Myanmar will continue reform process, move forwards

President U Thein Sein holds talks with President of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama at White House on 20 May.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein held talks with President of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama at White House in Washington, the USA, on 20 May.

Also present together with the President were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane and Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Than Swe. The US President was accompanied by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

After the meeting, a joint press conference by the two leaders was held at White House at about 3.30 pm.

US President Mr. Barack Obama said that the United States of America and White House cordially welcomed President U Thein Sein; that he was proud of being the first US President who visited Myanmar last year; that it was a good trip by a leader from Myanmar as President U Thein Sein made his first visit to the US during a 50-year period; and that the two countries had strange relations last 50 years.

He added that change in relations was due to a series of political and economic reform processes in Myanmar under the vanguard of the President that led the country to the democratic course; that political prisoners were freed including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the period of two years and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was now taking part in political process; that the parliament was paving the way for all-inclusiveness for the sake of the country; and that by-elections that largely deemed free and fair were successfully held.

He continued that President U Thein Sein was striving to resolve decades-long national races issues in Myanmar and in the process of enacting laws meeting democratic standards; and that all sanctions including economic sanctions had been relaxed like other countries.

Thanks to relaxation of sanctions, Myanmar economic entities would be able to run their businesses on a wider scale. More job opportunities would be brought about with an increase in trade and investments.

He said he agreed with President U Thein Sein that the long journey of reform process would take much time. He learnt that Myanmar would continue to release political prisoners and hold talks with national races organizations not only to reach ceasefire but also to encourage them to take part in political process. He confirmed the agreement to focus on the need of victims in conflict-affected areas and provide them with assistance. USAID works were underway for development of agricultural sector and upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay road, he said.

Myanmar had been engaging in ASEAN and Asia and Pacific region affairs. He reaffirmed that the US would participate in the regional affairs. He welcomed Myanmar’s reform process under the leadership of President U Thein Sein and pledged that US would help Myanmar achieve the success of President U Thein Sein’s new political reform processes that could take much time.

President U Thein Sein said that he was very glad to have a chance of holding his first-ever talks with US President Barack Obama at the White House. Amity and friendship between Myanmar and US have long been existed as both countries have established diplomatic relations since 1947. During the past decades, different political system had made strange relations between the two countries.

He said that his visit was the first-ever one by a Myanmar leader to the US during 50 years. Both countries have the same political system as Myanmar was practicing democracy system. The government had made a lot of political and economic reforms during two years. Due to its young democracy, Myanmar’s reform processes achieved successes with a spate of challenges and difficulties.

Being a developing country, Myanmar had to face many difficulties in democratic transition. High poverty rate, low job opportunities, young democracy practices and lack of qualified middle-class were underlying causes of facing these difficulties. Thanks to the US’s help, Myanmar could overcome some of these difficulties.

He expressed his thanks for President Obama’s policy shift. Today talks with President Obama mainly focused on Myanmar’s rule of law, capacity building of Tatmadaw, human rights, democracy, media, members and agriculture, education and health sectors. He praised President Obama’s farsightedness and said his visit would be a fruitful one for Myanmar.

He pledged that Myanmar would make efforts for its continued democratic reform processes and move forwards as Mr Obama said.
Theft of cash and belongings at Toungoo hospital exposed during few hours

TOUNGOO, 21 May — Toungoo No (1) police station said that they had been informed of a theft of K 70000, a citizenship scrutiny card, a service personnel identity card, a bunch of keys, a driving license a handbag worth 170,000 at Toungoo hospital by Dr Daw Ni Ni Lwin at about 1 am on 7 May.

After making necessary investigations at the hospital, police carried out further investigations to expose the theft in cooperation with ward administrators concerned. They caught Ko Lwin at about 1 am on 7 May.

Crime

Illegal teak seized on bullock cart

PAUNGDE, 21 May — Police members of Paungde police station intercepted a smuggling of illegal teak while they were on patrol at 2.30 am on 16 May.

While conducting a search of a bullock cart driven by U Hla Tun, 52, of Mekong village after stopping it, they seized two 12 feet long sawn teak and six nine feet long sawn teak, 0.10 ton of illegal teaks on the cart.

Police confiscated illegal teak, two head of cattle and a cart and filed a lawsuit against U Hla Tun.

Tragic drowning death of four-year-old boy in Thongwa Township

THONGWA, 21 May— Thongwa police said that they had reported drowning death at Padatwang village in Thongwa Township on 17 May. They rushed there and made necessary investigations into which Maung Zeyer Lin who is four years and five months old was found dead with no external injury.

According to his parents and a witness, the four-year and five-month-old child is said to have drowned after falling into the village creek behind the house while he was on his way to his grandmother’s house, 100 feet from his house. The creek is four feet in depth.

The dead body was sent to Thongwa hospital where investigation is ongoing to know whether there is third party hand in the drowning death or not.

Man dies of being run over by train

THAYAWADDY, 21 May — A man died of being knocked down by a train near mile post No (63/11) on Yangon-Pyay railroad in Kywechan village in Thongse of Thayawaddy Township of Bago Region on 16 May morning.

The victim who is believed to be about 35 years old was run over by the GF-0200 (03) 72 Pyay-Yangon down-train while he was crossing over the railway tracks.

Photo shows sanitation work being carried out by YCDC staff in Hlinethaya Township on 20 May.

KYEMON

Accident

Rollover crash of loaded truck on Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway

TOUNGGO, 21 May— A domino-effect crash involving a container truck, a light truck and four motorbikes occurred in front of a restaurant near mile post No (125) on Yangon-Mandalay road in Kaytumadi Myothit in Toungoo Township at about 1 pm on 16 May.

The crash erupted when the container truck crashed into the stationary light truck, causing it overturned. Four men on their motorbikes were injured after getting caught in the crash with the overturned light truck.

KYEMON

Kawlin Township police force steps up crackdown on drug traffickers

KAWLIN, 21 May — While Kawlin police force is carrying out a crackdown on narcotic drugs traffickers in cooperation with duty-conscious local people in Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region, a combined police force led by Police Inspector Yan Nayun Tun of anti-narcotics special squad conducted a search of vehicles at the gate of Kyutaw toll road in the township on 17 May.

While carrying out a search of a motorbike driven by Kyaw Soe Oo (a) Shan Lay together with Than Khaing (a) Maung Naing (a) Gaungkyar of Kawlin Township, they noticed suspicious of their behaviors and seized 0.1 gram which is assumed to be heroin in a penicillin bottle when one of suspects dropped it.

Now the two suspects are being taken into custody at Kawlin Township police station.

KYEMON

Four young men taken into police custody for their acts of vandalism

YANGON, 21 May — As Bhamo Township Development Affairs Department informed police on 15 May that three lamp posts worth K 50,000 had been vandalized, police launched investigations into the case of vandalism. There are 22 lamp posts setting up for security purpose and beautifying of the town along the bank of Gawyar lake in Bhamo.

According to investigations, police identified Myint Thwin, 18, Htwe Htwe Aung (a) Ko Hwe, 18, and Kyaw Zin Tun (a) Nga Pya, 13, of Paukkon ward as perpetrators and arrested them.

After questioning them, further investigations revealed that those who destroyed the traffic lights at the junction of BEHS (1/2) in Paukkon ward by throwing stones at it at 11 pm on 30 April were Myint Thwin, Htwe Htwe Aung (a) Ko Hwe and Kyaw Lin Chit (a) Pauk Si, 17. The four young men were charged with vandalism and taken into police custody.

KYEMON
Pakistan’s Nawaz Sharif says Taliban talks offer to be serious. Why can’t we talk through use of power and dialogue? — Nawaz Sharif

Pakistan’s Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) political party, addresses the party members in Lahore, Pakistan, on 20 May, 2013.

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Nawaz Sharif had proposed the name of his party as the ‘guarantor’ for the talks and had been working closely with the US and Saudi Arabia in the talks.

If confirmed, the Hezbollah’s attack on Qusair, near the Syrian capital Damascus, would be the biggest battle yet for Syria’s sectarian war.

Hezbollah in big Syria battle, says UN chief to Putin

The Taliban have fought their way out of the embattled city, but many of their fighters have chosen to stay and fight on, according to reports.

UN chief to visit Lakes Region in support of Obama

The Taliban have also been able to respond to the US-led intervention in Afghanistan, which has allowed them to maintain their control over large parts of the country.

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New Light of Myanmar

Science & Technology

Former Nokia software team unveils its first smartphone

The sign in the lobby of the corporate headquarters of Dish Network is seen in the Denver suburb of Englewood, Colorado on 6 April, 2011.—Reuters

New York, 21 May—Charlie Ergen, the chairman of US satellite company Dish Network Corp (DISH), has offered to buy bankrupt broadband company LightSquared Inc’s wireless airways, a source close to Ergen told Reuters.

Ergen’s offer for LightSquared spectrum is valued at $2 billion, Bloomberg reported citing people familiar with the bid. LightSquared, which declared bankruptcy in May 2012, was bankrolled by one of the hedge fund industry’s most powerful figures, Philip Falcone. Falcone’s plans to introduce a new wireless network in the United States fell apart when the US Federal Communications Commission said it would revoke permissions as the new network would interfere with global positioning systems used by the military. Dish declined to comment and LightSquared could not be reached out side regular US business hours.

ESA confirms astronaut

Timothy Peake to fly to Int’l Space Station in 2015

PARIS, 21 May—The European Space Agency (ESA) announced on Monday that astronaut Timothy Peake has been proposed to fly to the International Space Station for a six-month mission in 2015.

“Today I am very happy to announce the assignment of Timothy Peake for a mission to the International Space Station,” said Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA’s Director General. Peake was assigned to join a crew of Expedition 46/47 for a mission of six months in 2015. He will be the first British citizen to live and work on the space station and it will be the eighth long-duration mission for an ESA astronaut.

Peake was former helicopter test pilot and Mission Specialist for the Royal Air Force. In 2009, he was appointed as a UK航天科考员 for the British Space Agency and in 2015. He will be the first British citizen to live and work on the space station and it will be the eighth long-duration mission for an ESA astronaut.

The mission was proposed by Russian space officials in April 2015. It would introduce a new wire-less network in the US, which declared bankruptcy in May 2012, was bankrolled by one of the hedge fund industry’s most powerful figures, Philip Falcone.

Falcone’s plans to introduce a new wireless network in the United States fell apart when the US Federal Communications Commission said it would revoke permissions as the new network would interfere with global positioning systems used by the military. Dish declined to comment and LightSquared could not be reached out-side regular US business hours.

Divers get close-up looks of marine animals in the Marine Life Park of Singapore’s Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), on 21 May, 2013. RWS Marine Life Park debuts its Open Ocean Dive which offers certified divers the opportunity to get close with marine animals.—Xinhua

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Yahoo buying Tumblr for $1.1 billion, vows not to screw it up

Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer speaks at a news conference in New York on 20 May, 2013.—Reuters

S AN F R A N C I S C O / N E W Y O R K, 21 May—Yahoo Inc will buy blogging service Tumblr for $1.1 billion cash, ending the Internet giant’s pursuit of a much-needed social media platform to reach a younger generation of users and breathe new life into its ailing brand. The deal, announced on Monday, is a bold bet by Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer to revitalize the company by co-opting a Web property with strong visitor traffic but little revenue. The combination of Yahoo and Tumblr creates an online powerhouse with roughly one billion users, which will draw in more advertisers and help Yahoo keep visitors on its properties for longer periods of time, Mayer told Reuters in an interview. “Tumblr in terms of users and traffic is an immediate growth story for us,” she said. Analysts say Yahoo appeared to be overpaying for a business that has never posted a profit, makes a fraction of Yahoo’s sales, and may not contribute significantly to revenue for years. But the company, rebuffed by the French government when it tried to pay $1 billion for video site Dailymotion earlier this year, had to do something to plug a hole in its social media efforts. Yahoo made clear it was sensitive to concerns that it might damage Tumblr by making it less reverent or more corporate. “Per the agreement and our promise not to screw it up, Tumblr will be independently operated as a separate business,” Yahoo said in a statement. The deal will make Tumblr founder and CEO David Karp, 26, a multimillionaire. Tumblr is one of the Web’s most popular hubs of so-called user-generated content, drawing young people who use the platform to post pictures and text. It has more than 100 million blogs, ranging from “White Men Wearing Google Glass”—a collection of photos poking fun at the early adopters of the wearable computing devices—to housing-focused “The Worst Room.” Though Yahoo remains one of the Web’s most popular destinations, it has seen its revenue shrink in recent years as consumers and advertisers favor rivals such as Google Inc and Facebook Inc. The deal is expected to increase Yahoo’s audience by 50 percent. The acquisition, which will use up about a fifth of Yahoo’s $5.4 billion in cash and marketable securities, is the largest ever since Mayer took the reins in July with the goal of reversing a long decline in Yahoo’s business and Web traffic. DBS Group Markets analyst Mark Mahaney called it a “long-shot/long-term investment” but one that fits into Mayer’s turnaround strategy. “(Yahoo’s) fundamentals have been subpar for numerous years, in part because the company’s missing presence in Social and Mobile. Tumblr may help (Yahoo) develop that presence,” Mahaney said in a note.—Reuters

Credit Suisse replaces Morgan Stanley as No 2 Asia prime broker

H O N G K O N G, 21 May—The Asian prime brokerage unit of Credit Suisse (CSGN.VX) has replaced Morgan Stanley (MS.N) as the second largest firm servicing the region’s $148 billion hedge fund industry, a survey showed. The annual survey by industry tracker HedgeCloud, released this week, found that Goldman Sachs (GS.N) remains Asia’s top prime broker with 179 clients and total assets under management of $24.6 billion. Credit Suisse overtook Morgan Stanley by adding 14 new clients and $2.4 billion in assets over the last year, for a first prime broker in Asia, the survey showed. Prime brokers provide services such as clearing trades and lending money to hedge funds. The fiercely competitive industry is going through a rough patch in Asia, where raising capital is becoming more difficult and many funds are shutting down. For prime brokers’ mandates and assets under management in Asia click: link.reuters.com/syd3R8. Most hedge funds do not disclose how they divide their business between prime brokers, making any survey a rough estimate. A hedge fund may, for example, have five prime brokers but give 90 percent of its business to just one or two of them. In Hong Kong and China, the biggest hedge fund centers in the region, Credit Suisse emerged as the top player, replacing last year’s leader Deutsche Bank AG (DBKGn.DE). Overall, in the region, Deutsche Bank and UBS AG (UBSN.VX) retained their No 4 and No 5 rank respectively, the survey showed, while Citigroup Inc (C.N) replaced Bank of America Corp (BAC.N) as No 6 prime broker in the region.—Reuters

UK first in EU to get Merck’s new Schmallenberg vaccine

L O N D O N, 21 May—British farmers will be the first in Europe to get a vaccine against Schmallenberg virus, a new livestock disease that hit the continent in 2011. Britain’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said on Tuesday that MSD Animal Health, a unit of Merck & Co, had been issued a licence for the new vaccine after an accelerated assessment to make it available this summer. As a result, farmers will be able to vaccinate sheep and cattle before most of them become pregnant, which is important as exposure to the virus can cause damage to foetuses. Schmallenberg virus—named after the German town where it was first detected—infected sheep and cows on at least 2,600 farms in eight EU countries in 2011. It is particularly harmful to the offspring of animals infected during early pregnancy, resulting in foetal deformities, twisted spines and locked joints. Reuters

Pfizer halts study of lymphoma drug unlikely to help survival

N E W Y O R K, 21 May—Pfizer Inc, which has been on a hot streak with three recent approvals of cancer drugs, stumbled on Monday, saying it was halting a late-stage trial of a drug for aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma after independent monitors found it was not likely to improve survival. Pfizer said it would continue to study the experimental drug, inotuzumab ozogamicin, in other hematologic cancers. “Hematologic cancers are a complex group of diseases, with more than 70 different types of lymphomas, leukemias or myelomas that require unique treatment options,” Mace Rothenberg, Pfizer’s senior vice president of clinical development and medical affairs for its oncology business unit, said in a statement. No new or unexpected safety problems were identified by the independent monitors, Pfizer said. Inotuzumab ozogamicin, the largest by far since Mayer took the reins in July with the goal of reversing a long decline in Yahoo’s business and Web traffic, DBS Group Markets analyst Mark Mahaney called it a “long-shot/long-term investment” but one that fits into Mayer’s turnaround strategy. “(Yahoo’s) fundamentals have been subpar for numerous years, in part because the company’s missing presence in Social and Mobile. Tumblr may help (Yahoo) develop that presence,” Mahaney said in a note.—Reuters

Pfizer receives SoftBank waiver to consider Dish offer

T O K Y O, 21 May—Pfizer Nextel Corp said its Japanese suitor SoftBank Corp granted it a waiver allowing it to consider a $25.5 billion rival deal by Dish Network Corp, as pressure mounts on SoftBank to sweeten its offer for the No 3 US wireless carrier. Pfizer said its recommendation in favor of the SoftBank agreement had not changed, although some members of its board, including President and Chief Executive Officer Haruyuki Ito said the offer looks better than SoftBank’s deal. SoftBank, which agreed last October to pay $20.1 billion for a 70 percent stake in Sprint, said it was confidential its bid would prevail. It also announced in a separate filing on Tuesday that it would issue 400 billion yen ($3.9 billion) in bonds in June, the largest issuance ever by a non-financial Japanese company, to help pay for the Sprint deal. SoftBank President Masayoshi Son and Dish’s billionaire founder Charlie Ergen are fighting a public battle for control of Sprint after Dish offered to trump the Japanese firm’s bid last month. Son traveled to the United States this month to sell his offer to Sprint shareholders. The waiver from SoftBank comes various months of their merger agreement, filed in New York on Monday, permits Sprint and its representatives to furnish Dish with non-public information and to engage in negotiations on Dish’s offer. On 30 April, SoftBank waived some terms of its Sprint agreement so Softbank could seek more info from Dish but said at the time that the waiver did not allow SoftBank to disclose non-public information or to negotiate with Dish.—Reuters

Reuters

The logo of Swiss bank Credit Suisse is seen on a building at Paradeplatz square in Zurich, on 13 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

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The entrance of Pfizer World headquarters in New York City, on 31 August, 2003.—Reuters

Reuters

Pfizer Inc, which has been on a hot streak with three recent approvals of cancer drugs, stumbled on Monday, saying it was halting a late-stage trial of a drug for aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma after independent monitors found it was not likely to improve survival. Pfizer said it would continue to study the experimental drug, inotuzumab ozogamicin, in other hematologic cancers. “Hematologic cancers are a complex group of diseases, with more than 70 different types of lymphomas, leukemias or myelomas that require unique treatment options,” Mace Rothenberg, Pfizer’s senior vice president of clinical development and medical affairs for its oncology business unit, said in a statement. No new or unexpected safety problems were identified by the independent monitors, Pfizer said. Inotuzumab ozogamicin
President U Thein Sein receives former US Secretary of State, World Bank President

YANGON, 21 May—The 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar concluded Wednesday, 22 May, 2013 in Yangon bringing together all relevant media stakeholders including government officials, private and state owned media companies, professional journalists as well as associations, academia, civil society and international media institutions and civil society. Our country’s media reform cannot be fully accomplished without the active participation of all of you,” said H.E. U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Information, at the opening of the conference.

This year’s conference was organized by the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Media Development Themeatic Working Group (MDTWG) in partnership with UNESCO and International Media Support (IMS), with the support of a wide range of development partners and international and national media groups. It covered topics such as media legislation and regulation, regional media reforms, media, peace and conflict, business of media, media and good governance, and journalism training and education.

“Free media is the cornerstone of a democratic society. Independent journalism requires real independence from economic and political ownership, proper education and further training; and good and sound business plans and profitable companies that reinvest in journalism. We will continue to partner with Myanmar in its reform process towards truly independent and free media,” said Danish Ambassador Mikael Winther, on behalf of the embassies of Denmark, Sweden and Norway as the key donors of the conference.

President U Thein Sein seen together with former US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton. —MNA

Myanmar National-level Leading Committee of PATROL meets

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—First meeting of Myanmar National-level Leading Committee of the Partnership Against Transnational-crime through Regional Organized Law-enforcement (PATROL) by Myanmar Police Force and UNODC, was held at Myanmar International Convention Center here yesterday.

It was attended by PATROL project officers from UNODC and senior officers from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, General Administration Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Customs Department and Myanmar Police Force.

The meeting focused on opening of border liaison offices and training courses and provision of office equipment.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with President of World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim.—MNA

Seven culprits sentenced for killing monk, arson attack in Meiktila conflict

MEIKTILA, 21 May—Meiktila District Court and Meiktila Township Court sentenced seven criminals today for killing a monk and for arson attack to an education office during the conflict in Meiktila which erupted in March.

Meiktila District Court heard the cases from 22 April to 20 May and sentenced Anawa (a) Myat Ko Ko to life imprisonment plus two two-year imprisonment with hard labour separately.

Myo Nyunt (a) Myo Nyunt Oo (a) Usaman, Myo Tun (a) Myo Tun Nyunt (a) So Lai Man and Pho Chio (a) Ibrahim were sentenced to 10 years with hard labour plus two two-year imprisonment with hard labour separately.

Ibrahim and 2-year hard labour sentence each to Barjay (a) Zaw Thet Naing and Pho Cho (a) Ibrahim were sentenced to 10 years with hard labour plus two two-year imprisonment with hard labour separately.

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SOURCE: MNA

Conference demonstrates strong support for current media reforms in Myanmar

With nearly 300 participants the 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar on 20–21 May in Yangon brought together all relevant media stakeholders in a joint push to further support the media reform process after a year with significant milestones.

YANGON, 21 May—The 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar continued for the second day at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here today. During the conference, the participants from news agencies and media and Training”. Ms Rosa Maria Gonzalez, UNESCO CI Regional Adviser; U Tha Hta Saw, Chief Editor of the Open News Journal and Member of Myanmar Press Council; Senior Editor Daw Nan Lwin of the Kumudra Journal; Dr. Thida Tin, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department and U Tint Swe, Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television, replied the questions raised by attendees.—MNA

PRESS RELEASE

President U Thein Sein seen together with former US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton.—MNA

The meeting focused on the Clinton Foundation’s supply for sufficiency of drinking water in Myanmar, reducing maternal and child mortality rate, technical assistance for production and storage of agricultural products, power supply, applying of solar energy, supply of hospital equipment and medicines, as well as support for reform process in the country.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein held discussions with President of World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim at the same venue at 10.30 am.

During the meeting, they concentrated on maintenance of Ayeyawady River, generating of electricity, promoting of socioeconomic status of rural people, and World Bank’s financial assistance for construction of infrastructures in the country.

Also present at the calls together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wonna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Than Htay and Ambassador U Than Swe. —MNA

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Donor family poses for documentary photo infront of the car they donated.

Car donated for social services group

Mandalay, 21 May—
A donor family donated a Super Custom to Kyezin Cetana social service group in Amarapura Township.

The group is providing humanitarian aids and leading philanthrophic activities in villages in the township.

The incidents that delay of transport cost lives are now a thing of the past thanks to the group.

The donation ceremony was held at Shwe Da-hyoe monastery in Sadaw village on 19 May.

The donors said the donation was in memory of their parents. Village-tract administrator U Thein Shwe, on behalf of the group, spoke words of thanks.

Free journalism English course opened

Victoria University College is providing first free-of-charge journalism English course to local journalists.

Yangon, 21 May—The first private university in Myanmar Victoria University College is providing English for Journalists free of charge course to local journalists at the lecture hall of the university in upper Pansodan street here as of 18 May.

The school is under management of principle Dr Nay Tun Naing and staffed by four local lecturers and two foreign teachers: one each from US and Ireland.

Lectures are being provided in both theory and practical.

Asked about the purpose of the course, lecturer U Thein Htut Hsan said, “The purpose of the training is to help Myanmar media men get mix up with international media sphere, obtain international experience and improve Myanmar media world.”

Twenty five reporters and editors from local media outlets are attending the course that lasts three months.

Journalism certificates will be conferred on trainees on completion of the course.

Mandalay grows shade trees on traffic islands

Mandalay, 21 May—
Parks and Playgrounds Department under Mandalay City Development Committee is speeding up greening tasks on major roads in Mandalay and its environs.

The department is growing shade trees on traffic islands and on either side of the roads.

Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Moun, accompanied by Secretary U Ohn Maung, committee members, the joint secretary and the head of department, inspected the growing of shade trees on traffic islands in Chanmyathazi Township with the use of machinery on 16 May.

Head of the department U Soe Moe Thein reported on progress in growing of shade trees in the city.

NyaungU farmers upbeat after early monsoon

NyaungU, 21 May—
NyaungU Township is a township in which economy is based on agriculture.

Rains on early April or May is the invaluable ones for farmers in the region because it allows them to group sesame and beans and pulses early.

The farmers in the region cultivate six-month bean that can endurance even drought.

As rain poured on 15 May, the farmers started growing sesame and beans at full extend.

The beans could be harvested within three months.

According to U Kyn Ngwe, a farmer from Kan Thayar village in Nga-thauk Township, they could cultivate double-cropping pattern if the monsoon enters early.

Two injured in accident at Nyaunglebin head-on collision

Nyaunglebin, 21 May—Two trucks from different directions collided on Bogoyoke road in Nyaunglebin in Bago Region on 18 May morning, injuring two on board.

Two injured persons—both from six-wheeled truck—are in stable conditions.

The six-wheeled truck was leaving Nyaunglebin for DaikU while the 12-wheeled truck bumped into it at about 6.30 am.

In the incident, driver of the truck Ko Phone Ngwe and passenger U Tun Hlaing of DaikU were injured.

The 12-wheeled car which ran into the six-wheeled truck was damaged to the head.

After the accident, Nyaunglebin police station has opened a case against Zaw Min Latt, driver of the 12-wheeled truck which took wrong road and collided the smaller one.
Set in motion a system where students can be fit and healthy

All basic education schools under the Ministry of Education will be opening soon for the 2012-2014 academic year. Parents, teachers and students are making preparations along with school enrollment activities to ensure a peaceful pursuit of education throughout the year, spending a lot of mental and physical strength as well as financial strength. A student must be physically strong and morally upright to become an outstanding one who has a strong tradition of academic excellence. A lack of personal hygiene can have certain social and health ramifications which can spur students to stay away from schools. Encouraging children to regularly wash their hands will directly impact the school facilities, students are more likely to become ill and to be absent from school. And all schools are to place a high priority on sanitation and set in motion a system where students can be fit and healthy.

Drinking water systems in some schools lack water filtration, meaning the water may not be safe to partake. And some schools even lack sufficient water supplies for cleaning, which results in toilets become unsanitary and a threat to children’s health.

One of the most important responsibilities of a modern society is to educate its young. As long as one’s pursuit of knowledge is ongoing it can be said that one is undergoing the process of continuing education. Just as students’ life is devoted to the quest not only for the truth but for certitude, they are constant learners who get set in the way to the pinnacle of their career.

Cycling Contest for Pre-SEA Games

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 May—For success of the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar and cycling event, Pre-SEA Games Cycling contest was held at Rose Roundabout on Yazahtani Road, here, this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Leading Committee for Holding 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung.

First, the participant teams took position at designated places and Union Ministers U Tint Hsan and U Soe Maung presented gifts and certificates of honours to contending teams. Then, Union Minister U Tint Hsan opened men’s individual 50 kilometer contest from the starting point and women’s individual 30 kilometer event followed.

The prize awarding for first day was held near Uppatasanti Pagoda on Yazahtani Road and Union Minister U Soe Maung presented prizes to winners.

A total of 41 athletes including 18 women from six countries took part in the first day tourney. In women’s individual record contest, NONTASIN Chanpeng from Thailand stood first, MOHAMMAD Mariana of Malaysia the second followed by Mu Mu Aye of Myanmar.

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 May—President U Thein Sein attended a round-table discussion jointly organized by US-ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce held at the Office of US Chamber of Commerce in Washington of the United States of America at 5.20 pm yesterday. Also present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers, deputy ministers, Ambassador U Than Swe, departmental heads, Chairman of US-ASEAN Business Council Mr. Alexander C. Feldman, Vice-Chairman of US Chamber of Commerce Ms. Tami Overby, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell, Mr. James N. Succi of General Electric, Mr. John Keogh of ACE Co, Mr. Steve Biegun of Ford Co, Mr. Carolyn Brehm of P&G Co., CEC members of the US-ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce and invited persons.

President U Thein Sein said: I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the US Chamber of Commerce and the US-ASEAN Business Council for hosting this dinner.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you all that Myanmar is ready to work with the international investors as an equal partner.

The economic framework of political, economic, social and legal priorities that will determine the contours of Myanmar’s investment regime. My Government is also forging ahead to reform and bring Myanmar’s Arbitration System in line with the accepted international standards. We are in the process of entering into the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Leading Authority in Myanmar to take the necessary actions to deliver on our commitment to implement EITI. In line with people’s wishes for responsible investment, my Government is serious about establishing a framework for dialogue about the governance of Myanmar’s natural resources.

I would also like to take this time to discuss the steps my Government is taking to build investor confidence and promote responsible investment in Myanmar. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you all that Myanmar is ready to work with the international investors as an equal partner.

Myanmar Investment Commission formed under the FDI law is composed of Government Ministers, experts, and representatives from civil society organizations.

The FDI law is just one dimension in an integrated framework of policies to support agricultural, economic, social and legal priorities that will determine the contours of Myanmar’s investment regime. My Government is also forging ahead to reform and bring Myanmar’s Arbitration System in line with the accepted international standards. We are in the process of entering into the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) which is aimed at improving the transparency and accountability of natural resource revenue. Myanmar’s Arbitration System is the third tier of the dispute resolution framework, which is expected to provide an independent and neutral forum for the resolution of disputes between investors and the State.}

New Light of Myanmar

President U Thein Sein attends round-table discussion of ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce

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

My country’s strategic location in the region should also provide our international partners with ample business opportunities.

The country of 60 million sits at the new crossroads of Asia. With China to our northeast, India and Bangladesh to our west, the other nations of ASEAN to our south and east, we border more than two billion people and the fastest growing markets in the world.

Our country, once isolated not just by politics but by physical barriers, is now poised to break those barriers.

In the near future 2014-2015, there will be a new economic landscape in ASEAN. I would like to ask you all to seize these new opportunities for mutual benefit.

We want to lay the foundations for a robust middle class. For that to happen, we would like to invite American companies to come and invest in Myanmar. After all, the discussion came to an end with remarks by the Vice-Chairman of US Chamber of Commerce.
With the help of neighbours, the strength of people, with the help of American people, we will succeed

NAY PYIT TAW, 21 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers an address at Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington, D.C., of the USA at 4.15 pm LST on 20 May.

Present at the ceremony were the Secretary of the Union, the Deputy Ministers, and the departmental heads, the Chancellor of SAIS of Johns Hopkins, students and guests.

At the ceremony, the President said:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today and I am extremely grateful to Dean Vali Nasr for his kind invitation for me to speak at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies as part of my visit.

I know that the ties between Johns Hopkins SAIS in particular with Myanmar are more than half a century old. The Hopkins Center in Yangon was established in 1954 as a leading educational and research institution in Asia and over the years dozens of Myanmar students have been educated at SAIS, including several current senior diplomats and a member of my own advisory council.

I hope very much that we will be able to reestablish the strong connections that once existed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here and I am especially pleased to be able to speak to you at this time on Myanmar’s transition, its vision of the future, and its vision for the future partnership with the United States and the American people.

The past two years under my government have been a time of transition. The Military rule was ended, a new constitutional was put into effect and we have begun a series of political and economic reforms that we hope will build a stable democracy and a strong market-oriented economy.

At the same time we are working to peacefully end the armed conflicts that have plagued our nation since independence in 1948. And we are trying hard to end Myanmar’s isolation, see the removal of all sanctions, and make the contributions we can to both regional and global security and development.

I believe what we are trying to achieve in Myanmar is quite unprecedented. We are transitioning from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one and from a centralized economy to one based on a free market.

At the same time, we are engaged in a political dialogue process and national reconciliation. We are also reengaging with many governments and international institutions for the first time in decades, taking on all under the burden of remaining economic sanctions.

We face tremendous challenges in a poor country. Many of our institutions must be adjusted, others entirely reformed. New ones must be created. Mentalities must change. We must move towards a state that sees itself first and foremost as the servant of the people. After decades of authoritarian rule this is no easy task. We must move towards an economy that is equitable, that is fair and based on a level playing field, that develops our abundant natural wealth but in a way that protects our natural environment.

To achieve all this we need maximum international support, including from the United States, to train and educate, share knowledge, trade and invest, and encourage others to do the same.

Periods of transition are always fraught with risk. But I know my country and I know my people. I know how much people want democracy, how much they want to see democracy take root, put behind decades of isolation, catch up with other Asian economies, end violence and poverty. Everyone accepts that this is the direction we must take. Everyone understands the need for compromise, tolerance and patience.

Yes, there may be spoilers; there may be those who see their interests threatened. We have seen in recent months extremely tragic inter-communal violence. But I assure you our commitment will not waiver. I am confident that we will find success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our transformation is not taking place in a vacuum. Asia is changing fast and a part of the world that was once a by-word for war and poverty is now entering perhaps its greatest period ever of peace and prosperity.

A new generation, free from the burdens of authoritarianism and ideological conflicts of the past, is taking charge in the democratizing peace building processes.

My government has reached ceasefires with ten non-state armed groups. I am confident we can soon reach a ceasefire with the remaining major non-state armed group, the Kachin Independence Organization and Army. But that is not enough.

We cannot be less than sustainable peace. It will mean compromise. It will mean the further devolution of power to the state and regional levels. It will mean new agreements on resource sharing. We wish to do this in a way that includes all citizens. We want to include not only the armed groups, but also political parties and civil society from all ethnic communities in the political dialogues to come. Peace must be rooted in the broadest possible participation of public support.

And we must forge a new and more inclusive national identify, Myanmar people of all ethnic backgrounds and all faiths—Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and others—must feel part of this new national identity. We must end all forms of discrimination. And we must ensure not only that inter-communal violence is brought to a halt, but that all perpetrators are brought to justice.

As we move towards democracy, the challenge is to manage what is and should be an increasingly competitive political space in a way that strengthens democratic change and does not undermine its future success. We must manage expectations.

And through democracy must come a new era of value and competition, we must try to find ways to work together. We must nurture policy-based political parties. But at this critical juncture, we must never rise above the politics and set our aims towards a greater nation-building and state-building agenda.

A key part of that agenda will be to reach peace agreements with all non-state armed groups.

As we all know, there is a balance between security imperatives and the rights and openness that are a part of a more democratic society. We ask your help and advice in finding the right balance.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that first

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington, D.C., of the USA.—MNA

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Myanmar person to reach the shores of this great land was a student by the name of Maung Shaw Loo, who came from Mawlamyine in 1858. He studied at Bucknell in Pennsylvania and then went to medical school in Cleveland and in 1858 President Andrew Jackson at the White House, before returning home to a long medical career.

The year before Maung Shaw Loo arrived in America, the Myanmar king Mindon wrote a letter to President Franklin Pierce and the year after to President James Buchanan, calling for trade and diplomatic ties between our countries. Our ties thus go back more than a hundred and fifty years.

I would like to begin a new era in Myanmar-US relations a new partnership between our governments and even more importantly a new friendship between our two peoples.

We hope for your help in making our transforma- tion a success. We hope for help from your great universities and investment from your companies. US government, Congress and civil society organizations should give their support in line with evolving dynamics of current Myanmar politics a transparent manner in order for our democratization process to succeed.

With the help of our neighbors, the strength of our people, and with the help of American people, I know we will succeed. Thank you.
Ceremony to supply water from spring held

Kalay, 21 May—A ceremony to supply water from spring was held at Yeso Village, Natchang Village-tract in Kalay of upper Sagaing Region on 18 May. Sagaing Region Chin National Race Affairs Committee Assistant-Committee U Lin Htut opened the tap to supply water to the local people.

The 3350 feet long water pipeline is funded by Township Development Affairs Committee.

Traffic Congestion

Traffic lights have been installed near Yonsahe Bus Stop at junction of Kyansittha and Yangon-Nyaungdon Roads in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon North District. Members of traffic police corps supervise tasks of traffic congestion daily to be free from traffic accidents.—Kyemon

Donations

Cash and kind provided to victims of relief camps in Meiktila

Meiktila, 21 May—A ceremony to donate cash and relief aid to relief camps in Meiktila was held at the Yeiktha of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications on 18 May morning.

Myanmar Hoteliers Association ( Mandalay Zone) donated K 7.0545 million for the victims of relief camps to Mandalay. The Chin National Race Affairs Committee also donated K 6.75 million, one bag of rice, assorted cosmetics worth K 6.8 million, sewing detergent powder worth K 11.7 million, and money worth K 400 thousand. It was attended by District Police Force Police Li-Col Sit Nay Pin, Deputy Director of District Development Affairs, State Police Officer U Sa Wally Sarant and Staff Officer of District Police. The families of two victims from five relief camps in Meiktila also attended the ceremony. The hotel donated K 13.8 million, one bag of rice, five water coolers, pots and clothes.—Kyemon

Crime

Illegal commodities seized at junction of roads to Sittoung Bridges

Waw, 21 May—The mobile team-2 led by the director and party searched the vehicles that were loaded with illegal commodities at the strategic road junction of old and new Sittoung Bridges in Waw Township of Bago Region at 12.30 am on 17 May.

Vehicle with the number plate of 8Hsa/5456 driven by Win Thein then not obey the search of the authorities and drove away. The personnel of the campaign stopped the vehicle and searched it. The mobile team caught it at Abya Bote Village between mile posts 75/6 and 75/7 and took it to the based area of the mobile team. Then, officials searched the vehicles and seized assorted cosmetics worth K 6.8 million, sewing machines, water pumps and detergent powder worth K 11.7 million, totally amounting to K 18,521,600.

Action is taken against over the illegal commodities.—Kyemon

Bull show held in Nyaunglebin

Nyaunglebin, 21 May—Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department organized a bull show in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago District, Bago Region on 18 May.

It was attended by Bago Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Than Win, Bago Region Livestock Development Committee Chairman Dr Zaw Naing Wing, departmental personnel, cattle owners and enthusiasts.

Dr Aung Than Win spoke on the occasion and the first of its kind in Bago Region and bull cart event will be held in addition to head of township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Wai Phyo.—Kyemon

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 May—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

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

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

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-214444), Kayin State Police Force (058-233555), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-239989), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (054-228333), Yangon Region Police Force (00-2301990), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

U Moe Kyaw Soe-Daw Thida family donated K 400,000 to Byamaso free clinic located on 62nd Street between 34th and 35th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 18 May. After accepting donation, Byamaso Social Service Association presents certificate of honour to wellwisher.—Kyemon

Photo shows illegal commodities seized from truck.
Fees, new incinerators, larger dump sites key to HK waste control

HONG KONG, 21 May—Hong Kong will cut 40 percent of its waste in 10 years by imposing garbage fees, building incinerators and extending the use of dump sites, according to a government blueprint on waste management unveiled on Monday.

The “Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources” described as “ambitious but practical” by Environment Secretary Wong Kam-sing, sets targets for promoting resource conservation, reducing solid waste and investing in waste-to-energy infrastructure.

Of the 9.000 tons of solid waste Hong Kong produced in an average day in 2011, about 44 percent was food waste, followed by 22 percent paper waste and 19 percent plastic waste.

The aim is to cut the average daily per-capita waste disposal of 1.27 kilograms in 2011 to 1 kg by 2017 and 0.8 kg by 2022, Wong said.

The three landfills in use are expected to be full in 2015. Other than dumping waste and recycling, Hong Kong has closed other waste since all old incinerators were closed in the 1990s.

“We believe that (incineration) is an indispensable component in our blueprint...an integral part,” Wong said.

But the incinerator planned to be built on an outlying island in Hong Kong’s southwest is on hold as a judicial review into opposition to it continues.

To deter waste production, the government launched a plastic bag levy in 2009 and under a waste scheme to be imposed in 2016 at the earliest garbage disposal by households will be charged for, as is the case in Taiwan and South Korea, to create an economic incentive for reducing waste, Wong said.

Current operational costs for waste collection, transfer, treatment and landfill fill amount to HK$1.4 billion ($180 million) a year, the bureau’s figure showed.

Ships rerouted to protect Ningaloo Reef in Australia

SYDNEY, 21 May—The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) on Tuesday announced the establishment of a recommended area for ships to help protect the world heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef from 1 June, 2013.

The Marine Notice will advise ships to keep at least two nautical miles from the edge of Ningaloo Reef at its narrowest part, and 8-12 nautical miles along the remainder of the Ningaloo Coast, to reduce the risk of shipping accidents and ship-sourced pollution.

AMSA Chief Executive Officer Graham Peachey said the new area to be avoided was approved in late 2012 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized United Nations agency responsible for safe shipping.

“The Ningaloo Coast lies along a major coastal shipping route and it is frequented by ships servicing Australia’s North West Shelf oil and gas industry,” said Peachey.

“The coastline’s length and remoteness pose challenges to any incident response, so it is important we do what we can to protect the reef,” he added.

Home to some 500 species of fish, manta rays and turtles, plus 300 varieties of coral, Ningaloo Reef stretches across 5,000 square kilometers of ocean in northwest Western Australia. It is one of the world’s largest fringing reefs, famous for reef diving and docile whale sharks.

“The Coast is designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Sea Area (ESSA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity,” said Peachey.

Peachey added that the ship routing measure would have minimal impact on shipping, adding a little over one nautical mile for ships travelling between Fremantle and north-west Australia to skirt further away from the reef edge.

Fire engulfs govt building in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 21 May—A major fire broke out on Monday at the state-owned National Buildings Construction Corporation building in the Indian capital, gutting the fourth floor completely, a senior police official said.

“The fire broke out early this morning in one room of the fourth floor, and then it engulfed all the rooms on the same floor. Some 20 fire tenders have been pressed into service and the fire is now under control even though white smoke has still been billowing out. There have been no reports of any casualty yet,” he said, on condition of anonymity. A probe has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire, the official added.

23 Cambodian garment workers injured in kiosk collapse

PHNOM PENH, 21 May—At least 23 workers at Top World garment factory, owned by Hong Kong investors, in the capital’s Meanchey District were injured on Monday when a kiosk collapsed into lake in the factory’s complex, municipal police chief Chhou Sovan said.

He said the kiosk, built in the lake, used to be the place where workers relax and have their daily lunch.

“It fell into the water at night time when workers had lunch,” he told reporters after the accident. “Some 23 workers were injured in the accident.”

Police said the collapse of the kiosk with concrete floor and iron zinc roof was probably due to old building that lacks solid foundations.

It was the second accident involving Cambodian garment workers in less than a week. On Thursday last week, there was a partial collapse of a concrete ceiling in Wing Star Shoes, a Taiwanese-owned factory, in Kampot Speu Province, which left two workers dead and nine seriously injured.

Van Sou Ieng, president of the Garment Manufacturer’s Association of Cambodia (GMAC), appealed on Friday to all factories in the country to focus on safety standards in order to avoid similar accidents in the future.

Indonesia seeking more bilateral cooperation with New Zealand

JAKARTA, 21 May—Indonesia is seeking more bilateral cooperation, particularly in the trade and investment sector, with New Zealand that would eventually benefit the two economies, an official said here on Monday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the New Zealand-Indonesia Business Forum, here, Trade Deputy Minister Bayu Krisnamurti said that many business potentials can be explored beyond trade that has been established well between the two economies.

“We should not only focus on trade because there are many potentials that we can explore to fulfill the needs of bigger market, ASEAN for instance,” Bayu said.

He said that Indonesia and New Zealand can carry out cooperation in geothermal power projects to meet increasing demand for electricity among ASEAN countries.

He added that New Zealand has profound expertise in developing geothermal power while Indonesia de- poses enormous geothermal energy that is yet to be exploited to produce electricity.”—Xinhua
Surge in Chinese tourists drives new record in visitors to New Zealand

Wellington, 21 May—A surge in Chinese tourists drove up the number of overseas visitors to New Zealand last month to a new record for April, the New Zealand government statistics agency announced on Tuesday.

Total visitor arrivals last month were up 3 percent from April last year to 200,600, exceeding the previous April record of 197,800 in 2011, according to Statistics New Zealand.

Visitor numbers increased despite the earlier timing of the Easter holiday, population statistics manager Andrea Blackburn said in a statement.

“This year Easter fell in March, compared with early April last year. As a result, visitor arrivals this April were down in the first week of the month, but well up during the rest of the month,” she said.

The number of visitors from China showed the biggest change, with 6,600 more arrivals, or 36 percent higher, than in April 2012, and the majority were holidaymakers. Last month’s figures for Chinese visitors were five times higher than the 4,300 recorded 10 years ago in April 2003.

In the year to the end of April, 2.61 million overseas visitor arrivals in New Zealand, unchanged from the April 2012 year, as falling visitor numbers from the United Kingdom, Malaysia, France and South Africa offset rises from China and Australia.

Tourism New Zealand Chief Executive Kevin Bowl said in a statement that the figures for April showed steady growth from the sector’s core markets with holiday arrivals for the first four months of the year up 9.8 percent on the same period last year.

Jordan gets 200 million USD of US aid

Amman, 21 May—Jordan and the United States signed on Monday an agreement that granted the Arab kingdom an aid of 200 million US dollars, state-run Petra news agency reported.

Jordan’s Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Ibrahim Seif said the money will be used to support ventures in the fields of health, water and education. He added that the aid came at a critical time as the country is facing an overwhelming influx of Syrian refugees. Seif, who reviewed challenges in hosting the refugees, said the grant will help reduce the pressure on the state budget induced by the refugee problem.

Also, Jordan and the United States are expected to sign a 360-million-dollar assistance agreement in September. According to official figures, Jordan now hosts more than 530,000 Syrian refugees who have fled the unrest in their country. Its government has repeatedly appealed the international community for help to deal with the increasing number of Syrians arriving in the country.

Loose security leads to kidnapping of Egyptian soldiers in Sinai

Cario, 21 May—The kidnapping of seven Egyptian soldiers in Sinai and the excessive demands of kidnappers reflect deteriorating security and lack of development in the chaotic peninsula, Egyptian analysts said, stressing Sinai development is an urgent need to combat extremists.

On Thursday, a group of militants, believed to be members of the hardline Jihadist group, abducted seven recruits from the police and the military in North Sinai’s Green Valley, some 20 km away from the governorate’s capital Arish.

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi stressed on Sunday that there would be no dialogue with the kidnappers of Sinai soldiers and promised comprehensive development in Sinai as one of the means of combating growing extremism in the peninsula. “The kidnapping reflects worsening security conditions in Sinai and it negatively affects the reputation of the Egyptian police and military,” said security expert General Sameh al-Wazi, who rejected any negotiations with kidnappers.

Waziri referred the growing extremism in Sinai to the lack of social and economic development. “Over 500,000 soldiers in Sinai are under poverty line, which makes them desperate and easily recruited in such extremist groups,” he explained.

The ex-police official told Xinhua that Sinai should be given priority in development instead of the ongoing Suez Canal Corridor, warning that without construction and development in Sinai it would be “a resort for terrorism and a suitable land for extremism.”

Egypt’s President Mohamed Morsi stressed on Sunday that there would be no dialogue with the kidnappers of Sinai soldiers and promised comprehensive development in Sinai as one of the means of combating growing extremism in the peninsula. “The kidnapping reflects worsening security conditions in Sinai and it negatively affects the reputation of the Egyptian police and military,” said security expert General Sameh al-Wazi, who rejected any negotiations with kidnappers.

Three die in explosion at Spanish military base

Madrid, 21 May—Three people were killed and two were seriously injured as the result of an explosion on Monday in the military base of Alvaro de Sotomayor in the locality of Villar, close to the city of Almeria in southeast Spain.

The base is home to a unit of the Spanish Legion and the explosion occurred at 14:20 local time (GMT 1220), although the cause has not yet been revealed.

The Spanish Military have confirmed the news, but have so far been unable to confirm the identities of the fatalities; beyond saying that they were non-commissioned officers and that all were experts in explosives.

The military added that the most serious of the two people injured has suffered an open fracture of the femur.

Sappers are often involved in clearing mines and explosives, as well as taking part in the construction of fortifications and work on communications infrastructures.

An investigation has been opened into the death of a weapons technician and a team of 18 people is working to normalize the situation in the base.

Xinhua
Keanu Reeves makes director debut with modern Kung Fu film

CANNES, 21 May — He’s played a science-fiction hero, policeman and even Hamlet. But now actor Keanu Reeves is taking on a new role — as director of a contemporary martial arts movie aimed at both Chinese and Western audiences.

Reeves has stepped behind the camera to make his directorial debut with “Man of Tai Chi”, a trilingual film loosely based on the life of a stuntman, Tiger Chen, whom he befriended while working on the sci-fi “The Matrix” trilogy.

At the Cannes film festival to promote his new movie, due out later this year, Reeves said he had always wanted to try directing and spent five years developing the script. “It was also tied to getting older,” Reeves, 48, who was long one of Hollywood’s most glamorous action stars, told Reuters Television in an interview at a hotel on Cannes palm-lined waterfront.

He said the main character of the film, in which he also acts, is a stuntman and martial arts expert, struggling to maintain his traditional values and beliefs against the pressures of modern society. This character is played by Chen. Reeves plays the villain who lures him into underground fighting and the promises of money, glamour and power.

The film, made in English, Cantonese and Mandarin and filmed in China and Hong Kong, is meant to appeal to both the huge market in China, where Reeves won fans with “Matrix” and for having a Chinese great-grandparent, and in Western countries.

Madhuri Dixit makes Lauren Gottlieb go weak in her knees

MUMBAI, 21 May — Ace dancer and actress Lauren Gottlieb, winner of third season of So You Can Think You Can Dance, is jittery about performing in front of Bollywood dancing diva Madhuri Dixit on Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 6. Madhuri Dixit is co-judging the show with filmmaker Karan Johar and choreographer-director Remo Fernandez.

“I think it is good to be nervous. I am always nervous when I perform. It gives me that adrenaline rush. I think it will be extra nerve-wracking to perform in front of Madhuri. She had been brought to my eyes last year. No one can compare to her,” Lauren told reporters.

But at the same time, she feels that “both, in films and dancing, I feel I can relate to her. She just has a remarkable career and I think I can learn so much from her”, she added.

Lauren confesses that she would be unable to do justice to any of Madhuri’s songs. The Indian actress has dazzled everyone with her dance numbers Ek Do Teen, Chane ke khet mein and Dhak dhak karne laga. “I don’t know if I can do justice to one of her songs. I don’t know if anyone can do justice as she does,” she said. Starting her career in India with dance film, ABCD, Lauren is “excited to push myself to my limits” on the show starting 1 June.

“The person I am, I can compete to an extent. I can have fun with it, but at the end of the day I want everyone to do their best. I feel the only person who I can compete with is yourself. I am excited to push myself to my limits. I am a fan of all the artists. If anyone needs help, I will help and we will build that friendship,” she said. The actress looks at Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa as a challenge. “It will be difficult. This will be a completely new way of dancing and moving. The music and culture of dancing here is so foreign to me. I want to try to pick it up,” she said and added that she is trying to catch up previous season on YouTube.

Week two of Cannes film festival gets off to explosive start

CANNES, 21 May — Japanese director Takashi Miike got the final week of the Cannes film festival off to an explosive start on Monday, with big budget cop thriller “Shield of Straw” a sharp contrast to the more intense, intimate movies screened so far. Typically for Cannes, where critical passions run high, both exuberant cheers and boos rang out after an advance press screening of “Wara No Tate” (“Shield of Straw”), one of 20 entries vying for the top Palme d’Or prize awarded on Sunday. Miike, whose last appearance at the world’s most important cinema showcase was in 2011, said the selection committee’s decision to include his high-octane cop movie in the main lineup came as a shock. “When I learned this film was selected I was very surprised, I was really astonished,” Miike told reporters ahead of its official on Monday evening premiere. “If I got the Palme d’Or I’d be delighted of course,” he said. “But I don’t really think this is a film made for the Palme d’Or. But I’m delighted to know that a rather different kind of film, another class of film is in the selection.”
**Brazil’s stadiums ready for World Cup soccer warm-up in June**

Brazil, 21 May—Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff took a swipe at the naysayers on Monday as she officially inaugurated the last of six stadiums that Brazil will use next month to host a warm-up for the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament. “The pessimists said the stadiums would not be ready in time, but we are showing them today that we can deliver high-quality stadiums,” Rousseff said in a speech in Recife before opening the 46,000-seat Arena Pernambuco outside the northeastern Brazilian city.

Rousseff said Brazil is fulfilling its commitments with global soccer body FIFA, whose secretary general Jerome Valcke last year angered Brazilians by saying the country needed a “kick up the backside” to get World Cup prepara-
tions moving. On Saturday, Rousseff kicked the first symbolic ball on the newly-built pitch of the brand new Mane Garrincha National Stadium in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia, where Brazil will face Japan in the first game of the eight-
nation Confederations Cup on 15 June. At a cost 1.2 billion reais ($590.1 mil-
lon), the colonnaded sta-
dium is the most expen-
sive of the 12 that Brazil
is building for next year’s 32-nation World Cup, and a prime candidate to become a white elephant in a city with no major soccer club. Yet some of its 309 toilets were not ready yet and flooded during a test game between two local teams that filled half the 71,000-
seat stadium. Its big test will come next Sunday, 26
May, when two of Brazil’s top teams—Flamengo and Santos—will fill the venue for the opening of the Bra-
zilian national league.

Six of seven stadiums moving. On Saturday, Rousseff said on Saturday. Only two stadiums were completed in time for the December deadline originally set by FIFA, which takes over the first batch of stadiums on Tuesday.

FIFA has said it will not budge on the deadline for the second batch of sta-
diums due by the end of this year. The main problem will be the Sao Paulo sta-
dium, where the Vila Belmiro is due to kick off in June 2014. Builders threatened to halt construction because of a financing dispute that might throw Brazil’s hosting of the World Cup into disarray and embarrass the government.—**Reuters**

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**LONDON, 21 May—Lewis Hamilton will be reunited with Paddy Lowe sooner than expected af-
ter Mercedes announced on Monday that the former McLaren technical head was joining their Formula One team next month. Mercedes said in a statement that the Briton had been appointed

Lowe reunited with Hamilton at Mercedes

with team principal Ross Brawn, the man he could one day replace, who retains overall responsibility for technical and sporting mat-
ters. McLaren had already put Lowe on “gardening leave”, removing him from sensitive work, with Tim Goss being promoted to the role of technical director.

They announced last week that they would switch from Mercedes engines to Honda in 2015. Lowe’s arrival at Mercedes, who signed 2008 world champion Hamilton last year, had been flagged up since January when re-
ports indicated that he was being lined up as Brawn’s replacement.

“I am delighted to wel-
come Paddy to the team and to begin working together. He has an excellent record of success in the sport and would be an asset to any of our rivals in the pit lane,” said Brawn. “It is no secret that every team is facing a significant balancing act between this year and next. But it is perhaps less obvi-
ous that we will also see major changes for the 2015 and 2016 seasons, as devel-
opment progresses with the new generation of car design and Power Unit,” he added.

“To deliver in these circum-
stances, a successful team needs strength in depth. Paddy’s arrival will further strengthen our organization and put us in a strong po-

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**San Francisco favoured to host 50th Super Bowl**

Miami, 21 May—San Francisco is favoured to own the Super Bowl at the 50th Super Bowl when National Football League (NFL) owners vote on Tues-
day on the site of the 2016 championship game. The Californian city, home to the NFL’s 49ers, is up against South Florida (Miami) while Los Angeles, which is on the 2016 ballot, would be an asset to any of the top teams—Flamengo and Santos—will fill the venue for the opening of the Bra-
zilian national league.

Six of seven stadiums moving. On Saturday, Rousseff said on Saturday. Only two stadiums were completed in time for the December deadline originally set by FIFA, which takes over the first batch of stadiums on Tuesday.

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dium, where the Vila Belmiro is due to kick off in June 2014. Builders threatened to halt construction because of a financing dispute that might throw Brazil’s hosting of the World Cup into disarray and embarrass the government.—**Reuters**

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**Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari**

Rio de Janeiro, 21 May—Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has admitted to holding talks with Bar-
celona about the future of Neymar.

The former Chelsea and Portugal boss revealed Monday he had advised Barcelona president Sandro Rosell to sign the 21-year-
old striker this European summer.

“He is an example to follow as a sportsman,” Scolari said. “I have spoken to him (Rosell) about how he behaves on the pitch and about his personality and he really is an example to fol-

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**Jose Mourinho to leave Real Madrid at the end of the season**

Madrid, 21 May—Jose Mourinho’s three-year term as coach of Spanish BBVA Primera Liga club Real Madrid will end on 30 June, it was confirmed this Monday. Club Presi-
dent Florentino Perez con-
firmed the news at a conference held at 8pm local time in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium follow-
ing a meeting of the club’s Board of Directors. Despite having a contract with the club until the end of June 2016, Mourinho will aban-
don the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium after winning just one Copa del Rey (2011), one league title (2012) and the Spanish Supercup at the start of the current cam-
paign.

The announcement comes just three days after Real Madrid were beaten 2-1 in local rivals Atleti-
co Madrid in the final of the Spanish Copa del Rey, which was held in Berna-
beu on Friday night. It was the first time Atletico have defeated Real Madrid in 14 years and many blamed Mourinho’s team selection on the defeat.

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**San Francisco is clearly leading the race for his sig-
nature and he would be a great signing for them. He would be an idol for the fans this summer.**

**Jose Mourinho**

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**An even better reason to follow the NFL’s champion is on the prestige of hosting the 50th Super Bowl when the NFL is promising to make the biggest and best finale ever.**

**Barcelona are clearly leading the race for his signature and he would be a great signing for them. He would be an idol for the fans this summer.**

**Jose Mourinho**

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**San Francisco favour to host 50th Super Bowl**

**Jose Mourinho to leave Real Madrid at the end of the season**

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**Jose Mourinho to leave Real Madrid at the end of the season**

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**Jose Mourinho to leave Real Madrid at the end of the season**
Amputee sets record by climbing Qomolangma without prosthetic limbs

KATHMANDU, 21 May— Dipendra Paudel, a section official at Nepal’s Mountain Department under Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, told Xinhua, Gautam climbed the tallest mountain on Earth to spread the message that “disability is not inability.” Gautam, who lost his hands at the age of 16, climbed Qomolangma without using prosthetic limbs. “The ‘No Hands at the Top of the World’ climb is intended to show the world that even people living with significant physical disabilities have outstanding abilities and immense capacities,” Gautam wrote on his private blog before going to climb the Qomolangma. Xinhua

Maxvalu sets up supermarket operator in China’s Suzhou

The subsidiary, Aeon Maxvalu (Jiangsu) Co, capitalized at 80 million yuan (about 1.28 billion yen), is 80 percent owned by Maxvalu Chubu with the remainder put up by Aeon (China) Co, Japanese retailer Aeon Co’s regional headquarters in China. Maxvalu Chubu, an Aeon subsidiary that runs a network of supermarkets in four central Japanese prefectures including Aichi and Shiga, said it has re-mitted the capital to China after obtaining authorization from regulatory authorities in Suzhou to run the subsidiary. Kyodo News

Drinking threatens road safety in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, 21 May— Drunk driving, over speeding, and driving in the wrong lane have been the most common causes of serious traffic accidents in Slovenia, a police survey said on Monday. One third of the fatal road accidents in the country are linked to drinking, while one in ten traffic accidents is alcohol-related. Most of the accidents involved drivers aged between 24 and 34 years old and take place late at night or early in the morning on the weekends, the survey showed.

More than 22,000 road accidents took place in Slovenia in 2012 with 978 people being injured. Xinhua

S Africa to build wind farm in search for clean energy

CAPE TOWN, 21 May— In a further move in developing clean energy, South Africa will build a wind farm which will generate up to 100 MW of power, it was announced on Monday. The 2.4-billion-rand (258-million-US-dollar) project will be undertaken by Eskom, the state-owned electricity utility, according to the Government Communication and Information System. Eskom has got the licence to build the wind farm from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).

Located near Koeke-naap in the Western Cape, the wind farm is due to be in full commercial operation by the end of 2014. It has an expected operating life of 20 years, with average annual energy production of about 253,000 MWh, enough clean energy to provide power to about 97,000 standard homes. With the capacity to avoid nearly 4.7 million tonnes of carbon emissions over 20 years, the project is called a milestone for Eskom’s move towards a cleaner energy mix.

The wind farm “is our first large-scale renewable energy project,” said Eskom Chief Executive Brian Dames. “It demonstrates our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and to investing in a sustainable energy future.” —Xinhua

Mexico adopts five-year plan for social, economic development

MEXICO CITY, 21 May— Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Monday presented a five-year plan, aimed at combating violence and improving administration.

“Mexico has the historic opportunity to launch a national transformation,” Pena Nieto said at an event to announce the plan, adding that for the first time, the government has devised a development plan that includes the periodic evaluation of its progress.

Before the presentation, Luis Videgaray, the secretary (Minister) of Finance and Public Credit, said the government had achieved 228,949 proposals through public consultations and used those ideas to elaborate the plan. The 2013-2018 National Development Plan outlines the government’s five main goals, including fighting violence, improving administration, protecting citizen rights and boosting economy. —Xinhua

Photo taken in Tokyo’s Shibuya Ward on 20 May, 2013, shows the new model of the Volkswagen Golf. Volkswagen Group Japan KK said the same day that it will launch the fully remodeled car on 25 June. Kyodo News
The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 22 May, 2013

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 10th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak (Fullmoon Day of Kason) at the UN Office in Bangkok this morning.

The Vice-President and party paid homage to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Somdet Phra, Chairman of the International Council for Buddhist countries and guests.

First, the Rector Sayadaw of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Dr. Phra Brahmapundit and members of the Sangha, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education of Thailand, ministers from Buddhist countries and guests.

Then, the Rector Sayadaw gave an account of the ceremony. Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education Mr. Phra made resolution that the provisions in times of emergency for a return to normality.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham pays homage to Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara at the United Nations Day of Vesak.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party observe booths at 2nd ASEAN-Pacific Water Summit.—MNA

UNOPS holds workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) workshop was held at Mingalar Thiri Hotel, here, at 9:30 am today. Mr Ricardo Vargas, Director of Sustainable Project Management Practice Group gave talks on the occasion.

The workshop is aimed at strengthening the capacity of partners and personnel in project management skills.

It was attended by 120 trainees from 12 different Ministries.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Ordinance No (1/2013) approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw voted unanimously to approve the Ordinance No (1/2013) issued on 22 March to declare the state of emergency in Meiktila during the special session of the Hluttaw today.

The motion was passed by 521 votes.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made resolution that the ordinance would take effect for 60 days as from the date it was approved by the Hluttaw.

Thirteen representatives discussed the motion today.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun constituency said that the declaration of the ordinance is in conformity with the constitution and suggested that the provisions in times of emergency should be submitted to the Hluttaw within 60 days.

U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe constituency suggested that the ordinance should be extended 60 days more in Meiktila and its surrounding areas.

He also suggested the authorities concerned to take action in time when conflicts erupt in the future.

Daw Khin Wai Kyi of Yangon Region constituency No. 7 called for setting a suitable time frame for the ordinance so that the local people could not lose their rights and stressed the need to take effective measures by the local authorities in conformity with the constituency.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Kawhmu constituency stressed the need to be more cautious when ordinances are declared while the country is on the road to democracy.

She also suggested that the administrative authority should inform the local people about their effective measures in times of emergency for a return to normality.

She also stressed the need for informing the representatives before an ordinance is declared and for reviewing the constitution to be able to carry out the measures effectively and as there is no judiciary sector in the declaration of the ordinance.

During today’s session, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarified use of new brooch for representatives. The special session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ended at 1:20 pm.—MNA