuda. The MFF president expressed his belief that Myanmar women football team could pass the qualification stage, taking a spiritual advantage as there was no difference in performance between the team and rivals. He called on players to surely catch the chance to go 2015 women’s world cup. MNA

Company worker’s death under investigation

YAMETHIN, 20 May— Tatkon police said they had a report of an arrival of a dead body of man who is believed to have been killed after falling into a lake at District People’s Hospital in Yamethin on 16 May. The body was identified as Saw Nann Aung, 30, of Hsan Shwepyi Ward. Aung Naing Oo, 24, of Hsan Shwepyi Ward was pronounced dead on his way to hospital after sustaining serious injuries to his head in the accident. Mayangon police station filed a lawsuit against driver Aung Khang Phyoe. Kyemon

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Crime
Atlanta, 20 May—President Barack Obama, under fire for security lapses at a US mission in Libya, will on Thursday lay out his wide-ranging counter-terrorism policy, from the controversial use of drones to efforts to close the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Obama’s use of military drone aircraft to attack extremists has drawn fire and increased tensions in countries like Pakistan and been criticized by human rights activists in the United States.

His inability to follow through on a 2008 campaign pledge to close the Guantanamo Bay prison has put Obama on the defensive.

In his State of the Union speech early this year Obama pledged to work with Congress to make certain that the US targeting, detention and prosecution of terrorism suspects was consistent with US law.

A White House official said Obama would address these issues in a speech on Thursday at the National Defence University in Washington.

He will say that al-Qaeda has been significantly degraded but remains a threat, along with its affiliates, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Reuters

The IAEA inspector backs pumping Fukushima groundwater into sea

Vienna, 20 May—A possible solution to the increasing amount of contaminated water inside the crisis-hit Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant could be to pump groundwater into the sea before it gets into the reactor buildings, as planned by the plant operator, the head of international inspectors has said.

An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) made hard landing in Logar Province on Sunday, a statement of the alliance released here said.


The statement without providing more details stressed that, “There are no casualties, and there was no indication of insurgent activity in the province tonight.”

Previously, in a similar incident, a helicopter crashed in Logar Province on 22 April, during which Taleban militants captured nine people including eight Turkish nationals aboard the chopper and set them free after nearly two weeks in captivity.

Nepal, India to discuss cross-border crime

Kathmandu, 20 May—Nepal and India have decided to discuss cross-border crime to curb this phenomenon in the 1,700-km border shared by the two countries, officials said on Sunday.

“A secretary-level meeting is scheduled for June first week. Exact date will be fixed soon. Cross-border crime will be a key feature of the meeting,” Nepal’s Home Ministry spokesperson Shankar Koirala told Xinhua.

In the meeting, Home Secretary Nabin Ghimire will lead the Nepali side, while Indian Home Secretary RK Singh will head the visiting delegation.

US President Barack Obama steps aboard Air Force One after motorcading from the White House due to foggy conditions at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, on 19 May, 2013.—Reuters

UNESCO head welcomes recommendation of Mt Fuji for World Heritage list

Kabul, 20 May—UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova has said Japan’s iconic Mt Fuji is “a bearer” of cultural and intangible heritage for its influence on tradition, expressing to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Bokova said in a recent interview with Kyodo News during her visit to the Afghan capital Kabul.

The 60-year-old director general also said the mountain is “a bearer both of messages of cultural heritage but also of intangible heritage because I know it is a part of Japanese identity.”

“The UNESCO advisory panel, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, known as ICOMOS, has recommended the listing of the 3,776-metre mountain as a world cultural heritage site as it is a national symbol of Japan and blends religious and artistic traditions.

To the disappointment of local people, ICOMOS did not accept Tokyo’s request to add cultural assets in the ancient city of Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, as the World Heritage list, citing scarce assets linked to the medieval shogunate.

Kyodo News

Venezuela says taking steps to restore US diplomatic ties

Caracas, 20 May—Venezuela’s recent designation of an acting head of its diplomatic mission in the United States shows the OPEC nation’s desire to restore full diplomatic relations, the foreign minister said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

Disputes between Caracas and Washington were common during the 14-year-rule of late socialist leader Hugo Chavez, leaving both nations without ambassadors in each other’s capitals.

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua suggested in a televised interview that the move to name govern-mental ally Calixto Ortega as charge d’affaires in Washing-nton could be a prelude to restoring ambassadors.

“This is a message for US politicians so they understand Venezuela’s desire to normalize relations ... via the designation of the highest diplomatic authorities,” he said. “Why? Because the United States remains our top trade partner.”

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has in recent months said he wants better ties with Washington as long as the relationship is respectful. But he has also accused the United States of seeking to destabilize the country.—Reuters

Kyoto border police display Afghan military uniforms and explosive devices from a terrorist in Afghanistan’s eastern province of Nangarhar, on 19 May, 2013. Afghan border police captured a terrorist with Afghan military uniforms and explosive devices during an operation in Nangarhar Province on Sunday.—Kyodo News

Afghan border police display Afghan military uniforms and explosive devices from a terrorist in Afghanistan’s eastern province of Nangarhar, on 19 May, 2013. Afghan border police captured a terrorist with Afghan military uniforms and explosive devices during an operation in Nangarhar Province on Sunday.—Kyodo News

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova speaks during an interview with Kyodo News in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 18 May, 2013.

Kyodo News

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova speaks during an interview with Kyodo News in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 18 May, 2013.

Kyodo News

Kyodo News

Kyodo News
**NEW YORK, May 20—** After more than 15 years of failures by scientists around the world and one outright fraud, biologists have finally created human stem cells by the same technique that produced Dolly the cloned sheep in 1996: They transplanted genetic material from an adult cell into an egg whose own DNA had been removed. The results is a harvest of human embryonic stem cells, the seemingly magic cells capable of morphing into any of the 200-plus kinds that make up a person.

The feat, reported in last Wednesday in the journal Cell, could reignite the field of stem-cell medicine, which has been hobbled by technical challenges as well as ethical issues. Until now, the most natural sources of human stem cells have been human embryos, whose use in research poses ethical quandaries. The technique announced on Wednesday, by scientists at Oregon Health & Science University and the Oregon National Primate Research Centre, uses unrelated human eggs.

Eliminating the need for human embryos could boost attempts to use stem cells and their progeny to replace organs damaged or destroyed in heart disease, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries and other devastating conditions. But the achievement could also revive fears of reproductive cloning, or producing genetic copies of (living or dead) individuals. Even before the study was published, a British watchdog group called Human Genetics Alert protested the research. “Scientists have finally delivered the baby that would-be human cloners have been waiting for: a method for reliably creating cloned human embryos,” said Dr. David King, the group’s director. **Reuters**

**Bloomberg snooping scandal raises alarms China on data security**

**BRUSSELS, May 20—** The report into a snooping scandal involving global financial information and news provider Bloomberg LP has sounded an alarm for the Chinese financial industry and its heavy reliance on foreign data services. Bloomberg LP announced on Friday the appointment of former IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Samuel J. Palmieri as an independent adviser regarding privacy and data standards.

It was the company’s latest move to placate client concerns after it acknowledged that Bloomberg reporters had long been able to access information on clients’ use of Bloomberg’s data terminals, including their login history and functions used. As the US Federal Reserve and central banks in Europe and Japan have all reportedly started looking into the issue or contacted Bloomberg for information on the matter, China would also do well to stay vigilant about financial data safety.

“For a country like China that has such huge foreign exchange reserves, its foreign investment portfolio has always been under the global spotlight,” said financial commentator Yu Fenghai. **Xinhua**

**Yahoo’s board approves $1.1 billion Tumblr acquisition**

**SAN FRANCISCO, May 20—** Yahoo Inc.’s board has approved a deal to buy blogging and social networking site Tumblr for $1.1 billion in cash, the Wall Street Journal cited people familiar with the matter as saying on Sunday.

Such an acquisition would be Marissa Mayer’s largest deal since taking the helm of the once- iconic Internet company in July 2012. Yahoo is keen on fast-growing Tumblr because its younger user base would bolster the older website’s “cool factor,” the technology blog AllThingsD cited the sources as saying.

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.

The deal comes after a recent failed attempt to buy a controlling stake in French video site Daily- motion, owned by France Télécom SA. Tumblr, one of the more successful Internet start-ups out of New York, has only just begun earning revenue through advertising. On its home page, Tumblr says it hosts 108 million blogs, with 50.7 billion posts between them. Yahoo has invited press to an event in Manhattan on Monday at which it promised to “share something special,” without elaborating. **Reuters**

**New Xbox more than a game console for Microsoft**

**SAN FRANCISCO/SEATTLE, May 20—** Microsoft Corp is set to make a splash this week with the eagerly awaited unveiling of its new Xbox game console, eight years after the last version, as it seeks a larger share of the $65 billion a year global computer gaming industry. But the small device faces some big competition from the PlayStation 4 by Sony Corp and the Wii U by Nintendo Co Ltd in a shifting market.

Gamers are gravitating to online play — suggesting the hey-day of console games are over — while Microsoft wants its sleek new toy to finally cross the bridge to the mainstream and become the family’s entertainment centre. “Core gamers are very hungry for a new machine but the difference between 2005 and now is that the stakes are so much higher,” said Ryan McCaffrey, executive editor at entertainment website IGN.com, harking back to Microsoft’s last Xbox release. “The entire Xbox experiment from Microsoft was for it to be the centre piece of your living room.”

To that end, industry-watchers are expecting a raft of improvements from the new Xbox, when Microsoft unveils it at its Redmond, Washington, headquarters on Tuesday, from closer integration with the TV and link-ups with mobile devices to access to new and even exclusive content. **Reuters**

**China says EU solar duties to “seriously harm” trade ties**

**BEIJING, May 20—** China warned the European Union on Thursday that imposing duties on Chinese solar panels would “seriously harm” bilateral trade ties, upping the tone of its criticism a week after the EU said it would move ahead with hefty penalties in June. The European Commission has agreed to impose average import duties of 47 percent on solar panels from China, according to officials, a move they say is to guard against the dumping of cheap goods in Europe.

China’s Ministry of Commerce spokesman Shen Danyang said he hoped reports about the duties were unreliable.

“If this information is true, this action by the European Union would seriously harm China-Europe trade relations,” Shen told a news conference. Shen said “pro- voking trade friction with China” was like “dropping a boulder on one’s own foot” and would not help Europe break free from economic crisis. Trade friction between China and the EU is already high. The EU has 31 trade investigations, 18 of them involving China. The solar case is the largest to date, impacting 21 billion euros ($26.9 billion) of imported Chinese solar panels, cells and wafers.

The Commission said this week it was prepared to launch another investigation into anti-competitive behaviour by Chinese producers of mobile telecoms equipment. China is expected to decide in June whether to levy its own duties on imported European and US solar-grade polysilicon, a raw material used in solar panel production. The English-language China Daily newspaper cited an official with the surname Zhang as saying the Ministry of Commerce was likely waiting for an official EU decision before issuing its polysilicon ruling.

The EU solar duties would come into effect once the Commission publishes the decision in its official Journal. Beijing has said it will defend against what is calls protectionist behavior. On his first overseas trip since taking the office in March, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the end of May will stop in Germany, the world’s biggest solar market last year. **Reuters**
**Global shares grind higher, yen edges up on Amari comments**

**London, 20 May—** Rising optimism about global growth pushed world shares to a near-five year high on Monday, while comments from Japan’s economy minister that consumers could suffer if the yen falls further lifted it off a 4-1/2 low.

Data last week that showed US consumer sentiment at its strongest in nearly six years continued to support equity markets. MSCI’s world index, MIW000000PUS is at its highest since June 2008 as top European shares, FTSEi300 general managed up 0.2 percent. With risk appetite dominating, safe-haven German Bunds fell 45 ticks, while gold, also pressured by signs the US Federal Reserve could start winding down its support, extended it longest losing streak in four years to hit a 1-month low.

“We have started to see a series of positive readings coming out of the United States. We are positioned for a rising market and think that the best way is to invest in financials,” said HSBC equity strategist Robert Parkes.

In the currency market, focus remained largely on the yen and it edged up from last week’s 4-1/2 year low after Japan’s economy minister suggested over the weekend the government might be satisfied with its level after it recent slump.

**H7N9 more likely to transmit among humans than other bird flu**

**Beijing, 20 May—** A China, World Health Organ-ization (WHO) joint report said the H7N9 bird flu virus has a higher potential for human-to-human transmis-sion than any other known bird flu virus. The report, compiled after the WHO’s week-long field assessment of the influenza, was publicized by China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission in London.

It said, the H7N9 virus, compared with other bird flu viruses, has infected more people in a shorter time, and some H7N9 virus have shown genetic alterations which means they have adapted to be more contagious than other avian influenza viruses.

Besides, the WHO offered the Chinese govern-ment several suggestions, including staying alert despite the virus’ seasonal weakening during the summer, as the virus poses grave hazards and a lot of its basic information are still not known.

The report admitted there are still uncertainties surrounding this fresh strain of virus, asserting that exposure to live poultry is a major risk factor. The WHO last month sent a joint mission of experts to China to survey areas affected by H7N9 in Shanghai and Beijing for a week-long assessment of the influenza. From Late March when the first H7N9 case was reported to 15 May, the Chinese mainland had reported a total of 130 confirmed H7N9 cases.

Thirty-five of these cases ended in death, and 57 patients have recovered and been discharged from the hospital, according to official statistics.—Reuters

**Lundbeck says drug shows improvement in depression symptoms**

**Copenhagen, 20 May—** Danish pharmaceutical group Lundbeck said on Saturday that data from clinical phase III studies with the antidepressant vortioxetine had shown significant improvement in patients’ symptoms.

Lundbeck said in a statement that the trial showed safety levels consistent with previously completed studies at lower doses. Lundbeck and Takeda submitted vortioxetine, also known as Brintellix, for regulatory approval in the United States and Europe at the end of last year.

Industry analysts at Deutsche Bank see the new drug having sales potential in excess of $1.5 billion and possibly up to $3 billion a year, although consensus forecasts for 2016 are a more modest $500 million, according to Thomson Reuters Pharma. Lundbeck hopes the new drug will provide a new source of revenue as its existing antidepressant, Cipralex, sold as Lexapro in the United States and Japan, comes off patent protection. —Reuters

**Nikkei hits new 5-yr, 5-month high on yen’s slide, rosier US data**

**Tokyo, 20 May—** Tokyo stocks rose on Monday morning, with the Nikkei hitting its highest point in five years and five months as expectations of better corporate earnings were bolstered by the yen’s further slide following the release of rosier US economic data. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended the morning session up 208.89 points, or 1.38 percent, from Friday at 15,347.01, after climbing to as high as 15,356.14. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was up 17.29 points, or 1.38 percent, at 1,270.53.

“People say the excessively strong yen has corrected quite a bit. If the yen continues to weaken steadily from here, negative effects on people’s lives will emerge,” Japanese Economics Minister Akira Amari told a Sunday talk show. As European trading gathered pace Brent crude held steady at $104.64 a barrel while copper eased 0.36 percent to $8,212.50 a metric ton (1,102.3 tons) as the talk of the Fed tapering its bond purchases weighed on sentiment.—Reuters

**Greek to buy 142 ships from China**

**Shanghai, 20 May—** Greek Shipping Minister Kostis Moussouroulis said on Saturday Greek shipowners have recently signed contracts to buy 142 new ships from Chinese shipbuilding companies.

The orders, which were signed in April, accounted for more than 60 percent of the recent global orders of Greek shipowners, said the Greek official. The shipping industry, includ-ing shipbuilding, is one of the most important sectors for economic and trade co-operation between the two countries.

In the next decade, China will remain an im-portant global exporter and become an increasingly im-portant importer, according to the minister. The new orders are the investment of Greek shipowners for the future, said Moussouroulis.

Wang Di, general manager of Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co.Ltd, said Greece has become an im-portant client of China’s shipbuilding enterprises.

As one of China’s ma-jor shipbuilding companies, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co.Ltd has built a total of 67 ships for Greek shipowners in recent years, accounting for about 30 percent of the company’s output, Wang said. Greek Prime Minister Antonis Sa-maras is on an official visit to China from Wednesday to Sunday. Leaders of the two countries have vowed to boost cooperation.

**Higher-stakes soccer matches tied to more injuries**

**New York, 20 May—** Soccer matches played at a high level of competition are more likely to result in injuries — and in more serious ones — compared to less important games, according to a new study. The finding makes sense, according to Hakan Bengtsson, who led the research, because prestigious games are likely to be “higher intensity and (result in) more situations with higher risks.”

Bengtsson, a physio-therapist at Linköping University in Sweden, said previous studies have shown differences in how athletes play depending on the type of match, “but how that relates to injuries has not been studied before.” He and his colleagues used an Injury database from the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), which includes 26 professional soccer teams from 10 countries. From 2001 to 2010, athletes sustained 2,738 injuries in 6,010 soccer games.

Moderate or severe injuries, which required more than one week of absence from play, were more likely at UEFA Champions League games — the most important tournament in European soccer — than at regular league games. For instance, championship matches had it was generally taken positively by market players, but many viewed it as somewhat insufficient as it lacked corporate tax cuts, considered by many crucial to turning around businesses. In the speech made on Friday, Abe pledged to double the scale of Japan’s crop exports and agricultural earnings as well as to promote capital spending among other steps.

**Nikkei Osaka head office.**

**Kyodo News**

**Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange, on 16 May, 2013.**

**Reuters**

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Thirty-five of these cases ended in death, and 57 patients have recovered and been discharged from the hospital, according to official statistics.—Xinhua
Government’s action is just to intimate relationship between “pluralist media space” and the exercise of “social responsibility model” media culture

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Myanmar hosted the second conference on Media Development in Myanmar at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon with an address by Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi. It was cosponsored by the Ministry of Information and Myanmar Media Development Thematic Working Group in partnership with UNESCO and International Media Support (IMS).

The Union Minister said: First of all, I’d like to say we recognize and highly appreciate the previous conference, the very first media event held in Myanmar, as it has fostered the historic move of the Myanmar media sector towards the today’s media development steps on which we are working together. Moreover, it has paved the way for accelerating the speed of our democratic reforms.

We also acknowledge that the freedom of expression—“the right to speak” and the freedom of information—“the right to know” cannot be properly exercised without the media pluralism—“the right to choose,” which can be obtained by the presence of rival media resources which are free from the influences of political and commercial interests. The key ground for our government’s action is just to intimate relationship between “pluralist media space” and the exercise of “social responsibility model” in our media culture. I hope the future media landscape of Myanmar will have diversity in terms of media ownership and in terms of content for different media audiences including women, children, ethnic communities and differently abled individuals. From the stage of idea formulation, of which we discussed here in the same conference last year pertaining to a diagnosis of the principal needs and problems, its main potentials and constraints, we have engaged with parliamentary committees, non-governmental sectors and civil societies in strategy formulations as well as the action plans, and we are now at the stage of implementing these action plans at the national level.

The abolishment of censorship board and online accessibility of publishing rights have clearly illustrated as the first step of media reform while the return of independent commercial daily newspapers and the repeal of existing rigid printing laws as the second phase. As we have reached a compromise on the latter issue with the press council, I hope it will open up for discussions in the parliament soon.

Now we focus on the transformation of State-owned media into the public service media in order to contribute to both media pluralism and democracy in our society. Free from political interference and commercial interest, the existence of public service media is to listen to various voices and to speak to everyone in equality. I hope our country is one of the success stories of the media reform model in Asia as it has moved this far within a short period while comparing with other media environments.

Ambassador of Denmark Mr. Mikael Hemniti Winther believes media development conference would serve as a platform for diverse opinions of media, noting the public participation in media.

He called for joint work of government, public service media, UN agencies, and media personnel under the law precondition for media development of Myanmar, noting it has been set on right track. Regional Deputy Director of UNESCO Bangkok Mr. Etienne Clement sees Myanmar’s reforms taking place at rapid speed and its media becoming free and more open than ever. He on behalf of UNESCO welcomes the women’s participation in the conference and can assure that it is not a government propaganda but a truly independent service media provider, to ensure independence, with a balanced view. It is extremely important. The government, as a Public Service Media provider, has to ensure that it is a government propaganda, which is truly independent media. Some kind of a media committee can be formed where the members are representing various segments of society. Then the government can assure that it is not controlling what its media is providing. Although the government is not involved, it is important to acknowledge to the public, that the government is not controlling its Public Service Media.

Question: What will be the impact on the implementation for our Public Service Media?  
Answer: Public Service Media must ensure its independence, with a balanced view. It is extremely important. The government, as a Public Service Media provider, has to ensure that it is not a government propaganda but a truly independent media. Some kind of a media committee can be formed where the members are representing various segments of society. Then the government can assure that it is not controlling what its media is providing. Although the government is not involved, it is important to acknowledge to the public, that the government is not controlling its Public Service Media.

Question: What issues will be discussed in this conference?  
Answer: There will be many angles to be discussed. One issue will be on how to establish true independent public media, which is very important. Another issue is to ensure professionalism among the journalists. There must be some kind of basics for the media. Freedom of speech needs responsibility, because media can create conflicts and make waves. That is why media needs professional training. These are the issues to be discussed during this conference.

Question: What can we expect from this conference?  
Answer: We can expect very open discussions here in this conference. We can also increase the awareness and can lay-out the work programme. This is not something that we can achieve today or tomorrow. This conference will be finding different directions on what and how things should be done. Moreover, the news team of NPE also had an interview with Deputy Director of UNESCO Bangkok Mr. Etienne Clement of Bangkok-based Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education of UNESCO.

Question: What can we expect from UNESCO?  
Answer: UNESCO is advising and helping to ensure that the legislative framework of Myanmar’s Public Service Media, whether it is written press or broadcasting, is up to international standard. We will be ensuring that the interest of all involved will be preserved, such as the public, the journalists, the readers, and the viewers. This is something that UNESCO will be advising Myanmar. We are giving the advice of what UNESCO believes in.

Question: Can you please comment on our current reform process of the State-owned media sector?  
Answer: Please give us advice for the successful implementation of our Public Service Media?  
Answer: Myanmar has to make sure that its Public Service Media remains a service. It means serving for the people. Nowadays, the media sector including the Public Service Media will be watched, whether it provides information as service to the people. The people will realize that it is becoming a service, when they are given information which will be useful in their daily lives. Then it can be defined as a service to the public. That is what UNESCO would want to advise and would like to be implemented. The Public Service Media is funded with public money, therefore it has to render its service to the people.
Gokdwin road on Mandalay-Muse Union Highway needs repair

Muse, 20 May—Traffic blockage on Gokdwin road on Mandalay-Muse Union Highway used to squander hours and poses a threat to Myanmar-China trade, according to a merchant.

The road has more than 30 turnovers between Nawngkio Township and Kyaukme Township.

The traffic jam was attributed to increased traffic and narrow turnovers.

The lighter vehicles passed over the trucks in traffic jam only to increase waiting hours.

While perishable vegetables, eel and crabs are being transported to China, the longer hours stuck in traffic cost millions. The undisciplined passing over should be avoided and traffic rules abided by, a driver suggests.

U Peter of Shweli Truck Line said, “Traffic jams are very often, sometimes twice a month.”

A traffic congestion could take seven or eight hours to get cleared.

“We want the road to be wider. There should be a crane in Gokdwin, or Kyaukme or Nawngkio,” he said.

“If a vehicle stops, the crane could move it over.”

Myanma Alinn

Ingyin market funeral service group receives sermons from members of Sangha on its first birthday.

Ingyin market funeral service group marks first birthday

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May—Ingyin market funeral service group in Dana Theikdi ward in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw marked the group’s first anniversary at the new Dana Theikdi Dhammayon near Ingyin market at 9.30 am on 15 May.

The congregation received Five Percepts from Seventh Vaipulla Sayadaw U Vepullla and members of Sangha of Dana Theikdi ward.

The group contributes K1500.00 to each funeral and provides necessary assistance for the final rites. It is formed with residents and government servants. “We’re now celebrating our first anniversary and receive sermons from Sayadaws with joint efforts. We would continue to celebrate in this way in the years to come.”

Myanma Alinn

MEB relaxes banking procedures

Mandalay, 20 May—Myanmar Economic Bank under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue has relaxed procedures in their banking services since 2 April, according to MEC’s Mandalay Region Office.

The bank run under strict procedures as it is the most trusted bank in Myanmar, an official at the office said.

But the changes have been under way to ensure swift banking “to adapt to changing situations”, according to the source.

Myanma Alinn

Over 60,000 SIM cards to be sold in Mandalay this month

Mandalay, 20 May—A total of 69395 low-priced SIM cards was sold at Township General Administration Department offices in Mandalay Region today.

The price of CDMA 800 MHz SIM card is K1500.

The share from 350,000 SIM cards for nationwide monthly sale was for 20 townships where CDMA 800 MHz connection is accessible.

In this second batch, the number of SIM card rises by 4395 than the first one in the previous month.

Seven townships in Mandalay district received a share of 4000 SIM cards.

Those who win the previous month’s draw will not be allowed to participate in this month’s draw.

Myanma Alinn
Social responsibility model

The ultimate aim of social responsibility model of the press is to drive the media for public interest only. The model encourages the press to meet society’s need for truth, while an open and diverse debate on public issues, and honest updates of current events are its features.

In fact the social responsibility model moves beyond the simple “Objective” reporting (facts reporting) to “Interpretative” reporting (investigative reporting). Mostly, the media ownership in this model is a public trust.

Due to its unique nature, a society always expects a particular role which media must play in getting rid of social evils, educating people, criticizing government policies and exposing other wrong doings in it.

Another condition of the social responsibility model is that news reporting cannot be dependent on groups that may encourage bias and unethical practices in exchange for financial support.

In general, the media always faces (and is open to) criticism and social scientists always keep this debate open as how best media could be used to improve functioning of civil society and promotion of democratic sense and practices.

As our democracy is just in its nascent stage it is still fragile and facing problems. Accordingly, it will be wiser for us to adopt social responsibility model in place of any other model that can have analytic questions for us.

Myanmar media golden age

You know, censorship board has been abolished.

Another thing is the online accessibility of publishing rights.

Now, independent commercial daily newspapers are cropping up one after another.

And you’ll see repeals of existing rigid printing laws soon.

What’s more! State-owned media will become public service media for sake of democratic society.

Aha! An obvious step of media reform!

Great! It’s user-friendly!

Aww! It’s freedom of expression!

I see, it’s the result of collective compromises.

Wow! We can hope for one of the success stories of media reform model in Asia!

It is imperative to overcome water-related crises through regional collaboration...

(from page 16) soon reach 72 per cent. But, the quality of water and water supply facilities still need to be improved.

Myanmar will spare no single effort to address the issue of water scarcity that has become more and more visible these days.

Myanmar government has been cooperating with international agencies, including ICA to help reduce climate change.

Myanmar is determined to continue these active collaborations.

It is imperative to overcome the water-related crises through regional collaboration and to strike a balance between political stability, economic growth and social harmony while maintaining water security and environmental conservation.

It is required to increase technology and knowledge transfer and to minimize and adverse impact of water-related risks and disasters.

He concluded that the result of the deliberations at the 2rd APWS will bring about comprehensive measures to address the issue of water security, to overcome challenges and difficulties and to build up more opportunities for resilience in the years to come.

Next, the Vice-President observed commemorative booth of the Summit. — MNA

XXVII SEA Games’ game logo, game marks, game mascot caution

Game Marks

Nay Pyi Taw Office No.26, XXVII SEA Games Fundraising and Prize Presentation Committee has registered the game logo, game marks, game mascot illustrated hereunder to use in XXVII SEA Games under the ownership of the committee at Nay Pyi Taw Register Office with registration document nos. 36/2013, 37/2013 and 38/2013 on 17 May.

The committee will use those game logo, game marks and game mascot as its own badge in documents, newspaper, journal and magazine advertisements, radio, television and various channels, various trademarks, related to 2013 XXVII SEA Games as well as at the places of sports events and public places or in other ways.

Secretary

XXVII SEA Games Fundraising and Prize Presentation Committee
President U Thein Sein visits National Aquarium in Washington...—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker stresses ways and means to end all industrial disputes

Every civil servant should abide by the civil service law: Union SWRR Minister

USDP members delegation visit Hluttaw

NATIONAL
Painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting contest held in Pakokku

Pakokku, 20 May—In commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2013, the 16th high/middle/primary level painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting contest was held at Pyinnya Education High School in Pakokku on 17 May morning. A total of 40 participants from Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikpyu Townships took part in the contest. Acting Commander of District Police Force Police Major Khin Aung Wai, District Education Officer U Moe Swe, Township Administrator U Aung Naing Oo and Commander of Township Police Force U Than Soe enjoyed the contest supervised by the headmaster and teachers. —Kyemon

Kyaukkyi gets Phupwinta Library

Kyaukkyi, 20 May—Opening of Phupwinta Library took place at Ye Lwin Village, Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region, on 16 May morning. The library was built at the cost of K 2.5 million—K 1 million contributed by Myanmar Libraries Foundation, K 750,000 by locals, and K 750,000 by Ward Administrator U Kyaw Hla of Chanayethazan Township. 750,000 were donated for the library by well-wishers. —Kyemon

Quadruplets twins welcomed at Thaton People’s Hospital

Thaton, 20 May—A woman gave birth to quadruplets twins at Thaton People’s Hospital in Thaton District, Mon State at 11.25 am on 17 May. Mother Daw Mya Thida from Wutkyi Village of Paung Township, who had welcomed her two baby girls and two baby boys, was donated cash and medicines by Thaton District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Sein Soe and members and District Medical officer Dr Tin Maung Nyunt and well-wishers. The newborns are now under health care at the intensive care unit of the hospital. —Kyemon

CCA introduced to teachers in Pyuntaza

Pyuntaza, 20 May—The opening ceremony of Child-Centred Approach course for 2013-2014 academic year at township level was opened at Basic Education High School in Pyuntaza of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region on 17 May morning. Assistant Director U Ye Lwin of Bago Region Education Department made an opening address. Township Education Officer Daw Nay Chit May explained facts about the training course. Assistant Lecturer Daw Aye Thida Mya of Toungoo Education College reported on programme of JICA of Japan and Deputy Township Education Officer U Win Lwin introduced trainers to the trainees. Altogether 905 trainee teachers from basic education schools in Nyaunglebin Township are attending the course from 12 to 23 May. The ceremony was also attended by heads of basic education primary schools and trainees totalling about 1000. —NLM

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Pauk

Pauk, 20 May—Staff Officer U Thein Nyunt and staff from Immigration and National Registration Department in Pauk Township of Magway Region on 17 May made a field trip to Kasinza Village for issuing citizenship scrutiny cards, under the Moe Pwint 5 Plan. Region Hluttaw Representative U Myint Soe Win of Pauk Township and party visited issuance of CSC to 59 eligible persons. —Phupwinta

Hluttaw representatives meet locals in Chanayethazan Township

Mandalay, 20 May—Hluttaw representatives of Chanayethazan Township met local people from Kankauk, Pyigyimyethin, Pyigyimyetshin and Patkonpyawlbw wards at the hall of Shan nationals social association in the township on 15 May morning. Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Kyaw Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Soe Tun and Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative Dr Kyaw Hla of Chanayethazan Township recounted their experience on respective Hluttaws. The local people reported on their desires and requirements. The Hluttaw representatives fulfilled the requirements and responded to their questions. —Kyemon

Firefighters put out fire at Red & Blue Cigarettes Factory at No. 49 in Mazikon Street in Hline Township in Yangon Region on 19 May. The fire was under control at 9.35 pm on that day. —Kyemon

Drainage system to be improved in Nyaunglebin Tsp

Nyaunglebin, 20 May—Nyaunglebin Township Development Affairs Committee members carried out sanitation tasks. Agroupedled by Executive Officer U Myint Hla Thaung made a close supervision on sanitation tasks in the staff quarter’s compound of Township Development Affairs Committee and along Yadana Street on 18 May. —Kyemon

Thad点燃于10月21日, 2013年

新光之缅甸

本地新闻

绘画、卡通、海报及电脑绘画比赛在Paokkuk举办

Paokkuk, 20 May—为纪念国际反毒品和非法贩运日2013年，第16届小学及中学绘画、卡通、海报及电脑绘画比赛于17日早上在Paokkuk基本教育高等学校举行。40名来自Paokkuk、Yesagyo、Myaing、Pauk及Seikpyu镇的参赛者参加了比赛。Paokkuk镇警察部队指挥官U Khin Aung Wai、基本教育镇教育官员U Moe Swe、地方行政官员U Aung Naing Oo及镇警察部队指挥官U Than Soe都参加了比赛并得到了班主任及教师的监督。—Kyemon

Kyaukkyi建设Phupwinta图书馆

Kyaukkyi, 20 May—Phupwinta图书馆于16日早上在Ye Lwin村、Kyaukkyi镇、Bago区开放。该图书馆总成本为2500万K，100万K由当地人贡献，750万K由地方行政官U Kyaw Hla于Chanayethazan镇提供。750,000由好心人捐赠给图书馆。—Kyemon

四胞胎胞胎在Thaton医院欢迎

Thaton, 20 May—一名女子于17日早上11:25在Thaton地方医院的Paung镇，迎来两个女孩和两个男孩。母亲Daw Mya Thida来自Wutkyi村，Thaton地方医院的Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Sein Soe及成员们和地方医疗官员Dr Tin Maung Nyunt及好心人对新生儿的健康进行了护理。现在医院的重症监护室。—Kyemon

CCA引入教师在Pyuntaza


公民身份检审证在Pauk发放

Pauk, 20 May—工作人员U Thein Nyunt及工作人员从移民和国家登记部在Pauk镇（Magway区）于17日早上进行了田野考察，以发放公民身份检审证，Moe Pwint 5计划。地区Hluttaw代表U Myint Soe Win于Pauk镇及代表团参观了对59位合格者的发放。—Phupwinta

Hluttaw代表在Chanayethazan镇与当地会面

Mandalay, 20 May—Chanayethazan镇的Hluttaw代表们于15日早上在Kankauk、Pyigyimyethin、Pyigyimyetshin及Patkonpyawlbw等村庄与当地居民会面。Pyithu Hluttaw代表Dr Kyaw Myint、Amyotha Hluttaw代表Dr Soe Tun及Mandalay Hluttaw代表Dr Kyaw Hla于Chanayethazan镇分享了他们对Hluttaws的经验。当地人们报告了他们的愿望及要求。Hluttaw代表们满足了这些要求并回答了他们的问题。—Kyemon

消防员于19日在Yangon地区Hline镇Mazikon街49号Red & Blue香烟厂扑灭了火灾。当天晚上9:35火势被控制。—Kyemon

Nyaunglebin区排水系统将得到改进

Nyaunglebin, 20 May—Nyaunglebin地方发展委员会成员进行了卫生任务。由Executive Officer U Myint Hla Thaung领导的小组对地方办公室的卫生任务及Yadana街18日进行了密切监督。—Kyemon
Publication of measures of ministries concerned for complaints sent to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

Measures of the Ministry of Education for complaints about employment of B.Ed graduates and issuance of matriculation exam score sheets

1. B.Ed graduates and Dip in Ed holders are appointed as teachers. In response to teacher demand, those graduated in such specialized subjects taught in basic education schools are appointed as teachers and trained at Dip in Ed courses. However, promotion to gazette officer, the post of the basic education school principal, is limited to B.Ed graduates and superior degree holders.

2. Matriculation exam pass certificate and score sheets are issued at Nay Pyi Taw Office No. 52, Yangon (Latha) Office and Yangon, (Zwekabin) Office. Currently, Mandalay has no centre to issue such.

3. Beginning 2013, score sheets can be taken at Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon branches within a day and are posted to home within a week’s time upon application by mail. In submitting admission application to University Entrance Selection Board, it is just required exam score sheet from respective examination center and not the original exam score sheet issued from Department of Examinations Board.

Measure of the Communications and Information Technology for complaint about poor access to internet within Thongwa Township, Yangon Region and call for increased operation hours of GSM microwave station in Kyauktu Township in Magway Region

1. GSM Only (S444) was installed in Thongwa in Yangon Region, causing traffic congestion following the workload going far beyond the installed capacity and required hardware were extended and configured and 2E1 extended to upgrade to (S666). The works were completed on 27 April, 2013 and traffic analysis is being monitored now.

2. ZTE SDR (S666) is installed in Kyauktu Township. The station is in operation with 24 units of 2 volt/cell 400 AH, one battery bank and 10 KVA engine with 18 720-watt solar panels as it has no commercial power. The station gets transmission from Mindat Microwave Station in Chin State. Six solar panels and one battery bank will be added to be able to expand the operation hours of the station. In this period, diesel supplies would be increased to more power with generator.

Measure of the Yangon City Development Affairs Committee for complaints about flow of dirt even in front of house as there is no conduit on Aung Theikdi Street and Zeyathiri Ward in Dawbon Township

1. As the construction of conduits need temporary blockage in certain places, some places on Aung Theikdi Street and 80-ft Street in Zeyathiri Ward in Dawbon Township are waterlogged from 25 March, 2013 to 30 March, 2013. It was due to earth piles to be used in upgrading the 80-ft Street into concrete one and temporary blockage for construction of conduits to ensure proper flow of water. Upon completion of the conduit construction on 31 March, 2013, drains were dredged and thus there is no submergence on streets.

Undertakings over complaints about banking services

1. Regarding the complaints that K 500 is charged for the use of fax machine in depositing and drawing cash at Myanmar Economic Bank in Kyauktu Township, cash are charged in the name of undertakings.

New Zealand Transport Minister to attend OECD International Transport Forum

Wellington, 20 May—New Zealand Associate Minister of Transport Michael Woodhouse will represent New Zealand at the annual summit of the OECD (organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) International Transport Forum in Leipzig.

He will sit on the panel for a roundtable on transport issues.

New Zealand, Australia and India will provide more than 100 million Fiji dollars ($5.1 million US dollars) in official development assistance to Fiji in the 2013/14 financial year.

The previous financial year’s allocation was around 48.6 million US dollars. “We’re very proud to announce that for the first time this year we will be providing over 100 million Fiji dollars ($5.1 million US dollars) in aid funding. This demonstrates the Australian government’s unwavering commitment to the people of Fiji,” said Joanne Choe, Counsellor for Development Assistance in Fiji.

Australia boosts official development assistance to Fiji

Suva, 20 May—The Australian government announced on Monday it will provide more than 100 million Fiji dollars ($5.1 million US dollars) in aid funding. This demonstrates the Australian government’s unwavering commitment to the people of Fiji,” said Joanne Choe, Counsellor for Development Assistance in Fiji.

Australia has increased aid flows deliver on the Australian government’s promise to double the size of the Australian Agency for International Development’s (AusAID) bilateral budget to Fiji over two years, according to a statement from the Australian government on Monday.

Manager from the Australian High Commission by the AusAID, Australia’s aid programme is focused on reducing poverty and improving basic health and education services in Fiji.

“AusAID is helping the poor and vulnerable to attend school more regularly and working to see more babies growing safely through their early years. We’re also helping to promote food security and increase incomes for poor families. With this increased allocation, we will be able to improve the lives of tens of thousands more people and to reach every province of Fiji,” said Choe.

China premier says China, India to make new engine of world economy

New Delhi, 20 May—China and India are both willing and able to foster new highlights in cooperation among Asian countries and make new engine of the world economy, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday.

“China and India have the will, wisdom and capability to jointly nurture new bright spots in cooperation among Asian countries, create new engine of the world economy, provide huge growth potential and market demand for Asia and the world, and push forward China-India strategic cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity,” Li said at a small meeting with his Indian counterpart Mamohan Singh.

The Chinese premier arrived in New Delhi earlier in the day for an official visit to India, the first leg of his maiden foreign tour after he took office in March.

“The Chinese government understands that the ADB (Asian Development Bank) is not a regional organisation, and that is good for us,” said a senior official with the Indian counterpart M. Mohan Singh.

The summit “is a good opportunity to be part of a global conversation on strategies for transport, and to share knowledge and experience,” Woodhouse said in a statement on Monday.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13010N)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13010N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2013 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR:** MS T S LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**MV KOTA RANCAY VOY NO (719)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RANCAY VOY NO (719) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR:** MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (003)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.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 MOL (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**HK air traffic movements up 5.1 pct in April**

**Hong Kong, 20 May**—Passenger trips and air-traffic movements at Hong Kong International Airport rose 1.1 percent and 5.1 percent year-on-year in April, to 4.9 million and 30,530, while cargo volume increased 4.5 percent to 342,000 tons, data released by Hong Kong Airport Authority on Sunday.

The Airport Authority said that for the first four months of the year, the airport handled 19.2 million passengers, 1.28 million tons of cargo, and 119,025 flight movements, representing year-on-year growths of 4.1 percent, 2.2 percent and 4.2 percent.

Visitation was the main driver behind the growth in passenger traffic, with a 7 percent increase on the same month in 2012.

Routes to and from Chinese Mainland and Southeast Asia performed particularly well.

**Xinhua**

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**Fighter jet crashes into sea off Taipei**

**Taipei, 20 May**—A Mirage 2000 fighter jet, which was on a flight training mission, crashed into waters off northwest county Hsinchu in Taipei on Monday morning, according to local media reports.

Two pilots have been rescued following an ejection from the craft before the crash.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

The latest accident came five days after an F-16 fighter jet crashed during a routine training in waters near southwest Taipei’s Chiaoyu County.

The pilot was also rescued during the 15 May crash.

**Xinhua**

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**Australian building, construction industry to see slow recovery**

**Sydney, 20 May**—The Australian building and construction industry will see a mixed recovery over 2015-16 after a number of challenging years, according to Master Builders Australia (MBA) forecasts released Monday. While the forecasts predict a positive growth for the industry, MBA reports that the current economic climate is creating headwinds that may impede the timing and strength of recovery.

There’s light at the end of a very long tunnel, but no sign of a return to boom era levels, said MBA Chief Economist Peter Jones.

“Master Builders ... reinforces its call for ongoing macroeconomic reforms at all levels of government in order to underpin the length and strength of the recovery. This will allow the industry to enter a sustained recovery and reclaim its role as one of the economy’s key drivers,” Jones said. The residential building sector is forecast for strong improvement, as low interest rates release pent-up demand after a long period of underbuilding during a surge in population growth, MBA reports.

After marginal growth in 2012-13, the value of residential building work is predicted to grow from 46.2 billion Australian dollars (46.1 billion US dollars) in 2012-13 to 60.9 billion Australian dollars (60.7 billion US dollars) over 2015-16.

“The stronger performing states are forecast to be Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. “The key risks to the forecasts are frail consumer confidence, economic uncertainty, asset price volatility and ongoing softness in the labour market,” said Jones. Despite signs of a peak in the investment boom, the engineering construction sector is expected to remain strong, with activity increasing to 122.1 billion Australian dollars (121.7 billion US dollars) in 2012-13, before falling by 12 percent over the next three years to 108 billion Australian dollars (107.7 billion US dollars).**
Indian cinema on a mission at Cannes to dispel Bollywood image

CANNES, 20 May — Indian movie actors and a new wave of directors are on a mission at the Cannes film festival — to show that their industry, which turns 100 this year, is more than just Bollywood. The largest Indigenous contingent to date is on the French Riviera at the world’s leading cinema showcase to promote the world’s biggest film industry that makes over 1,000 films a year, compared with about 600 in Hollywood.

Movies from Bollywood’s Mumbai studios and other regional films have struggled at the global box office, with Indian cinema largely dismissed as lengthy, song-and-dance numbers. But the industry sees the 66th Cannes Festival, where India is a “guest country” to mark its centenary, as a chance to show case a new genre of Indian movies globally and to promote India as a place to both make films and win a massive audience. “If you use the term Bollywood, it really represents the song-and-dance, credibility-stretched story kind of film,” said director Amit Kumar, whose latest film “Monsoon Shootout” held its premiere at Cannes on Sunday.

‘Star Trek’ sequel tops weekend box office in North America

LOS ANGELES, 20 May — “Star Trek Into Darkness,” the newest installment in the classic intergalactic franchise, blasted to the top of movie box office charts with $70.6 million in weekend ticket sales at theaters in the United States and Canada. The new 3D voyage for Captain Kirk and the crew of the Starship Enterprise knocked mighty “Iron Man 3” into second place, while the Marvel superhero sequel grabbed $35.2 million. Jazz Age drama “The Great Gatsby” finished third with $23.4 million, according to studio estimates.

Weekend ticket sales for “Into Darkness” failed to reach the level of 2009 movie “Star Trek,” which took in $75.2 million at US and Canadian theaters without a lift from higher 3D ticket prices.

However, its overall take from Wednesday through Sunday beat the 2009 numbers, with “Into Darkness” taking in $84.1 million. The 2009 installment took in $79.2 million for the same period, according to distributor Paramount. “Into Darkness,” a $190 million production, opened late on Wednesday to grab a head start on the weekend. The take through Sunday was shy of the $100 million some box office analysts projected. Paramount said the film’s audience was comprised largely of long-time “Star Trek” fans, but was optimistic that good reviews and word of mouth would bring in a broader audience in coming weeks.

Denmark wins Eurovision on ABBA’s turf with folksy ballad

MALMO, (Sweden), 20 May — Denmark’s Emmelie de Forest won Eurovision on Saturday before an international TV audience of around 125 million, clinching the coveted crown of euro-pop with a folksy ballad backed by a wall of fire, flutes and drums.

The barefoot 20-year-old blonde stole the show as predicted by bookmakers with “Only Teardrops” in a final that saw 26 countries battle it out in the southern Swedish city of Malmo for the top prize in glitzy European pop music. “I could feel the fans and all the energy on the arena,” de Forest said after the event, adding that she was particularly proud to win in Sweden as her late father was Swedish and a Eurovision fan.

“It’s a once in a lifetime experience. I’m just the happiest girl in the world,” she said. Denmark, which has won the contest twice before — most recently in 2000 with the Olsen Brothers “Fly on the Wings of Love” — was clearly in the lead even after just half of the votes were cast. The show’s host, Swedish comedian Petra Mede, went ahead and announced the country’s win before the final votes were read out, with the red and white Danish flag flashing on her gown in a classic over-the-top Eurovision moment. Azerbaijan took second place in the contest held at the Malmo Opera Hall on May 18, 2013.

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— Reuters
Nadal and Williams win easily in Rome

París, 20 May — A capacity crowd chanting his name, the Eiffel Tower in the background: even by his own glamorous standards, David Beckham got a special send-off on Saturday as he headed into retirement with another title in the bag.

“The celebrations were incredible so it’s a nice way to walk off the pitch,” he said. “It was an emotional night, to see the reaction of the players, to see the reaction of the fans when I came off was special. ‘I did feel good (physically) but I know it’s the right time to be done, Beckham said. He had been the captain for the game.

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los Angeles, 20 May — The Ottawa Senators clawed their way back into their Eastern Conference semi-final series against Pittsburgh on Sunday, Colin Greening’s goal in double overtime giving them a 2-1 win over the Penguins in Game Three. Another minute of a 3-1 win against Stade Brest at the Parc des Princes. “It started 20 minutes before the emotion started kicking in; it was hard to run, let alone kick a ball,” said Beckham who was made captain for the game.

Senators avoid 3-0 deficit with double OT win over Pens

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Paris Saint-Germain’s David Beckham raises the French Championship trophy at the end of their team’s French Ligue 1 soccer match against Brest at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on 18 May, 2013.— Reuters

Arsenal win Champions League race, Fergie bows out

London, 20 May — Arsenal won the race for fourth place in the Premier League with a 1-0 victory at Newcastle, while Alex Ferguson’s extraordinary career ended in remarkable fashion as Manchester United ended 5-5 at West Bromwich Albion.

Arsene Wenger’s side needed three points to guarantee a spot in next season’s Champions League qualification rounds ahead of north London rivals Tot- enham and Laurent Ko- scienly’s second-half strike ensured they achieved that aim.— PTI

Bae wins first PGA Tour title at Byron Nelson

Irving, (Texas), 20 May — South Korean Bae Sang-moon made a fast start, then overcame strong winds and a mid-round wobble to clinch his maiden PGA Tour title by two shots at the By- ron Nelson Championship in Irving, Texas on Sunday. The 26-year-old, an 11-time champion on various professional tours in Asia, held his nerve in difficult conditions on a firm, fast-running layout to close with a one-under-par 69 at the TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas.

Bae, who had charged four strokes clear with 11 holes to play, fell back into a tie for the lead with overnight pacemaker Keegan Bradley after bogeying the 15th but recovered with a birdie on 16 to post a 13-under total of 267. “It is very, very happy,” a smiling Bae told CBS Sports after sinking a three- footer for par on the 18th green and thrusting both arms skyward in jubilation. “I had a great time. Actually I was a little nervous the last hole but that was not a big thing. I did it. This course was really tough and the winds were very strong but I did very well this week.”

American Bradley, the 2011 winner who had led after the first three rounds in pursuit of a fourth PGA Tour victory, had to settle for second place after battling to a 72. “I am disappointed but I will get over it,” said Bradley, who took initial control of the tournament af- ter opening with a blistering course record 60. “There is some good that I can bring out of this but I am happy for Moon. He played really good today.”

Former Masters champ- ions Charl Schwartzel of South Africa, who missed several birdies puts from between eight and 15 feet as 40mph winds gusted across the course, drew a further stroke back at 12 under after closing with a 68. Bae, who topped the 2011 Japan Golf Tour order of merit after winning three times, was a stroke behind Bradley over- night but benefited from a two-shot swing at the third to edge one ahead.— Reuters
Mexican border agents rescue 36 migrants

MEXICO CITY, 20 May—Mexican immigration agents on Sunday rescued 36 undocumented migrants who were held in the town of San Juan Chamula, in southern Chiapas state, for allegedly damaging some crops, the National Immigration Institute (INM) said.

An INM press release said the rescued migrants included four Indians, six Bangladeshis, seven Guatemalans, 18 Salvadorans, including five minors, and another minor from Honduras.

According to investigations, the truck the migrants were riding in, which had plates from Mexico’s southern state of Guerrero, drove over a patch of cultivated land, destroying the crops and leading the authorities of the communal farm to detain them for the damage.

The truck’s unidentified driver and his companion both fled the scene and the 36 migrants, meanwhile, were taken to a nearby school.

Later, the INM office in the nearby city of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, was notified of the incident, and INM personnel were sent to negotiate the group’s release with the local indigenous community of Chamula.

Community members agreed to free the detainees in exchange for getting the truck removed from their property.

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Brazilians midfielder Paulinho promises a transfer rumour.

Red de Janeiro, 20 May—Brazilian national midfielder Paulinho has denied speculation that he is on the verge of a move to Europe. The 24-year-old Corinthians star is reportedly on the radar of Inter Milan, Shakhtar Donetsk and Chelsea, among other European clubs.

Speaking after Corinthians’ 3-2 aggregate victory over Santos in the final of the Campeonato Paulista on Sunday, Paulinho said he would remain at the Sao Paulo outfit. “It’s not a goodbye. I will continue at Corinthians. Maybe because of our Copa Libertadores elimination many people said that I would leave.”

“When I receive an offer, I will make it known. But there is still nothing official,” Paulinho, who has consolidated a place in Brazil’s national team as a holding midfielder under Luiz Felipe Scolari, is understood to have a buyout fee of 20 million euros. Xinhua

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Serbia, Croatia to boost cooperation on global agricultural markets

Novi Sad, (Serbia), 20 May—Serbia and Croatia will deepen agricultural cooperation to enhance their competitiveness on global markets, senior officials from both countries said on Saturday.

“Cooperation with Croatia and former Yugoslav republics is of great importance, as only together can we be visible” on Chinese and global markets, Zeljko Sertic, president of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, told Xinhua at an ongoing agriculture fair in this Serbian city.

“We are now in the process of meeting on different levels and discussing how to make joint consortia,” he said. “That is the future of this region.”

His Croatian counterpart, Nadan Vidosic, shared a similar opinion, noting that all Balkan countries have failed to catch up with the “dramatic changes” in the agricultural industry in the past 25 years.

Projecting a big economic development between East Asia and the European Union in the next decade, he said Balkan countries will have to cooperate more in the future, because otherwise they will remain too small to be noticed.—Xinhua

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Four injured after 5.5-magnitude quake hits off Algeria’s Bejaia

Algeria, 20 May—Four people were injured after an earthquake measuring 5.5 magnitude on the Richter scale hit off Algeria’s northern coastal province of Bejaia on Sunday morning, a local media source told Xinhua.

The earthquake took place at 10:07 am (0907 GMT) on Sunday, and the epicentre was in the sea—some 20 km northeast of downtown Bejaia, the capital of Bejaia province and a Mediterranean port city, according to a statement issued by the Astronomy, Astrophysics and Geophysics Research Center.

Cracks in some old buildings and public offices in Bejaia and nearby Aokas were caused, the source at the local Soummam radio told Xinhua.

The quake triggered panic among the population of Bejaia and the neighboring provinces of Setif, Bordj Bou Arreridj and Tizi Ouzou. Xinhua

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22-5-2013 09:30 am) MST

6:00 am 1. Parrita By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
6:20 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
6:25 am 3. Documentary
7:00 am 4. News/ Weather Report
7:20 am 5. People Talks
7:35 am 6. Documentary
8:00 am 7. News/ International News
8:25 am 8. Teleplay (SEA Games)
9:00 am 9. News/ International News
9:20 am 10. How It’s Works
10:00 am 11. News
10:15 am 12. TV Drama Series
11:10 pm 13. News/ International News
12:00 pm 14. Mumbai Movies
12:25 pm 15. Traditional Boxing
1:00 pm 16. News
2:00 pm 17. India Drama Series
3:00 pm 18. News/ Weather Report
3:30 pm 19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
4:00 pm 20. News
4:30 pm 21. SEA Games Go For Gold (Boxing)
5:30 pm 22. Song of Yester Years
6:00 pm 23. News / Weather Report
6:20 pm 24. Sing A Song
6:50 pm 25. TV Drama Series
7:30 pm 26. News
7:15 pm 27. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm 28. News/ International News/ Weather Report
8:35 pm 29. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
8:45 pm 30. Present Songs
9:00 pm 31. News
9:30 pm 32. Bakery World
10:00 pm 33. Century of A One Soe Myint (Composer)
10:30 pm 34. India Drama Series
It is imperative to overcome water-related crises through regional collaboration

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses second Asia-Pacific Water Summit

The government has coordinated with individual wellwishers, relevant agencies and international community to ensure sufficient water supply in these regions. However, we will need more coordinated and multi-faceted efforts for long-term solutions. With these efforts, the percentage of total population with easy access to safe drinking water will rise.

Proposal about declaration of the state of emergency submitted

First, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint explained matters related to the summoning of today’s special session, saying that approval would be sought for extension of Ordinance No (1/2013) issued on 22 March to declare the state of emergency in Meiktila, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Thazi Townships.

Next, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu Constituency submitted a proposal over the demise of Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Maung Saw Pyu of Rakhine State Constituency No.4 and it was approved by the Hluttaw commission will be of great benefits to employees and the community to ensure wellwishers, relevant agencies and international community to ensure sufficient water supply in these regions. However, we will need more coordinated and multi-faceted efforts for long-term solutions. With these efforts, the percentage of total population with easy access to safe drinking water will rise.

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