Profile of Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and Mrs. Akie Abe

Mr. Shinzo Abe was born on 21st September 1954 in Tokyo, Japan. He has been elected 7 times as member of the House of Representatives from the Yamaguchi 4th District from 1993 onwards. He graduated from the Department of Political Science, the Faculty of Law in Seikei University in 1979. In 1982 he began his political career as the Executive Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in 1993 he won his first election to the House of Representatives as the member for the Yamaguchi 4th District. In 1999 he became the Secretary-General of the LDP as well as Chairman of the Reform Promotion Headquarters of the LDP.

In 2005 he became the Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Third Koizumi Cabinet, and in 2006 he became the President of the LDP as well as Prime Minister. He resigned from the Prime Ministership in 2007 but in 2012 he again became President of the LDP and Prime Minister for the second time.

Mr. Abe is married to Mrs. Akie Abe. They were married in 1987.

Profile of Mrs. Akie Abe

Mrs. Akie Abe is a homemaker who has been married to Mr. Shinzo Abe since 1987. She was educated at the Sacred Heart School from Kindergarten to High School and Professional Training College, and she also studied Social Design Study for the 21st Century in the Graduate School of Rikkyo University. Her hobbies are rice cultivation, running, golf, and the Japanese traditional martial art of Naginata.

President U Thein Sein meets Leaders of US Senate, House of Representatives

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, met the leaders of the United States House of Representatives led by Ms. Nancy Pelosi, US Speaker of the House of Representatives at Capitol Hill in Washington of the United States of America at 8:30 am local time on 21 May.

Then, the President looked round the Congress building. At 10:30 am, the President met US Senate leaders led by Senator Mr. Harry Reid.

At the call, the President had discussion on Myanmar’s democracy reform processes, successes and challenges, future works and step-by-step lifting of sanctions which are hampering Myanmar’s economic development. The US majority leaders have recognized Myanmar’s progress and development and discussed constructive points for continued implementation of works.

Also present at the call together with the President were the Union Ministers and Ambassador U Than Swe.

Bago Region Chief Minister meets Japanese guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win held talks with Infrastructure Development Institute of Japan Chairman Mr Kiyofumi Yoshino and party, at the meeting hall of Region Government on 20 May. Both sides discussed water resources, supply of drinking water and industrial-use water, use of irrigation water and rescue, relief supplies and rehabilitation for flood victims.

After that, the Chief Minister inspected paving of Shwethalyaung pagoda concrete road, dredging of old Mazin Creek on Bago-Yangon motor road and maintenance of Lakepyarkan.

On 21 May, the chief minister met with Inter-Faith Concord Group led by Reid Ambassador U Hla Maung at the region government office.

State of the Sea

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h.

Kason, the month of festival of Environmental greening

The fullmoon day of Kason (May) the second month of Myanmar lunar calendar of 12 months is annually celebrated as Buddha’s Day because it was on the fullmoon day in the Maha Sakarit year of 103 [Buddhist Era] that Buddha (Prince Siddartha as a forest recluse) became enlightened by attaining Sabbanuta Nyanna [Buddhahood] after six years of practising austerities in the forests in quest of spiritual truth. So this day is yearly celebrated as Vesak Day in all Buddhist countries and the Buddhists throughout the world.

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Merkel protege struggles with Germany’s green revolution

Thai team crowned with success in men’s 100 km team event
Crime

Illegal teak, hardwood seized in Mawlamyine District

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May — Forest staff led by Assistant Director U Aye Kyi of Thaton District Forest Department launched an operation to fight against illegal timber extraction in Mawlamyine District during the period from 11 to 14 May and seized 76.7148 tons of illegal teak and hardwood. They confiscated 34.7714 tons of hardwood near Mokkan Village in Lamaing Sub-township, 12.1472 tons of ownerless hardwood by the road to Asin Village and near Ye Township, 2.2478 tons of ironwood owned by U Yadana Tun and 2.8922 tons of hardwood owned by U Chit Oo, 4.1170 tons of ownerless hardwood in a farmland near Lamaing, 5.2242 tons of hardwood in Mudon Township, 3.2222 tons of hardwood in Thanbyuzayat Township and 44 teak logs (12.0928 tons) in Attayan river.

Actions are being taken against owners of the seized illegal hardwood and teak.

National Sports

Thai team crowned with success in men’s 100 km team event

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May — The second day of the Pre SEA Games cycling contest continued at Nay Pyi Taw Hninsi roundabout, here, yesterday.

Thailand stood first, Malaysia second and Brunei third in the men’s 100 km team event. Next, a prize presentation ceremony followed.

The competition with the participation of cyclists from Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei was held ahead of XXVII SEA Games.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Oo, 4.1170 tons of ownerless hardwood in a farmland near Lamaing, 5.2242 tons of hardwood in Mudon Township, 3.2222 tons of hardwood in Thanbyuzayat Township and 44 teak logs (12.0928 tons) in Attayan river.

Actions are being taken against owners of the seized illegal hardwood and teak.

Odd News

12 men, eight women exposed before departure for neighbouring country

Yangon, 23 May — Tachilek anti-human trafficking task force educated 12 men and eight women totaling 20 and asked them to return home as they were exposed before departure for the neighbouring country on 16 May.

According to a tip-off of a member of the task force in Kengtung, Tachilek anti-human trafficking task force took 12 men and eight women who were on board Taunggyi-Tachilek passenger bus to the office and interviewed them.

Investigations revealed that they had no relatives in Tachilek and they arrived there to go to Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai of Thailand with the purpose of working there on their own volition.

Police officers explained real situations that undocumented persons are to face in Thailand and dangers of human trafficking. Then they were sent back to their own places by the passenger bus they took. — Kyemon

Disaster

Cannon of second Anglo-Myanmar war unearthed at People’s Square

Yangon, 23 May — An old type of heavy gun which is assumed to be from second Anglo-Myanmar war period was unearthed while digging for construction in People’s Square and People’s Park in Dagon Township, here, on 14 May.

The cannon caked in mud and rust is 14 feet and five inches in length, 13 inches in diameter at its upper part and 23 inches in diameter at its lower part. It weighs about six tones. It was unearthed at about 11.30 am on that day by

U Kyaw Kyaw Lay, 55, of Hlinthethaya Township while he was digging at U Wisaya Shopping Mall construction site in the park. He informed officials of the cannon and it is now being kept at the place it was unearthed by archaeological department.

Accident

Drowning death of drunken young man in garden lake

Yangon, 23 May — A drowning death happened to a drunken young man in the middle of the lake in Myaing Hay Win Garden in ward-5 of Mayangon Township.

A guard of the garden informed Mayangon police station that drunken Yan Naing Phyo, 24, guard of No (19) Sein Mann Myaing training nursery, and his friend were trying to go for a swim in No (1) Lake. Police rushed there and they discovered Yan Naing Phyo at the bottom of the lake. As the drowned man was found dead with no external injuries, his death was apparently ruled drowning.

The dead body was taken to North Okkalapa Hospital where investigation is ongoing whether or not there is evidence of third part hand in the drowning death.

Ward dwellers worry over leaky gas pipeline

Yangon, 23 May — A leak in an old gas pipeline occurred in Zaykons ward of Insein Township at about 7 am on 19 May.

The pipeline installed between a foreman line and Insein locomotive shed in the ward is in worn condition and leaking gas. The right side of the leaking pipeline is staff quarter and a primary school and the left side is the locomotive shed. As it is situated near the fuel warehouse, ward dwellers are giving voice to their concerns over possible danger of fire, looking forward effective actions of officials concerned.

Squalls with wind gusts lash Pathi Village in Twantay Township

Yangon, 23 May — Squalls with savage wind gusts tore through Pathi Village of Twantay Township in Yangon South District, here, at about 7.30 pm on 21 May, causing severe damage to houses, one primary school and betel and banana plantations in the village.

Strong winds uprooted trees, toppled down six houses, ripped the roofs of the primary school and destroyed four betel farms and banana plantations in the village.

Officials concerned led by the Twantay Township Administrator helped 26 households find accommodation at their relative houses.
Iran pushes ahead with nuclear plant that worries West

VIENNA, 23 May—Iran is pressing ahead with the construction of a research reactor that Western experts say could offer it a second way of producing material for a nuclear bomb if it decides to make one, a UN report showed on Wednesday.

Iran has transported the reactor vessel — which would hold the fuel — to the heavy water plant near the central town of Arak but has not yet installed it, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report issued to member states.

“It certainly means that progress is made,” one diplomat familiar with the Iranian nuclear programme said, adding that several other major components for the reactor, including control room equipment, had yet to be put in place there.

The United States said Iran was in “non-compliance with its international nuclear obligations”.

“Unlike any United States or Japanese help to develop qualified postal service in Myanmar, in the central town of Arak and visiting communications Minister Yoshita shindo and visiting Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Patrck Ventrel said, Iran has been negotiating for 40 years to acquire nuclear arms, but says the use of such arms will hinder the implementation of the Nagasaki nuclear facility in 2018 and a suspected Syrian nuclear facility in 2007.

“Israel might be tempted to try to negate what it previously did in Syria and Iraq and destroy the reactor before it goes critical,” Hibbs said.

India is willing to resume talks on nuclear energy with Japan

NEW DELHI, 23 May—India is willing to resume talks with Japan on a civil nuclear energy deal during the forthcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Tokyo.

‘Israel might be tempted to try to repeat what it did previously in Syria and Iraq and destroy the reactor before it goes critical,” Hibbs said.

The battle for the town of Qusair has brought the worst fighting in months in a war that has already killed more than 80,000 people, and by drawing in Hezbollah has spread sectarian violence across frontiers at the heart of the Middle East.

Merkel protege struggles with Germany’s green revolution

BERLIN, 23 May—Chancellor Angela Merkel appointed him for his charm and political skill as minister of her vision of a ‘green revolution’ in Europe’s biggest power market. A year on, Peter Altmaier finds himself spurned by many environmentalists, dismayed by industry and viewed coolly by a public wary of the costs.

According to the agreement, Japan will transfer to Myanmar government has decided in personal trainning and help Myanmm Japan Post Co’s post code reading and sort-ment with India because of her vision of a ‘green revolution’ in Europe’s biggest power market. A year on, Peter Altmaier finds himself spurned by many environmentalists, dismayed by industry and viewed coolly by a public wary of the costs.

Merkel’s ambitious goal of weaning Germany off fossil fuels and phasing out nuclear power is widely viewed as her most significant domestic policy. Implementation is a mammoth task and means taking decisions unpopular either with Germany’s powerful industry or its strong green lobby.

**NASA investing in 3-D food printer for astronauts**

Cape Canaveral, 23 May—In a scene right out of Star Trek, a Texas company is developing a 3-D food printer for astronauts to create custom meals on the fly.

With support from NASA, the firm, Systems and Materials Research Corp of Austin, intends to design, build and test a food printer that can work in space. “This project is to demonstrate we can create and change the nutrition of the food and be able to print it in a low-gravity environment,” the company’s research director and lead chemist, David Irvin, told *Reuters*.

Three-dimensional printers create solid objects by depositing droplets of material one layer at a time. Systems and Materials Research intends to create nutritionally rich, aesthetically appealing and tasty synthetic food by combining powdered proteins, starches, fats and flavors with water, sugar or oil to produce a wide array of digital recipes.

All the ingredients are designed for extremely long shelf-lives, making them suitable for long stays in space.

“The 3-D printing system will provide hot and quick food in addition to personalized nutrition, flavor and taste,” the company wrote in its proposal to NASA. “The biggest advantage of 3-D printed food technology will be zero waste, which is essential in long-distance space missions,” it added.

Ultimately, the company sees food printers as a way to help feed a world population that is estimated to reach 12 billion by the end of the century. The technology may also have implications for the military. “A 3-D-printed food system can reduce military logistics, disposal waste, increase operational efficiency and mission effectiveness especially during wartime,” the company said. “In addition, 3-D printed food can provide optimal nutrient to the soldiers depending on their personal needs and level of physical activities.”

**Teenager invents super device to recharge cellphone in 20 seconds**

Beijing, 23 May—A California teen has attracted the attention of tech giants Google for her potentially revolutionary invention which charges a phone in 20 seconds flat, reported by CNN news. The 18-year-old Esha Khare, a senior at Lynbrook High School in Saratoga, invented super-fast charging device and took home 50,000 dollars from the International Science and Engineering Fair, which took place in Phoenix this week.

The device will make waiting hours for a phone to charge a thing of the past and the gizmo packs more energy into a smaller space than traditional phone batteries and holds the charge for longer.

When NBC News asked her why she chose to research technology around energy-storage, she simply explained, “My cell phone battery always dies.”

After winning one of the two Intel Young Scientist Awards, Esha Khare is planning on putting her 50,000 dollar prize toward her education at Harvard. “I will be setting the world on fire,” she said.—Xinhua

**Russia to launch 12 Proton-M rockets in 2013**

Moscow, 23 May—Russia would launch 12 Proton-M heavy space rockets this year, Khru- nichev space industry centre said on Wednesday.

Three had already been launched and a further nine would be launched from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan, Khru- nichev CEO Alexander Seliverstov told reporters.

Meanwhile, the new Angara-5 heavy rocket would be launched from the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Far Eastern Amur region after its construction was completed, Khru- nichev general designer Yury Bakhvalov said.

Bakhvalov said the first launch of an Angara-5, which is capable of placing manned spacecraft in orbit, was scheduled for late 2014 from the existing Pleiades space site in Northern Rus- sia.

Besides manned space missions, Russian scientists also plan to conduct daring biological experiments in space, including sending a “crew” of mice 200,000 km from the Earth, chief schol- ar of the Medico-Biological Institute Eugeny Illyin told reporters.

“On creating a spacecraft which could be launched to an orbit at 200,000 km distance for cell, gene and molecular experiments on mice fol- lowing its return to Earth,” he said.

However, Russia no longer planned to send

2 mini-spider species found in southwest China

Washington, 23 May—Two new minute spi- der species with oversized rumps have been discovered in southwest China, accord- ing to a new study published in the open access journal *Zoökeys*.

The tiny new spiders are both less than 2 millim- eters in length. One of them, Trogloneta yawnsis, is as lit- tle as 1.01 millimetres, and the other, Mysmena waw- semis, is measured to be the even tinier 0.75 millimetre, which classifies it among the smallest spiders known.

According to researchers from the Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the new species belong to the least studied Mysmenidae family, which is composed of minute eight-eyed spiders.

“The spiders live in most leaf litter and the ob- scure places such as moss and even caves and they prefer very humid habi- tats,” said the researchers in a statement on Wednesday. “Being extremely minute, up to 2 millimetres in total and having cryptic lifestyle these creatures become rather hard to find.”

Found near giant panda sanctuaries in Sichuan and Chongqing in southwest China, the two new species are considered endemic to their particular regions, they added.—Xinhua

**Twitter beefs up security after hacking spree on media**

New York, 23 May—Twitter Inc unveiled tech- nology to boost security for its users, following a spate of attacks on accounts of prominent media outlets including the Associated Press, the Financial Times and The Onion.

The micro blogging site, which transmits some 400 million messages a day, said on Wednesday that it had begun rolling out an optional “login verifica- tion” service to thwart hackers seeking to hijack accounts with stolen pass- words.

Security experts wel- comed the move as a posi- tive step toward securing a service that is widely used by consumers, political ac- tivists, advertisers and news outlets around the globe to quickly exchange informa- tion.

“Twitter had come un- der fire over the past year for failing to offer such an option, which is known as two-factor authentication, amid a surge in breaches of high-profile accounts. That criticism intensified in April after a fake tweet about a non-existent White House explosion sent from the Associated Press ac- count briefly boied US fi- nancial markets.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Jeremiah Grossman, chief technol- ogy officer of White Hat Security. “It’s not going to solve all problem, but it’s a step in the right direction.”

When users log in to Twitter via a web browser, they must confirm their identity by entering a six- digit code that Twitter de- livers to their smartphones. To access the service through applications for PCs and smartphones, us- ers must use an automati- cally generated temporary password for each of the programmes.

Twitter described the offering in a blog post, re- minding users that they still need to use strong pass- words to keep accounts secure. The approach is similar to security tools prev- iously introduced by other Internet services from com- panies such as Facebook Inc, Google Inc and Mi- crosoft Corp. “This would have made the AP hack and other hacks against Twitter more difficult to accom- plish,” said Jeffrey Carr, CEO of cyber security firm Talas Global Inc.—Reuters
BUSINESS & HEALTH

**Mitsubishi Motors weighs capital shift, dividends**

**Tokyo, 23 May—**

Mitsubishi Motors Corp ($721.1T) is taking steps toward resuming dividend payments after nearly a decade-long turnaround bankrolled by other Mit-
subishi group companies, according to people with di-
rect knowledge of the plan.

Specifically, Mitsubishi Motors is considering ask-
ing shareholders to approve plans for a 10-for-1 reverse stock split, the people said.

At the same time, the company may ask shareholders to approve a capital reor-
ganization—a change in accounting that would make it possible to resume paying dividends.

The plan under con-
sideration would clear Mit-
subishi Motors’ more than
920 billion yen ($8.9 bil-
lion) in accumulated losses by reducing capital stock by an equivalent amount, a common step for Japanese companies with a history of deep losses that have re-
turned to profitability and want to begin paying divi-
dends.

A spokesman for Mit-
subishi Motors said the company had no immediate comment.

No final decision has been made but Mitsubishi Motors could announce the first of the steps as soon as Friday and put it before shareholders at the annual meeting at the end of June, according to the sources.

Taken together, the steps under consideration are intended to close a chap-
ter that began with a 2004 bailout for Mitsubishi Mot-
or.

Shares in Japan’s sev-
enth-biggest automaker by sales volume fell 11.5 per-
cent on Thursday to $162 yen - set for its biggest one-day drop in two years. The stock had risen about 25 percent within a week.

Over the past decade, Mitsubishi Motors has struggled with failed tie-ups
with Daimler AG (DAIGn. DE) and Chrysler, quality and safety problems and the costs of being a niche player in the global market for cars and light trucks. Mitsubishi Motors expects a record operating profit for the fi-
nancial year to next March, helped in part by a weaker yen.

Shares in the company gained about 140 percent from mid-November to ear-
yly Thursday.—Reuters

**Sugary drinks tied to kidney stone risk**

**New York, 23 May—**

Adults who drink at least one sugar-sweetened drink a day are slightly more like-
ly to develop kidney stones than people who rarely imbibe them, according to a new study. While the rec-
ommendation for kidney stone prevention has been to drink a lot of fluids, the study suggests that it’s not just the amount of fluid but the type of drink that also matters.

Dr. Gary Curhan, the senior author of the study, said patients often ask for dietary advice to help pre-
vent kidney stones. While the recommendation has been to drink plenty of flu-
dids, Curhan said, patients often ask, “what should I drink? There’s a lot of lore out there.” To see whether the type of beverage might matter, Curhan, of the Channing Division of Net-
work Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and his colleagues collected
data from three massive surveys of nearly 200,000 people.

The questionnaire,

**For every 100,000 people who drank punch at least every day, 226 de-
volved kidney stones compared to 158 out of every 100,000 participants who had punch less than once a week. Curhan said that while the numbers of people developing kidney stones in each group are not
equally different, the increased risk spread across an entire population is quite big.**

**Low carbohydrate diets may harm your health**

**SYDNEY, 23 May—**

More research is needed on the long term effects of low carbohydrate diets, health professionals at a Heart Foundation Confer-
ce in Adelaide heard on Saturday.

Low carbohydrate diets result in greater short term weight loss, other health implications are still not fully under-
stood, said Jon Buckley, professor of health sci-
ences at the University of South Australia.

“For before being able to

**Pfizer takes its shot at a vaccine for evasive superbug**

**Chicago, 23 May—**

Kathrin Jansen is a microbiologist with at least two breakthrough vaccines to her name: she brought a real cancer vaccine Gardasil to market for Merck and helped develop the $4 billion a year pneumonia and meningitis vaccine Prevnar 13 for Pfizer.

Jansen’s next vaccine success could come by taming the superbug MRSA, a drug-resistant bacterium that she has seen ravage a healthy man up close and personally.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infects an estimated 53 million people globally and costs more than $20 billion a year to treat. In the United States alone, MRSA kills 20,000 Americans each year, exceeding annual deaths from AIDS.

Jansen watched the infection unfold two years ago when visiting her stepfather, who was in the hospital for a hip replacement. The man in the bed next door died soon after. Jansen attacked the pathogen with a vaccine that she developed.

“Methicillin was turned to profitability and

**Mitsubishi Motors Corp’s vehicles and a passer-by are reflected on an external wall at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 25 April, 2013.—Reuters**

**HP raises 2013 outlook as Whitman’s plan takes hold**

**San Francisco, 23 May—**

Hewlett-Packard Co raised its 2013 earnings outlook after quarterly re-

results beat low expectations as CEO Meg Whitman’s turnaround plan helped off-

set shrinking personal computer sales with enterprise computing services.

While fiscal second-

quarter profit plummeted 32 percent, Wall Street had braced for worse. HP shares gained 14 percent after the company projected full-

year earnings per share of $3.50 to $3.60, raising the lower end by 10 cents, and fiscal third-quarter profit that topped analyst esti-
mates.

Meg Whitman, who took the helm at the world’s largest PC maker more than

HP’s turnaround here,” HP Chief Financial Officer Cathie Lesjak said in an interview. “We are roughly where we want to be in total on the company.”

**A Hewlett-Packard logo is seen at the company’s Executive Briefing Centre in Palo Alto, California on 16 Jan, 2013.—Reuters**

**Kathrin Jansen, senior vice president of Vaccine Research and Early Development at Pfizer Inc, poses for a portrait in one of her labs at Pfizer headquarters in Pearl River, New York, on 19 April, 2013.—Reuters**
Counterfeit Myanmar banknotes seized from Thai nationals

NAV PYIT TAW, 23 May—Counterfeit banknotes were seized from two Thais at Hteeckheek inspection gate in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region on 21 May. Mr Tahu, 57, and his wife Mrs Chan, 41 from Dantetahto, Sonphii Sub-township of Lopburi were exchanging Thai Baht for Myanmar Kyat at Hteeckheek inspection gate when their suspicious look made personnel concerned at the gate to conduct a search to find 100 sheets of K-1000 banknotes, and 194 sheets of K-5000 banknotes from the bag of Mr Tahu. According to initial investigation, the two came from Thailand to Hteeckheek border trade camp to learn about trade activities there and a Thai solder called Asin gave the counterfeit banknotes to Achai who lives next door in Dantetahto Village and Asin is now living in Bangkok and Achai gave the counterfeit bank notes to them to exchange for Thai Baht. Police has charged the two with holding counterfeit bank notes. MNA

Counterfeit K 5000 banknote seized from Thai nationals. MNA

Counterfeit K 1000 banknote seized from Thai nationals. MNA

Press freedom is a foundation for democratic society, plays a role in democratic transition

(Continued from yesterday)

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein, Correspondent, V O A, Myanmar Programme

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein also expressed his views on media development conference.

More conferences like this one should be organized. More media persons should be there and comprehensive discussions held by officials. As a result, freedom and transparency of media will be made apparent. Such kind of conference can contribute to capacity building of media persons. I see organizers and international sponsors are contributing their efforts with genuine goodwill. I hope for development of Myanmar media world thanks to their commitments.

He also expressed his views on ongoing media reform process.

Media reform process is in the stage of implementation. This stage will go on in Myanmar. There are a lot of works to be done in the current stage. It is still so far to go. It is required to put more efforts with added momentum. I see it is on the right track to meet the stage of satisfaction.

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein shared his views regarding the matters what media persons are encountering in hunting news.

Progress can be seen in shooting question to and getting information from government officials compared with a previous decade onwards. But I am also experiencing difficulties like media persons at home with regard to the right to collect information freely. I am facing a situation while trying to report news fairly as it is difficult to get information from both sides. It is required to overcome this situation. I would like to urge officials to tell about their stances to be fair in news reporting and to refrain from one-sided news reports. I heard they said that they would try.

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein continued regarding the right to gather information freely.

Media men have no rights to cover secret information. The government has also no right to release information designated as secret one at current condition. However, in the Western countries, there are limitations for secret information. Officials have to release some information at suitable time. Freedom of Information Act is to be prescribed. According to it, media men can get governmental information from the respective officials. Those officials have to give that information when the news is no longer designated as secret status. Every country has its State secret act. I think that Secret Act should not hamper collecting news. I also assumed that secret information should be released step by step at a certain time even if the information is a secret one.

It is found that there is few arrangement for coverage of news by press media, radio and TV at present. For instance, media men have to cover an event while standing the stage as there is no designated place for media. So, it is like the audiences have to see his or her back. The audience could not see the speakers as media men cover the speaker on the stage at the national theater. My suggestion is that managers and responsible persons are to help media men for better coverage.

We hope people from radio and TV will have easy access to the recording system for those who needs recording. I urged officials to crate such facilities.

With respect to the development of private broadcasting media, U Kyaw Kyaw Thein said that in the past, Myanmar had a State-owned broadcasting media and has opened up to private sector. I am very pleased with youth’s efforts in broadcasting media.

What I don’t centered with it is that presentations and broadcasting of Myanmar’s broadcasting media have a long way to go. Reporters are like the masters of ceremonies and interviewers and could not give any information. I don’t know how many messages and information the audience has got. In the world, the reporters have to carry out new coverage by themselves. I want to see progress in news coverage of reporters. I hope new presentation would be much better than before.

Daw Nan Phaw Gay, Karen Information Center

I discussed media development at the places where national races reside. It needs to present the news which national races actually want. I discussed the needs for huge development of radio broadcasting in the national races areas. At present, the government has allowed the publication of print media. And I suggested that the government should give green light to radio media on a wider scale. We have Myanmar and English online version. We issue publications in national races language.

Ms Michelle J. Foster

Media Consultant

Media Management and Marketing

I think in the long term Myanmar’s business of media will be outstanding, because this is one of the last frontier economies in the world. There are all kinds of economic potentials here. There is a well educated and literate population who are curious for information and are politically engaged.

In the short term there will be problems, as there is not enough revenue to support all media outlets right now. But in the long term, I think Myanmar’s business of media has a bright future.

This is a transitional period and it is so exciting. There is this rapid expansion of media here. Now there are a lot of newspapers, and also there is the online and the Internet. All these are happening at the same time. But also there is not yet a full consumer economy for all those media, therefore is going to be some bumps on the road ahead.
**LocaL news**

**Religious Affairs**

**Ancient Buddha Image stolen in Bagan**

A standing wooden Buddha Image in the precinct of Myasigun pagoda in Taungbi village-tract in NyaungU Township near Myanmar’s ancient city and tourism spot Bagan was stolen on 19 May. The ancient Buddha Image with an embedded diamond in the forehead was at the place until 6 pm on 18 May U Jotisara, a visiting monk who first found the Buddha Image had been stolen and informed the residing monk of Myasigun monastery about the incident. According to U Jotisara, the residing monk of Shwe-U-Min monastery, a suspicious boy with a backpack had been there at around 10 am on 19 May. The tools that thief(es) used were seized as evidence. The thief(es) broke the Buddha Image as it was screwed to the alter. Bagan police station has file a case as regards the incident.  

**Course on Buddhist culture conducted**

A course on Buddhist culture was conducted 11-20 April in Taungudin village in Taungtha Township in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region. U Gunalanakra gave lectures along the course, organized by Sayadaw U Tejanya. The first-ever course of its kind in the village was completed by 71 trainees.

**Kyunsu Township to receive USD 80 million aids from World Bank**

Kyunsu, 23 May—Kyunsu Township, the least developed township in Taninthayi Region will receive USD 80 million aid from World Bank for education, healthcare, transportation and infrastructural development. The community-driven development National Plan workshop at the township meeting hall on 22 May to manage the aids. Taninthayi Region government ministers, World Bank’s Task Team Leader Mr Markus Koster, high-ranking officials from rural development department under the Ministry of Border Affairs, Myeik District and Kyunsu township departmental personnel, NGOs/INGOs, and administrators attended the meeting.

The regional development plan was discussed at the workshop in detail. The township got the tag of the least developed township on 27 February as the township for the community-driven development was selected. The township will receive USD 80 million for two years from 2013 to 2014.—Myanma Alinn

**Kyaukse, 23 May—**Kyaukse District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department held a meeting with local breeders on development of meat, fish and dairy product production at the hall of the district department on 21 May afternoon. It was attended by staff officers of township LBVDs of Kyaukse District, responsible persons of District and Township Livestock Breeding Federations and leaders of groups in livestock breeding sector from rural regions. The meeting constituted working groups for respective sectors. The meeting ended with lodged complaints by Head of District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Naing Soe.—Kyemon

**Working Groups formed for development of rural meat and fish sectors**

Notes:—The township will receive USD 80 million aids from World Bank for development of rural meat and fish sectors.

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**Parliamentary commission probes land grabs in Natmauk**

Natmauk, 23 May—A split group of farmlands and other lands confiscation investigation commission formed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw met officials at General Administration Department Office in Natmauk Township on 10 May. The group led by MP U Hla Swe were making field trips to the region in response to complaints filed by farmers in Natmauk Township in Magway Region about land grabs when they held the meeting with the local authorities.

Notes:—Fourty one farmers had complained about confiscation of some 60 acres of farmland to build Pyaywwe-Yanaung-Ywadaw-Natmauk-Chinbya railroad section. Saether villagers also had lodged complaints about another land grabs to relocate filling stations in their suburbs with the rate K 0.1 million per acre.

Notes:—There were three more complaints—two from two wards and one from a village—from Natmauk Township.

**Fire breaks out in Yaksawk**

Yaksawk, 23 May—A fire broke out in the yard of the Accounts office in Thida street in Sedan ward in Yaksawk Township in southern Shan State from a wire shock on 20 May. Two self-reliant staff quarters of auditor Daw Marlar Hlaing and Daw Tin Win caught fire. Head of township fire Services Department U Zaw Lin and firefighters put out the fire within 20 minutes and could manage to prevent the spread of fire to other houses. Yaksawk police station has opened a lawsuit against owners Daw Marlar Hlaing and Daw Tin Win.—Myanmar Alinn

**Tax service unit opened in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 23 May—Internal Revenue Department in Mandalay Region opened a tax service unit at the corner of 65th street and 22nd street on 21 May. The opening ceremony was attended by the director-general of Internal Revenue Department, officials, region level officials under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, departmental personnel, township staff officers of Internal Revenue Department and taxpayers.

Notes:—Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Than Aung unveiled the signboard of the tax service unit. It was followed by distribution of pamphlets about tax. The unit will consult the taxpayers about rules and regulations, systems, laws and rates of taxes and answer queries raised by the taxpayers. It will also handle complaints filed against tax offices and staff.

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**Meiktila victims support group formed**

Meiktila, 23 May—Buddhist and Muslim victims are taking refuge in five relief camps in Meiktila Township after the violence broke out on 20 March. As calm has been restored now, the victims from houses that are not damaged are allowed to leave the relief camps. Under guidance of leading monk of Asian Light of Pyin Oo Lwin (Maiktha Thukha), a support group for victims was formed on 10 May with U Aung Zaw Win as the committee chairman. The group will work to bring back social harmony, peaceful coexistence and reconciliation to both communities. Meiktila victims aids, reconciliation and peace executive committee was formed with three patrons, seven religious advisors, three legal consultants and 26 members of work committee, totalling 39. The committee will work in cooperation with local authorities, seek advices from monks to provide emergency aids to the victims. The committee claimed itself to be clear of affiliation with any political party or organization.

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**Stormy winds destroy school building**

Taungtha, 23 May—Stormy winds in Aye village-tract in Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region destroyed a building of a Basic Education Primary School at 6 pm on 20 May. The roof of the school were torn off.  

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**School building of Basic Education Primary School damaged by strong winds.**

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Kason, the month of festival of Environmental greening

The fullmoon day of Kason [May] is the second month of Myanmar lunar calendar of 12 months is annually celebrated as Buddha’s Day because it was on the fullmoon day in the Maha Sakarit year of 103 [Buddhist Era] that Bodhisatta [Prince Siddhattha as a forest recluse] became enlightened by attaining Sabbanuta Nyanna [Buddhahood] after six years of practising austerities in the forests in quest of spiritual truth. So this day is yearly celebrated as Vesak Day in all Buddhist countries and the Buddhists throughout the world.

At the age of 29, Prince Siddhattha realized that spiritual truth or dhamma could not be found at the court of the capital Kapilavatthu where defilements surrounded him day and night. After seeing the four omens of aging, infirmity, death and decrepitude, spiritual truth or dhamma could not be found by him day and night. After seeing the four omens of aging, infirmity, death and decrepitude, defilements surrounded him day and night. He then, member of the court, left the palace for the forest where he sat cross legged under a green grass presenting him. He had no enemies and that spiritual truth or dhamma could not be found at the court of the capital Kapilavatthu where defilements surrounded him day and night. After seeing the four omens of aging, infirmity, death and decrepitude, defilements surrounded him day and night.

Kason [May] is the hottest month of May in all Buddhist countries. This is done to mark the occasion of Water pouring ceremony at the Bodhi tree. This day is called Vesak Day in other Buddhist countries.

It is the season water in all ponds, lakes and creeks reduces to its lowest level. During the month of Kason the length of the day is longer and the night is shorter. People of Myanmar regard the month of Kason as Taurus season and the sign of the zodiac is a bull. The seasonal flower is Sagar and the festival is water pouring ceremony at the Maha-Bodhi tree, the holy Banyan tree at the foot of which the Buddha attained Buddhahood or enlightenment.

Myanmar people celebrate this day by watering the scared Bodhi tree at various pagodas throughout the country. This is done as a mark of veneration to the Buddha who attained Enlightenment sitting under the Bodhi Tree. All Myanmar men and women of all ages go to pagodas in procession to pour water at the root of sacred “Bo-Tree” or Bodhi tree. On this auspicious day of Kason, let’s take part in the water pouring ceremony.

The State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai delivered an address on the occasion. Then, member of State Farmland Management Committee member State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Van Thong participated in the discussions and Secretary of Township Farmland Management Committee and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U San Lyun raised questions. The State Chief Minister and officials replied to the queries.

Farmland Management Committee meeting held in Haka

HAKA, 23 May—Chin State Farmland Management Committee met Township, Ward/ Village Farmland Management Committees at the town hall of Thantlang, here, on 21 May.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Van Thong, township-level officials, Township, Ward/ Village Farmland Management Committees members and townsenders.

Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai delivered an address on the occasion. Then, member of State Farmland Management Committee member State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Van Thong participated in the discussions and Secretary of Township Farmland Management Committee and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U San Lyun raised questions. The State Chief Minister and officials replied to the queries.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 24 May, 2013

Vesak Day

Today is the fullmoon day of Kason, Myanmar is a land of festivals: a festival for every month of the year. Most festivals are cultural and religious. Kason [May], the second month in the Myanmar calendar, is deemed the hottest month of the hot season. It is the most significant day in the Buddhist world. The full moon day of Kason is deeply intertwined with the milestones in the Buddhhas life. It is the festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree. This day is called Vesak Day in other Buddhist countries.

It is the season water in all ponds, lakes and creeks reduces to its lowest level. During the month of Kason the length of the day is longer and the night is shorter. People of Myanmar regard the month of Kason as Taurus season and the sign of the zodiac is a bull. The seasonal flower is Sagar and this festival is water pouring ceremony at the Maha-Bodhi tree, the holy Banyan tree at the foot of which the Buddha attained Buddhahood or enlightenment.

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It was on the green throne of eight bundles of green grass presented him by a grass cutter that the Buddha, sat cross legged meditating, determined to gain enlightenment. The encounter he met and finally overcame was the story with the implication of green environment. Mara [Satan] the evil opponent riding a ferocious elephant appeared with hosts of his warriors to offset the Buddha from the place. Unshaken and undaunted the Buddha told Mara that he had no enemies and that in all his previous lives he had done only good deeds for which the goddess of Earth Watthondari shall bear witness. Whereupon Watthondari appeared and says, “I have collected all lustral waters at his all performances of good deeds in my tresses,” so saying the goddess squeezed out the collected waters from her tresses, creating a gushing river that washed away Mara and his party. Thus we have the greening background story of the Kason fullmoon day event.

Kason [May] is the hottest month of May in all Buddhist countries. So hot that water dries up. Myanmar saying goes ကြက်စီးခြင်း မရှိပါ။ In Tagu water diminishes, in Kason water dries up. Very hardy tree like Bannyan suffers from water shortage. Because Gotama Buddha became enlightened under the shade of this tree, this day is called Bodhi Tree [Paribawga Zedi]. So Buddhists pour water at the Bodhi Banyan tree and perform other acts of life saving charity—supplying water to ponds and lakes which begin to dry up under the scorching solar heat or removing watery creatures to rivers and lakes where there is abundant water. This wellknown and yearly observed festival of water pouring at the Bodhi Bannyan tree is called Kason Nyaungyey Thu Pwe. Though it was religious in origin, has many environmental, social and cultural importances.

Bodhi Tree is not necessarily only Bannyan Tree [Nyangbin]. Any tree under the shade of which the Buddha attained enlightened [Buddhahood] is Bodhi Tree. Therefore, in the histories of the 28 Buddhas, we learnt different Bodhi trees under which the 28 Buddhas attained enlightenment. The following is the list of Bodhi trees under which the 28 respective Buddhas attained Buddhahood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Names of the Buddhas</th>
<th>Names of the Bodhi Trees</th>
<th>Botanical Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tanhankarã</td>
<td>Sayi</td>
<td>Astonia scholaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Medhan Karã</td>
<td>Pauk Pin</td>
<td>Butea Monosperma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saranankanã</td>
<td>Nyaung chin</td>
<td>Ficus insectio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dpankanã</td>
<td>Nyaung gyat</td>
<td>Ficus obtusifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kondafika</td>
<td>Sala Kalyami Bodhi</td>
<td>not yet identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mangala</td>
<td>Gantgaw [iron wood]</td>
<td>Mesua Ferru Linn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sumana</td>
<td>Gantgaw [iron wood]</td>
<td>Mesua Ferru Linn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Revata</td>
<td>Gantgaw [iron wood]</td>
<td>Mesua Ferru Linn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sobhita</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Anomaddasã</td>
<td>Htau Kyant</td>
<td>Terminalia Tomentosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Paduma</td>
<td>Kyaung Sha Gyi</td>
<td>Bigonia indica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Narada</td>
<td>Kyaung Sha Nge</td>
<td>Indian trumpet tree (small)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Padumuttara</td>
<td>Pine Tree Confer.</td>
<td>Pipus Khuya. Fir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sumedha</td>
<td>Tamar[margosa tree]</td>
<td>Neem. Azadirachata Indica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sujîta</td>
<td>Kya Khat</td>
<td>Bambusa arundinacea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pîyadassî</td>
<td>Shi Shar</td>
<td>Phyllanthus Simplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Attadassî</td>
<td>Saga[champak]</td>
<td>Champac Michellia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Dhammadassî</td>
<td>Yey Khate a kind of tree</td>
<td>Crateaevia religiosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Siddhattha</td>
<td>Saga[champak]</td>
<td>Champac. Michellia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tissa</td>
<td>Padauk[gumkino tree]</td>
<td>Petrocarpus Marrocarpus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Phussa</td>
<td>Shi Shar</td>
<td>Phyllanthus Simplex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(See page 9)
Sacred Bodh Gaya

Supreme of the supreme
The many Dhamma
Lord Buddha delivered
Our sacrosanct heritage
With immense loving kindness
Buddha discoursed the Noble teachings
Enabling mankind to distinguish
Between right and wrong
And let them realize
The Correct Path

Today
The full moon day
In this holy month of Kason
The Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment
Milestone in Human society
Added is the amazing glory
Ever in hearts we keep
The holy place and glorious day
Awe-inspiring for us

Bodh Gaya
In the capital Nay Pyi Taw
A place so sacred
And a place so pleasant
The pilgrimage to it
A wish of every one

Poem

Preliminary workshop for Myanmar’s REDD+ projects held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—"The Ministry is making cooperation with UN agencies and international organizations for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation (REDD+) works," said Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung, at a preliminary workshop and workshop for capacity building of Myanmar’s REDD+ projects at Tungapuri Hotel, here, this morning.

Program Co-ordination, Monitoring & Evaluation Manager Mr James Bampton of RECOFTC extended the greetings. Those present discussed review on Myanmar’s REDD+ works, the ways for capacity building and implementation, wildlife conservation and development programme.

As of January, 2013, RECOFTC has been carrying out three-year basic capacity building projects through Myanmar’s REDD+ project, with the assistance of Norway. The workshop is jointly organized by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and RECOFTC.

Kason, the month of festival of Environmental ...

NavPyiTaw, 23 May—President U Thein Sein wrapped his working visit to US and flew back from Washington on 21 May.

The President was seen off at Washington International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to US U Thaun Swe, Military Attaché Col Myint Thein and mission staff.

The President then flew back Yangon from there and was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the commander of Yangon Command, departmental heads, the charge d affaires at US Embassy of Myanmar, and the President arrived at Incheon International Airport in the Republic of Korea on 22 May where he was welcomed by Korean Transport Minister Mr Suh Seoung-hwan, the head of protocol department of Foreign Ministry, the chairman of Incheon International Airport Corporation, Myanmar Ambassador to Korea U Nyunt Hlaing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Myint Hein and mission staff.

The President then flew back Yangon from there and was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the commander of Yangon Command, departmental heads, the charge d affaires at US Embassy of Myanmar, and the President arrived back here this morning and was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Maik Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads.

Kason is originally the month of festival of Environmental Day or Arbor Day in Myanmar.

We may safely say that Myanmar has their own Environment Day or Arbor Day which is the full moon day of Kason.

Important events of Gotama Buddha’s lifetime took places secluded away from madding crowds. He was born in the forest of sal trees. He saw the four omens in royal park, (1) the aged (2) the infirmity (3) the dead and (4) a forest reclus[e monk]. It was in the forest of Uruvela that Prince Siddhartha [Buddhisattha] searched for the right path to deliveration from Samsara for six years. He attained enlightenment, on the green throne of grass under the shade of Mahabodhi bannyan tree. He gave his first sermons to the five forest recluses in the Migavana [the deer park]. The monasteries he and his disciples resided were built in the green environments such as Jetavana vihara built in the gardens of the Jata Princes. Veluvang vihara was built in the bamboo groves, etc. etc. He breathed his last in the forest of sal trees—Kusonavana.

In all his teachings, Gotama Buddha directly or indirectly pointed out the significance of nature and natural environment for the meditation of Samatha and vippasana.

In pursuance of the Buddha’s teachings successive Myanmar kings, monks and people have preserved nature by founding arboreas, sanctuaries [Abaya thanas or no danger zones] and making dams, reservoirs, digging wells and lakes. In modern times, Sayadaw monks lead the public in creating arboreas such as Lumbani at the foot of Zwgbabin hill in Kayin State, Gantgaw tahtaung in the Ayeyawady Region and Bodhi tahtaung near Monywa in Sagaing Region. The festival of water pouring at the Bodhi trees on the full moon day of Kason [May] is originally religious but environmental in essence with social and cultural ramifications. Organized parties of girls and women in their finery come out in procession to the Bodhi Tree with earthen pots on their heads well balanced followed by troups of male youth performers, singing, dancing and playing instruments. Onlookers cheering and presenting them snacks and drinks and participating in their activities, Sayadaw monks preaching and explaining the meaning of the festival, then followed by the life saving charity activities of supplying water to lakes and ponds where water dries up or removing aquatic creatures to rivers and streams are seen every year on the full moon day of Kason in Myanmar.
Rural health branch opened in Naungtaya

Naungtaya, 23 May—Opening ceremony of Khanwe rural health branch was held in front of the building in Khanwe Village, Hmwaypyin Village-tract, Naungtaya Sub-Township on 19 May morning.

At the ceremony, Shan State Hluttaw representative U Khun Aung Naing Oo, Sub-Township medical officer Dr San Kyi, Dr Thet Thet Mar of Tikyit Station and Hmwaypyin Village Administrator U Win Naing cut the ribbon to open the building.

Then, Shan State Hluttaw representative U Khun Aung Naing Oo and Sub-Township medical officer Dr San Kyi gave speeches on the occasion.

Chairman of health branch construction committee U Thaung handed over documents related to the building to Sub-Township medical officer Dr San Kyi.

The building 27 ft long, 18 ft wide and 12 feet high is one-storey building. Local people contributed K 9,080,980 to the construction.

Kyemon

International AIDS
Candle Light Memorial organized

Dawei, 23 May—The International AIDS Candle Light Memorial was organized by Anagat Alynayang Association of Dawei in Taninthayi Region was held at Bandoola Bungalow at Maungmagan Beach in Langon Township of Dawei District on 19 May evening.

Coordinator Miss Hopewall of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) made an introductory speech.

Chairman of the association U Zaw Tun explained the background history of AIDS candle light ceremony.

Three persons with HIV explained their lifestyles. Those present at the ceremony ignited the candles as praying. Members of the association presented songs.

About 200 people including Maungmagan village administrator joined the ceremony.

Kyemon

HRD
Children of staff get cash assistance

Bago, 23 May—A ceremony to provide teaching aid and cash assistance to children of staff of Bago Region General Administration Department was held at its office yesterday afternoon.

Commissioner of Bago Region GAD U Maung Maung Than presented teaching aid and cash assistance worth over K 1.7 million to 44 children of the staff.

Kyemon

Student kits for primary students in Mohnyin

Mohnyin, 23 May—Myanmar Red Cross Society donated 17 bags of students’ kits for victim primary students through member of Kachin State Government Social Affairs Minister Daw Bawk Ja at Saint Patric Church of Aughthay Ward, here, Kachin State, on 19 May.

Each student kits comprised 13 kinds of stationery including school uniforms.

Altogether 43 victims from 12 families are taking shelter at the relief camp over one year who moved from Khaityan Village in Hopin Sub-Township of Mohnyin District.

The Social Affairs Minister urged officials to provide health care services to the victims.

Myintzutha Company donated K 120,000, Kaungkinwinn Company K 50000 and Royal Soe Nyunt Company K 50000 to the victims.

Kyemon

Nation-building endeavours

Concrete lamp-posts being erected in places of wooden ones by electricians along 6.6 KV power lines on Palaw- Shatpon road section in Myek District on 19 May for ensuring safety of electricity and improving power supply system.

Kyemon

Surgical operation equipment donated to Gangaw Hospital

Gangaw, 23 May—Nurses in Singapore who are members of Yaw Region Association (Singapore) donated three monitors and accessories worth K 1.8 million to be used at the operation theatre of Gangaw Township Hospital of Magway Region on 19 May.

The ceremony was held at the hospital in commemoration of the 5th anniversary of Yaw Region Association (Singapore).

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Htet of Gangaw District spoke on the occasion. On behalf of the wellwishers, townelder U Pe Nyo of Myaukgon Ward of Gangaw handed over donations to anesthetics specialist Dr Zin Lin Mar, District Medical Officer Dr Myo Thant spoke words of thanks.

Kyemon

Hiitin Township turns out midwives

Gangaw, 23 May—The Midwifery Course No 2/2012 concluded in Hiitin Township of Gangaw Township of Magway Region on 13 May.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tin Latt, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khun Aung Hay and Township Medical Officer Dr Chaw Chaw Naing presented medical kits and certificates of honour to 40 trainees who attended the theoretical and practical course.

Under the arrangement of Magway Region government, the training course was conducted. At present, a total of 100 midwives participate in providing health care services to the local people.

Kyemon

Health Care Services

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Kyemon
Cambodia says to continue cooperation with UN on human rights

PHNOM PENH, 23 May — Cambodian Senior Minister Om Yentieng, president of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, said on Wednesday that the country would continue good cooperation with the United Nations for a better human rights development.

Speaking to reporters after a two-hour meeting with visiting Surya P Subedi, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights to Cambodia, Om Yentieng said as a member of the United Nations, Cambodia, in the status of one sovereign state, always enhanced every UN’s policy on human rights.

“As a good and active member of the UN, Cambodia will continue to work with the United Nations in developing human rights,” he said.

In the meeting, Subedi said he wanted to follow up his recommendations made in his previous reports on the judiciary, parliamentary reform, electoral reform and economic land concessions in Cambodia. Meanwhile, Om Yentieng lashed out at Subedi, saying that his reports were groundless and had a trend towards the opposition party. He said Subedi produced the reports by listening to only a very small group of people with opposition tendency, ignoring the opinions of millions of the Cambodian people.

Subedi arrived in Cambodia Sunday for a one-week fact-finding mission on human rights situation.

During the stay, he had already met separately with a ruling party lawmaker Cheheang Von, chairman of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Commission at the National Assembly, Kem Sokha, vice president of the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party, Im Suosdey, chairman of the National Election Committee, and civil society representatives as well as some victims in cases of human rights violation.

Building construction gives way to birds in central China

ZHENGZHOU, 23 May — Prospective residents of a building that is under construction in central China’s Henan Province will have to wait to move in because of some strange intruders at the construction site — swallows.

Nearly 1,000 swallows were found to have nested at a construction site in Longhu Township in the county-level city of Xinzeng, which is located in the provincial capital of Zhengzhou.

Local officials decided to suspend construction on Tuesday until the fledglings are old enough to fly. They are feared to …

Photo taken in Tokyo’s Minato Ward on 22 May, 2013, shows five overseas-built motorcycle models, which Honda Motor Co said the same day it will begin selling in Japan from June. — Kyodo News

General Electric Offices opened in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — General Electric Offices have been opened in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

Its opening ceremony was held at Thingaha Hotel, here, yesterday, in the presence of Union Ministers U Hla Tun, U Khan Maung Soe, U Win Mynit, Dr Kan Zaw and U Aye Myint Kyu and Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and invited persons.

Among ASEAN countries, Myanmar is the ninth member country of General Electric that is running its business with over 3 billion USD incomes and over 4 billion USD order values. It has about 7500 staff.

Chief Executive Officer of GE (ASEAN countries) Mr. Stuart Dean said that Myanmar includes in the list of fastest growing economies in ASEAN countries. He said GE would assist in electric power and health care services and fulfill the needs the transport sector would be fulfilled.

U Zaw Win (Andrew Lee), a Myanmar citizen, will run GE Offices in Myanmar as resident representative — MNA

Sri Lanka to use summit to showcase developments

COLOMBO, 23 May — The Sri Lankan government on Wednesday said that it will use a key Commonwealth summit in November to showcase the post-war developments in the country.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Sri Lanka in November this year, and heads of state from almost all the Commonwealth countries, including Britain’s Prince Charles, will attend the summit.

The Sri Lankan Ministry of External Affairs said that Sri Lanka will be able to show the developments following a three-decade separatist terrorist conflict and the vast economic opportunities available in the country.

It also said that the Commonwealth Business Forum, which will be held alongside the summit and attracts extensive participation both from within and outside the Commonwealth, will serve as a springboard for Sri Lanka to promote trade and investment and further enhance economic cooperation.

“It is expected that investment projects and sectors for cooperation is already under way, and the response is encouraging participation at the Commonwealth Business Forum later this year.

The objective of the government with regard to outcome of CHOGM 2013 is to derive the maximum benefit for the people of the country by making full use of a unique opportunity,” the Ministry of External Affairs said.

This photo taken on 22 May, 2013 shows swallow nests on the subsoil at a building site in Xinzeng City, central China’s Henan Province. Tens of thousands of swallows have hawedled holes here for nests in recent months. The builder has decided to postpone their construction work for a month to make sure the squabs born in those holes could grow up and be capable of flying.— Xinhua
Singapore’s Q1 GDP growth revised at 0.2 pct

SINGAPORE, 23 May—Singapore’s economy grew by 0.2 percent on year in the first quarter (Q1), revising the advance estimate of 0.6 percent contraction released earlier in April, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Thursday.

The growth was slower than the gross domestic product (GDP) expansion of 1.5 percent in the last quarter of 2012. On a quarter-on-quarter seasonally-adjusted annualized basis, the economy grew by 1.8 percent, slower than the 3.3 percent growth in the previous quarter. The ministry said the pull-back “in the quarter-on-quarter growth momentum was mainly due to the decline in externally-orientated sectors such as manufacturing and wholesale trade.” However, the slight expansion was still out of expectation of the market. According to an earlier survey by the Monetary Author- ity of Singapore released in March, economists and analysts expected a 0.8 percent growth in Q1 of 2013.

In particular, the manufacturing sector declined by an annualized rate of 12.3 percent on quarter, reversing the 3.1 percent gain in the previous quarter. On year-on-year basis, this sector also contracted by 6.8 percent, even larger than earlier expectation of 6.5 percent in advance estimates. “The sequential decline largely reflected a contraction in the output of the biomedicine manufacturing and transport engineering clusters, which more than offset the expan- sion in the electronics cluster,” the ministry added.

“On the wholesale and re- tail trade sector contracted by 1.1 percent on year, while the transportation and storage sector declined by 0.5 percent,”—Xinhua

GM recalls nearly 20,000 new Cadillac SRX SUVs

CHICAGO, 23 May—General Motors Corpora- tion said it is recalling nearly 20,000 new Cadil- lac SRX SUVs for faulty wheel lug nuts, according to a Detroit News report on Wednesday.

The Detroit automaker told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra- tion it is recalling 18,871 2013 SRX SUVs in the United States and nearly 1,000 in Canada over concerns that a wheel could eventually fall off.

“GM has been investi- gating the issue of loosening wheel nuts since Oc- tober 2012. In March and April, GM received six reports for noise and other issues caused by loose lug nuts. But according to GM spokesman Alan Adler, the automaker has no reports of wheels falling off. GM owners could experience creaking, rat- tling or grinding noises from the wheels or steering vibrations.”—Xinhua

Nepal marking diamond jubilee of man’s conquest of Mt Qomolangma

KATHMANDU, 23 May—Nepal on Wednesday officially launched events to mark the 60th anniver- sary of man’s first ascent on Mt Qomolangma, also known as Mt Everest, to be observed in the foothills of the world’s highest peak and Kathmandu from 26 to 30 May.

Nepal Tourism Board unveiled the programme amid a ceremony which was participated by famous Sherpa mountaineers, tour- ism experts and govern- ment officials.

As per the plan, an “Everest Conference” will be held in Kathmandu near the Qomolangma base camp on 26 May, in which working papers on global warming and its effect on the Himalayas will be pre- sented.

On 27 May, photo and philatelic exhibition re- lated to Mt Qomolangma will be held in Kathmandu, while on 28 May, Tenzing and Hillary Award will be given to the most deserving Qomolangma summiteers.

29 May will be the main event day, as it was the day when Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, an Indian, of Nepal jointly ascended Mt Qomolangma in 1953. On this day, many famous personalities of the moun- taineering sector will be the guests of honour.

Among them are Appa Sherpa, a 21 times Qomo- langma summiteer. Rein- hold Messner, the first per- son to climb Qomolangma without oxygen and all 14 highest mountains on earth. Tensing’s grandson Tashi and Hillary’s granddaugh- ter Amelia.

“Nepal is the only country in the world to have hosted the summit climbers and this is a historic event that has enabled us to continue the drive of tourism,”—Xinhua
Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart allowed to date others?

BEIJING, 23 May — According to reports, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart’s split means they are both able to “date other people”, although the “On The Road” actress is said to be struggling with their recent break. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart are reportedly allowed to date other people. The on/off couple have apparently called time on their four-year relationship, and it is said the “On The Road” actress is finding it tough to deal with.

A source told HollywoodLife.com: “They are basically allowed to date other people and Kristen is super sad over the whole thing. She has absolutely no desire to date anyone and the thought of Rob possibly seeing other people has made her sick to her stomach. She’s depressed and rightly so... Her good friends have been hanging out with her at her house giving her support. This is a tough time for both of them. But Kristen seems to be taking the split the hardest.” — Xinhua

Lindsay Lohan struggling in rehab

BEIJING, 23 May — Lindsay Lohan is reportedly looking “very disheveled” and lacking “energy” as she is said to be struggling through her current 90-day stint at the Betty Ford Centre. Lindsay Lohan is said to be struggling with her latest stint in rehab. The “Liz & Dick” actress is currently at the Betty Ford Clinic in California — with another three months left on her 90-day court-ordered stay — and friends worry she is lacking “energy” since her Adderall was taken away. The troubled star has had the medication — which she has claimed is to treat her ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) — stopped by doctors at the clinic and those close to her think it’s harming her progress. An insider told RadarOnline.com: “Lindsay just doesn’t want to be there. She was forced to go to Betty Ford by the judge instead of going to jail.”

The actress looks extremely haggard, her face is bloated, and it doesn’t look like she has brushed her hair in days. “She looks very disheveled and has absolutely no energy since docs’ took away the Adderall.” It is said Lindsay, 26, has to accept the rehabilitation process to benefit from it, rather than letting herself go “through the motions”. The source added: “[Until she] surrenders to the recovery process, she will never have a shot of sobriety. “To Lindsay, rehab is just a revolving door, and she is just going through the motions, pro forma.” — PTI

Leonardo DiCaprio snubbed by supermodel Cara Delevingne

LONDON, 23 May — Supermodel Cara Delevingne reportedly snubbed actor Leonardo DiCaprio at The Great Gatsby premiere in Cannes, after the actor spent the whole evening chasing her. DiCaprio has dated an impressive number of supermodels in the past but Delevingne does not plan to be one of them, reported Digital Spy.

“Normally all Leo has to do is look at a girl and they fall at his feet. Though Cara was having none of it. He spent the night chasing after her and essentially she blew him out.” — Xinhua

Pop goes Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in blue at Cannes

NEW DELHI, 23 May — Aishwarya Rai Bachchan popped against the Cannes red carpet on day seven in blue Gucci and fuchsia pink lips.

In a dramatic departure from her favoured palette of black and white, Ash wore a one-shouldered teal blue satin dress at the premiere of the film Behind the Candelabra. Instead of her usual smoky eyes and nude lips, Ash kept her eyes simple and wore bright pink lips. Fashion redemption after the previous day’s voluminous Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla anarkali? Yes. But wait. She still didn’t get it right. Ash scored a perfect 10 with the bold colours but ruined the look with a severe, sculptural hairdo which was much too harsh for her face.

Everyone is howling at the fact she actually knocked back the biggest actor in the world. She thought he was too forward and too old,“ an insider said. — PTI

Leonardo DiCaprio, who is famous for dating supermodels in the past, was snubbed by Cara. — PTI

Ash poses on the red carpet.—PTI

Leonardo DiCaprio

Lindsay Lohan

PTI

PTI
SPORTS

Head coach Vigneault sacked by Canucks

LOS ANGELES, 23 May — The Vancouver Canucks fired head coach Alain Vigneault on Wednesday, along with assistants Rick Bowness and Newell Brown, following the National Hockey League team’s first-round exit from the playoffs. The Canucks ended the regular season by winning the Northwest Division championship with a 26-15-7 record but were swept 4-0 by the San Jose Sharks in the Western Conference quarter-finals.

“Alain, Rick and Newell worked tirelessly to lead this team to great on-ice success,” Canucks president and general manager Michael Gillis said in a statement. “I am personally grateful to each of them and their families for their commitment to the Canucks and the city of Vancouver and wish them continued success in future.”

Vigneault, 52, was the all-time leader in coaching wins for Vancouver and guided the club to six Northwest Division titles, two Presidents’ Trophy titles and into the 2011 Stanley Cup Final where they lost to the Boston Bruins in seven games. He compiled a 313-170-57 coaching record during seven seasons with the Canucks.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 May — Santos have rejected a 20-million-euro offer from Barcelona for Brazil starlet Neymar, local media reported on Wednesday. The Brazilian outfit, which last week turned down Barcelo’s initial 18-million-euro bid for the striker, made the decision after a meeting of the club’s board on Wednesday night.

“Santos has analyzed the proposal and it doesn’t meet our requirements,” Santos vice-president Odillo Rodrigues told Globo. “He (Neymar) remains a part of our team and has a contract until July 2014.” The latest development involving Neymar’s future comes amid reports that representatives from both Barcelona and Spanish rivals Real Madrid are currently in Brazil to negotiate a deal for a 21-year-old.

Santos, to whom Neymar is contracted until the 2014 World Cup, owns 55% of the player’s economic rights. The remainder is held by investment firms DIS (40%) and Terceira Estrela Investimentos (5%). The club risks losing Neymar for nothing if it does not strike a deal for the forward before the close of the European summer transfer window in August.

Los Angeles, 23 May — Neymar bid

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Veteran forward Rick Bowness and Newell Brown, who have worked alongside Vigneault in several capacities, were also fired.

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**Signs point to Krzyzewski staying as Olympic coach**

Duke Blue Devils head coach Mike Krzyzewski yells instructions to his team in the first half during their Midwest Regional NCAA men’s basketball game against the Louisville Cardinals in Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 31, 2013.—REUTERS

A news conference hosted by USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo to announce the selection has been called for Thursday day at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where Krzyzewski presides as head coach of the Blue Devils.

Krzyzewski said before and after the United States won the 2012 gold medal at the London Games that he would be stepping down from the national team head coaching job he assumed in 2005, but in recent days he reportedly was reconsidering.

The 66-year-old Krzyzewski, who also led the US team to victory at the 2000 Olympics and 2010 world basketball championship, has posted a 62-1 record over the last seven years in charge of the team.

Last year, Krzyzewski steered a star-studded squad including LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony to their second successive gold medal game triumph over Spain in the London Olympics final. After a third place finish at the 2006 world championship, Team USA has not lost since under Krzyzewski, popularly known as Coach K.

Krzyzewski has been on the staff of 13 US national teams since 1979 and in following up his Beijing triumph with the London win became only the second coach ever to win back-to-back Olympic men’s basketball titles.

**Australian assessment to help developing nations manage risks**

Canberra, 23 May—The Australian government released a comprehensive assessment of how developing nations can be assisted to sustainably develop their mineral and energy resources on Thursday. A report by Geoscience Australia, commissioned by AusAID, details the known mineral and energy resources of 138 developing countries, along with insights into other factors that can influence investment such as political, operational, security and terrorism risks.

Resources and Energy Minister Gary Gray said in a statement that Australian development assistance can assist developing countries to grasp the opportunities afforded to them through mining. He also said in the statement that many of Australia’s development partners were endowed with substantial mineral and energy resources that could propel them on a path to inclusive and sustainable development.

“Supporting the progression of this sector in developing nations assists poverty reduction and accelerates economic development by increasing government and community revenues and this revenue can generate jobs and improve infrastructure,” Gray said.

**Peru, Canada leaders agree to boost economic ties**

Lima, 23 May—Peruvian President Ollanta Humala and visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Wednesday agreed to strengthen bilateral economic relations following talks here.

Speaking to the press, Humala said his meeting with Harper was “varied, rich and positive,” and that they agreed to strengthen bilateral economic ties, in particular in the mining sector.

“We have exchanged views on the mining extraction activities,” Humala said. “We have also talked about the importance of developing infrastructure, about large projects to make the market more dynamic.”

The leaders also discussed security issues including the threat posed by drug-trafficking and terrorism, emphasizing the importance of joint work through supranational policies.

The Peruvian president announced that Harper had invited him to visit Canada. For his part, Harper touted Peru for its good policies and governance, calling it a country of great investment opportunities, especially in the mining sector.—Xinhua

**Saudi Arabia reports 17th death of novel coronavirus**

Riyadh, 23 May—Arabia reported on Wednesday the 17th death of 31 novel coronavirus infection cases in the country, according to an official statement.

The 17th victim of the virus was a non-Saudi in the al-Qassim region, who has been admitted to hospital a few days ago due to severe acute respiratory syndrome and passed away Tuesday, the health ministry said.

Most cases have been recorded so far among elderly patients and people with multiple chronic diseases, according to the ministry. Since last year, tens of cases of infection with the novel coronavirus have been confirmed. The patients mainly came from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Britain. The transmissibility and pathogenesis of the novel coronavirus remains poorly understood.—Xinhua
Trade and Investment Agreements between Myanmar and US inked

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—Myanmar and US could sign trade and investment agreements during President U Thein Sein’s working visit to the United States of America.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Acting US Trade Representative Mr. Demetrious J. Marantis signed Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between Government of Myanmar and Government of the United States (TIFA), at the Office of the US Trade Representative in Washington of US on 21 May.

On the same day, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and Mrs Elizabeth L. Littlefield also inked Investment Incentive Agreement between Government of Myanmar and Government of United States (IIA), at the Office of Overseas Private Investment Cooperation (OPIC) in Washington.

With respect to the agreements, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan said that under the TIFA, both countries can make trade and investment. Under the IIA, the US will provide assistance and make cooperation with Myanmar in various sectors including agriculture, microfinance, monetary infrastructures and SMEs.

"In the past, people only knew US eased economic sanctions against Myanmar. There are questions among Myanmar private entrepreneurs of how US would make cooperation with Myanmar. Now it is clear thanks to the agreements. It is the strong evidence that the US would make economic cooperation with Myanmar. It is a shot in the arm for Myanmar entrepreneurs. Those agreements also provide a clear answer for US investors," said Joint Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) who attended the signing ceremony.

UMFCCI and the US Chambers of Commerce have already signed an agreement on boosting trade and investment and sharing of information in February this year. It is a b2b cooperation. It can be said that the two countries have pledged economic cooperation as the governments of both countries have reached agreement, she added.

Information committee, US experts discuss transparency timelines in information

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 May—Media laws and mass communication experts from the US discussed legal affairs, ICT and media, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information here yesterday.

The discussion sponsored by the Ministry of Information intends to release real-time information and inform changes to the public in a transparent manner. It focused on theories and practices of how the information committee deals with media. Chairman of Winning Strategies of US Jim Mc Queeny and media advisor Ms Barbara Swann discussed dos and don’ts for Ministries’ information committee.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung, departmental heads, officials from information committee of the Ministries and high-ranking officials, totaling 146.

This afternoon, the US experts held discussions with officers from the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Communication and ICT and the Attorney-General of the Union. In the evening, they discussed mass media technology with officials from the Ministry of Information.

It is the third time discussions between officials from information committee of the government ministries and foreign experts. The first (See page 11)