President U Thein Sein rolls out red carpet for Japanese PM

Japan vows to provide 91000 million yen worth of development aid to three main sectors in Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May—

Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and his wife Mrs. Akie Abe and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air at 8:30 am today.

On their arrival on the lawns of Presidential Palace to attend the welcoming ceremony at 9:30 am, they were cordially welcomed by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

Next, the President and Japanese Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour while the State Band was playing national anthems of Myanmar and Japan. Then the President and Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Japanese Prime Minister introduced his delegation members to the President who also presented his entourage to the Japanese Prime Minister.

Also present together with the President and wife at the welcoming ceremony were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Aye Myint, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Kan Zaw and U Htay Aung, and Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin. The Japanese Prime Minister and wife were accompanied by the Deputy Ministers, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata and senior officials.

While the welcoming ceremony was in progress, the President and Japanese Prime Minister were greeted by scouts of Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No (5) waving miniature flags of Myanmar and Japan.

Next, the President and the Japanese Prime Minister had a cordial discussion at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, President U Thein Sein spoke words of praise on the Japanese Prime Minister’s first visit to Myanmar as a head of the government in 36 years and visits made by three generations as his grandfather and father also paid officials visits to Myanmar. He also expressed thanks for Japan’s support for Myanmar’s reform process since the start of the process.

Next, the two leaders held talks on political and economic reform processes, national unity, development of health and education sectors, industrial sector development, SMEs sector development, investment of Japanese businessmen in Myanmar, prospects for Japan’s role in implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Dawei Special Economic Zone projects, rural region development and poverty alleviation schemes, security and the rule of law, banking service development, emergence of stock market, modernization and improvement in taxation structure and promotion of people-to-people connectivity and prospects for multisectoral cooperation between the two countries.

Furthermore, the two leaders exchanged views on ASEAN-Japan cooperation and regional security matters.

At the meeting, Japanese PM Mr. Shinzo Abe made a vow to provide 91000 million yen worth of development aid to three main sectors in Myanmar—rural region development and poverty alleviation schemes including development of national races in border regions, human resources development and infrastructural development.

Also present at the meeting together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Aye Myint, U Win Myint, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Kan Zaw, U Htay Aung and officials. The Japanese Prime Minister was accompanied by deputy ministers and high-ranking officials. — MNA
Myanmar selected Vovinam team leaves for Cambodia

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 May** — Myanmar selected Vovinam team left for Cambodia yesterday to take part in the Second Southeast Asian Vovinam Championship to be held in Siam Reap of Cambodia on 28-30 May.

The Myanmar selected Vovinam team comprising 35 athletes, four coaches and two managers led by Deputy Director U Soe Aung of the Ministry of Sports were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Principal of Myanmar Martial Arts School U Aung Htay and officials. It will be the first international sports tour for Myanmar Vovinam team.

Vovinam (Martial Arts of Vietnam) is a Vietnamese sports that will be in the XXVII SEA Games. The Myanmar selected Vovinam team tentatively formed with 52 athletes had received a joint training in Vietnam from 16 March to 14 April. It is planned to hire a coach from Vietnam after this sports event in which two Myanmar referees will also take part.

Red Cross Society Office opened in Monghsat Township

**MONHSAT, 26 May** — An opening of Monghsat Township Red Cross Society Office took place in front of the new building, jointly donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross, in Myothit ward of Monghsat Township in Shan State on 20 May. Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Ohn, IRCR Coordinator Mr. Julien Nicolas Chailier and Joint Head of Shan State RCS (Grade-I) U Ko Ko Aung formally opened the one-storey new office which is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide.

Myawady Industrial Zone implementation process in progress

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 May** — In meeting with trainees at the women’s vocational training-school in Myawady on 20 May, the Kayin State Chief Minister called on them to share their knowledge they got at the training course to others in their own regions. Next, the chief minister presented a set of Sky Net satellite disc and receiver to the school. Then the chief minister attended the meeting to clarify the implementation of Myawady industrial zone and observed a site chosen for establishment of the industrial zone together with Thai entrepreneurs.

Leaking gas pipeline in Insein Township repaired in time

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 May** — Shwe Pyitha natural gas control and distribution station was informed of a leak in Ywama Thamang natural gas pipeline of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy at Zaykon east ward in Insein Township on 23 May.

Officials concerned including Engineer In-Charge U Thein Hlaing of the station went to the scene and undertook repair works. They carried out the substitution of 200-foot defective pipeline with a new one and buried it for public safety. The repair works had completed at about 11.30 pm on 24 May. Now, supply of natural gas is in progress regularly.

Indonesia conceals three points in its away match with Myanmar

**YANGON, 26 May** — Myanmar team faced Indonesian team in the first-day match of FAM-Frenz Asian Championship Youth Football Tournament-2013 at Aung San Stadium yesterday evening. Indonesia won by three goals to one over Myanmar in its away match.

Indonesian team showed their brilliant performance in front of the crowd of the host team with a hat-trick of its winger Diki. Myanmar lost its home advantage due to its weaknesses in skills and stamina. Indonesian winger Diki scored his opener after 15 minutes at Aung San Stadium. He added one more goal in the half-time and made his third goal after the break. Myanmar got only a consolation goal scored by Thiha Tun Kyaw in the second-half.

The tournament is being held with the participation of 12 teams in two groups. Group (A) consists of Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Timor, Singapore and Malaysia (A). Group (B) comprises Myanmar, Malaysia (B), Laos, Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia. Each team will have home and away matches. Myanmar will face Philippines as its second round robin match on 1 June at Aung San Stadium.

Myanmar U-23 football team ready for home and away international friendly matches

**YANGON, 26 May** — With the aim of achieving success in the upcoming XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar, U-23 selected Myanmar football team has been under intensive training since 21 May.

Arrangements are being made for the team tentatively formed with 30 players to play four friendly matches during the training period. After playing its first friendly match against MNL. All Star team in Taunggyi today, the team will play three international friendly matches one after another in next month. The selected Myanmar football team will face Singaporean team formed with selected players in front of its home crowd at Thuwunna football stadium on 4 June. Then Myanmar team will play two more friendly matches against a V-league football club and U-23 selected Vietnamese football team on the soil of Vietnam on 9 and 11 June.

Dala dwellers provided with free health care service of specialists

**DALA, 26 May** — A medical team comprising specialists led by Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr Zaw Min went on a health care service tour of Dala Township in Yangon Region on 18 May.

For providing free medical treatment to local people in urban wards and nearby villages in the township, the medical team of 43 specialists and doctors performed health care service at Dala People’s Hospital in cooperation with local authorities, health staff led by Head of Dala Township Health Department Dr Hsan Thura Aung Thein and members of Dala Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

The team was divided into eight groups led by each specialist and provided free health care to 428 patients and carried out necessary arrangement to transfer 37 patients to respective hospitals where they will be provided with more effective treatment.
Kerry presses Egypt on economic reform, says aims depend on

US steps up quest to solve youth unemployment

India’s Singh to seek nuclear deal, investments during Japan visit

Pakistan school bus explosion and blaze kill 17 children

EU steps up quest to solve youth unemployment

US to take out Syrian air power if Geneva 2 talks fail

Abe to pledge nuclear plant restart in growth strategy
Planetary alignment peaks with celestial show this weekend

A crescent moon and the planets Jupiter (bottom) and Venus are seen in the sky over Buenos Aires on 1 Dec, 2008.—Reuters

**Google to bankroll, build wireless networks across Africa**

**New York, 26 May—** Google Inc intends to finance, build and help operate wireless networks from sub-Saharan Africa to Southeast Asia, hoping to connect a billion or so people in emerging countries to the Internet, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

The Internet search giant — which has for years espoused universal Web access — is employing a patchwork quilt of technologies and holding discussions with regulators from South Africa to Kenya, the WSJ cited people familiar with the strategy as saying. Access to the vast trove of information on the Internet, and the tools to make use of it, is considered key to lifting economies up the value chain. But countries are often hampered by the vast sums needed to build infrastructure, onerous regulations or geographical terrain.

To reach its goal, Google, which benefits the more people have access to its search and other Internet services, is lobbying regulators to use airwaves reserved for television broadcasts, which at lower frequencies can pass through buildings and over longer distances, the WSJ reported. It is also working on providing low-cost cellphones and employing balloons or blimps to transmit signals over hundreds of square miles from high altitudes.

The company has already begun several small-scale trials, including in Cape Town, South Africa, where it is using a base station in conjunction with wireless access boxes to broadcast signals over several miles, the newspaper reported.

Chief Executive Larry Page has made no secret of his plans to use his company to work toward broader, non-profit goals. Google on Friday declined to comment on its plans.—Reuters

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**SAP revamps management to focus on cloud computing**

**Frankfurt, 26 May—** German business software maker SAP said it was revamping its management to sharpen its focus on cloud computing as demand for the service which offers clients money grows.

SAP and rivals such as IBM and Oracle are clashing to meet surging demand for cloud computing, which allows clients to ditch bulky and costly servers for network-based software and storage in remote data centers. The company said it was now grouping all of its development activities and putting executive board member Vishal Sikka in charge of them from June 1. It also named board member Gerhard Oswald to oversee its new HANA Enterprise Cloud product.

“In record time, we went from being a startup in the cloud to being one of the largest companies in the cloud,” Co-Chief Executive Jim Hagemann Snabe said during a conference call. SAP splashed out $7.7 billion last year to buy Ava- iba and SuccessFactors to push into the cloud computing market, which research firm Gartner has said is expected to grow 18.5 percent this year to $131 billion worldwide.

But it suffered a setback at the start of 2013, when top sales managers in Asia left, giving rivals an edge just as demand for cloud computing was on the rise.

The German company vowed last month to get its Asia-Pacific business back on track after the problems pushed its first-quarter earnings and revenue below expectations.

On Friday, it unexpectedly announced that Lars Dalgaard, the former Suc- cessFactors CEO who was widely expected to lead SAP’s cloud computing business, was leaving SAP to become an investor in a start-up of the same name.

SAP said Dalgaard was stepping down from the management board and leaving the company ef- fective June 1 but that he would continue to act as an adviser to its cloud business.

“We’re not letting Lars go. He is still our stra- tegic cloud adviser. We’re not turning off his e-mail and he can keep his PC,” co-Chief Executive Bill McDermott said.—Reuters

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**Etisalat makes top bid for Vivendi’s Maroc Tel**

**Paris/London, 26 May —** Gulf telecom operator Etisalat has offered a higher price for Vivendi’s Maroc Telecom stake than rival Qatari bidder Ooredoo, ac- cording to two people fa- miliar with the matter.

Etisalat’s offer needs further work, however, and has more legal conditions than Ooredoo’s offer, so Vivendi has not yet made a final choice, the people said.

“If Etisalat cleans up its offer, then it wins,” said one of the sources, who is close to the process. “If not, it will go to Qatar, which also made an offer that Vivendi can accept.”

While the exact prices of the offers were not clear, sources earlier told Reu- ters that they had come in lower than the 5 billion ro- sos ($6.5 billion) Vivendi had initially hoped for and closer to the market value of the stake.

Vivendi’s 53 percent shareholding in Maroc Tele- com is now worth 4.34 bil- lion rois.

Maroc Telecom offers fixed-line, mobile and Inter- net services in the kingdom and is one of Africa’s top telecom firms, with units in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali and Mauritania.

The buyer will inherit a firm that has been a reli- able cash machine for Vivendi but has seen slower growth in recent years, analysts say, although there is growth potential in sub- Saharan Africa, where sales and profits rose last year.

Vivendi has been in talks in recent weeks with Etisalat to remove some of the legal clauses in its bid, the sources said. The UAE- backed group has scheduled an extraordinary shareholder- meeting on 28 May to ap- prove the financing package for the bid.

Ooredoo, meanwhile, offered its own package, in which Etisalat and Ooredoo in- cluded a strategy of Vivendi’s own. “Vivendi’s strategy chief told Reuters ear- lier.”

Vivendi has not asked Ooredoo to improve its of- fer so far, the first source said. Ooredoo is frustrated with the slowness of the process and what it sees as a lack of communication from Vivendi, said two oth- er sources familiar with the situation.

Vivendi may choose a preferred bidder with whom to continue exclusive negoti- ations next week after the Etisalat vote, but it could also take longer, the first source said.

Spokesmen for Viv- endi, Etisalat and Ooredoo declined to comment on Friday.

Both bidders are eager to sign a deal with Vivendi before the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, which begins in early July.

For Vivendi, the sale of Maroc Telecom is crucial to its ambition to lessen exposure to capital-intensive telecoms and focus on its media activities in video games, pay TV and music.

Investors have been e- arly awaiting progress on the divestments, especially after Vivendi’s attempted sales of its video games and Brazilian telecom units fell through.

Vivendi previously said the Maroc Telecom sale would not be finalized before the autumn and that it was working closely with the Moroccan state, which owns 30 percent of Maroc Telecom and will have to approve the buyer.

Both Etisalat and Ooredoo see Maroc Tele- com as a way to expand their footprints in Africa, and both have expanded ag- gressively overseas in the past decade.

Etisalat, which is 60 percent owned by the UAE, relies more on its home market for revenue and sales than Ooredoo, how- ever, with 60 percent of rev- enue and 71 percent of core profit earned domestically, according to HSBC re- search. “We think it will be a very close-fought race,” HSBC analysts wrote in a note. “We expect the victor, whoever it is, to use Maroc Telecom as a springboard to further acquisitions in the Africa region.”

($1 = 0.7751 euros) Reuters

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**New Light of Myanmar**

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**Science & Technology**

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**Computing as demand for**

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**member Gerhard Oswald to**
Blackstone notifies Cohen's SAC it intends to pull money

NEW YORK, May 26 — Billionaire hedge fund manager Steven A. Cohen is losing the financial support of Blackstone Group Inc., the largest outside investor in his embattled SAC Capital Advisors, which is yanking much of its client money, according to a letter reviewed by Reuters.

A pension consultant, in a 21 May letter to clients, said Blackstone has notified Cohen that it intends to “fully redeem” a significant portion of the roughly $550 million investment fund it is advising clients who invested with SAC Capital. Blackstone submitted its redemption notice to SAC Capital sometime before 15 May because of ongoing concerns about the insider trading investigation that continues to engulf Cohen’s fund.

Blackstone’s investment with SAC Capital is through several investment funds known as hedge fund of funds and also through separately managed accounts it maintains for clients. The decision to redeem from SAC Capital impacts only client money invested in its hedge fund of funds, according to the letter. It’s not clear how much of the $550 million is in those hedge fund of funds and it is not clear what Blackstone is advising clients who have money in separately managed accounts that is invested with SAC Capital.

Russell did say in the address to its pension clients that Blackstone “expects to receive 100 percent of investors’ capital by year-end.” Russell, which manages $173 billion in assets and oversees a number of index funds, also provides advice to pensions and institutional investors on where to invest their dollars in hedge funds.

The timing of Blackstone’s request to withdraw money from SAC Capital is critical because it came before the hedge fund told investors on 17 May that its cooperation with federal authorities was no longer unconditional.

Soon after, news broke that federal prosecutors had issued grand jury subpoenas earlier this month to Cohen and several executives seeking their testimony about insider trading at the hedge fund.

In surprise, General Growth eyes New York office tower

NEW YORK, May 26 — General Growth Properties Inc (GGP.N) has paired its largest outside investor with Brookfield Office Properties Inc (BPO.TO) to bid for an expensive New York building in what could mark the No 2 US mall owner’s entry into a new segment of the retail real estate market, according to two sources familiar with the deal.

Bids for the 27-story office and retail building at 650 Madison Avenue, one of the toniest shopping and office districts in Manhattan, could exceed $1.3 billion, the sources said.

Other bidders include Vornado Realty Trust (VNO.N), one of the sources said. The decision on the winning bid is expected next week, the source said.

Eastdil Secured is brokering the sale of the building, which is owned by private equity firm Carlyle Group LP (CG.O). General Growth, Carlyle and Brookfield declined comment. Vornado and Eastdil did not respond to requests for comment.

General Growth’s interest in the building, which has not been previously reported, surprised industry executives. The company has long focused on operating malls and buying the New York building would mean a foray into what is known in the industry as urban street-level retail real estate.

Unlike malls whose popularity grew with the rise of US suburbs as destinations that people typically drive to for shopping, the New York building has space for a handful of stores in a shopping and office district in the middle of the city.

The building is around the corner from the famous Fifth Avenue Apple store, known for its glass cube entrance. The current retail tenants include home goods store Crate & Barrel and Italian designer shoemaker Tod’s. Ralph Lauren Corp (RL.N) has its office, but not a retail store, in the building. General Growth CEO Sandeep Mathrani, who used to run a similar business at Vornado, said at a conference two years ago that he was thinking about adding such urban properties to the company’s portfolio of more than 120 US malls.

Nepal needs more homework on foreign investment law

KATHMANDU, May 26 — While the interim election government in Nepal is preparing to bring new Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Ordinance 2013 in this fiscal year that will allow its citizens to invest abroad, experts and business leader here said it needs more homework.

The experts from various quarters on Sunday displayed their concerns regarding the ambiguity in various provisions in the draft ordinance.

The draft bill has provision to allow Nepali companies to invest up to one million US dollars at one time with the permission from the central bank. But there are many questions unanswered.

The first ever billionaire of Nepal, industrialist Binod Kumar Chaudhary is exited with the idea of paving the way for Nepali investors to invest abroad, he told, there are many issues to be clear in the draft.

“There are still some confusion regarding the minimum threshold and specific sectors to attract foreign direct investment in the draft bill such as provision to allow foreigner to open only the 3 stars or better quality hotels seem unreasonable,” he said.

The minimum threshold of 200,000 US dollars for the foreign direct investment in Nepal will bar the foreigners to run small but innovative enterprises with newer technologies in the opinion of billionaire Chaudhary, who is also the President Emeritus of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI).0

Likewise the draft bill should have clear provisions to allow Nepalese to invest beyond the country and there should not be wall between resident and non resident Nepali, he opined.

“We will certainly bring the ordinances to set provisions on foreign investment and technology transfer, industrial enterprises, accreditation and special economic zone by the end of 2012/13,” Minister for Finance, Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Shankar Prasad Koirala informed.

Pregnant women wait for their turn to undergo a Cesarean section (c-section) procedure at the Santa Ana public maternity hospital in Caracas on 19 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

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Pregnant women wait for their turn to undergo a Cesarean section (c-section) procedure at the Santa Ana public maternity hospital in Caracas on 19 Oct, 2013.—Reuters
Chinese premier arrives in Germany for official visit

BERLIN, 26 May—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived here on Saturday for an official visit to Germany, the only European Union country included in his first overseas tour since taking office.

"Germany is the first EU country I visit since taking office as Chinese premier, which shows that the new Chinese leadership highly values China’s relations with Germany and Europe," Li said in a written statement released upon arrival. Both China and Germany are countries with important influence in the world, and it is China’s strategic choice and long-term policy to develop friendly cooperation with Germany, Li said.

China, he said, is ready to work with the German side to enhance mutual understanding and trust, expand cooperation and strengthen communication and coordination on global and regional affairs, so as to advance their strategic partnership as well as China-EU ties.

Li will meet with President Joachim Gauck and hold talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel. He will deliver a speech at a business luncheon and make extensive contacts with German political and business figures. Also, Li and Merkel will officially launch "the Year of Languages" programme between China and Germany, an initiative meant to encourage the two peoples to study each other’s language.

To further expand bilateral cooperation, a series of documents will be signed regarding cooperation in such fields as energy conservation, environmental protection, investment, agriculture and education. Germany is the last leg of Li’s ongoing trip, which has taken him to India, Pakistan and Switzerland.

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Five soldiers killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 May—Five soldiers were killed in a bomb attack in the Iraqi volatile province of Anbar on Saturday, a provincial police source said.

The attack occurred in the afternoon after a roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol near the town of Heet, some 160 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, killing five soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The vast desert area in Anbar province has been the scene of major offensives by the Iraqi security forces backed by aircraft to hunt down al-Qaeda militants.

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British police arrest three over soldier’s killing

LONDON, 26 May—British counter-terrorism police on Saturday arrested three people suspected of involvement in the killing of a soldier hacked to death in a London street by two men shouting Islamist slogans.

The killing of the soldier in what the government said appeared to be a terrorist attack has led to angry protests against radical Islam and fears of a possible anti-Muslim backlash.

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Radiation leak reported day after incident at Ibaraki laboratory

Tokyo, 26 May—Radioactive substances were released into the atmosphere Thursday outside the controlled area at one of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency’s nuclear physics laboratories in Ibaraki Prefecture and at least six people at the facility have been exposed to leaked radiation, officials said on Saturday.

The JEAEA said six people were confirmed to have been exposed by Saturday night and a quick checkup suggested possible exposure of 24 others.

The highest radiation dose detected was 1.6 millisieverts, compared with the annual exposure limit for nuclear facility workers of 50 millisieverts, the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s secretariat said on Saturday.

Of 55 researchers and others who were engaged in experiments and other work at the laboratory, 14 did not suffer any radiation exposure, but one photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on May 25, 2013, shows a nuclear physics laboratory (front) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, where radioactive substances were released into the atmosphere outside the controlled area two days earlier.

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Two freight trains collide in Missouri, bringing down overpass

ST. LOUIS, 26 May—Two freight trains collided at a rail intersection in rural Missouri on Saturday, triggering the collapse of a highway overpass when at least a dozen rail cars derailed and struck a support pillar, authorities said.

None of the seven people hurt in the fiery crash—two train workers and five people who had been in two cars on the overpass—suffered life-threatening injuries, Scott County Sheriff Rick Walter said in a statement.

"One train T-boned the other one and caused it to derail, and the derailed train hit a pillar which caused the overpass to collapse,” Sheriff’s dispatcher Clay Slipis said of the pre-dawn crash near Chaffee, about 15 miles (24 km) southwest of Cape Girardeau, in southeastern Missouri.

The collision of the BNSF Railway Co and Union Pacific trains also sparked a fire when diesel fuel leaked from one of the train engines, Slipis said.

The crash came just over a week after a commuter train derailed in Connecticut, striking another train and injuring more than 70 people during the evening rush hour.

On Thursday, a truck crash triggered the collapse of a bridge in Washington state, sending two cars plunging into the frigid Skagit River and raising concerns about the country’s aging infrastructure. Three people were rescued.

In Missouri, Wayne Woods told a regional CBS affiliate that he rushed to the scene as soon as he heard the crash to try to halt traffic as he called in the emergency.

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US Navy names new destroyer after late Japanese-American senator

WASHINGTON, 26 May—The US Navy has announced that a new destroyer will be named after the late Japanese-American Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Inouye, from Hawaii, served in a US army unit consisting of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II. In 2000, he was given the Medal of Honour, the highest US military decoration, along with other former Japanese-American soldiers.

Inouye became a senator in 1962 and served for nine consecutive terms, the second-longest for a US senator. He died last year at the age of 88.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus called Inouye "a true American hero" in announcing the name of the destroyer that will be equipped with the Aegis radar system.

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Emergency personnel looking at an overpass that collapsed after two freight trains collided at a rail intersection in Missouri on 25 May 2013, are pictured in this photo courtesy of KFVS12.

"We heard the crash and we stepped outside and my son said the overpass was down. Then we heard a car’s tires squealing like it was coming to a stop and then a crash and a horn continuously blowing," he told KFVS television.

"I got over there, the train was on its side. They got the guys out and lifted them down off the train and got them off the overpass. One was kind of bloody and the other one looked like he was pretty shook up," he said.—Reuters
BUSINESS

Myanmar-Japan business meet

YANGON, 26 May—A Japanese economic mission comprising 150 Japanese businessmen visited Myanmar from 24 to 26 May and met with Myanmar businessmen in Myanmar-Japan Business Forum to explore potentials for boosting trade and investments between the two countries and mutual cooperation between the businessmen. The forum took place at Mingala Hall in Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at 2 pm yesterday. Myanma Alinn

LOCAL NEWS

Sagoing Region Chief Minister attends school building opening ceremonies

SAGOING, 26 May—Sagoing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, accompanied by officials, visited construction site of new two-storey building of Basic Education High School (branch) in Kangon village in Salingyi Township of Sagoing Region on 18 May and attended to the needs. On 20 May, he inspected progress in construction of a two-storey building of No. 1 Basic Education High School in MANDALAY, 26 May—The opening ceremony of Basic Life Support Training for Ambulance Crew was held in Orthopaedic Hospital in Mandalay here at 8 am on 20 May. The opening ceremony was attended by the director-general of Health Department under the Ministry of Health, the rector of Mandalay Nursing University, the head of Mandalay Region Health Department, medical superintendents, professors of Orthopaedic Department and orthopaedic surgeons, trainee nurses and Red Cross members. Dr Min Thant Nyunt, Director-General of Health Department said most patients admitted to hospitals were victims of traffic accidents. The duty of ambulance crew to admit them to hospital as soon as possible is equally important as enforcing traffic rules, he said. With the help of Mobile ICU, the ambulance crew would be able to save lives, he added. The training is a part of preparation for providing healthcare in XXVII SEA Games, he went on.

As the physicians and surgeons of the hospital diagnosed objects in his intestine and decided to conduct an immediate surgery, the surgeons could remove seven nails and one wire from his intestine. He is receiving treatment at intensive care unit.—Myanma Alinn

One died in motorcycle accident in Thabeikkyin

THABEIKKYIN, 26 May—An accident involving two motorbikes near Tagaung Sub-Township MPT office in Thabeikkyin Township in Mandalay Region killed one whose name has yet to be identified on 18 May night. Myo Oo and Kyaw Thura Tun on another bike were also injured and admitted to the hospital. Tagaung Police Station has lodged a lawsuit against the drivers. Myanma Alinn

Villagers invade government farm

MEIKTILA, 26 May—U Lin, Maung Tint, U Sepyar and U Chit Pan of Thandaw village, U Hla San of Yedwin village and U Kyaw Myint of Andaingtha village ploughed in government-owned Andaingtha farm 15 miles northeast of Thazi in Meiktila District on 16 May. Staff Officer U Ngwe Hsan of the farm lodged a lawsuit against them at Hanza police station. Myanma Alinn

CRIME

Three injured in motorbike head-on collision in Wundwin

WUNDWIN, 26 May—A Laocia motorbike driven by Kyaw Hsan Maung, a worker of Yadanaonbaw restaurant in southern Wundwin, with the restaurant’s manager Ma Aye Aye Khaing at the backseat, collided with an unlicensed Laocia motorbike driven by Nay Shine, a bus conductor in Leinbin village in Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region on Yangon-Mandalay road on 18 May evening. All of them sustained injuries in the accident. The Wundwin police station has filed a lawsuit against the reckless drivers under the law. Myanma Alinn

MYANMAR: Eight-legged buffalo born

Dawei, 26 May—An eight-legged buffalo was born in Yebu Township in Dawei District. The mother buffalo survived but the baby didn’t. The villagers from nearby villages crowded to witness the odd incident. The baby buffalo has one head, one eye, four ears, eight legs and two tails. Myanma Alinn

CRIME

One in motorcycle accident in Thabeikkyin

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National unity or internal peace

National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP) has been adopted as national economic reform strategy and will be implemented from 2011 to 2031 for 20 years. Therefore, political reforms, economic and social reforms and administrative reforms have been undertaken on a wide scale for peace and stability, development and democratization process of the State with certain success. Local and foreign investments have increased fivefold between 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 with over USD 1.419 billion of foreign investment in 94 industries, and over K 1.1 trillion of citizens’ investment in 65 industries and jobs for 82792.

We all thank the personnel concerned for their contributions to these encouraging figures. Myanmar Investment Committee formed with 50 per cent of civilian personalities is gathering momentum and it will be placed under effective operation of new generations.

Reforms have been put in place to strengthen foundations for democratization as freedom of expression, freedom of demonstration, press freedom, freedom of association, human rights so as to practise democracy aspired by the people. Meanwhile, necessary laws have been enacted, with outdated laws revoked and amended.

For example, Farmland Act has been promulgated in an effort for development of agriculture, the core of the economy and farmland registration has been carried out to ensure farmland ownership. This will benefit farmers in particular.

We all must understand that stability is the most important of all in national development drive and democratization process, and national unity or in other words internal peace is the basic condition for stability of the State.

In this regard, the government is taking steps to enter into political dialogues to build a lasting peace with all armed groups. As a result, gunfire can be silenced in once-unstable border regions with peace process taking shape. Meanwhile, rehabilitation tasks are being carried out for the victims of unrest.

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

Mr Andrew Patrick joined the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1989 and served in various capacities at different departments of the FCO and at Her Britannic Majesty’s Embassies and Missions in Nicosia, Brussels, Pretoria and Kabul. He is currently serving as Additional Director for South Asia of the FCO.

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 May—President U Thein Sein and Mrs Akie Abe, wife of Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe, at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), here, at 1 pm today.

President presented the members of the Japanese economic delegation to the Myanmar President and wife.

The State band played national anthems of the two countries before the two leaders toasted for stronger ties of the two countries.

The Japanese PM presented the tracksuits designed by Japanese designer Koshowo Jonko for Myanmar athletes to wear in XXVII SEA Games. The artists of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained the guests with songs during the luncheon. The two leaders and their wives then cordially greeted the artists.

The President presented the Japanese PM with photo album of tour to Myanmar and the two leaders exchanged gifts.

Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and wife Mrs Akie Abe are seen at luncheon hosted by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win at Myanmar International Convention Center. MNA

Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and Mrs Akie Abe are seen at luncheon hosted by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win at Myanmar International Convention Center.

Myanmar, Japan cordial ties date back to days of yore

Myanmar should continue to maintain her appealing, inspiring traditions to gain respect from international community

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 May—President U Thein Sein and Mrs Akie Abe, wife of Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe held talks at ante-room of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Daw Khin Khin Win expressed her pleasure to see the visit of a Japanese PM and his wife in 36 years. She said the two countries had cordial relations since the time immemorial. She thanked the Japanese government for its assistance to Myanmar, mentioning Mrs Akie Abe’s contribution to an orphanage and a nunnery during her visit. She praised her for her devotion to promotion of education sector, philanthropic and welfare works.

Mrs Akie Abe said she has been involving in welfare activities for disadvantaged children in Myanmar. She has been to Myanmar for ten times including the current visit.

Nearly 200,000 Japanese combatants lost their lives in Myanmar during the World War II she added. She said she would never forget that Myanmar people took good care of the Japanese survivors and spoke of her intention to offer more assistance to Myanmar.

She suggested that Myanmar should keep on maintaining her time-honoured appealing traditions to gain respect from global countries. She spoke of the importance of health sector in Myanmar and offered help for it.

Daw Khin Khin Win and Mrs Akie Abe cordially hold talks at Presidential Palace.—MNA

MNA
Myanmar and Japanese leaders welcome comprehensive assistance projects ongoing or under consideration by relevant organizations including Government of Japan and NGOs and confirm to further promote cooperation

NAV PII TAW, 26 May—A Myanmar-Japan Joint Statement was released after Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe and wife had concluded their visit to Myanmar. The joint statement is as follows:-

Joint Statement between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Japan -New Foundation for Mutual Friendship-

At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid a state visit to Myanmar from 24 to 26 May, 2013. During the visit, President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held talks in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The two leaders shared the view that, in laying a new foundation for taking the relationship between Japan and Myanmar to a higher level and establishing a lasting, friendly and cooperative relationship, Japan and Myanmar will work together to bolster their relationship in the following areas:

1. Support for Myanmar’s reform

President U Thein Sein confirmed that Myanmar would continue to make all-out efforts to address various issues that it is currently tackling, including democratization, enhancement of the rule of law, economic reform, and national reconciliation. Prime Minister Abe reiterated Japan’s intention to support these efforts by combining the public and private sector’s strengths.

2. Towards mutual prosperity

The development of economic and social capital including infrastructure, the development of institutions, capacity building, the development of rural and ethnic minority areas, among others, are key to improving the livelihoods of the people of Myanmar and to building a prosperous nation. In support of the development of Myanmar and having implemented its arrears clearance operation with Myanmar, the Government of Japan decided to provide new yen loans as well as grant assistance, for which notes were exchanged between the two governments during the visit.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the view as to the importance of Japan’s technical cooperation for institution development and capacity building of the Government of Myanmar and confirmed their intentions to further promote it. They also shared the intention to work together in various areas such as acceleration of their work towards the early signing of a bilateral investment agreement, an enhancement of their efforts towards a bilateral agreement on technical cooperation, and the development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in order to strengthen bilateral economic relations including through trade and investment. President U Thein Sein confirmed Myanmar’s commitment to sustaining efforts for the improvement of investment climate in Myanmar and appropriate measures with due consideration to environment and society, including through discussion under the recently launched “Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative”.

3. Enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges

Both Japan and Myanmar are countries with long history and traditional cultural heritage, and they have a number of similarities from religion to food culture. The year 2014 will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The cordial bilateral relationship between the two countries is grounded in the bonds of trust and friendship based on long-standing interaction between their peoples, and will continue to be enhanced in all areas. Prime Minister Abe expressed his hope to see JENESYS 2.0 bolster youth exchanges between the two countries. President U Thein Sein confirmed Myanmar’s intention to facilitate the visit of Japanese businessmen and tourists for the further promotion of economic relation and tourism between Myanmar and Japan.

The two leaders also shared their intention to build on the long history of culture and sports exchanges between the two countries and further enhance these exchanges. In particular, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed that Japan is committed to supporting the SEA Games 2013 to be held in Myanmar in December 2013.

Strengthening political and security coopera- tion

The two leaders decided to enhance dialogue on regional issues and security in order to advance cooperation across the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean. They also decided to further promote cooperation and exchange between their defense authorities.

Upon strengthening the measures mentioned above, acknowledging that the list of a wide range of projects announced by Japan would substantially contribute to further promoting the reforms in Myanmar, the two leaders welcomed that these comprehensive assistance projects are ongoing or under consideration by relevant organizations including the Government of Japan and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and confirmed to further promote cooperation.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the intention to further bolster Japan-ASEAN cooperation, taking the opportunity of this year’s 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. In this connection, President U Thein Sein confirmed his participation in the Japan-ASEAN Special Summit in December this year and welcomed Japan’s continued assistance to the activities of Myanmar as it holds the ASEAN presidency in 2014.

NAY PII TAW
Dated. 26 May 2013

Publications, periodicals contributed to MLF

YANGON, 26 May—Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi described the literature valuable heritage for a nation and an essential tool for socio-economic development of the entire national people, and contributor to promotion of Sasana apart from welfare to mundane life. The Union minister as he addressed the donation of cash, periodicals and publications to libraries of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, at Central Press of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Information Ministry on Theinbyu Street here this morning stressed that a nation as a whole is responsible for handing down such heritage, tool and contributor to next generations, speaking of the crucial role of MLF in so doing.

The Union minister said it is quite fortunate that the literacy rate stands at 95.08 per cent though the 26 per cent of the population lives under poverty line according to the statistics of previous year. The education system of monastic schools are particularly grateful, said the Union minister, who also expressed his heartfelt thanks to wellwishers and donors who have made contribution for development of libraries.

He quoted the famous words of German philosopher Goethe, saying “Everyday we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture”. He said he believes the sharing-out of his aged group would bring much greater benefits if the younger generation would accept the German philosopher’s advice.

MLF Chairman U Maung Maung presented K 17,280,000 for sustainability of public book corners across the country. He also donated K 78.7 million for maintenance of libraries across the country and initial fund of K 1 million for establishment of Hmawby Saya Thein Library. Next, wellwishers donated cash, periodicals and publications through Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Tint and Chairman of Hmawby Saya Thein Library Committee U Nay Lin (Maung Cho Wai).

The MLF Chairman said the Information Ministry is setting up public book corners which are achieving success. The foundation is also providing necessities for those corners, said the chairman speaking words of thanks for contribution of the wellwishers.

A total of 66 wellwishers presented K 6,640,000 and 540,685 publications and periodicals.

Myanmar golfers leave for Scotland

YANGON, 26 May—A Myanmar youth golf team left here by air yesterday evening to take part in the 2013 European Championship to be held in East Lothian, Scotland from 28 to 30 May.

The golf team comprised team captain Joint General Secretary of Myanmar Golf Federation U Myo Tun, women golfers Yin May Myo and Thin Wai Khaung and the latter’s caddy Tun Aung Khaung.

Yin May Myo secured the first prize in the US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia 2012, in which over 400 youth golfers from 22 countries participated, at Saujana Golf & Country Club, Selangor, Malaysia from 3 to 7 December 2012. Thin Wai Khaung won the fourth prize. Therefore, the two were invited to take part in the championship.

It was reported that over 500 golfers will participate in the 2013 European Championship.
**CRIME**

Over 25 grams of heroin seized in Mawlu

**Mawlu, 26 May—** An anti-drug special squad, acting on tip-off, searched a house in Mawlu Village. The squad seized 25.6 grams of heroin.

A squad searched the house of Ma Thin Thin Wai, 33, with a warrant. And they seized a package containing 0.1 gram of heroin hidden under the table, a plastic bottle containing about seven grams of heroin and a package of heroin weighing 18.5 grams.

The case was registered under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

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**PRIZE AWARDED:** The prize presentation of the Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman’s Cup National Hockey League 2013, jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, was held at Theinbyu Hockey Turf Pitch on 25 May afternoon. Vice-Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Tlang spoke on the occasion.

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**Summer paddy gets good price**

Yadase, 26 May—U Aung Zaw Moe from Paukehaung Village in Yadase Township, Tounghoo District who grew 15 acres of summer paddy said that summer paddy got good price.

“Paddy was sold at 270,000 kyats per 100 baskets last year. This year, I grew Thailand paddy strain and one acre can produce over 100 baskets. The price of paddy is K 470,000 per 100 baskets. We, farmers are happy because of the good price,” said U Aung Zaw Moe.

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**DEVELOPMENT**

Road to Yangon West University concreted

Yangon, 26 May—Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon City Development Committee is concreting the main roads and streets one after another in Yangon municipal area for ensuring secure and smooth transport for the city dwellers.

As part of efforts to implement the plans of the government, officials of Htantabin Township Development Affairs Committee of Yangon North District in Yangon Region is repaving the damaged road which is seven miles and six furlongs long from Ayeyawady of Htantabin Township to Yangon West University.

The road is being concreted. At present, the three miles and one furlong long section of the road has been upgraded to 14 feet wide and 10 inches thick concrete one. On 19 May, the concreting works reached Sibintha Village of the township.

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**Man charged for fire in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 26 May—A man was charged after a fire broke out at his house in Chawathanzay Township in Mandalay on 23 May. The plastic chair caught fire from a mosquito coil and spread to another room and ceiling of the house. The fire was managed under control at 2.10 pm, 20 minutes after it started, said officials.

U Tin Htay, 54, owner of the house was charged.

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**Ananda replica pagoda in Kawthoung fixed with new religious objects**

Kawthoung, 26 May—A replica pagoda of Bagan Ananda Temple was hoisted with new Penant-shaped Vane and Diamond Orb atop it on 24 May in Kawthoung.

The pagoda is 61 feet and three inches high and is built on the hillock at an altitude of 400 feet in the compound of Shwepyitha Monastery in Shwepyitha Ward of Kawthoung.

The hoisting of penant-shape vane and diamond orb cost K 21.50 million contributed by Shwepyitha Sayadaw.

The previous penant-shaped vane and diamond orb hoisted atop the pagoda were stricken by lightning on 24 April.

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**MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines**

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 complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 099.

The public may reach the numbers for their complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

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**Padegon of Thegon Township gets self-reliant transformer**

Pya, 26 May—A ceremony to launch one 200 KVA transformer and 9800 feet long 11 KV 400 volt power line on a self-reliant basis was held in Nyaungwun Village of Padegon area of Thegon Township in Pya District of Bago Region (West) on 24 May morning.

In Nyaungwun Village, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Soe Lwin spoke on the occasion.

Padegon Township Electrical Engineer U Sann Lwin explained matters related to electrification and member of Village Electricity Committee U Aye Thaik, financial statement.

Chairman of Village Electricity Committee U Myint Thein spoke words of thanks.

Later, officials launched the transformer for supplying electricity to the local people.

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Diet session to end on 26 June, lower house poll to be set on 21 July

Tokyo, 26 May—The government and the ruling parties decided not to extend the ongoing session of parliament scheduled to end on 26 June, effectively setting the upper house election on 21 July, senior lawmakers of the ruling camp said on Saturday.

They have concluded there is no need to extend the Diet session after having paved the way for passing key bills including one aimed at addressing a vote value disparity. With the term for half of the House of Councillors expiring on 28 July, the election is almost certain to be set on 21 July given a minimum time period required under the law between the public announcement of the election and the voting day.

One of the senior lawmakers said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is forming election strategies on the assumption a Diet session extension will not be needed. Shigeru Ishiba, secretary general of Abe’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said in a speech in Saga city, southwestern Japan, the election will be announced on 4 July for voting on 21 July “unless extraordinary circumstances arise.”

Hashimoto to urge ‘strict discipline’ for US military

Tokyo, 26 May—Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto said on Sunday he would urge the US military in Japan to enforce strict discipline for its servicemen while reiterating he would retract his earlier remark suggesting they use Japan’s adult entertainment industry in order to prevent them committing sex offenses.

Hashimoto said on a TV programme that he would make the request at a Press conference slated for Monday at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan in Tokyo, where he would also retrace the remarks about the US military in Japan relating to the adult entertainment industry, and offer an apology to the US people and military.

“I will urge the (United States and the US military) to enforce strict discipline in a full-fledged manner,” at the Press conference, Hashimoto, who co-heads the opposition Japan Restoration Party together with former Tokyo Gov Shintaro Ishihara, said.

On Saturday, Hashimoto said he would retract his remark and make the apology at Monday’s conference. He repeated his excuse that it had been his intention to urge the US military to “be more responsible” amid a rising number of sexual assaults within the US military against female soldiers.

“The situation within the US military concerning the sexual assaults involving women soldiers has been horrible and President (Barack) Obama is outraged about it,” Hashimoto said in explaining the background and intention of his controversial remark. Meanwhile, he reiterated that he had no intention of retracting his remark that the system to recruit women into sexual servitude “was necessary” to maintain discipline in the Japanese military during World War II.

On 13 May, Hashimoto said it should be understood that such women were necessary for brave soldiers who had been at the front line of the war. He also said that, when he visited Okinawa to inspect the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station in late April, he asked a senior US military officer based in the prefecture to let Marines ground local adult entertainment services. Hashimoto’s remarks have drawn criticism in and outside Japan, including from the US State Department.

China’s energy demand to peak in 20 years

Xi’an, 26 May—China will see its energy demand peak between 2030 and 2035 on the back of expanding industrialization and urbanization, Zhong Ziran, chief engineer of the Ministry of Land and Resources, forecast on Saturday.

The country’s energy consumption will grow at an annualized pace of 4.5 percent in the next 20 years, with the accumulative demand for coal, oil and natural gas at 82.6 billion tonnes, 12 billion tonnes and 5.8 trillion cubic meters, respectively, Zhong said at a work conference.

In 2012, China, the world’s largest energy user, consumed 3.62 billion tonnes of standard coal equivalent, up 3.9 percent year on year, official data showed.

The country, over 60 percent of the power driving China’s economy comes from coal, which has resulted in serious pollution problems that are forcing China to explore cleaner sources of energy. Oil and natural gas accounted for roughly 20 percent of the energy consumption.

A report released by China National Petroleum Corporation indicated that China’s dependence rates on imports of crude oil and natural gas stood at 56.6 percent and 29 percent, respectively, posing severe challenges for the country’s energy security.

Philippine troops on high alert for Abu Sayyaf retaliatory attacks

Cotabato, (Philippines), 26 May—Security in the southern Philippine Province of Sulu has been placed on heightened alert on Sunday for possible retaliatory attacks of Muslim terrorist group Abu Sayyaf as the death toll in the fierce gun battle between Ma-rians and the radical group reached 12.

The troops were pursuing the militants and a retaliatory attack may occur as the Abu Sayyaf suffered severe casualties during an encounter in the hinterlands of Patikul, said Chief Superintendent Noel Delos Reyes, head of police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

He ordered all troops in the province to take precautionary move to prevent any diversionary attacks that may be carried out by Abu Sayyaf since one of their fatalities was the son of Abu Sayyaf leader and the vigilante of the Abu Sayyaf group. The group is notorious for kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decade.

5.6-magnitude quake hits Kepulauan Barat Daya, Indonesia

Jakarta, 26 May—An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted Kepulauan Barat Daya, Indonesia on 10:32:53 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 86.30 km, was initially determined to be at 7.5551 degrees south latitude and 127.9245 degrees east longitude.

Artist dance during the second day of the three-day Mid and Far West Tourism festival in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 25 May, 2013.—Xinhua

17 killed, 20 injured in Naxalite attack on Congress convoy in central India

New Delhi, 26 May—Indian Prime Minister Mamohan Singh and the ruling Congress party have condemned the horrific attack on party leaders by left-wing Naxalite rebels in the central state of Chat- tisgarh, in which 17 people were killed and more than 20 others injured.

A group of armed Naxalites Saturday ambushed a Congress party convoy at Dharba Valley in the state ruled by the country’s main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), killing 17 people on the spot and abducting a senior leader along with his son, according to a senior police official.

“All the injured, including former central Minister and senior Congress leader VC Shukla, are currently being treated in various hos-

pitals,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

The prime minister has strongly condemned the horrific attack and offered all kinds of assistance to state Chief Minister Raman Singh. He is due to visit the injured Sunday.

Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi has described it as “an attack on democ-

racy” while her son and party vice president Rahul Gandhi is currently camping in state capital Raipur. “The Congress party stands by the families of the victims,” he told the media.

Meanwhile, local Con-

gress workers have staged demonstrations through-

out the night in Raipur and called a 24-hour closedown of Chhattisgarh to protest against the state government’s inadequate security arrangements for the Congress leaders who were ambushed while returning from a political rally.

Local people in traditional costumes dance to pay their tribute to the ancient culture of their region during the opening of 2013 International Tea Convention in Pu’er, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 25 May, 2013. The convention that opened on Saturday aims to promote tea culture around the world.—Xinhua

Incentive investments: a promising sector in Indonesia

Jakarta, 26 May—Indonesia’s investment in the private sector has surged by 33.7 percent, according to the People’s Consultative Assembly’s (Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat) head Yusril Ihza Mulia.

Yusril said that the 1.5 per-}
Two killed as heavy rains flood San Antonio streets

SAN ANTONIO, 26 May—Two women were killed on Saturday as drenching rains in San Antonio triggered flash-flood warnings across South Texas, inundated a number of major thoroughfares in San Antonio and collapsed the roof of an apartment complex.

Seven killed and 47 injured have been sent to the hospital. According to the county’s emergency management services, the storms killed seven in the city alone.

The two sides reached a consensus in further strengthening strategic cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, finance, energy, telecommunication, infrastructure and water resources.

The festival, organized by China Culture Connect in partnership with King’s College (part of London University) runs until 1 June.

China to continue developing strategic partnership with Ecuador

QUITO, 26 May—The Chinese government’s Special Envoy Chen Lei said Saturday that his country is willing to further develop bilateral strategic partnership with Ecuador during a meeting with Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ricardo Patino in Quito, the capital city of the South American country.

Chen, also the minister of water resources, was here to attend Friday’s inauguration ceremony of Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa at the invitation of the Ecuadorian government.

Chen congratulated on the president’s inauguration and conveyed the best wishes from Chinese President Xi Jinping. He said that the Chinese government attaches great importance to developing ties with Ecuador and is willing to further strengthen friendly relations and to consolidate communication and cooperation in international affairs.

For his part, Patino thanked China for sending special envoy to attend Correa’s swearing-in ceremony and spoke highly of the new progress in bilateral ties, adding that Ecuador is ready to enhance bilateral cooperation and further promote friendly exchanges between the two countries.

The two sides reached a consensus in further strengthening strategic cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, finance, energy, telecommunication, infrastructure and water resources.

Ecuadorian Coordinating Minister of Strategic Sectors Rafael Poveda, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Esteban Albornoz, and Chinese Ambassador to Ecuador Wang Shuxiong also attended the meeting.

Chinese Visual Festival opens in London

LONDON, 26 May—A festival of Chinese film, documentaries, and art which opened in London on Saturday will bring the changing face of China to a wider audience.

“They provide people who are interested in China a very rich resource for research about Chinese social development,” said Zhan Xuhua, co-organizer and art director of the festival.

The festival, in its third year, has expanded to its largest size yet Subjects covered include mental health, Chinese opera, punk music and hospitals in China.

There are also a series of talks and events showing the rapid change of China and how documentary makers changed the perception of China.

“Thanks to the support of King’s College, we have been able to invite artists and directors to the festival for talks and panel discussions. These are important because they help audience major the films and the art,” Zhan said.

The festival, organized by China Culture Connect in partnership with King’s College (part of London University) runs until 1 June.

Latin American economic bloc removes some tariffs

SANTIAGO, 26 May—A Latin American economic bloc that includes Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Chile has agreed to remove tariffs on 90 percent of the products traded among members.

“We have established a deadline by 30 June to write the agreement’s document and afterwards each country’s Congress should approve it,” Chilean President Sebastian Pinera told reporters on Friday after the seventh Pacific Alliance (PA) Summit ended on Thursday in Cali, Colombia. The four Pacific Alliance members agreed at the summit to hold trade talks on 19 June in Cali, Colombia, focusing on small- and medium-sized businesses and industries.

Landslide kills seven in NW China

YUAN, 26 May—Seven people died and 12 others were injured after a landslide buried a dormitory building in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province on Saturday morning, local authorities said.

The landslide happened around 10 am in Cangcun Township of Huangling County, burying a two-story dormitory of a medium-sized business and injuring 13 people.

The rescue had completed as of 7 pm, and the injured have been sent to a local hospital, the bureau said.

Bomb in Yemeni military vehicle kills two and injures six

ADEN, 26 May—A remotely-detonated bomb planted in a military vehicle killed a soldier and a civilian and injured six other soldiers in the Hadramaut region of eastern Yemen on Saturday evening, a local security official said.

The explosion took place in the town of al-Shehr as the vehicle drove along a main road, the official said. He added Islamist militants were suspected of the bombing.

Media said control of swathes of south and east Yemen during the political chaos of the Arab Spring in 2011. They insti-tuted Islamic law in captured towns and allied with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, seen in the West as the movement’s most dangerous wing.

Yemeni armed forces and pro-government tribal militias backed by the US ousted Islamists from major towns last year, but fighting persists.

Stability in lawless, impoverished Yemen is a priority for Washington, which wants to prevent al-Qaeda using it as a base to plot international attacks.

Reuters

Reuters

Reuters

Reuters

Reuters
Cambodian documentary wins Cannes prize for innovative cinema

CANNES, 26 May—A documentary using small clay figures to tell the story of how Cambodian filmmaker Rithy Panh’s family perished under the Khmer Rouge regime won the top prize in the second most important competition at the Cannes film festival on Saturday.

“L’Image Manquante” (The Missing Picture) was among the 18 films that premiered in the Un Certain Regard category that was set up to encourage emerging and innovative filmmakers and run alongside the main competition at the world’s top film festival.

Panh, 49, a prolific filmmaker whose films concentrate on the brutality in Cambodia when an estimated 1.7 million people were killed during the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge regime, said the prize was important for his country. “For a country that has emerged from its difficulties and years of war, it is important to say we are still alive,” Panh told Reuters after receiving his award at a red carpet ceremony in the French Riviera resort.

The jury led by Danish director Thomas Vinterberg, whose film “Jagten” (The Hunt) won Mads Mikkelsen the best actor award at Cannes last year, described the documentary as “one of the most powerful films I have seen in many years”.

The runner-up was “Omar” by Palestinian director Hany Abu-Assad, a political thriller involving Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in which a young baker, Omar, is tortured by Israel’s secret police to betray his friends. “Omar”, which was shot in the West Bank and Israeli-Arab town of Nazareth last year, received a standing ovation at its premiere as the first film fully funded by the Palestinian cinema industry. “It is the only festival that I think still cares about different films,” said Abu-Assad, known for the 2005 award-winning film “Paradise Now”, as he received his award.

Oklahoma singer Shelton to headline 29 May tornado relief benefit

LOS ANGELES, 26 May —Oklahoma country singer Blake Shelton said on Friday that he will headline a concert to benefit the victims of the Oklahoma tornado that swept through the city of Moore earlier this week, leaving 24 dead and thousands homeless.

Shelton, a native of Ada, Oklahoma, which is 75 miles northwest of Moore, said the “Healing in the Heartland: Relief Benefit Concert” will be held on 29 May at the Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City, and will be televised live at 9 pm EDT on NBC.

The singer, 36, also recruited Grammy-winning country stars Reba McEntire, Vince Gill, and Miranda Lambert—Shelton’s wife—for the concert. It will raise money for the United Way of Central Oklahoma May Tornadoes Relief Fund, to aid long-term recovery efforts. McEntire and Gill are also Oklahoma natives.

Tickets are $25 each, and are on sale on 25 May.

Polsnki’s Venus seduces on last day of Cannes festival

CANNES, 26 May—An avenging Venus setting the psychological and sexual score is the star of acclaimed director Roman Polanski’s “La Venus a la Fourrure” (“Venus in Fur”), one of the Cannes film festival’s two final movies in main competition to premiere on Saturday.

The French-Polish director is one of 20 runners for top prize at the end of the 12-day festival include French director Abdellatif Kechiche’s love story “Blue is the Warmest Colour” — and “Inside Llewyn Davis”, US directors Ethan and Joel Coen’s story of a struggling singer trying to make it as a folk singer in the 1960s.

Also on the short list is “The Great Beauty” from Italy’s Paolo Sorrentino, a heady, magical ode to the decadence of Rome, and “The Past” a tension-filled psychological drama from Iranian director Asghar Farhadi.

The jury of Ang Lee, Vidya Balan, Daniel Auteuil, Lynn Ramsay, Christoph Waltz, Naomi Kawase, Nicole Kidman and Cristian Mungiu will hand out the top prize and a slate of other directing and acting awards on Sunday.

Lady Gaga to make live comeback at Beyonce Knowles concert?

LONDON, 26 May—Pop star Lady Gaga is reportedly planning a live comeback three months after being diagnosed with synovitis, a severe inflammation of the joints. In February, Gaga, 26, was forced to cancel the remainder of her Born This Way US tour due to a labral tear of her right hip, which left her unable to walk.

Gaga will make her long awaited return during Beyonce’s Mrs Carter world tour, when it reaches New York in the summer, reported Sun online. An email was reportedly sent by concert listings website Songkick describing that Gaga had been lined up to perform with Beyonce on 3 August.

Shortly after canceling her tour, Gaga, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, was hospitalized to undergo hip surgery. The procedure was ultimately a success. Beyonce and Gaga collaborated back in 2010 for the hit song Telephone, which Gaga had originally written for pop star Britney Spears. —PTI

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“Everyone has their way to help, and mine as an enter- tainer is to perform to help raise money and awareness for this tragedy. This is why I want to do this special and especially hold it in Okla- homa City, which is near ground zero,” Shelton said in a statement.

Shelton, who is currently a judge on NBC’s reality television show “The Voice,” performed a tribute song with Lambert at the start of Tuesday’s show.

Last November, NBC’s “Steel Magnolias” star-nailed performance of Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel for the victims of Superstorm Sandy helped raise more than $23 million, while ABC’s “Day of Giving” event raised more than $10 million for the American Red Cross. NBC is a unit of Comcast Corp.

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**SPORTS**

**Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben holds the trophy with team mates after defeating Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League Final soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 25 May, 2013.**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Monday, 27 May, 2013**

**Ribery and Robben combine to give Bayern victory**

**TORONTO, 26 May—** Former soccer international Robbie Rogers has joined Major League Soccer’s Los Angeles Galaxy, the team said on Saturday, making him the openly gay male athlete in an Ameri-can professional team sport. Rogers, who came out in February on the same day he retired from the game, will be on the Galaxy’s roster for Sunday’s home match against the Seattle Sounders if his international transfer certificate arrives in time.

“I was afraid to put myself back in a situation where I felt like I was kind of an outcast I guess, or just different from people,” Rogers told a news confer-ence at the Galaxy’s Home Depot Centre. “But after this whole process I’ve re-alized that everyone is a bit different, everyone has their issues.” The announcement by the Galaxy comes less than a month after National Basketball Association vet-eran Jason Collins became the first active athlete from the four major U.S. men’s professional sports leagues to come out publicly as gay.

Collins, however, is a free agent and has not played since his announcement af-ter the 2012-13 NBA regu-lar season. Rogers said the watershed announcement by Collins, who received widespread support, including a phone call from President Barack Obama, did not in-fluence his decision to end his brief retirement. “Not for me,” said Rogers, who was part of the US team at the Beijing Olympics and nar-rowly missed out on a place in the US World Cup squad in 2010. “For me it was a de-cision that I had to make on my own.”

Rogers, a 26-year-old winger who had spells in England with Leeds United and Stevenage after first making his name in MLS with the Columbus Crew, had been training with the Galaxy for the past three weeks. He most recently played for the United States in 2011 but struggled fol-lowing a move to English second tier club Leeds in January 2012, being loaned out to third tier Stevenage before being released by Leeds earlier this year.

The Galaxy signed Rogers to a multi-year contract after ac-quiring the right of first re-fusal for him from the Chi-cago Fire in exchange for midfielder Mike Magee.

Rogers enjoyed a break-out season in 2008 when he scored six goals, earning all-star honors and helping the Crew win their first MLS Cup championship. “We’ve been searching for the last year or two for a player that has the skills to be a flank player, play wide, add a lit-tle speed to our club,” said Galaxy coach Bruce Arena.

**Girl power no longer a novelty at Indy 500**

**INDIANAPOLIS, 26 May—** While Formula One flirts with the idea of a female driver, girl power is already as much a part of the Indian-apolis 500 as turbo-charged engines and the winner chugging cold milk in Vic-try Lane.

Swiss Simona de Silvestro, Brazilian Ana Beat-riz and Britons Pippa Mann and Katherine Legge repre-sent the four women who will take the command to start their engines alongside 29 men at the famed Brick-yard for Sunday’s race.

On the other side of the Atlantic, however, the only women on the starting grid at the Monaco Grand Prix, which will also run on Sunday, will be the glamor-ous models holding placards with drivers names on them. “It doesn’t matter if they are male or female, the car doesn’t know the difference,” Legge told Reuters. “I don’t think about it, there are just 32 other drivers out there and me.”

Formula One has not had a female driver for dec-ades, with Italian Giovanna Amati the last to try and get on the grid when she failed to qualify in 1992.

The only woman to ap-pear on the score sheet was Italian Lella Lombardi who finished sixth in the short-ened 1975 Spanish Grand Prix and was awarded a half point. Development driver Susie Wolff is push-ing Williams to give her a proper test and keep alive her distant dream of one day racing alongside the men in Formula One.

Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone has been supportive of her efforts, according to Wolff, even if publicly he has stated that he does not see any woman driver on F1’s horizon be-cause there was nobody good enough at present.

**Kenny Perry stalks Senior PGA Championship title**

**NEW YORK, 26 May—** American Kenny Perry is one round away from claiming his first major championship after taking a two-shot lead after the third round of the Senior PGA Championship in St Louis on Saturday. Perry fired a three-under 67 at Bellinerve Golf Club to move to 10-under 203 for the tournament, two clear of fellow Ameri-can Jay Haas (67) who is in second at eight-under. Russ Cochran (71) holds outright third at seven-under with Canadian Rod Spittle (67) fourth at six-under. Australian Peter Senior (69) and Japan’s Kohki Ikoki (68) remain in the mix in a tie for fifth at five-under.

The 52-year-old Perry, who twice lost in playoffs in golf’s regular major champi-onships, has his chance to atone on Sunday. The Ken-ucky native has two previ-ous wins on the Champions Tour over those 50 but is yet to win a major. His third round proved a roller-coaster with five birdies, an eagle and four bogeys.

**Warsaw to host the Europa League final in 2015**

**WARSAW, 26 May—** Warsaw will be the venue for the Europa League final in 2015, the UEFA (Union of European Football As-soociations) announced on Friday.

Polish Football Asso-ciation (PZPN) president Zbigniew Boniek said that he was very glad Poland was granted the organisation of the final and stressed such event would promote Warsaw, Poland, Poles, our culture and soccer.

UEFA general secre-tary Gianni Infantino said that they have decided to go back to Warsaw with excel-lent memories of Euro 2012 and because it is a fantastic, modern efficient venue in a wonderful city in the centre of Europe.

Poland co-hosted Euro 2012 with Ukraine.

Warsaw’s National Stadium will be the first time to host a major Euro-pean final.
Boston meet Pittsburgh in East Finals

INDIANAPOLIS, 26 May — Security at Sunday's Indianapolis 500 will be ramped up as race officials of one of the year's biggest one-day sporting events respond to last month's deadly Boston Marathon bombings.

Officials of the race, which routinely attracts crowds of about 300,000 to the sprawling 2.5 mile oval, said the added security steps include closing traffic on a major route into the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) and banning oversized coolers. While the enhanced security will cause some headaches, the sight of runners who were unable to finish the Boston Marathon completing the distance at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is sure to provide one of the inspirational moments of the day.

About 35 runners will run about one-half mile from Turn Four to one of the most famous finish lines in all of sports—the Yard of Bricks—about 10 minutes before the start of the race. All of the participants in the ceremonial run were prevented from finishing the Boston Marathon as the race was halted when two pressure cooker bombs left at the finish line exploded in a crowd of thousands of spectators and athletes, killing three people and injuring 264 others. “The tragedy last month in Boston still resonates with everyone, so we wanted to give runners the chance to finish the race in front of thousands of fans who will appreciate their persistence and determination,” said Doug Boles, IMS chief operating officer.

Neymar agrees to five-year deal with Barcelona

SAO PAULO, 26 May — Brazil starlet Neymar has agreed to a five-year contract with Barcelona and will join the club during this summer's European transfer window, according to local media. The 21-year-old is expected to announce the move after playing his final match for Santos in Brazil's Serie A championship against Flamengo on Sunday. Globosports reported. "Neymar has listened to his heart and made a decision," the striker's father Neymar da Silva Santos said on Saturday night. "The time has come for him to play in Europe." Barcelona is understood to have committed to a 35 million-euro transfer fee, 55% of which will go to Santos and the remainder to investment companies DIS (40%) and Terceira Estrela Investimentos (5%). The decision ends two years of speculation surrounding Neymar’s future. In addition to the Camp Nou, reports have linked him to Real Madrid, Chelsea, Manchester United, Manchester City and Juventus. Santos released a statement on Friday night saying the club had accepted offers from Real Madrid and Barcelona, allowing Neymar to choose between the Spanish rivals.

Real Madrid reportedly offered Neymar a salary of 11 million euros a year, four million euros more than Barcelona. But Neymar Sr said he had elected the club that was best for him. "He has chosen a team that suits his style. I'm not going to say who it is now because he wants to make the announcement to the Santos fans. He owns them that and he will be letting them know tomorrow (Sunday). Santos officially received offers from six European clubs, "but I'm not going to know about Real Madrid and Barcelona," Neymar Sr said.

Neymar, is considered the man who will carry the hopes of a football-obsessed nation during next year's World Cup in Brazil. Since breaking into Santos’ first team in 2009, he has led the club made famous by Pele to the 2010 Brazilian Cup, 2011 Copa Libertadores and three straight Sao Paulo state championships. He is the club’s highest goalscorer in the post Pele era with 138 goals in 229 matches. Despite declining to speak to the media, Neymar was in a jovial mood on Saturday as he filmed his last Santos training session with his mobile phone and laughed with teammates. Afterwards he wrote a message on the club’s dressing room wall that read: “I’m going but I will be back.” He then travelled by helicopter to the coastal town of Curaguatuba for the wedding of his close friend and Brazil international teammate Paulo Henrique Ganso. Neymar will officially join Barcelona in July following the FIFA Confederations Cup in Brazil from 15-30 June.

Boston Bruins Rich Peverley (L) is knocked over by New York Rangers Dan Girardi during Game 5 of their NHL Eastern Conference semi-final hockey playoff game in Boston, Massachusetts on 25 May, 2013. Reuters

Northern Serbian university hosts Chinese language proficiency contest

NOVI SAD, (Serbia), 26 May — A Serbian university on Saturday hosted a national contest to select competitors to take part in the 12th worldwide “Chinese Bridge” competition of international students in proficiency of Chinese language.

The preliminary round of the contest held in Novi Sad University in Northern Serbia gathered participants from the New York Rangers with a 3-1 win in Game Five on Saturday. The fourth Bruins scored a power-play goal in the opening period but 22-year-old Torey Krug continued his strong post-season with a power-play goal of his own after three minutes of the second period. It was Krug’s fourth goal in his first five play-off games and sparked the Bruins into action.

Gregory Campbell snapped the 1-0 lead 10 minutes later and he added a second goal in the dying seconds of the game when he managed to backhand the puck into an empty net despite being hooked right before the attempt. "It was a tough series. They played hard and they are really similar to us," Campbell said. "It was a physical series and most games could have gone either way but we fought hard." Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask saved 28 of 29 shots.

First place was won by Milica Jocic from University of Belgrade, runner-up Novi Sad came in third.

A general view of the drivers meeting for the Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana on 25 May, 2013. —Reuters

A woman rides in rain in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 26 May, 2013. Many parts in Henan witnessed rainfall since Saturday. Local meteorological authorities issued a yellow alert on thunder. Xinhua

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Myanmar, Japan to promote relations in all sectors in future

NAYPYITAW, 26 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party held talks with a Japanese delegation led by Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe at the Presidential Palace here at 11.30 am today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between Yangon University and Nagoya University, cooperation in health system, establishing Japan-Myanmar Legal Center, building infrastructures, investment for development of SMEs, assisting in technology and human resource development, making investment in and providing technical assistance to banking system, development of micro-finance system for farmers for development agricultural sector, issues related to drawing master plan for Yangon City development, development of ring railroad system and traffic system and conservation of historical buildings in Yangon.

After the meeting, a memorandum of understanding on human resource development scholarship program and promoting Yangon City development, development of ring railroad system and traffic system and conservation of historical buildings in Yangon was signed by Deputy Minister Daw Khin San Yi and Japanese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata in the presence of President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Lin Aung and Ambassador Mr Mikio Numata signed MoUs on giving new loans of 51.052 billion yen to Myanmar for three development projects in the presence of President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe.

He expressed thanks for the Japanese government and its people for their support for the democratic transition and socio-economic reforms in Myanmar.

He also recounted his visit to Japan in April, last year and the signing of MoU on cooperation between Myanmar and Japan for Thilawa special economic zone during the visit.

Plans are underway to set up Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative as part of efforts for attracting more investment from Japan and for promoting socio-economic development in Myanmar, he said. On behalf of the people of Myanmar, President U Thein Sein expressed thanks to Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe for Japan’s strong support to the reforms in Myanmar and for assistance in development of Myanmar’s economy, development of rural areas, poverty reduction and human resource development.

The President also said that he and the Japanese PM exchanged views on promoting the bilateral relations, win-win cooperation and regional and international issues.

They also discussed issues related to investment opportunities and potentials to attract Japanese companies. He also expressed thanks to Japanese government for news loans to Myanmar and forgiving debts.

Afterwards, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe said both Japanese government and private sector are willing to assist in nation building works of Myanmar as they have witnessed that Myanmar government has been making efforts for transition to a democracy, rule of law and reforms.

He also pledged 91000 million yen in new loans to Myanmar, covering infrastructure development in rural areas, promoting socio-economic standard of the people, the rule of law, human resource development, construction and electricity sectors.

He also pledged to promote bilateral relations including political, security and cultural sectors and to promote bilateral cooperation between Myanmar which is rich in natural resources and Japan which has experiences and possess technology.