Thilawa Special Economic Zone in pipeline, Myanmar, Thailand committed to success of Dawei Special Economic Zone

Implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone is in the pipeline as the project has seen investments from Japan, said President U Thein Sein at the meeting of the Central committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zone today.

Thilawa Sea Port and Special Economic Zone and Dawei Special Economic Zone projects started in the time of the previous government and could not be implemented due to funding requirements.

To implement Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects, the government has set up a high-level committee led by the Vice-President (2) and held meetings with a high-level committee from Thailand led by the deputy prime minister of Thailand, he said.

As Dawei Special Economic Zone needs funding, the governments have negotiated for inviting investments from Japanese companies, and it is expected that investments from Japan would flow into the project in the near future as Japanese companies are interested in investing the project, he added.

To attract investors from Japan to the project, Thai prime minister had held talks with Japanese prime minister and President U Thein Sein discussed the project with Japanese prime minister during the latter’s recent visit to Myanmar.

Myanmar and Thailand must be committed to the success of Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects, the president said.

Myanmar and Thailand signed an MoU on Dawei Deep Sea Port and Special Economic Zone in 2008 and Myanmar Port Authority and Italian-Thai Company also inked the Framework Agreement in 2010 to implement the project.

In July, 2012, Thai government had joined with the company to implement the project and the two governments agreed to cooperate in implementing the project.

The government, since it took office, has been making efforts implementing Thilawa Deep Sea Port and Special Economic Zone, Dawei Deep Sea Port and Special Economic Zone, Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port and Special Economic Zone as part of efforts for creating job opportunities and boosting the country’s economy, the President said.

However, the country had seen slow foreign investment last two years as it is focusing on enacting the foreign investment law and removing economic sanctions imposed on it, he added.

Myanmar had made progress in relaxing economic sanctions imposed by EU countries and the US through diplomatic means, overcoming challenges for foreign investment.

Meanwhile, the World Bank and Asia Development Bank had forgiven the debts of Myanmar, and the country has got new loans with low interests rate after negotiating with member countries Paris club.

Realising that foreign investment, technology and human resource are requirements of the country to boost its economy, the government adopted four policies to invite foreign investment, he added.

He also called for preparing for the ASEAN Free Trade Area which would take effect in 2015 in attempts to compete with goods from ASEAN countries and some developed countries.

He also urged the people to participate in joint-venture businesses and corporations by cooperating with foreign investors with the use of their technology to produce quality goods.

During the meeting, Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Work Committee, reported on implementation of the Dawei Special Economic Zone by inviting foreign investment.

He said the zone is the western gate of the southern economic platforms of the Greater Mekong Sub-region and it would benefit not only Myanmar but also regional countries in terms of economic development.

Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Chairman of Dawei Special Economic Zone Construction Special Working Group, and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung reported on future plans and contracts to be signed for the project.

In concluding remarks, President U Thein Sein called for coordination among related ministries and for hiring foreign experts if necessary and for signing agreements in accordance with international law.

No To Tobacco

Recently, I came across an interesting news story regarding tobacco that I cut from the New Light of Myanmar some time about nearly a decade ago.

By Maung Hlaing

PAGE 8

India, Japan seek early agreement on civil nuclear pact

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks to media reporters after a Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States, on 29 May, 2013—XINHUA

PAGE 3

Concrete roads emerge one after another in Pyapon

PAGE 10
No one hurt in sudden partial collapse of building under construction

YANGON, 30 May — A sudden collapse happened to the rear part of a building which is under construction on Malar Myaing 6th street in ward-16 of Hline Township, here, at about 12 noon on 28 May.

“I was frightened when I heard the sound. I didn’t know what happened shortly after I heard. I was informed later that it was a sudden collapse of a building which is under construction”, says a woman who lives in the ward. The partial collapse occurred at the three and a half-storey building which is being built by a construction company with an agreement of Yangon City Development Committee at No (49/245) on Malar Myaing 6th street in the township. The rear part of the building collapsed suddenly. Officials of Hline Township Executive Officer’s Office rushed there and made necessary investigation, making an order to stop construction works until any directive was released. Thanks to the sudden collapse of the rear part of the building, roofs and ceilings of a house which is situated behind the building on 5th street were destroyed, but no one was injured in the incident.

Kyemon

Two men charged for impersonating police officers

KYAUKSE, 30 May — Two men have been charged for separate incidents in which they allegedly impersonated police officers in Mandalay Region.

Kyaikse police station said that they had a report of a robbery by a monk who had fallen victim to a fake police officer. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javada aged 77 and with a monkhood of 27 years of Maha Kathinlaya monastery in Bago informed that he was taken from Kyat Lin Tun ward of Kyaukse Township to a place near Kyaukse golf course and robbed of his belongings by a man who said he was from the police station at about 1 pm on 24 May. Police members of Kyaukse Myoma police station looked for the man posing as one of them and arrested Zaw Naing (a) Zaw Thein Naing, 38, of Sein Pann ward of Maha Aungmyay Township together with K 100,000 and two bank books.

Further investigation revealed that the suspect had also committed two more criminal cases one month ago. One was taking K 150,000 from a monk in Kyaukse, making a fake promise to dig a well. Another was committing thefts of belongings from monasteries in Kayan Township of Yangon Region. Kyaukse Myoma police station filed a lawsuit against the suspect.

A similar case of impersonating police officer occurred in Chaungmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region at about 5.15 pm on 24 May. Police were informed through phone that a man who pretended to be a police officer from Mandalay Region Police Force had asked Daw Khin Mar Aye (a) Ma Mee in Aungginle ward of the township to give money to him. Police rushed there and made investigation into the case. The man was identified as a bogus police officer and as Min Htak (a) Kaung Htet Lin, 25, of Ye Mon south ward in Maha Aungmyay Township. He used to be a police member at No (9) police station and sentenced to jail for violation of police codes of conduct. Further investigation showed that the police impersonator committed a similar case at a restaurant on 56th street in Kanbya ward two weeks ago. Aungginle police station charged the suspect with impersonating police officer. — Kyemon

Motorbike thefts from staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township exposed

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May — Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw police commander Police Col Aung Aung, police investigated the thefts of motorbikes from staff quarters in Zabuthiri Township, here and arrested two suspects.

While police members from Nay Pyi Taw No (3) police station were on patrol on 12 May, they found a motorbike suspicious and interviewed Zarni (a) Kyaw Zaw Naing of Gonmin village in Zabuthiri Township. Investigation led to the arrest of Naing Lin Tun of ward-1 in Lewe Township who is suspected of committing motorbike thefts in cooperation with police members of Zabuthiri (Myoma) police station.

After questioning him, the suspect confessed to the theft of 21 motorbikes from Zabuthiri staff quarters and that he sold the stolen motorbikes to Wai Lwin Htay of Thabyekon ward. Police arrested Wai Lwin Htay and seized 13 motorbikes he had sold to others in Nay Pyi Taw.

So, Naing Lin Tun and Wai Lwin Htay were taken into custody at Nay Pyi Taw No (6) police station and they were charged with motorbike theft. — Kyemon

Ministry of Education
School Enrolment Week
From (27) to (31) May

People to participate in enrolment of all school-going age children

PHOTO NEWS

Photo shows ward dwellers wading into the knee-deep water in Sittway where the untimely tide entered urban wards—Yupa north ward, Yupa south ward and Myotdagyi ward—at about 10 am on 26 May. People had to move their kitchen goods to higher places in houses in low-lying areas.— Kyemon

Photo shows dredging of Naungya Lake being carried out by local people and policemen under the leadership of Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and ministers on 23 May morning.— Kyemon

PHOTO NEWS

People to participate in enrolment of all school-going age children

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Photo shows ward dwellers wading into the knee-deep water in Sittway where the untimely tide entered urban wards—Yupa north ward, Yupa south ward and Myotdagyi ward—at about 10 am on 26 May. People had to move their kitchen goods to higher places in houses in low-lying areas.— Kyemon

Photo shows dredging of Naungya Lake being carried out by local people and policemen under the leadership of Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and ministers on 23 May morning.— Kyemon
India, Japan seek early agreement on civil nuclear pact

Tokyo, 30 May—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Indian counterpart agreed on Wednesday to speed up talks on a deal to allow Japan to export nuclear plants and to strengthen security cooperation.

Japan, for its part, has been locked in a territorial dispute with China over a group of East China Sea islets.

“The political and security area, maritime security cooperation will further be strengthened... On civil nuclear cooperation, negotiation will be accelerated toward the early conclusion of the agreement,” Abe told a ceremony alongside India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (L) shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe at the start of talks at Abe’s official residence in Tokyo on 29 May, 2013. REUTERS

UN nuclear investigation could be foiled by clean-up

Vienna, 30 May—The UN nuclear watchdog acknowledged on Wednesday it might not find anything if allowed access to an Iranian military facility, in an apparent reference to suspected clean-up work there, diplomats said.

Herman Nackaerts, deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), made the comment during a closed-door briefing where he showed satellite imagery indicating Iran had now partly paved the site, they said.

The picture was the latest sign of what Western officials suspect is an Iranian attempt since early last year to remove or hide any evidence of illicit nuclear-related activity at Parchin, located southeast of the capital Tehran.

In response to a question, “he (Nackaerts) said there is a chance they won’t find anything”, in view of the suspected sanitisation efforts, said one diplomat who was at the meeting.

Nackaerts made no public comment.

The UN agency believes Iran may have carried out explosives tests relevant for nuclear weapons development at Parchin, possibly a decade ago, and has been pressing Tehran for more than a year to be allowed visit the sprawling facility.

Iran, which denies Western allegations that it seeking the capability to make nuclear weapons, says Parchin is a conventional military complex and rejects accusations that it is trying to “disguise any evidence.”

Pakistan’s Taleban No 2 leader killed in drone strike

Islamabad, 30 May—The second-in-command of the Pakistani Taleban was among five militants killed in a suspected US drone strike on Wednesday in a tribal area of northwestern Pakistan, officials said.

If confirmed, the death of Wali ur Rehman would be a major blow to the Pakistani Taleban, officially known as Tehreek-e-Taleban Pakistan. Rehman was regarded as the imminent successor to TTP chief Hakimullah Mehsud.

TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan denied reports of Rehman’s death in the strike on a militant hideout in Mirali District of North Waziristan tribal agency bordering Afghanistan.

Officials said the unmanned aircraft fired two missiles at the hideout on Wednesday morning. A statement issued by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry expressed the serious concern of the Pakistani government over the drone strike.

“The Government of Pakistan has consistently maintained that drone strikes are counter-productive and entail loss of innocent civilian lives, has human rights and humanitarian implications and violate the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law,” the statement said.

Pakistan has been demanding an end to drone attacks, but the US administration has maintained that such attacks are necessary to protect US and allied troops in Afghanistan and elsewhere. It has, however, given assurances that drone strikes are made selectively after confirming the presence of hostile elements at the target.

Rehman’s death would vindicate the US position that drones are used with great care and deliberation. North Waziristan is a stronghold of Pakistani militants and the Haqqani group affiliated with the Afghani Taleban led by Mullah Mohammad Umar.

ECLAC urges LatAm to better use natural resources revenue

Santiago, 30 May—The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on Wednesday urged regional countries to promote long-term economic development by taking advantage of the current high prices of natural resources.

The ECLAC said in a report that region is rich in natural wealth, but short of powerful institutions and mechanisms “to maximize the contribution of natural resources to regional development, particularly in the current cycle of high prices.”

ECLAC Deputy Executive Secretary Antonio Prado detailed the contents of the report titled “Natural resources within UNASUR: Status and trends for a regional development agenda”.

He said that “the region has been unable to translate the boom periods of export of its resources into long-term economic development processes.”

In the report, ECLAC analyzes natural resource management in the region, including policies over the ownership and distribution of natural resources, as well as the distribution of profits from their exploitation.

Latin America and the Caribbean has 65 percent of the world’s lithium reserves, 42 percent of silver, 38 percent of copper, 33 percent of tin, 21 percent of iron, 18 percent of bauxite and 14 percent of nickel.
Asteroid mining company wants to put your face in space

CAPE CANAVERAL, 30 May—A privately owned asteroid mining firm, backed in part by Google Inc’s founders, launched a crowd-funding project on Wednesday to gauge public interest in a small space telescope to hunt for asteroids orbiting near Earth and robotic spacecraft to mine them for precious metals, water and other materials.

It also plans an educational outreach program to let students, museums, armchair astronomers and virtual travellers share use of a telescope through an initiative on Kickstarter, a website used to raise funds for creative projects.

Planetary Resources aims to raise $1 million by 30 June to assess public appetite for participating in a space project. It expects to launch its first telescope in 2015.

For a pledge of $25, participants can make use of a “space photo booth” by sending a picture to be displayed like a billboard on the side of the telescope with Earth in the background. Its image would then be snapped by a remote camera and transmitted back.

Starting at $200, participants can use the telescope to look at an astronomical object. The Kickstarter campaign complements the company’s ongoing efforts to design and build its first telescope, called ARKYD. Investors include Google Chief Executive Larry Page and Chairman Eric Schmidt, as well as Ross Perot Jr, chairman of the real estate development firm Hillwood and The Perot Group.

ESA astronaut Luca Parmitano arrives at space station

PARIS, 30 May—A Soyuz spacecraft launched from Kazakhstan on Tuesday night safely docked with the International Space Station on Wednesday morning, delivering astronaut Luca Parmitano and his crewmates to the orbital outpost where they will live and work for five months.

Parmitano is a European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut flying on board the Space Station for the Italian Space Agency (ASI) under a bilateral agreement between ASI and NASA. He was joined by Russian Soyuz commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and NASA astronaut Karen Nyberg in the mission, said ESA in a statement.

Facebook says needs to improve response to hate speech

NEW YORK, 30 May—Facebook Inc said its systems to remove hate speech haven’t worked as well as the company had hoped, amid reports that advertisers were pulling their brands off the social network in the face of a backlash from women’s groups, on 29 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Amazon moving ahead with five original TV series

We’re thrilled to have emerged safely from this harrowing exercise in online democracy,” said Garry Trudeau, the Pulitzer-Prize winning cartoonist who created and wrote “Alpha House,” a live-action show starring John Goodman about a group of U.S. senators who live together. Amazon will shoot 10 more episodes of “Alpha House” to complete the first season, which will air starting in November.

“Betas” will also get another 10 episodes, while the kids shows, “Annenbots,” “Creative Galaxy” and “TumbleArt,” will get 26 episodes each, Amazon said.

Plots that were not picked up as full series included “Zombieland,” a comedy based on the successful movie of the same name, and “Browsers,” a musical comedy starring Bebe Neuwirth.—Reuters
**Business & Health**

**High doses of common painkillers increase heart attack risks**

**London, 30 May—** Long-term high-dose use of painkillers such as ibuprofen or diclofenac is “equally hazardous” in terms of heart attack risk as use of the drug Vioxx, which was withdrawn due to its potential dangers, researchers said on Thursday.

Presenting the results of a large international study into a class of painkillers called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), the researchers said high doses of them increase the risk of a major vascular event — a heart attack, stroke or dying from cardiovascular disease — by around a third.

This means that for every 1,000 people with an average risk of heart disease who take high-dose diclofenac or ibuprofen for a year, about three extra would have an avoidable heart attack, of which one would be fatal, the researchers said.

This puts the heart risks of generic NSAIDs on a par with a newer class of NSAIDs known as COX-2 inhibitors or coxibs, which includes Vioxx — a painkiller that US drugmaker Merck pulled from sale in 2004 because of links to heart risks.

Other drugs in the coxib class include cercoxib, sold by Pfizer under the brand name Celebrex, and etoricoxib, sold by Merck under the brand name Arcoxia.

“What we are saying is that they (coxibs, ibuprofen and diclofenac) have similar risks, but they also have similar benefits,” said Colin Baignet of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

**Berkshire Hathaway picks up Las Vegas-based NV Energy for $5.6 billion**

**Las Vegas, 30 May—** Berkshire Hathaway Inc’s (BRKa.N) power production unit MidAmerican Energy will pay $5.6 billion for NV Energy Inc (NVE.N), the electric utility that serves Las Vegas and its power-hungry casinos.

MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co will purchase NV Energy’s common stock for $23.75 per share, a 23 percent premium to NV’s on Wednesday closing price.

“This is a great fit for Berkshire Hathaway, and we are pleased to make a long-term investment in Nevada’s economy,” Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffett said in a statement.

Las Vegas-based NV Energy, which serves about 2.4 million people in Nevada, said last month it would accelerate the retirement of its coal-fired power generating facilities and the construction of natural gas and renewable power plants.

“By joining forces with MidAmerican, we will gain access to additional operational and financial resources,” NV Energy Chief Executive Michael Yackira said.

**Dish tops rival Sprint’s bid for Clearwire**

**New York, 30 May—** Dish Network Corp raised its buyout offer for Clearwire Corp to $4.40 per share, valuing the wireless service provider at $6.5 billion and topping a rival bid by Sprint Nextel Corp bid by nearly 30 percent.

Sprint, the No 3 US mobile service provider, already owns just over 50 percent of Clearwire’s shares and had increased its offer to $3.40 per share last week under pressure from activist shareholders.

Dish, which is also locked in a battle with a Japan’s SoftBank Corp to acquire Sprint, raised its bid just two days before the Sprint offer goes to a vote.

“The Clearwire spectrum portfolio has always been a key component to implementing our wireless plans of delivering a superior product and service offering to customers,” Charlie Ergen, Dish chairman and co-founder of Dish, said in a statement.

Dish’s offer values Clearwire at $6.47 billion, according to its shares outstanding as of 29 May.

Clearwire shares were trading up 23 percent at $4.23 after-hours on Wednesday after closing at $3.43. Sprint was up less than one percent, and Dish stock fell 2 percent to $9.25 in after-hours trade.

A spokesperson for Clearwire said the company’s special committee would review Dish’s revised bid, and had not made any determination to change its recommendation of the current Sprint transaction.

A Softbank spokesman was not immediately available to comment, while a Sprint spokesman declined comment.

**Buffett picks up Las Vegas-based NV Energy for $5.6 billion**

**New York, 30 May—** Berkshire Hathaway shareholders walk by a video screen at the company’s annual meeting in Omaha on 4 May, 2013. **Reuters**

A new study of more than seven million commercial aircraft flights has concluded the odds of having a medical emergency on your plane are 604 to 1 and the chances of ending up at a different airport as a result are about 8,500 to 1.

The likelihood of someone dying during your flight: 240,000 to 1.

“We found that it’s very rare for someone to die on board an aircraft,” said Dr Christian Martin-Gill of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The analysis of in-flight emergencies was designed to provide recommendations to healthcare providers who are sometimes called on to help deal with in-flight emergencies “and raised awareness to what they might encounter when flying,” he said.

Dr. Melissa Mattison of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston, who was not involved in the research, called it “a great step forward” because it will help doctors and airlines know what they might have to deal with.

Data for the new study came from the STAT-MD Communications Centre at the University of Pittsburgh, which provides live physician advice to airlines during in-flight medical emergencies. When the data were collected, from 2008 through most of 2010, the center was used by five airlines, accounting for 10 percent of all global air traffic.

The biggest problem in the air: fainting, which was responsible for 37.4 percent of the emergencies.

That was followed by respiratory problems (12.1 percent), nausea or vomiting (9.5 percent), heart problems (7.7 percent) and seizures (5.8 percent). Cardiac arrest, listed separately, was reported in 0.3 percent of cases.

**Airline study finds onboard illness, diversions rare**

**Tokyo, 30 May—** Panasonic Corp said it will cut around 5,000 workers from its automotive and industrial division in a bid to bolster its operating profit margin over the next three years to a 5 percent minimum set by the company’s president, Kazuhiro Tsuga.

The division, which covers automotive components, semiconductors, production machinery and other devices, employs 110,000 people, around a third of Panasonic’s workforce. The business is at the forefront of Tsuga’s strategy to shift Panasonic away from consumer electronics to building gadgets and machinery it sells to other companies.

“A reduction in labour costs will be a big part of our plan to improve profitability,” Yoshishige Yamada, the head of the automotive and industrial division said during a presentation to analysts and investors in Tokyo.

**Ibuprofen bottle clinical trial service unit at Britain’s Oxford University, who led the study published in The Lancet medical journal on Thursday. He stressed that the risks are mainly relevant to people who suffer chronic pain, such as patients with arthritis who need to take high doses of painkillers — such as 150mg of diclofenac or 2400mg of ibuprofen a day - for long periods.**

“A short course of lower dose tablets purchased without a prescription, for example, for a muscle sprain, is not likely to be hazardous,” he said.

The study team gathered data, including on admissions to hospital for cardiovascular or gastrointestinal disease, from all randomized trials that have previously tested NSAIDs.

This allowed them to pool results of 639 randomized trials involving more than 300,000 people and re-analyze the data to establish the risks of NSAIDs in certain types of patients.

**Panasonic to cut 5,000 workers from automotive and industrial division**

**Reuters**
**New Light of Myanmar**

**WORLD**

**Threatening letters sent to New York mayor may contain ricin**

**New York, 30 May**—Two anonymous letters addressed to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his gun control group contained material believed to be the deadly poison ricin, and referenced the one on a letter to a New York City police official said on Wednesday.

The New York Police Department said initial tests on the two letters, opened in New York Sunday and in Washington, DC, on Sunday, indicated the presence of ricin.

“In both letters the content was identical,” police spokesman Paul Browne said, adding that the packages contained “an oily substance” that was “pink or orange hue. “One letter was addressed to the mayor personally.”

Emergency workers who came in contact with the letters initially showed minor symptoms of ricin exposure, the police said. Said since abated. Civilian personnel in New York and Washington who came in contact with the open letters showed no symptoms of ricin exposure.

The Washington letter was opened by Mark Glasman, the director of Mayor’s Against Illegal Guns, a group founded by Bloomberg that lobbies for stricter gun laws. The other letter was opened at a mail facility in Manhattan.

Both contained threats against Bloomberg and mentioned the gun debate, police said in a statement.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns was founded in 2006, but the group’s profile has been raised since the December 14 shootings at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, that killed 20 children and six adults.

After that shooting, the group campaigned for bills that would expand the use of background checks for gun purchases and ban assault weapons, though both of those efforts were unsuccessful.

The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the NYPD Intelligence Division were investigating the incident. —Reuters

**African Fair opens in Yokohama to promote exchange**

**Yokohama, 30 May**—A fair to promote Japanese business in Africa and showcase African products and culture began on Thursday in Yokohama, one of the largest events of its kind in Japan, ahead of an international meeting on African development.

The African Fair 2013 will last three days from Saturday at a site near a large business park in the city.

Over 70 Japanese companies aiming to make inroads into African markets are taking part in the event to introduce their technologies or products in areas such as water filtration and railway management, up sharply from 11 firms that joined a similar event in 2008 when TICAD was last held, also in Yokohama.

Kyodo News

**France: says 3,000-4,000 Hezbollah are fighting in Syria**

**Paris, 30 May**—France said on Wednesday it intelligence services believed 3,000-4,000 guerrillas from Lebanon’s Hezbollah militiamen fighting alongside Syrian government forces were inflaming regional tensions, without giving numbers.

Fabius pointed the finger at Iran for pushing Hezbollah into the Syrian conflict.

“When you have fighters that are really well armed that are prepared to die and they are several thousand that makes a difference,” he said.

Fabius has dismissed any suggestion that Iran could be involved in resolving the Syrian crisis, because of its backing of Assad’s government.

“There has been a change on the ground. The involvement of Hezbollah and the fact the Russians have delivered weapons has changed things,” he said. “Even if many Coleman are Syrian, they are being guided by Iranian officials.”

France said on 23 May it hoped an initiative could be agreed by the end of June to put the armed wing of Hezbollah on the EU’s list of terrorist organisations, on the grounds the group is impeding Syria’s war into Lebanon.

Paris has tradition-ally been cautious about backing steps to sanction Hezbollah, fearing it could destabilise Lebanon and put UN peacekeepers at risk, but in recent weeks has said it would consider all options.—Reuters

**June 2013, 30 May**—A fair to promote Japanese business in Africa and showcase African products and culture began on Thursday in Yokohama.

**Tokyo, 30 May**—Japan, the United States and Europe are moving to curb tax avoidance by multinationals, aiming to secure revenues by enforcing international taxation at a time when their fiscal health is deteriorating, according to sources close to the matter.

The Group of Eight leaders are expected to adopt a statement at their summit in Northern Ireland in mid-June showing their support for the establishment of global tax rules, the sources said.

At its two-day ministerial meeting through Thursday, a panel of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is set to consider how to discourage multinational companies from using tax havens and limit their tax avoidance, they said.

One major tax-reduction strategy involves a company setting up a subsidiary in a country where the tax burden is low. A sub-subsidiary operating in a country where the tax burden is heavy pays a royalty to the subsidiary to reduce its recorded profit in an attempt to lower the amount of tax payable.

According to media reports, Seattle-based Star-bucks Corp has apparently been reducing tax payments to Britain, where the tax burden is high, by buying coffee beans from a subsidiary in Switzerland at higher prices than usual.

The revelation led to protests by consumers, prompting the British govern-ment to look at strengthening taxation.

The OECD tax panel plans to draw up an action plan at the end of next month to address tax avoidance, the sources said, adding the matter is likely to be discussed at a meeting of the Group of 20 finance chiefs in July, attended by major emerging economies.

Kyodo News

**Japan, US, move to curb tax avoidance by multinationals**

**A woman clears up books on the BookExpo America (BEA) in New York, the United States, on 29 May 2013. BEA, the leading event in North American publishing, unveiled its curtain on Wednesday.  NEW YORK TIMES**

**Wall Street**—Asian finance ministers will meet in Tokyo next week to discuss plans to curb tax avoidance by multinationals after similar efforts were unsuccessful.

Both of those efforts were unsuccessful. According to media reports, Seattle-based Starbucks Corp has apparently been reducing tax payments to Britain, where the tax burden is high, by buying coffee beans from a subsidiary in Switzerland at higher prices than usual.

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Kyodo News

**Barbara hits southern Mexico, killing at least two**

**San Pedro Tapanatepec, (Mexico), 30 May**—Hurricane Barbara hit Mexico’s southern Pacific coast on Wednesday, flooding roads, toppling trees and killing two men believed to have been caught in a tropical storm as it moved inland.

The US National Hur-ricane Center said that Bar-bara, which had earlier moved closer to the country’s biggest oil refinery, was 50 miles (80 km) west of the city of Tuxtla Guti-errez in Chiapas state. Winds were blowing at up to 60 miles per hour (95 kph). The hurricane was churning north-northeast at about 9 mph (15 kph) and should weaken rapidly overnight, the NHC said.

According to media reports, the storm appeared in the state of Oaxaca during the storm. Local emergency services said at least two people were killed as southeastern wind and in- tense rainfall had hit the region and that power out-ages were reported.

Mexican state oil mo-nopoly Pemex said earlier that a man surfing off the beach at Salina Cruz during the storm. A 26-year-old Mexican man was killed as he tried to cross a river. Ports for small vessels in the area have been closed and emergency services in Oaxaca said they evacuta-ed residents from some ar-eas as a precaution, including the immediate vicinity of the refinery. A tropical storm warning is in effect from Salina Cruz in Oax-aca to Pijijapan in Chiapas state. Between 6 and 10 inches (10 to 20 cm) of rain is expected over eastern Oaxaca through west-ern Chiapas, along with a storm surge of 3 to 5 feet (1 to 1.5 meters) above nor-mal tide levels, the NHC said.

Reuters

**New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg delivers the 2014 city budget in the Blue Room of New York’s City Hall, on 2 May, 2013.—REUTERS**

**World**—A succeeding a decision to list terrorist organisations, on the grounds the group is impeding Syria’s war into Lebanon.

Paris has traditionally been cautious about backing steps to sanction Hezbollah, fearing it could destabilise Lebanon and put UN peacekeepers at risk, but in recent weeks has said it would consider all options.—Reuters

**Japan, US, move to curb tax avoidance by multinationals**
Myanmar participates in Global Timber Forum

**YANGON, 30 May—** At the invitation of European Timber Federation, Joint Secretary U Bar Bar Cho of Timber Certification Support Committee of Myanmar timber entrepreneurs association attended Global Timber Forum in Rome of Italy on 22-23 May. He arrived back in Yangon on 25 May. The joint secretary discussed boosting cooperation between Myanmar timber entrepreneurs association and international organizations and challenges of timber industry at Global Timber Forum.

**Meiktila Highway Bus Terminal to be relocated**

**MEIKTILA, 30 May—** Highway Bus Terminal in Thiri Mingala ward in Meiktila will be relocated to an old grave near the office of district head of Aungzeya ward. The earthworks started on 27 May. The old grave has been moved to new 14-acre Myindawkan grave since 2012, according to head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Than Zaw.

The selection of the ground was made after negotiations with religious leaders, he said. “We have given seven days to perform religious rituals. And we have discussed with Muslim population to relocate graves of their deceased descendants. They were convinced,” district deputy commissioner U Tin Maung Soe said. The market will be opened at the site of own highway bus terminal.

**Three artesian wells sunk in Tatkon Tsp**

**NAI PYI TAW, 30 May—** Three artesian wells were sunk in Thawda village in Kyaechaung village-tract, Ohnshuqon village in Thaphanchaung village-tract, and Boattaung village in Aikkye village-tract to improve access to water. Tatkon Township General Administration Department made field trips and proposed the sinking of artesian wells in priority areas to Nay Pyi Taw Council. The council funded K 26,233 million for the sinking of artesian wells undertaken by Construction Group (S) of Irrigation Department under Nay Pyi Taw Water Resources Utilization Department.

The ceremony to hand over the wells to villagers was held in Thawda village in Kyaechaung village-tract in Tatkon Township on 27 May morning. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe delivered a speech at the ceremony. Officials of agricultural coordination committee of Nay Pyi Taw Water Resources Utilization Department, townshipleveldepartmental officials, members of social organizations and local people attended the ceremony.

**Stipends granted for children**

**YANGON, 30 May—** A ceremony to grant stipends to offspring of Kyimyindine Township Police Force members for 2013-2014 academic year was held at Township Police Force on 26 May morning. A total of K 125,500 and 50 dozens of exercise books worth K 73,000 were presented to 20 primary school students, 14 middle school students, 11 high school students and five university students. Chief of Township Police Force Police Major Soe Thin and officials presented assistance. —Myanma Alinn

**Health**

**Preventive measures against DHF conducted in Sittway**

**SITTWAY, 30 May—** Under directive of Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Aye Nyein, Head of Sittway Township Health Department, staff of township Health Department, trainees of nursing and midwifery training school, volunteers started preventive measures against Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever in 32 wards in Sittway of Rakhine State on 27 May.

The efforts that will run through 17 May include disinfection of lakes, drainage works and spraying of mosquito killers. —Myanma Alinn

**Liaison offices to be opened in border areas**

**NAI PYI TAW, 30 May—** A Myanmar national level body is in negotiation with similar committees of neighbouring committees to open liaison offices in border areas to bring down trans-border crimes.

Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar inked a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with East Asia and Pacific Resident Representative of Bangkok-based UNODC on 10 January to cooperate in drug control schemes of UNODC, the rule of law and controlling trans-border crimes. A workshop on implementing the LOA, the law enforcement and cracking down trans-border crimes was held on 10 February.

The Myanmar National Leading Committee held its first meeting on 20 May and discussed matters related to providing necessary trainings and opening liaison offices.

**One killed in motorcycle accident**

**PINLEBU, 30 May—** One pedestrian was killed in a traffic accident in Kanyinngon village in Pinlebu Township in Katha District in Sagaing Region on 23 May evening. The motorbike accidentally hit Daw Mi Kyawt, 65, who was standing near a kiosk and run away. Kanyinngon village administrator U Kyauk Sein reported the police about the case. The victim died on the way to hospital. The police is chasing the driver of motorbike who is on the run. —Myanma Alinn

**Township MCWA donates books to book corner**

**WUNTHO, 30 May—** Information and Public Relations Department and Wuntho Railway Station under Myanma Railways opened a book corner to enable commuters read books at the station in Wuntho Township in Katha District.
No To Tobacco

Recently, I came across an interesting news story regarding tobacco that I cut from the New Light of Myanmar some time about nearly a decade ago. The news story under the title of "British couple quits smoking for health of parents" was published in London (Reuters) on 6 August (May be in 2004). According to the news, a British couple booked themselves into a clinic to quit smoking after the vet said it was the only way to save their beloved sick parrot.

The couple, chain-smokers, had a four-month-old orange-winged parrot named J.J. When that particular bird presented with very serious respiratory problems, they decided to do everything in their power to improve the bird’s environment. When the vet told them that one of the key things they need to get right was parrot’s "air quality," they made up their mind to give up a 50-cigarette-a-day habit to save their beloved parrot.

Finally, the couple booked themselves into one of the anti-smoking clinics. As a result, J.J the parrot became well and it helped the couple, too. Believe it, or not!

Although we cannot definitely say the time when people started to smoke, they have smoked tobacco for thousands of years. The historical records reveal that in the 1500s, many Europeans began smoking because they believed tobacco had medicinal benefits. Today, people smoke chiefly for relaxation and pleasure, and to satisfy a craving for nicotine, a chemical substance in cigarette. However, during the 1900s, scientists found increasing evidence that smoking can endanger a person’s health.

In spite of the dangers, many people became smokers. Many young people begin smoking as an act of independence. Most adults smoke to reduce their craving for nicotine of which effects help make smoking pleasurable. However, its effect on the nervous system also causes many people to become addicted to it. Such addiction may lead to many people to give up smoking.

Cigarette smoking is believed by many research workers in this field to be an important factor in the development of cancer of the lungs and cancer of the throat and is believed to be related to cancer of the bladder and the oral cavity.

Doctors say that smoking also affects the Beurger’s disease, a narrowing of the small veins in the hands and feet that can cause great pain, and lead even to amputation of limbs.

Smokers also die much more often from heart disease.

While all tobacco smoking has a much greater effect than cigar or pipe smoking. Most people believe that smoking is less harmful than tobacco in other forms of smoking and cancer because over 6 million people die each year from tobacco-related cancer and over 300 million people are disabled by smoking-related diseases worldwide, including heart disease, stroke, and different forms of cancer, as well as respiratory diseases.

Many countries of the world are now carrying out activities that lead to demand reduction of tobacco which include prohibition of smoking at public places and designing smoking restricted areas, banning of all forms of advertising, putting up warning labels on cigarette packages, increasing tax on tobacco products and promoting health education programmes on danger of tobacco. We should not ignore the millions of tobacco deaths in the world from tobacco-related cancer and other diseases.

According to the WHO, reports of 2012, six million people die of strokes, cancers, lung disease and other diseases annually due to tobacco consumption. Among them, more than 0.6 million are passive smokers and one-fourth, children. Due to continued use of tobacco, death toll would reach over 8 million in 2030, fourth-fifth of whom are from developing countries.

Tobacco consumption in Southeast Asia region including Myanmar are becoming higher and one-fourth of the world death rate is in this region.

As a matter of fact, smoking habits have barely changed over the past decade and lack of knowledge about damage caused by nicotine addiction poses huge challenges.

Regarding the tobacco menace, Myanmar never loses sight of combating the threat. Myanmar has implemented its tobacco free programmes since 1980. Prohibition of Smoking at Theatres Act was enacted in 1959, Public Health Law, in 1972. Although the Control of Smoking and Consum-ption of Tobacco Products Law has been enacted in Myanmar, very few people seem to follow it.

While nations around the world observe the World No-Tobacco Day with due ceremony extolling the virtues of shunning smoking in all forms, Myanmar has consistently observed the World No-Tobacco Day since 1989, on 31 May each year, adding much impetus to combat what may rightly be called the tobacco menace.

So, no to tobacco!
N A Y P Y I T A W, 30 May—A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited Navy Port of Royal Thai Navy and cruised along the Chao Phraya River in Angsana Cruise (Navy) vessel on 27 May. The Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy and wife hosted a dinner to the Myanmar military delegation on board Angsana Cruise (Navy) vessel on 27 May. The Myanmar military delegation visited Royal Thai Army Livestock Farming and Development Battalion, 130 kilometers from Thai capital of Bangkok the following day. The Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army exchanged gifts. The Myanmar Commander-in-Chief observed animal products and farming there. The Myanmar Commander-in-Chief visited Grand Palace in Bangkok yesterday, paid homage to Emerald Buddha Image and donated cash. He also paid obeisance to reclining Buddha image at Wat Pra Cheutupon and made cash donation.

Union Peace Making Work Committee, KIO sign...

(from page 16) (a) The Government of Myanmar and the KIO agree to hold political dialogue; (b) The Parties agree to undertake efforts to achieve de-escalation and cessation of hostilities; (c) The Parties agree in principle to establish joint Monitoring Committees; (d) The Parties agree to continue discussions on military issues related to repositioning of troops; (f) The Parties agree to the establishment of a Myitkyina-based KIO representative and technical team in order to undertake necessary measures for the peace process more effectively; (g) The Parties agreed to continue discussions on political issues related to repositioning of troops.

No.3 Mining Enterprise
Managing Director
Ministry of Mines

No.1 Mining Enterprise
Managing Director
Ministry of Mines

Homeless victims get shelters in Lashio

N A Y P Y I T A W, 30 May—The Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee received legal expert of ICJ, Mr Benjamin Zawacki, at the meeting hall No. 1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, this morning. Also present on the occasion together with the Committee Chairman were Secretary U Tin Maung Win and one committee member, two members of Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee and officials of the Hluttaw Office. At the call, they had a cordial discussion on human rights, matters of legislation in conformity with new system being practised, steps being taken over human rights inside and outside Hluttaw, national solidarity and peace and stability, and international relations.

Homeless victims sheltering at monastery which is situated in Lashio.

N A Y P Y I T A W, 30 May—Victims who have become homeless as a result of communal violence that was erupted on 28 and 29 May in Lashio were provided with necessary assistance regardless of race and religion, according to the Shan State government.

So far, arrangements have been made for the convenience of altogether 414 victims—191 men and 223 women accommodated at Mansu Monastery in wards-8 and 25 at Seittathukha Monastery.
New Dhammayon building handed over in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—The Buddha image consecration and the hand-over of new Dhammayon building took place at the Dhammayon on Aungnan Mingala Street in Bawgatheiddi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, here, on 26 May. Present on the occasion were Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Kan Chwe, Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Kyaw Htoo and committee members, staff and their families, Chairman of Dhammayon Supervisory Committee Ward Administrator U Ko Ko Gyi and wellwishers.

Maha Wizitayon Monastery Sayadaw U Kavinda and monks recited Parittas and the congregation donated meals to the monks. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Than Oo handed over the documents related to the Dhammayon to Ward Administrator U Ko Ko Gyi.

Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is building 17 Dhammayons in wards/villages of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Of them, nine Dhammayons have been handed over to the local authorities. Officials presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who donated K 9.2 million for the Dhammayon.—MNA

Concrete roads emerge one after another in Pyapon

PYAPON, 30 May — Construction of concrete roads are in progress in Pyapon which is prone to floods in rainy season every year with the contribution of local people.

Since 26 May, the gravel road linking between ward-1 and ward-2 has been upgraded to a concrete one. There are six concrete roads built by the Township Development Affairs Committee in cooperation with local people and 13 self-reliant ones in Pyapon.

The 800 feet long and 12 feet wide concrete road is being built with the contribution of K 13.67 million by the Township Development Affairs Committee and K 4 million by local people.—Kyemon

Myanmar Internet Freedom Forum on 1 June

YANGON, 30 May — With the aim of raising awareness of digital rights for Internet users and informing them of measures to maintain freedom of expression and the privacy of users and acquisition of information through online, Myanmar ICT Development Organization will conduct Myanmar Internet Freedom The at MICT Park on 1 June. The forum is set to hold from 9 am to 5 pm.

The participants will hold discussions on data security, Internet freedom, digital rights, freedom of expression, cyber abuse, online education, Hi-speed Internet, cyber laws, free and transparent Internet, acquisition of information through online, Internet policies and laws.

Those interested may dial 094500025616 or 0943025529 to register free of charge.—Kyemon

Concrete roads emerge one after another in Pyapon

Concrete roads emerge one after another in Pyapon

NATIONAL SPORTS

1st Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 6-7 June

YANGON, 30 May—The 1st Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 2013, organized by Myanmar Senior PGA, will be held at Yagon Golf Club in Danyingon of Insein Township, on 6 and 7 June.

Members of the association at senior professional level are allowed to take part in the championship that will be held in line with the Saint Andrews golf rules and regional rules.

The participants are to pay K 20,000 as fee and to register at Myanmar Golf Shooting Range at the corner of Okkala and Airport roads in Mayangon Township, not later than at 2 pm on 4 June, dialing 09-2037671, 09-73130474 and 09-420017835 and Yangon Golf Course.—NLM

Talks on reproductive health activity in NyaungU

NYAUNGU, 30 May—The educative talks on promoting change in reproductive behavior took place at the meeting hall of NyaungU District Health Department on 27 May morning.

The promoting reproductive health activity would be carried out in NyaungU Township, with the support of the Central Health Education Unit, the Department of Health and UNFPA.

The activity aims to dramatically reduce maternal death rate and control HIV/AIDS. The event was attended by District Deputy Commissioner U Tun Tun Win of NyaungU District and Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Nyen and officials concerned.—Kyemon

Mongshu dwellers to get electricity

MONGSHU, 30 May—Electricians of Mongshu Township installed three (315) KV transformers at the major places in urban area on 22 May to supply electric power at full capacity to local people in Mongshu Township, Loilem District. And a total of 167 concrete lamp-posts have been erected recently. So local people will enjoy electricity round the clock in the near future.

CRIME

Ownerless cows seized in Kyauktan Township

KYAUKTAN, 30 May—According to a tip-off, police members of Kyauktan police station seized six head of cow at about 6.40 pm on 25 May.

While they were stationed together with townselders near Parnaw village in Kyauktan Township, they found two men bringing along with six head of cow suspicious and stopped them for questioning. But the two men left the cow and went away taking the advantage of heavy rains. Police confiscated six ownerless cows in the presence of the witnesses.

CRIME

Ownerless cows seized in Kyauktan Township
Regional

Tourists visit a sapling planting base of an eco-agricultural park in Moganshan Town of Deqing County, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 29 May, 2013. The bus was travelling on a mountain road and plunged 200 metres into a river in a muntaining district in central Nepal.

A display booth destroyed by cyclone and hailstorm is seen in Cao Lanh city, Vietnam’s southern Dong Thap Province, on 29 May, 2013. Many roofs of houses were blown up and electrical systems were broken within one hour here on Wednesday. —Xinhua

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s international conference on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems opens in Nanao, Ishikawa Prefecture, on 29 May, 2013. The FAO decided the same day to add three areas in Japan’s Shizuoka, Kumamoto and Oita prefectures to its world agricultural heritage list. —Kyodo News

12 killed in bus accident in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 30 May—Police said 12 people were killed and 32 injured on Wednesday morning when a bus veered off a road and plunged 200 metres into a river in a mountainous district in central Nepal.

The bus was travelling to Kathmandu from Sindupalchowk District about 60 kilometres northeast of Nepal’s capital when the accident occurred around 10 am Wednesday, Pratap Gurung, the district police chief, told Kyodo News by phone from the district.

Gurung added that another person who had serious injuries and were airlifted to Kathmandu for treatment. Nine have minor injuries. It is unclear what caused the accident. —Kyodo News

10 am Wednesday, Pratap Gurung, the district police chief, told Xinhua news channel on the district.

The rescue workers tended to by medical personnel when he attends the three-day Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore from Friday.

Coleman said on Thurs- day he would also meet with defence ministers from Singa-apore, Malaysia, the Philip- pines, Britain, France and Canada.

“New Zealand has a sig- nificant stake in the security of the Asia-Pacific region, and we participate actively in regional forums. The Shan- gri-La Dialogue provides an ideal opportunity to engage with a range of regional part- ners and to discuss the key security issues facing the Asia-Pacific region,” Coleman said in a statement.

Representatives of 27 countries will attend this year’s Shangri-La Dialogue, a main regional gathering of defence ministers, military chiefs, senior officials and non-government experts in the Asia-Pacific region.

NZ defence minister to discuss Asia-Pacific security with foreign counterparts

WELLINGTON, 30 May—New Zealand Defence Min- ister Jonathan Coleman is to hold talks on Asia-Pacific security issues with US De- fence Secretary Chuck Hagel when he attends the three- day Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore from Friday.

Coleman said on Thurs- day he would also meet with defence ministers from Sin- gapore, Malaysia, the Phil- ippines, Britain, France and Canada.

Turbulence slightly injures 12 on Singapore airlines plane

SINGAPORE, 30 May— Turbulence that hit a Sin- gapore Airlines A380 plane flying from Singapore to London on Sunday left 11 passengers and a cabin atten- dant with minor injuries, the airline said on Wednes- day. Flight SQ308 had 328 pas- sengers and 26 crew members on board when “moderate to severe turbu- lence” caused “a sudden loss of altitude,” the airline spokesperson said.

The injured were at- tended to by medical per- sonnel on arrival at Lon- don’s Heathrow Airport.

The seat belt signs were on at the time the plane hit the turbulence and meal ser- vices were suspended, the airline said.

The flight left Singa- pore around 9:00 am on Sunday.—Kyodo News

At least 11 remain missing in Malaysia’s overloaded boat accident

KOCHI, (Malaysia), 30 May—Malaysian police said on Wednesday that 11 people were still missing after a overloaded express boat capsized in Borneo state of Sarawak a day ear- lier.

The latest figure was based on the account of the survivors but it is difficult to confirm the actual number as the operators were not kept to have a maintained list. The authorities have launched search and rescue opera- tions that involved more than 100 personnel but no body has been found yet, police said.

The rescue workers tried to pull the sunken boat ashore but failed to do so as it was believed to be full of rocks and sand after cap- sized. At least 179 escaped when the boat capsized af- ter it reportedly hit a rock in the Rajang River near the inland town of Belaga early on Tuesday.

The express boat with an official capacity of 67 seated passengers was packed with local timber and oil palm plantation workers who were heading home for a traditional festi- val in the weekend. Express boat is a popu- lar means of transportation in Sarawak as there are many river running cross the state. In 2010, 13 peo- ple were killed when an express boat collided with a tug boat.—Xinhua

FAO adds Shizuoka, Kumamoto, Oita to agricultural heritage list

KANAZAWA, (Japan), 30 May—The UN Food and Agriculture Organization on Wednesday decided to add three areas in Japan’s Shizuoka, Kumamoto and Oita prefectures to its world agricultural heritage list.

At an international conference on Globally Im- portant Agricultural Her- itage Systems in Nanao, Ishikawa Prefecture, the FAO also selected an In- dian and two Chinese areas for the list. A designation ceremony will take place on Thursday.

The GIAHS designa- tion is designed to pro- tect traditional agricultural methods and biodiversity. On the present GIAHS list are 19 areas in 11 countries, including two Japanese areas as—Shizuoka’s Nigaeta Prefec- ture and the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture.

At Wednesday’s FAO meeting, Kakegawa and four other municipalities in Shizuoka were selected for the new GIAHS designa- tion for their traditional green tea-growing methods to maintain biodiversity. Seven municipalities around Mt Aso in Kumamoto and Oita prefectures announced that they would apply for the new GIAHS designation with their management of grasslands for sustainable agriculture. Six municipali- ties on Oita’s Kunsaki Pen- insula obtained the GIAHS designation for their inte- grated forestry, agriculture and fisheries system.

Australia introduces legislation to protect vulnerable witnesses, victims

CANBERRA, 30 May— Legislation to protect vul- nerable witnesses and vic- tims in Commonwealth criminal proceedings was introduced into Australian Parliament on Wednesday. Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said the Crimes Legislation Amend- ment Bill will extend support to witnesses in Commonwealth criminal proceedings who are vulner- able either due to the nature of the offence, or to a particular characteristic, such as age, cultural back- ground, or a disability.

Protections available will include the ability to give evidence by closed- circuit television, video re- cording or video link, and to have a support person ac- company the witness when giving evidence.

The protections will apply automatically to vic- tims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like offences, including forced marriage, in recognition of the extreme forms of trau- ma and exploitation they have experienced.

“Prosecutions for hu- man trafficking and slavery rely heavily on witness tes- timony, so it is vital that we have measures to assist vic- tims to give their best pos- sible evidence to the court. “The Bill will mini- mize the risk of re-trauma- tisation these victims face when giving evidence by providing appropriate sup- port and protection,” said Dreyfus. The Bill will also allow all individual victims of Commonwealth offences to make a victim impact statement, outlining the harm they have experienced as a result of the offence.

The Bill also makes some changes to the investiga- tion and prosecution for people-smuggling offences. It removes wrist X-rays as a prescribed age determina- tion procedure, and ensures that the onus of proof in prosecution for some changes to the inves- tigation and prosecution for people-smuggling offences. It removes wrist X-rays as a prescribed age determina- tion procedure, and ensures that the onus of proof in prosecution for people-smuggling offences.

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A peek into UNAMID’s journey in Darfur on Int’l Day of UN Peacekeepers

EL FASHER, (Sudan), 30 May—When the peacekeeping task in Darfur region was transferred to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), nobody was expecting the newly-born mission to succeed in its mandate, given the complications of situation in the region.

As soon as it has embarked on its tasks, the mission officials realized the difficulty of the assignment which they took over from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

At first, UNAMID, the biggest UN peacekeeping mission in the world, suffered from the fact that it was deployed at the far west of Sudan, namely with its headquarters in El Fasher town, which is about 1,200 km from the Sudanese capital Khartoum, not to mention that it was impossible for the mission then to use land roads due to the security conditions of the region.

The mission had to transport most of its equipment and logistics from Port-Sudan harbor in the far east of Sudan to El Fasher by air, despite the distance between the two cities is over 2,000 km.

The mission then moved to the complications relating to differences over the interpretation of the understandings reached between Khartoum, the United Nations and the African Union, particularly with regard to the human component of the mission.

The locally bred polar bear Inuka eats its ice cake at the Singapore Zoo, on 29 May, 2013. The Singapore Zoo celebrated the moving of Inuka, the first polar bear born in the Singapore Zoo and the tropics, into its new enclosure by hosting a housewarming ceremony on Wednesday.—XINHUA

Chile to obey imminent Int’l court ruling on border dispute

SANTIAGO, 30 May—Chile will abide by any verdict issued by The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) on its border dispute with neighboring Peru, Foreign Minister Alfredo Moreno said Wednesday.

“Chile is a country that respects international law, not only because it has to and has pledged to do that, but also because it is the most suitable action for a small country that has to defend its interests and views,” Moreno told local radio.

Despite most Chileans’ opposition to a possible unfavorable verdict, Moreno said the government would be willing to accept the outcome.

Bird attack grounds Air Zimbabwe’s A-320 after maiden flight

HARARE, 30 May—An Airbus A-320 aircraft, operated by Air Zimbabwe, was grounded by a bird attack in South African capital Johannesburg after its maiden voyage, dimming the hope that business of Zimbabwe’s state-owned airline may soon rebound after being crippled by overwhelming debts earlier last year.

The bird attack even cracked the plane’s windscreen, local media reported Wednesday, adding that it remains unclear when the plane can fly again. The terse report on Herald newspaper’s website cited Air Zimbabwe’s senior officials confirming the accident but gave no more details.

Air Zimbabwe has been undergoing a series of structural reforms to become operational and profitable after all its flights were grounded earlier last year due to an estimated overhanging debt of 100 million US dollars. The government injected 8.5 million US dollars to the para-statal last year to retire most of its debts to South African creditors.

The airline currently operate only three daily flights, including two domestic and one international. The accident occurred only two days after media fansfare over the replacement of the airline’s aged B-767 aircraft with a new A-320 on the Harare-Johannesburg route.

Earlier media reports quoted Air Zimbabwe officials saying the introduction of the new plane is expected to “improve the airline’s brand perception as it moves towards efforts to reclaim its market share.” The airline’s fleet include only three B737s and three China-made MA60s, has planned to introduce another A-320 on lease.—XINHUA
Justin Bieber turned neighbourhood upside down

BEIJING, 30 May — Justin Bieber allegedly turned his neighbourhood upside down over the weekend, throwing parties until 3am and was also seen riding around on a Segway with a friend, who was allegedly smoking marijuana on Sunday (26.05.13).

The 19-year-old singer—who had an unexpected visit from police at his home in Calabasas, Los Angeles, on Monday evening (27.05.13) after they received a high volume of calls from neighbours complaining he was speeding around in his Ferrari—reportedly held several parties until 3am in recent days and was also seen riding around on a Segway with a friend, who was allegedly smoking marijuana on Sunday (26.05.13).

Sources told gossip website TMZ.com that multiple neighbours in his gated community called cops twice in the last five days because of the loud noise from his parties. The neighbours also claim that the ‘Boyfriend’ singer, who has an on/off relationship with Selena Gomez, regularly “drives recklessly” around the area in his car and on his motorbike, and have accused him of almost hitting another vehicle while it was pulling out of a driveway on Sunday. The homeowner’s board is planning to take action by looking into whether Justin is technically running a business from the house, which is against the rules, and has already asked police to tow any cars left on their street by Justin’s friends overnight. Former NFL star Keyshawn Johnson, who lives in the same enclave, is said to have confronted Justin about his dangerous driving on Monday night (27.05.13), after he spotted him racing around in his Ferrari, but the singer ran inside.

Kelly Clarkson will marry on 20 October

BEIJING, 30 May — Kelly Clarkson will marry Brandon Blackstock on 20 Oct, 2013. The “Stronger” singer—who got engaged to the music manager in December—sent out their Save the Date invitations in recent days, and will tie the knot in Nashville, Tennessee. The simple yellow- and brown stationary, obtained by gossip website RadarOnline.com, reads: “Bookmark the date for the wedding of Kelly and Brandon,” including the date and location saying, “Formal invite to follow.” Blake Shelton, who is managed by Brandon and is one of Kelly’s best pals, will officiate the ceremony. The 30-year-old “American Idol” winner recently admitted that she was “overwhelmed” by her wedding plans because she was struggling to keep their guest-list under control. She explained: “We’re just kind of overwhelmed with the planning of the wedding. We’re actually thinking fall this year and we’re thinking outside. We’re trying to make it small, but it is hard. I literally had a breakdown two weeks ago about the wedding list. ‘I’m terrified of everyone watching me walk down the aisle.’

The singer previously called her relationship her “best accomplishment” after years of being unlucky in love. She said: “I completely fell in love. I did! Welcome to Cheeseville! I don’t know. Your priorities kind of shift and you become happier and all that stuff. It’s probably my best accomplishment because I think, for me, especially, I just didn’t think it would happen.”

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan

MUMBAI, 30 May — Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan underwent a shoulder surgery at the Lilavati Hospital in the Indian city Mumbai after he injured himself while shooting for his upcoming movie “Chennai Express” and is doing fine. 47-year-old Shah Rukh suffered the injury after performing some daring stunts for director Rohit Shetty’s action drama. “He is doing fine and will be discharged in one-two days. He has been advised not to any heavy action,” a source close the actor said.

Lindsay Lohan has had an “epiphany” in rehab

BEIJING, 30 May — Lindsay Lohan’s father Michael says she has had an “epiphany” in rehab and is doing phenomenally well but he still wants her to transfer to a clinic in Florida. Michael Lohan says the 26-year-old “Mean Girls” actress—who began 90 days of court-ordered treatment on 2 May, after pleading “no contest” to lying to police about driving “no contest” to lying to police about driving “no contest” to lying to police about driving “no contest” to lying to police about driving during a car accident last June—was like a totally different person when he visited her in the Betty Ford clinic in Rancho Mirage, California, on Sunday (26.05.13), and finally realises that she had a problem, but he still wants her to be transferred to the Luke ns Institute in Flor- ida. He told gossip website TMZ.com: “She is doing phenomenal, I mean awesome. “There is a lot of healing going on. This is only the beginning of the process and she has 60 more days. She did say that at the beginning of the month that she wants to leave and go to Lukens. “I’m going to go and meet Shawn Hol ley (Lindsay’s lawyer) this week and hopefully talk to the City Attorney and get her trans ferred.”

Beyonce, Madonna and Tutu team up for women at London charity gig

LONDON, 30 May — Singers Beyonce and Madonna, activist Gloria Steinem and Bishop Desmond Tutu will be among big names reaching out to a billion people from a pop concert in London on Saturday with a message of empowerment for women across the planet.

The “Sound of Change Live” gig headlined by Beyonce, Florence + the Machine and Jennifer Lopez will be broadcast live from Twickenham sports stadium to 150 countries, and on primetime TV in the United States the following day, organizers said on Tuesday. The four-hour concert could fund at least 120 projects supporting women and girls in more than 70 nations, if all the tickets are sold, they said.
Golden Bear weighs in on Sergio-Tiger spat, Merion

Fourteen-times major winner Woods, whose relationship with Garcia is frosty at best, was initially in an unforgiving mood over the racial stereotyping but on Wednesday he said he had moved on.

“That’s already done with,” Woods told reporters at Muirfield Village ahead of Thursday’s opening round. According to Nicklaus, players in the modern game have to operate inside a media “fishbowl” where nothing is sacred, something he never had to contend with when in his own prime. “In our days I suppose there were times when you had an issue with somebody and it came about, you never read about it,” said the 73-year-old, long known as the ‘Golden Bear.’ “There weren’t 50 people sitting around for one guy to write it.”

Sumo: Osunaarashi becomes 1st sektori from Africa

The wrestlers in sukiyaki’s top two division, judged by the British press says,” Suarez said on Wednesday that he’s tired of the treatment by the British media and if Real wants him it will be hard to turn down.

French parade leaves Federer in the shade

The flamboyant Monfils was so taken by the atmosphere that at one changeover he grabbed his camera phone and began filming the crowd as they performed a Mexican wave. — Reuters

Germany beats Ecuador in int’l friendly

Germany took the lead from the start, as Bender scored in the fourth minute with a shot from 18 yards. Some slack defending by Ecuador’s Gabriel Achilier handed Podolski the chance to score just nine seconds into the game.

German beat Sweden 1-0 in their opening round. According to Nicklaus, players in the modern game have to operate inside a media “fishbowl” where nothing is sacred, something he never had to contend with when in his own prime. “In our days I suppose there were times when you had an issue with somebody and it came about, you never read about it,” said the 73-year-old, long known as the ‘Golden Bear.’ “There weren’t 50 people sitting around for one guy to write it.”

Suarez eyes Real Madrid move, report

Soccer: Liverpool striker Luis Suarez has been linked with Real Madrid in Spanish media reports.

Liverpool has treated me very well and I only have words of thanks for the fans, but I’m not prepared to keep putting up with everything the British press says,” Suarez said. “I love Liverpool and everyone knows I have a contract, but if there’s a chance of playing elsewhere I’d think about it.”

Suarez’s talks, anyone with an interest in golf is well advised to listen and the 18-times major winner delivered in spades as he weighed in on several topics ahead of this week’s Memorial Tournament. Tournament host of the PGA Tour event staged at Muirfield Village Golf Club, Nicklaus gave reporters his opinions on the recent spat between Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia, the venue for next month’s US Open and the state of the game in general.

Nicklaus also explained the rationale behind the impressive reconstruction of the massive clubhouse at Muirfield Village, which now forms a horse-shoe behind the 18th green as it links up with the media pavilion and the hospital-suites. “The Sergio-Tiger thing, it’s stupid,” Nicklaus said in the media interview room on Wednesday, referring to the racist “fried chicken” jibe made by Garcia last week at the expense of Shaalan.

Lukas Podolski and Lars Bender scored two goals each before Antonio Valencia scored a consolation for Ecuador just before half-time. Germany took the lead from the start, as Bender scored in the fourth minute with a shot from 18 yards. Some slack defending by Ecuador’s Gabriel Achilier handed Podolski the chance to score just nine seconds into the game.

Germany took a 3-0 lead on Podolski’s second goal in the 16th minute, and was followed with his second goal eight minutes later. Germany next will play a friendly with the United States in Washington, DC on Sunday, while Ecuador will travel to Peru for their next qualifier on June 7.—Xinhua

Suarez eyes Real Madrid move, report

LONDON, 30 May—Liverpool striker Luis Suarez said on Wednesday that he’s tired of his treatment by the British media and if Real wants him it will be hard to turn down.

Suarez was mired in an eight-game doping round. According to Nicklaus, players in the modern game have to operate inside a media “fishbowl” where nothing is sacred, something he never had to contend with when in his own prime. “In our days I suppose there were times when you had an issue with somebody and it came about, you never read about it,” said the 73-year-old, long known as the ‘Golden Bear.’ “There weren’t 50 people sitting around for one guy to write it.”

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Fun-loving Monfils leads French into round three

PARIS, 30 May — Wild card Gael Monfils once again stole the limelight for some fun during the serious business of a 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-2 second-round win against Ernest Gulbis at Roland Garros on Wednesday. Monfils, who downed Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych in the first round, dashed up histroics and eye-catching shots, while also managing to film the crowds and crack a joke with his Latvian opponent between sets.

“I asked him (after the third set) ‘Do you feel it’s been dragging on? Don’t worry it’s just gonna last another 90 minutes’,” he told a courtside interviewer. “I think it made him sick.” His good run may not last, though, as Monfils is still troubled by a nagging injury that has hampered his career. “I’m still that worried, and as worried as I (was) before. And tired. But I don’t want to show it,” he told a news conference. Later, he added: “My knee is totally broken.”

Cambodia’s trade with foreign countries up 25 pct in four months

PHNOM PENH, 30 May — Cambodia’s trade volume with foreign countries had reached 5.12 billion US dollars in the first four months of this year, a 25 percent rise compared with $3.1 billion US dollars over the same period last year, according to a report from the Ministry of Commerce’s Camcontrol Department on Thursday.

During the January-April period this year, the country exported goods in equivalent to 2.13 billion US dollars, up 28 percent. At the meantime, it imported products in the total value of 2.99 billion US dollars, up 25 percent.

Khun Savuth, chief of the Camcontrol Department’s statistics division, said the remarkable growth was thanks to globally good economic situation and Cambodia’s efforts in diversifying exports. He said main products Cambodia exported were garments and footwear, rubber latex, milled rice, corn and cassava, while items the country imported included garment and textile raw materials, petroleum, construction materials, automobiles and motorcycles, consuming items, food and soft drinks, pharmaceutical products and cosmetics.—Xinhua

Sharp builds large-scale solar power plant in Thailand

TOKYO, 30 May — Sharp Corp said on Wednesday it has completed construction of one of the largest solar power plants in Thailand and begun operation of the plant as it moves to tap growing emerging markets in the solar power generation business.

The plant located in Lop Buri Province is operated by Natural Energy Development Co, a joint venture also invested in by a Mitsubishi Corp unit. The combined output of the plant, including a facility that started operation last year, is about 84 megawatts, the Osaka-based company said.

A Sharp subsidiary set up in March 2011 to offer maintenance services in Asia will provide operational support by inspecting and servicing the entire plant, the company said.

Sharp said it has supplied about 640,000 thin-film solar modules at a site measuring 2.16 square kilometers in Lop Buri Province. —Kyodo News

5.4-magnitude quake hits Luzon, Philippines

HONG KONG, 30 May — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Luzon, the Philippines at 02:24:16 GMT on Thursday (10:24:16 Hong Kong Time), the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 12.80 km, was initially determined to be at 17.7577 degrees north latitude and 120.9025 degrees east longitude.

5.4-magnitude quake hits Luzon, Philippines

Bogota, 30 May — Colombia’s National Police (NP) announced on Wednesday the seizure of 1.4 tons of cocaine hidden in a warehouse in the southwestern city of Cali that was slated to be shipped by boat to Guatemala, media sources reported.

Agents from Colombia’s Attorney General’s Office and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) took part in the operation, according to the police, which added no arrests were made. “This operation is the result of arduous investigation work by the police units. Through fieldwork and technical assistance, they uncovered the entire shipping process through Buenaventura port,” the NP said. “The drugs belonged to the criminal gang ‘Los Rastrojos’ and was going to be received in Guatemala by an unidentified cartel,” the police said, adding the unknown cartel could be “a Mexican network, according to the information shared by the NP Antinarcotics Bureau with its counterparts in Mexico and Guatemala.”

Myanmar TV

6:00 am
1. Parish by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:30 am
2. To Be Healthy
7:00 am
3. Dance & Song of National Races
7:45 am
4. Documentary
8:00 am
5. News
8:20 am
6. People Talk
8:40 am
7. News
8:55 am
8. News/ International News
9:00 am
9. India Drama Series
9:45 am
10. News
10:15 am
11. TV Drama Series
11:00 pm
12. CLEVER
11:25 pm
13. Myanmar Series
11:50 pm
14. ASEAN Programmes
12:00 pm
15. News/ International News
3:00 pm
16. Songs/ Varieties
3:30 pm
17. News
4:30 pm
18. TV Drama Series
5:00 pm
5:15 pm
20. Dance & Song of National Races
6:00 pm
21. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
6:15 pm
22. News
7:00 pm
23. Documentary
7:15 pm
24. India Drama Series
8:00 pm
8:15 pm
26. Amazing World
9:00 pm
27. News
9:15 pm
28. TV Drama Series
9:45 pm
10:00 pm
30. People Talks
10:45 pm
31. News
11:00 pm
32. Mono Classical Songs
11:15 pm
33. Traditional Boxing
11:45 pm
34. TV Drama Series

Myanmar TV

Traffic jam “transforms” buses into train in N China

Myanmar TV

Colombia seizes 1.4 tons of cocaine in Cali

14 killed, 36 injured in western India road mishap

NEW DELHI, 30 May— At least 14 people were killed and 36 others injured in a fatal road mishap in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Wednesday, a senior police official said.

“The mishap happened when a private bus in which the victims were traveling collided head-on with a speeding tanker coming from the opposite direction on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway near Dahani in the state. Due to the impact of the collision, the bus rolled into a river running parallel to the road,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

With 14 bodies have been fished out of the river so far, all the injured were admitted to nearby hospitals where condition of some is said to be serious, the official said, adding that the toll could grow up. —Xinhua
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Philippine Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Alex G. Chua at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Alex G. Chua.

MNA

Union Peace-Making Work Committee, KIO sign agreement after three-day peace talks

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—Union Peace Making Work Committee delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the committee Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min and the Kachin Independence Organization delegation led by U Sumlut Gam and Maj. Gen Swan Luk Gam Maw continued their peace talks at the Majoi Gawk Nu on Manau Wang in Myitkyina today.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Aung Min said the president is working to satisfy the desire of the people after listening to the voice of the people. The government has high expectation about the success of the peace talks because only when peace and tranquility prevails in the country, can the government speed up its works to achieve goals of the country, he said.

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He also stressed the need for participation of the all national races in peace making process and development tasks.

In the afternoon, representatives from the two sides signed the agreement and representatives from ethnic peace groups and townelders also signed in the agreement as witnesses.

After the peace talks, representatives of the two sides also met the press and announced the agreement.

Afterwards, the Union Peace Making Work Committee handed over 10000 cans of chicken each for troops of the Tatmadaw and KIA in the frontier.

The agreement reached between UPMWC and the KIO delegation after three-day peace talks is as follows:- (See page 9)

Hledan Overpass put into service

YANGON, 30 May—Hledan Overpass was commissioned into service this morning on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township here, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Myint Swe.

The chief minister called on the road users to abide by traffic rules for long-term use of the flyover as he addressed the inauguration of the flyover which took over one year to emerge in an effort of the Yangon Region government to ease traffic chaos in the commercial hub.

The region chief minister, Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and Chairman of Shwetaung Development Company U Aik Tun formally opened the flyover.

The overpass is of RC type and is 2507 feet long and 51 feet and 8 inches wide with 44 feet 8 inches wide motor lane flanked by two feet wide pedestrians. Its clearance is of 18 feet and can withstand 60 tons of load per vehicle.

Hledan Overpass on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township with a background of picturesque buildings.

Hledan Overpass was put into service.

MNA

Union Foreign Minister receives Kuwaiti lawmaker

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—Chairman of International Relations Committee of Kuwaiti Parliament Mr Saleh Ahmed paid a call on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at the latter’s office here this evening. The two discussed promotion of ties and cooperation between Myanmar and Kuwait.

MNA