Inauguration of World Economic Forum on East Asia (2013) was held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), here, today.

Chairman Klaus Schwab of the forum said that it was held with two aims—to encourage long-term inclusiveness and development and to make constructive connections with Myanmar. Myanmar is likely to see progress in a generation. So, inter-national economic communities needed to make cooperation with Myanmar.

In his inaugural speech, President U Thein Sein said:

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today at this opening of the World Economic Forum’s East Asia Summit.

We are honored that this year’s Forum is taking place in Myanmar and our capital Nay Pyi Taw and I wish you all the best of success in your deliberations and discussions over the coming days.

We meet at a very special moment in Asia’s history. Over the past few decades we have witnessed great economic advances in this region. In many countries a generation of young people have come to age in a period of unparalleled peace and prosperity, free of colonialism, and equal in their opportunities to young people anywhere else in the world.

I trust that in your panels and meetings you will discuss and debate the challenges to come and identify ways to overcome them. I urge you to be practical, to steer clear of abstractions, to place at the centre the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and examine ways in which both the public and private sectors can come together to ensure a shared prosperity.

You come to Myanmar at a pivotal moment in our history. We are working hard to move from military rule to democracy, to end the multiple armed conflicts that have ridden this nation since independence in 1948, and to reform the economy, away from a centralized economy to one based on free markets.

I promise you that we will not waver in this task. But help and support, your investment and knowledge, will be critical for us to fully succeed.

I would like nothing more than for the young people of Myanmar to share too in the greater-peace and prosperity of this region.

I hope many of you will also take the opportunity of being here to also travel around my country. You will see first hand the determination of people to improve their lives and build a better future.

Again, I wish you all the best for this important forum.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said Vietnam took pride for Myanmar’s reform processes. Vietnam would promote its cooperation with other world countries including Myanmar.

He pointed out that it needed to get improvement by creating new thoughts and views through that forum.

Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong said that it was the time to carry out poverty alleviation tasks. It was of great importance for Laos to connect other world countries as being a land-locked country. Plans were under way to build a railroad that connects Kunming of China and Vientiane of Laos. He strongly believed that that forum would prioritize poverty alleviation and regional development.

The inauguration ceremony came to an end after the forum chairman said thanks to the heads and leaders of the countries. The forum will go on till tomorrow.

“We are working hard to move from military rule to democracy, to end the multiple armed conflicts that have ridden this nation since independence in 1948, and to reform the economy, away from a centralized economy to one based on free markets.”
MMCWA donates K 3 million for surgical treatment of cleft lip and palate patients

Buddhism culture course concludes in Natmauk

Natmauk, 6 June—
The awarding ceremony for those who passed the second Pariyatti Buddhism culture course was held at the pavilion of Saddhammapiti Association.

Cooperative society members get loans

Yangon, 6 June—
Collected works of new authors introduced

YANGON, 6 June—Digicel has decided to distribute its 4G mobile phone network in the urban and rural areas of Myanmar.

Transformer installation for urban electrification

NYAUNGDON, 6 June—With the concerted efforts of the Ministry of Power and local people, one 11 KV (11000 V) power line and one new 315 transformer were installed at the corner of Bo Ba Htoo and Shwe Lin Yon Streets in Nyaungdon on 25 May for enabling the local people of No. 9 and No. 10 wards of Nyaungdon to consume electricity at full capacity. “In the past, the people missed the change to enjoy electricity due to lack of transformer. They had only lighting from lamp-posts at night. Now, they have electrification thanks to new power line and transformer,” said a teacher from Ward 10.—Kyemon-Tun Kyaw (Nyaungdon)

Digicel to bring world level communication services to Myanmar

TECHNOLOGY

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Digicel has invested US$ 9 billion in world level mobile phone network, and of them, US$ 6.6 billion will be directly invested in Myanmar, generating 124,000 jobs. On 3 June, Digicel has submitted the tender application to the communication service tender scrutiny committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

Farmers get farming right certificates in Lashio

LASHIO, 6 June—A ceremony to grant farming right certificates to local farmers was held in Humon, Mehan, Khenin and Sinin village-tracts of Lashio Township in Shan State on 27 May morning.

Transformation of cleft lip and palate patients

Shweyin Taikthit Sayadaw Ashin Sirikançanabhivamsa explained the purpose of the association and examination. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay supplicated on behalf of the association and examination.

Aung and CEC members visited the hospital and comforted the patients who will receive surgical treatment.—MMN

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Six dead in Philadelphia building collapse, injured

Philadelphia, 6 June—Six people were killed and 13 others injured on Wednesday when a building collapsed in downtown Philadelphia, Mayor Michael Nutter said. Search and rescue efforts continued into the night for more victims of the collapse, which occurred around 10:45 am when a four-story building under demolition fell to a neighbouring two-story Salvation Army Thrift Store.

“Still do not know how many people were inside the thrift store or possibly on the side walk at the time of the collapse,” Nutter said at a news conference. Authorities say the cause of the collapse, which occurred at 22nd and Market streets in the heart of Philadelphia’s Center City, was still under investigation.

NATO fleshes out details of smaller, post-2014 Afghan mission

Brussels, 6 June—NATO fleshed out plans on Wednesday for the smaller training and advisory mission it will leave in Afghanistan once it ends combat operations at the end of 2014, including which allies will take charge of the mission in each region of the country.

But the military alliance did not spell out how many troops would stay on, with several countries waiting for lead nation the United States to detail its commitment before making pledges of their own.

NATO-led forces are expected to cede the lead role for security across Afghanistan later this year to Afghan soldiers, 12 years after the US-led overthrow of the Taliban government. harbouring Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader harboring Osama bin Laden after the US-led overthrow to Afghan soldiers, 12 years.

A military expert will now work out details of the new “Resolute Support” mission, expected to start on 1 January, 2015, which is scheduled to end in December 2016.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel addresses a news conference during a NATO defence ministers meeting at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels on 5 June, 2013.

serve as lead nation in the north of Afghanistan and Italy in the west, he said. Turkey was “favourably considering” being the lead nation in Kabul for the new mission.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Wednesday that a residual force of 8,000 to 9,000 troops will remain in central Afghanistan to support the Afghan security forces.

US officials said in February that the alliance was considering keeping a residual force of 8,000 to 12,000 troops compared with about 100,000 now.

Pakistan’s new leader Sharif calls for end to US drone attacks

Islamabad, 6 June—Pakistan’s newly elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called on Wednesday for an end to drone attacks in Pakistan’s remote tribal areas by the United States.

“The chapter of drone attacks in Pakistan must come to an end,” Sharif said in his first address after being elected as leader for the next five years. “We respect other’s sovereignty. Others should also respect our sovereignty,” he said.

Sharif said his government would consult all political parties to forge a “common plan of action” to bring an end to drone attacks along the country’s border with Afghanistan.

Police ready to deal with troublemakers, terror threat at G-8 summit

London, 6 June—Police in Northern Ireland said on Wednesday that they are prepared to deal with any possible threats to security from protesters or terrorists at this year’s summit of the Group of Eight nations.

A total of 8,000 police officers will guard the summit on 17 and 18 June. G-8 leaders will stay at a luxury golf resort in Lough Erne, Enniskillen, about 133 kilometres west of Belfast.

Addressing foreign journalists in London, Matt Baggott, chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), said, “We are fully prepared. There has been meticulous planning.”

Baggott said there is still a threat from republican terrorist groups in Northern Ireland and police are preparing themselves for the possibility that the dissidents have something planned in order to “get themselves noticed” by the international media during the summit.

There have been several attacks on police this year from dissident republican groups which refuse to support the political power-sharing agreement undertaken by Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

Alistair Finlay, assistant chief constable for the PSNI, said several large demonstrations are planned in Belfast and also close to the summit venue.

The protests are being held on a range of issues including food poverty, fracking, the environment and capitalism and are expected to attract about 9,000 people.

Demonstrators on one march in Enniskillen will be allowed to walk to the perimeter fence of the summit venue. Finlay said the PSNI will tolerate lawful and peaceful protests but will “seek to isolate those who seek trouble.”

Northern Ireland Secretary Theresa Villiers said, “A huge amount of work and energy is being invest ed in ensuring that the summit is a success and world leaders receive a warm welcome and the best of Northern Ireland’s hospitality. It is a great opportunity to demonstrate how far Northern Ireland has come in recent years.”

“Some may want to protest but others sadly may be intent on disruption. We remain vigilant about the terrorist threat.”

The G-8 comprises Britain, France, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

Third people killed in Turkey’s demonstrations

Ankara, 6 June—Another anti-government demonstrator was killed on Wednesday during clashes with Turkish police, bringing the death toll of the protests to three, a representative of the Turkish Medical Association (TMB) said.

The victim, who was wounded in his head during clashes in capital Ankara, died of his injuries on Wednesday, the representative was quoted as saying by local media.

Earlier in the day, TBB said two people were killed and over 4, 100 from 12 provinces were wounded in the week-long anti-government protests against Tur key.

The protest started as a peaceful demonstration against the demolition plans of Taksim Square’s Gezi Park in Istanbul and later turned into clashes between the police and thousands of protesters. The protests have spread to 67 provinces, including Ankara and the coastal cities of Antalya and Izmir. On Tuesday, the government started to soften its tone after Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc apologized to the protesters for the excessive force used by the police.
Fetch! Robot retrievers compete in $1.5 million NASA contest

BOSTON, 6 June — Eleven robots faced off in a Massachusetts field on Wednesday, showing off their ability to independently track down objects in a hunt for $1.5 million in prize money at a NASA-sponsored contest aimed at speeding technological development.

In the first day of a three-day event, robots designed by teams from the United States, Canada and Estonia set off from a platform in a 2-acre (0.8 hectare) park at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, to search among rolling hills, rocks, trees and a gezebo to find geologic samples.

They operated without human control, with the goal of encouraging advances in autonomous navigation and robotics technologies, NASA officials said.

Scientists said the monkey lived 55 million years ago, during the early part of the Eocene epoch. It is 7 million years older than the oldest primates known previously, including Darwinius from Messel in Germany and Nctharcus from Wyoming in the United States.

The tiny primate had a body around 71 mm long and its weight was estimated between 20 and 30 grams. Studies into its skeleton suggest the creature was a frequent leaper favoring four-legged grasping, and its small eyes and pointy teeth indicate it was an insect-hunter only by day.

Dr. Ni Xijun of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Palaeoanthropology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who led the research team, said the primate was an early member of the tarsier family but one very close to anthropoids, which include monkeys, apes and humans.

“It lies close to the root of the primate phylogenetic tree, where the lineages of tarsiers and anthropoids have just begun to diverge, which explains why it bears traits of both tarsiers and anthropoids,” Ni said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

Ni said the discovery of the new primate offered clues to the evolutionary roots of higher primates, or anthropoids, and illustrated the life of human’s farthest ancestors. The fossil was unearthed from an ancient lakebed near the Yangtze River. Scientists said the discovery is 7 million years older than the current locations,Curiosity has taken from a distance reveal many layers of tarsier and anthropoids, which have just begun to diverge, which explains why it bears traits of both tarsiers and anthropoids,” Ni said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

Apple to sell audio ads on “iRadio” music service

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 June — Apple Inc is gearing up to sell audio ads on a music-streaming service it intends to unveil at its developers conference next week, according to people familiar with the plan, going up against Google Inc and Pandora Media Inc in the increasingly competitive market for mobile tunes.

The iPhone maker, which has been working to put together a streaming music service for the past year, has contacted some of its bigger advertisers but hasn’t started selling the service extensively yet, one of the people said.

The music service, dubbed “iRadio” by the tech industry and media, is expected to closely resemble Pandora Music in its monetization strategy. It will feature audio and banner ads sold through Apple’s iAd mobile network, said the people who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The service, which is expected to launch later this year, will also have ads currently sold by the iAd division, they said.

When finally launched, Apple will become the latest entrant to an arena that sources say tech giants from Amazon.com Inc to Facebook have considered joining.

It’s unclear what features the service will have, though Wall Street analysts and technology bloggers speculate it will, like Pandora, operate much like an online radio station that streams a selection of music based on users’ preferences.

Mobile device makers see a viable music streaming service as crucial to ensuring users remain loyal to their mobile products. About 48 percent of smartphone users listen to music on their device, making it the fourth most popular media-related activity after social networking, games and news, according to a ComScore survey of mobile behavior released in February.

Holding onto users is key to Apple, which gets the lions’ share of its revenue from the sale of devices rather than the sale of digital content such as songs and TV shows.

Curiou rover to drive toward Mount Sharp on Mars

WASHINGTON, 6 June— US space agency NASA said on Wednesday its roverCuriosity will soon shift to a distance-driving mode headed for the Mars mission’s primary destination: a mountain called Mount Sharp. Curiosity is finishing investigations in an area called Glenelg where it has been working for six months, NASA said, expecting it to start the journey in the next few weeks. To reach Mount Sharp, about 8 kilometres from its current locations, Curiosity is expected to drive toward the southwest “for many months,” said NASA.

“We don’t know when we’ll get to Mount Sharp,” said Mars Science Laboratory Project Manager Jim Erickson of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in a statement.

“This truly is a mission of exploration, so just because our end goal is Mount Sharp doesn’t mean we’re not going to investigate interesting features along the way,” Erickson said.

Images of Mount Sharp taken from orbit and images Curiosity has taken from a distance reveal many layers where scientists anticipate finding evidence about how the ancient Martian environment changed and evolved, NASA said.

Curiosity, which landed on the Red Planet last August, has already discovered an ancient streambed and found evidence of ancient environmental conditions favorable for microbial life.
**New York, 6 June—**

Procter & Gamble Co (P&G), the world’s largest household products maker, on Wednesday announced a reorganization amid speculation by analysts that the heads of its new units are in the running to replace CEO AG Lafley.

The maker of Tide laundry detergent and Gillette razors brought back Lafley as chief executive in May, as it came under pressure from investors to pick up the pace of improvements.

In an expected move, the company will split its household care and beauty and grooming units into four sectors starting 1 July: Global Baby, Feminine and Family Care; Global Beauty; Global Health and Grooming; and Global Fabric and Home Care.

“We expect this structure to facilitate faster global expansion of brand and product innovations to win with customers,” Lafley said in a statement.

“The individuals who are reporting directly to Lafley are obviously potential candidates to be named to the top spot,” said Morningstar analyst Erin Lash, adding that she expects Lafley to be a caretaker CEO.

Marian Riant, Deborah Herretta, David Taylor and Giovanni Ciserani will lead the units as group presidents. They are assuming additional duties with the change, and will report directly to Lafley.

The company also said that Charles Pierce will assume responsibilities for New Business Creation and Innovation from Jorge Mesquita, who is leaving the company. Pierce will report to Lafley in that additional role.

Also on 1 July, Dimitri Panayotopoulos, current vice chairman for Global Business Units, will assume the role of vice chairman and adviser to the chairman and CEO. He will continue to report to Lafley.

Melanie Heagley, group president of North America and Global Hyper, Super and Mass Channel, will begin reporting to Lafley in addition to Werner Geissler, vice chairman, Global Operations, who also reports to the CEO.

“I think there will be more changes to come, too. This is really only a signal of who the successors are,” Sanford Bernstein analyst Ali Dibadj said.—Reuters

**WASHINGTON, 6 June—**

A portion of the $2.6 trillion money market fund industry would be required to fundamentally change how it prices its shares under proposals issued by US regulators on Wednesday to reduce the risk of abrupt withdrawals.

But the Securities and Exchange Commission plan was not as strict as some market players feared and included an industry-favored provision for funds to charge withdrawal fees and delay return of funds to customers during times of financial distress.

For more than a year the SEC has been debating whether changes made in 2010 were enough to avoid a repeat of a run on money market funds seen at the height of the financial crisis.

The additional reforms proposed on Wednesday did not go as far as a draft proposal floated last year by then-SEC Chair Mary Schapiro, who left in December.

The fund industry had warned that further major reforms could kill investor interest in money market funds.

In a compromise move, the SEC’s new plan mostly focuses on prime funds for institutional investors, which are seen as more prone to runs because those investors are more sophisticated and more likely to pull large blocks of money first in a panic.

The SEC estimated that institutional funds represent 37 percent of the market with $1 trillion in assets.

The SEC’s plan calls for two alternative proposals that it said could be adopted alone or in combination.

The first piece would require prime funds used by institutional investors to transition from a stable, $1 per share, to a floating net asset value (NAV). That reform is a direct response to what happened in 2008 when the Reserve Primary Fund, one of the largest money funds, suffered losses on Lehman Brothers debt and could not maintain its $1 per share price, known as “breaking the buck.”

That ignited a run by investors across the money fund industry, cutting off a major source of overnight funding for many corporations.

The SEC said that reform would not run government funds, whose actions are more likely to fall behind on immunizations and routine check-ups, according to a new study.

“It’s pretty common to get vaccines at sick visits,” said Steve Robison, the study’s author and a researcher at the Oregon Immunization Programme, part of the state’s health department.

Sometimes babies end up skipping those shots, perhaps because parents are concerned they could make a baby sick, fear worse for doctors are worried that parents won’t come back for vaccines. The SEC said that most funds featuring tax-exempt debt sold by state and local governments would qualify as retail funds.

The industry has long fought against moving away from a stable share price, which it says is appealing to investors looking for a safe product.

The second proposal would give fund boards for institutional and retail funds the authority to impose so-called “liquidity fees and redemption gates” during times of stress.

That would give funds the power to stop an outflow of investor money, an idea that the SEC’s two Republican commissioners last year said they might be able to support.—Reuters

**Skipping shots at sick visits tied to vaccine delays**

**New York, 6 June—**

Kids who don’t get vaccines when they see their pediatrician for a sick visit—despite being due for the shots—are more likely to fall behind on immunizations and routine check-ups, according to a new study.

“Older adults are - on average - more complicated than young adults, they take more medication and have more (health problems).—Reuters
Exclusive Interview by news team of News and Periodicals with Mr Naoyuki Shinohara, IMF Deputy Managing Director

Mr Naoyuki Shinohara, IMF Deputy Managing Director.

1. How significant is this World Economic Forum for East Asia?

The discussion in the WEF for East Asia will be an important input in the efforts of ASEAN leaders to enhance information sharing and improve regional cooperation. ASEAN is a dynamic region. Market forces are bringing ASEAN countries closer together, including through increasing trade links and increasing flows of direct investment. ASEAN leaders aim to enhance regional economic integration through the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. This dialogue will intensify in the months ahead. While enormous progress has been made in trade integration and deepening financial links, much more remains to be done.

Discussions in the Forum will focus on some critical issues for integration, notably strengthening resilience to risks; improving the region’s access to global finance; and modernizing its frontier economies such as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and providing an enabling environment that supports and facilitates the region’s growing links. Improving the quality of Asia’s hard and soft infrastructure, and harmonizing standards and regulations more broadly, will be critical in this regard and should help to make growth more inclusive. It is also important for Asian countries to strengthen labour market and social protection institutions to deal with the possible adverse effects of greater trade integration on certain groups. All this requires strengthening the region’s institutional capacity. The IMF stands ready to assist ASEAN institutions strengthen their capacity in its areas of expertise.

2. What can Myanmar gain from hosting this Forum?

Hosting the Forum provides an opportunity for Myanmar to showcase its achievements in reengaging with the global community and in advancing the economic transition. At the same time, the focus on Myanmar in this forum gives the international community a chance to better understand the prospects and challenges Myanmar is facing.

The authorities in Myanmar have made impressive strides in opening and liberalizing the economy, despite limited capacity. They are also committed to ensuring the macroeconomic stability that is crucial for sustaining growth. The IMF is happy to be supporting them in these areas.

3. How is IMF assisting Myanmar for its sustainable economic development?

The IMF has been closely cooperating with the authorities throughout the reform process, providing both policy advice and hands-on technical assistance. The IMF is helping the authorities prioritize macroeconomic reforms and to monitor progress. We are doing this through a jointly-monitored program which aims to maintain macroeconomic stability and build the institutions and framework for macroeconomic management. It is carefully prioritized to take account of constraints. The program covers 2013 and progress so far has been good.

4. Please comment on the potential of Myanmar’s financial sector.

The short-term outlook remains strong—growth is expected to accelerate slightly to around 6½ percent in 2013/14, led by rising productivity and capital, including in the transport and telecommunications sectors, and recovery in agriculture.

5. What areas does IMF see Myanmar should focus on for its economic development?

The authorities’ economic reform program is very ambitious, and progress has been good. The government’s high-level reform strategy—the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms—emphasizes sustainable and inclusive growth, with a focus on reducing poverty, and building much-needed human capital and infrastructure. We welcome the authorities’ efforts to design and build rapidly. In addition, other countries to strengthen labour market and social protection institutions to deal with the possible adverse effects of greater trade integration on certain groups. All this requires strengthening the region’s institutional capacity.

Good progress has been made in the macroeconomic area. Unifying exchange rates and removing restrictions on current account transactions has been largely completed—a very significant step forward. The financial sector is also being modernized and opened to the outside world. A key priority is to build the tools for supervising and supervising the financial sector. A new central bank law to give greater autonomy to the Central Bank of Myanmar, which is expected in mid-2013, will be an important step. The IMF will continue to provide technical assistance in this area.

Raising more revenues to finance public spending on Myanmar’s development is also critical. The FY2013/14 budget has been approved by the parliament, and further raises spending on health, education and infrastructure, after significant increases last year. The authorities are also committed to reform the tax system, with a view to increasing tax revenues, which are very low levels.

6. What factors should Myanmar be cautious of in integrating into the world economy?

Key risks facing Myanmar arise from the still incomplete set of macroeconomic policy tools at the authorities’ disposal. The central bank needs to be equipped with the instruments to conduct domestic monetary policy to enable it to keep inflation in check, which is necessary for sustained economic growth. In integrating to the international financial market, risks in the financial sector could also emerge from weak capacity of both supervisors and banks. The IMF is working closely with the authorities to build their capacity in this area.

7. How do you see Myanmar in the next five years?

Myanmar’s medium term prospects are bright. Myanmar has significant economic potential, which could yield growth of around seven percent in the medium term, with a stable external balance. In addition to abundant natural resources, it has fertile land; a young, cheap labor force; and a strategic geographic position, which could provide an entry point into Asian supply chains. Investor interest is high.

However, to translate these favorable endowments into sustained and inclusive growth, institutions and policies to manage the economy and supervise the financial system need to be built rapidly. In addition, policies supportive of private-sector investment, as well public spending on infrastructure, health, and educations are required.

Business leaders and decision-makers from around the world are participating in the ongoing World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yesterday, I discussed with some of the businesses leaders from East Asia, and I hope that our country is carrying out reforms, and so it is beneficial not only for Myanmar but also for the foreign business firms.

Mr U Ko Ko Hlaing, Adviser to the President

World Economic Forum on East Asia is held in Myanmar today while our country is carrying out reforms, and so it is beneficial not only for Myanmar but also for the foreign business firms. Thank you for hosting this conference.

Myanmar has seen progress in conference tourism and young people can gain international experiences at home. Besides, this forum also creates the interaction between the people of Myanmar and international community. That is important for Myanmar. Economic opportunities cannot be created without interaction among the peoples. I hope the image of Myanmar would be promoted through the conference. TV advertisement and social media in Myanmar.

I am very interested in this forum and also participate in the discussions. Thanks to this forum, businesses can do more investment. On the other hand, the country needs to promote its human resources sector wisely. It’s sure we are going to see progress in areas into which investment are flowing.”

Daw Aye Hnin Swe, Managing Director, Nango Media Limited

“Most foreign businessmen have much more expectation of making progress in mobile advertisement and social media in Myanmar. Yesterday, I discussed current commercial sector in Myanmar. TV advertisement is ranked first, the print media the third and radio (See page 9)
Myanmar-India Trade Fair organized in Monywa

MONYWA, 6 June—The opening ceremony of Myanmar-India Trade Fair 2013 was held in the city hall of Monywa in Sagaing Region on 28 May morning.

Sagaying Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Chief Minister Mr O Ibobi Singh of Manipur State of India, officials from Nagaland and Mizoram States of India, India Consul-General Dr Madan Mohan Sethi and officials attended the opening ceremony.

The Sagaing Region chief minister and the Manipur State chief minister formally opened the trade fair and viewed round the booths.

India side displayed farming equipment, automobile services, mobile handsets and accessories and Myanmar entrepreneurs put on display Myanmar lacquerwares, products from industrial zones and forest products.

Sagaying Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Chief Minister of Manipur State of India Mr O Ibobi Singh and officials attended Sagaing Region Economic and Investment Forum at Mya Sanda Hall in Monywa. U Tha Aye extended greetings at the ceremony.

M inpaur State Chief Minister Mr O Ibobi Singh, the Nagaland State minister and the Mizoram State minister also extended greetings.

President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, the president of India merchants association and department officials discussed economic and investment matters.

Then, Chief Minister U Tha Aye, the Indian Manipur State Chief Minister Mr O Ibobi Singh and officials held a discussion on investments between the two countries at Win Unity Hotel in Monywa.

Sagaying Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and officials met India Consul-General Dr Madan Mohan Sethi and officials at Win Unity Hotel on 29 May morning. The meeting focused on investments and business.

Surveys start for new Kalay airport site

KALAY, 6 June—Surveys are being conducted 30 miles north of Kalay to build a new airport in Sagaing Region’s town.

The new airport is expected to be built in Yazagyo village.

Upon completion of the new airport, the air links with neighbouring countries are expected to improve.

The old airport is also situated in Yezagyo village and it was built in World War II for logistics purposes.

CRIME

Stolen artifacts seized on Pyay-bound ferry

PYAYWWE, 6 June—Ancient wood carvings and palm leaf manuscripts were seized on a ferry by Kannan Township Police Force on 31 May.

Acting on tip-off, a combined team of township police force and No. (3) ward administrator searched Aung Si Hein ferry bound for Pyay at Kanay Township in Thayet District in Magway Region.

The ancient artifacts which include 36 wood carvings and five ancient Buddhist manuscripts were packed in bags.

Owner of the bags U Khin Thein and Daw Aye Thwin of Kyauk Myine village in Hohnatreng village-tract in Kanay Township are charged with illegal smuggling of ancient artifacts. They were stolen from Zeyathiri Monastery in Kyauk Myine village in John Taung village-tract in Kanay Township.

Myanmar boxers leave for Kazakhstan for joint training

YANGON, 6 June—Selected Myanmar boxers will have a joint training in Kazakhstan as part of preparation for XXVII SEA Games.

The team formed with chief coach U Tin Maung Pe, boxers Htet Aung, Kyaw Kyaw Latt and Kyaw Kyaw Htet of YCDC, Wai Phyo Tun, Aung Ko Ko and Aung Swe Mon of Home Affairs Ministry, and Maung Nge, Ko Ko Win and Wai Lin Aung of Defence Ministry left Yangon for Kazakhstan on 31 May.

Fire breaks out in Yangon noodle factory

YANGON, 6 June—A fire broke out in Hong Kong noodle factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone (2) in U Ye Paw street in Hlinethaya Township at 6:20 pm on 4 June.

Firefighters managed to put out the fire at 7.15 pm with the help of 46 fire engines. Three buildings were destroyed in the fire outbreak.

The cause of the fire outbreak is still under investigation. A total of 272 firefighters of FSD and 117 auxiliary firefighters had to use 92000 gallons of water to put out the fire.

Garment factory fence collapses

YANGON, 6 June—Fence of UMH garment factory collapsed in heavy rain in Mingaladon Township on 2 June afternoon.

The factory is located on Pyay Road in Pyinmabin village-tract in Mingaladon Township. The lamp-posts were also fallen, blocking the road.

Htawkyant Fire Brigade members and residents cleared debris at 8 am.

No casualty is reported in the collapse.
Grow more trees

With the advancement of science and technology, our planet has to face a number of natural disasters. People have to suffer the consequence of climate changes, causing huge losses to lives and property. Global warming has become a more significant one among others. Global warming is the increase of Earth’s average surface temperature due to effect of green house gases, such as carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels or from deforestation.

While all living plant matter absorbs CO₂ as part of photosynthesis, trees process significantly more than smaller plants due to their large size and extensive root structures. Trees are important tools in the fight to stave off global warming, because they absorb and store the key green house gas emitted by our cars and power plants, carbon dioxide (CO₂), before it has a chance to reach the upper atmosphere where it can help trap heat around the Earth’s surface.

Ultimately, trees of any shape, size or genetic origin help absorb CO₂. Most scientists agree that the least expensive and perhaps easiest way for individuals to help offset the CO₂ that they generate in their everyday lives is to plant a tree...any tree, as long as it is appropriate for the given region and climate. To save our mother Earth, we need to educate and cultivate our younger generation to love tree-planting as well as to grow the plants ourselves right now.

Sale schedule for 50th Anniversary Myanma Jade, Gems and Pearl Emporium

Sales of pearl lots
- Inspection of pearl lots by gem merchants and putting of bidding forms into tender boxes for pearl lots that will be sold through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 15-17 June.
- Sales of pearl lots at floor prices of 2000-10000 Euro and pearl lots at floor prices of 10,000 and above through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 16-17 June.

Sales of gem lots
- Inspection of gem lots by gem merchants and putting of bidding forms into tender boxes for gem lots that will be sold through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 15-17 June.
- Sales of gem lots at floor prices of 500-20000 Euro and gem lots at floor prices of 20,001 Euro and above through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 19 June.

Sales of jade lots
- Inspection of jade lots by gem merchants and putting of bidding forms into tender boxes for jade lots that will be sold through the open tender system at 8 am to 5:30 pm on 15-23 June.
- Sales of jade lots at floor prices of 4000-349999 Euro through the open tender system at 8 am to 8 pm on 19-24 June.
- Sales of jade lots at floor prices of 350,000 Euro and above through the competitive bidding system at 8 am to 8 pm on 24-27 June.

Remark:
(a) all sales of gem lots finishes on 19 June morning through the open tender system and the competitive bidding system, jade lots will be sold through the open tender system.
(b) If sales of jade lots finishes on 24 June morning through the open tender system, jade lots will be sold through the competitive bidding system.

Investment in oil-palm and sunflower production discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Indonesian Deputy Agriculture Minister Dr Rusman Heriwa, at the chairperson of World Economic Forum on East Asia, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here this morning.

Also present at the call were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads.

They had cordial talks on capacity building of public servants, ensuring all-inclusive economic growth, socio-economic improve-ment of rural people, and promotion of disaster prevention and environmental conserva-

Livestock and Fisheries Ministry to cooperate with MICB

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint receives responsible persons from MICB.—MNA

Singapore to provide training to Myanmar college lecturers

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Singapore Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagor GRC Ms Indrance Rajah and party paid a call on Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye
President U Thein Sein receives Vietnamese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—President U Thein Sein met a delegation led by Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who is in Nay Pyi Taw to attend World Economic Forum on East Asia, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

Present on the occasion together with the President were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Than, U Myat Hein, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy ministers U Ye Hsan, U Htun Aung and departmental heads.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister of Government Office, the Minister of Science and Technology, the Vice-Chairman of National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar.

At the call, they cordially discussed promoting economic cooperation between the two countries, investments in communication, banking and energy sectors, cooperation in garment, manufacturing of value-added foodstuff, breeding of freshwater fish, finished rubber products, reforesta-tion, finished wood industry and promoting aviation including Ho Chi Minh-Yangon airlines.—MNA

Debate at World Economic Forum

WEF reverberated with voices...

(from page 6)

I believe that this forum would help Myanmar to ensure its ways for bringing about internet development. Our company is famous in Vietnam and has worked together with American and Japanese companies for 25 years. The investment of our company reached USD 1.3 billion and has created 15,000 job opportunities. Our company is willingness to invest in the ICT sector in Myanmar and we want 5000 engineers from Myanmar. We have a plan to help Myanmar establish an engineering school and this project will take shape within five years.”

Nguyen Huu Thai Hao.

(Next page)
Cash and kind donated to monastic education school

Yangon, 6 June—Leader of Financial Department Daw Khin Santha Tun and party of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Secretary of Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Swe Khin Mar Win and party together with the chairpersons of Yangon South District and Thanlyin Township WAOs made donations at Huataungpyae Monastic Education in Phayagon Village-tract of Thanlyin Township on 4 June morning. They offered K600,000 to the fund of the monastic education, exercise books, stationery, teaching aid, rice, edible oil and foodstuff worth K500,000 to Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jo-rikkadha Jan and Nandavamsa of the monastery.

Kyemon-Ko Thet Khaung (District IPRD)

New school building handed over

Papun, 6 June—A ceremony to hand over school buildings at Katauti Village Basic Education High School Branch, Ye Pu BEMS branch, Kuseik BEMS and Papun BEMS branch of Ward 4 was held at BEMS No. 4 branch in Papun Township on 29 May.

Present were Kayin State Minister for Finance and Revenue U Saw Win Htein, Deputy Director U San Ngwe of State Education Department, Head of Kayin State Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Maung Aye, Papun District Deputy Commissioner U Saw Myat Thut Win and officials.

The state minister made a speech. Township Education Officer Daw Aye Myint Than accepted documents related to the buildings from NRC in-charge U Hla Myint.

HRD

Environmental Conservation

Lashio marks World Environment Day

Nyaungshwe, 6 June—In commemoration of the World Environment Day, the people participated in gathering garbage in Nyaungshwe on 5 June morning.

They collected plastic and garbage along both sides of Namlat Creek and Mongli Creek that flow into Inlay Lake crossing Nyaungshwe.

The staff of Inlay Lake Administrator Office, Township Development Affairs Committee, Myanmar Police Force, Hoteliers Association and local tour guides and enthusiasts in environmental conservation in two groups participated in the sanitation tasks.

They joined the tasks of minimizing the flow of plastic bags and garbage into the lake. Plastic and some items of garbage can harm the environment.

The unsystematic throwing of garbage causes water pollution killing marine creatures. The local people need to participate in environmental conservation at Inlay Lake by collecting plastic and garbage items, said an official of Inlay Lake Administrator Office.

Kyemon-Nay Myo

Sanitation carried out at Inlay Lake

Dawei, 6 June—Electricians from Dawei Township are carrying out the tasks of raising public awareness for danger of electricity and ensuring betterment of power supply system.

Under the supervision of the Township Electrical Engineer, workers replaced wooden lamp-posts with concrete ones on Neikban Street in Hsinbyuk Ward of Dawei and installed HDBCs.

No. 4 power lines in the places of ACSR mm power lines on 4 June.

Kyemon-Po Shwe Than-Dawei

Lamp-posts, power lines replaced in Dawei

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Kyemon-Po Shwe Than-Dawei

Environmental Conservation

Sharing Prosperity

Shan State Minister for Electric and Industry U Sai Hsa Lu and party plant young tree in commemoration of World Environment Day.

Lashio, 6 June—In commemoration of the World Environment Day that falls on 5 June 2013, the tree-planting ceremony took place at Lashio Education General Administration College in Lashio on 5 June morning.

Shan State Minister for Electric and Industry U Sai Tun Yin, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai San Min, Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyu, Deputy Director U Aye Maung Kyi of Lashio District General Administration Department, Deputy Director U Than Oo of Shan State (Lashio) Forest Department and departmental officials, NGOs, traditional cultural troupes, trainees of Nursing Training School and local people totaling over 400 participated in growing of 150,000 saplings.

Shan State Forest Department plans to establish forest plantations with 243,000 saplings, distribute 188,150 teak saplings to local people for village teak plantations and 17,700 hardwood saplings to them. Shan State Government will grow 150,000 saplings in 2014 and 50,000 perennial crops, totaling 882,900 saplings in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Kyemon-Sai Tun (Lashio)
460,000 kg of Japan-donated rice fails to find takers in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 6 June—A whopping 460,000 kilograms of Japan-donated rice is languishing in the warehouse of government-run Nepal Food Corp in a district in far-western Nepal because the rice has failed to find takers, officials said on Wednesday.

Villagers in Jumla District, located 350 kilometres northwest of capital Kathmandu, prefer the more expensive Nepali rice sold in local market to the subsidized Japanese rice for reasons ranging from the latter’s different taste to the fact that it becomes sticky and does not increase in volume in the course of cooking, Rana Bahadur Budhathoki, NFC chief for the district, told Kyodo News by phone.

Indonesia’s low-cost, green-car rule boosts Japanese carmakers

JAKARTA, 6 June—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has signed a long-awaited regulation on tax exemptions for the production of low-cost, green cars that will help stabilize Auto sales for Japanese car manufacturers in the country, the industry minister said Wednesday. Speaking to reporters after meeting the president, In- dustry Minister MS Hidayat said Yudhoyono had signed the regulation on 23 May and “from now on, LCOC (low-cost green cars) can be legally produced.”

“The current trend is green cars, which can reduce the consumption of fuel,” he added. Under the regulation, special tax incentives will be granted for eco-friendly vehicles such as electric cars, hybrids, biofuel-based cars and compressed natural gas cars. According to the minister, luxury taxes will not apply to vehicles with engine capacities of up to 1,200 cc and with a minimum fuel consumption of 20 kilometres per liter. Diesel or semi-diesel vehicles of up to 1,500 cc with a minimum fuel consumption of 20 km per liter will also be eligible for tax exemptions. Currently, new vehicles are taxed between 10 and 75 percent depending on their engine capacity.

Thai government to clarify rice scheme cost after Moody’s warning

BANGKOK, 6 June—Thailand’s prime minis ter has told her commerce minister to clarify the cost of the government’s rice intervention scheme, after a warning this week that mounting losses could affect the country’s credit rating.

The government buys rice at prices that have made Thai rice uncompetitive on world markets, leading to growing stockpiles funded from the state budget and costing Thailand its spot as the world’s number one exporter. Since rice is the country’s main export, it is widely seen as a barometer of how the economy is doing.

Supa looked after the accounts for the scheme, but she was transferred to another job in the ministry this week. She has given the Commerce Ministry the job of making all figures clear and the commerce minister is expected to hold a Press briefing over the next few days, Niwathamrong Bunsongphaisan, a minister without portfolio, told reporters.

“If the price paid for farmers’ 15,000 baht a tonne for rice, way above the market price at the time,” the minister added.

New Zealand to attend Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka

WELLINGTON, 6 June—New Zealand has assured that it will attend a Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that will take place in Sri Lanka in November.

“McCully wished Sri Lanka well in preparing for CHOGM and said the entire Commonwealth needs to see the progress in the country, pointing out that success in trade and the economy is important to the process,” the President’s Office said. Prior to embarking on his visit to Sri Lanka, McCully had said that he would discuss human rights concerns on Sri Lanka during his visit. —Xinhua

KUSHIRO, (Japan), 6 June—Japan’s northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido has been stepping up efforts to attract foreign food purveyors during its off-season period in spring and is currently zeroing in on Thailand where the holiday season in March and continues through May.

As part of such efforts, the tourism ministry’s Kushiro District Transport Bureau in April invited Thai journalists to an experimental tour in cooperation with the Kinki District Transport Bureau in western Japan, during which participants could enjoy both cherry blossoms and snow at once, but it was a bit tiresome for us to move that long distance,” Boonsong said that because of Thailand’s strong economy, not just high-income households but also young people now choose to come to Japan.

As part of such efforts, the tourism ministry’s Kushiro District Transport Bureau in April invited Thai journalists to an experimental tour in cooperation with the Kinki District Transport Bureau in western Japan, during which participants could enjoy both cherry blossoms and snow at once, but it was a bit tiresome for us to move that long distance.” —Kyodo News

“Though the Japanese rice is far better in quality than Nepali rice sold in the district, people are not buying Japanese rice because of their food habit,” Budhathoki said.

The subsidized Japanese rice is priced at 39 rupees (43 yen) per kg. However, villagers are buying Nepali rice priced between 40 and 100 rupees a kg. According to Budhathoki, the main concern among villagers is that the Japanese rice does not grow in volume in the course of cooking. “Nepali rice, on the other hand, swells up in the course of cooking. Villagers say they prefer rice that swells as it feeds more people,” Budhathoki said.

“Villagers also complain that they don’t know how to cook Japanese rice. They don’t like sticky rice. They have even nick named the Japanese rice as chewing-gum rice,” he added.

The NFC in Jumla has been facing problems selling Japanese rice ever since the district got connected to the Karnali highway a few years ago. With traders bringing in supplies to the district, locals now have the luxury of choosing between Nepali rice available in the local market and Japanese rice that NFC distributes.

Jumla is not the only district where NFC is having a tough time finding takers for Japanese rice.

“The story is the same in neighbouring Kalikut district,” Budhathoki said.

Kyodo News

“Of course, these losses are of 31 January. The real figure must be higher than that now,” Supa Pyajit, a deputy permanent secretary at the ministry, told Reuters. Supa said the overall losses took into account the price paid, storage costs and value lost through rice going rotten after being kept in warehouses since the scheme started in October 2011.

At 200 billion baht, the losses would be equivalent to around 8 percent of the total government budget for the year to end-September. The Nation newspaper on Wednesday put the loss at 260 billion baht, citing a finance ministry report.

“The prime minister has given the Commerce Ministry the job of making all figures clear and the commerce minister is expected to hold a Press briefing over the next few days,” Niwathamrong Bunsongphaisan, a minister without portfolio, told reporters.

Supa looked after the accounts for the scheme, but she was transferred to another job in the ministry this week.

Workers rest in front of sacks with rice at a rice mill in Ratthaburi Province in this on 10 October, 2012 file photo. —Reuters

Supa looked after the accounts for the scheme, but she was transferred to another job in the ministry this week.

Newspaper journalists and others from Thailand enjoy canoeing around Kushiro Marsh in eastern Hokkaido on 23 April, 2013, as part of an experimental tour to attract Thai tourists to Japan’s northernmost prefecture in spring. —Kyodo News

The assurance comes during his visit. —Kyodo

CHOGM and said the entire Commonwealth needs to see the progress in the country, pointing out that success in trade and the economy is important to the process,” the President’s Office said. Prior to embarking on his visit to Sri Lanka, McCully had said that he would discuss human rights concerns on Sri Lanka during his visit. —Xinhua
China Cargo Airlines officially joins SkyTeam Cargo

**MUNICH, (Germany), 6 June—China Cargo Airlines (CCA) joins SkyTeam Cargo officially on Wednesday at the Munich Trade Fair Center, becoming the 11th member of the world’s only air cargo alliance.**

“Joining SkyTeam Cargo will be conducive for CCA, a subsidiary of China Eastern Airlines, to raise the scale economy benefits, to expand its network and to strengthen its international competitiveness,” said China Eastern Airlines’ Chief Economist Shan Chuansu.

On the other hand, CCA will inspire the vitality in the alliance, strengthen the overall cargo transportation capacity, improve the alliance network and raise the international competitiveness, according to Shan on the mutual signing ceremony.

Established in 1998, CCA headquartered in Shanghai. It now operates 14 exclusive freight routes and also runs cargo service of passenger aircrafts operated by China Eastern Airlines, providing worldwide customers with services among over 200 destinations.

Brazil deploys elite unit to quash deadly land dispute

**BRASILIA, 6 June—Brazil’s government Wednesday deployed an elite unit of the armed forces to Sidrolândia in southern Mato Grosso state, following deadly clashes between indigenous residents and landowners.**

Minister of Justice Jose Eduardo Cardozo ordered the deployment of the troops after Mato Grosso Governor Andre Puccinelli asked the federal government to step in.

According to Cardozo, 110 members of the elite force will be deployed in the region beginning Wednesday and for an indefinite period.

Last Thursday, a member of the area’s Terena indigenous community, Oziel Gabriel, 35, was killed during an operation to recover a piece of property he and his group had been occupying. On Tuesday, another member of the ethnic group was shot in another violent incident.—Xinhua

Tourists view artificially-bred red-crowned cranes at the Zhalong Natural Reserve in Qiqihar, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 5 June, 2013. Being the largest breeding and wildness training research center for red-crowned cranes, the reserve has artificially bred over 800 cranes of the endangered species since its foundation in 1979. —Xinhua
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**“Star Trek” sequel rules China’s box office**

**BEIJING, 6 June—**“Star Trek Into Darkness,” a sci-fi action adventure sequel by J J Abrams, has knocked domestic production “American Dreams in China” off the top spot at the Chinese box office charts.


Domestic cartoon film “Happy Little Submarine 3: Rainbow Treasure” came in third by taking 43.4 million yuan since it was released in theatres on 31 May.

It tells the story of fishermen’s fight against colossists. Not far behind was “The Croods,” a cartoon film in the Stone Age. It took in 35.7 million yuan in the week.

With 29.5 million yuan

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**Singer LeAnn Rimes bares ‘emotional truth’ on new album**

**NASHVILLE, (Tennessee), 6 June —**No subject is taboo for country singer LeAnn Rimes as she digs deep into her soul on her new album “Spitfire.”

The 30-year-old Grammy Award winner and former child star who had a hit song at age 13, said she wrote the deepest lyrics she has ever written on the album. Some of the songs are about her relationship with husband, actor Eddie Cibrian. Their affair, which began more than four years ago while they were both married to other people, caused a scandal that was played out in tabloid magazines.

Other songs are about dealing with difficult times. “There is every emotion a human being could experience on this record. I’m most proud that I can evoke these emotions in every-one,” Rimes told Reuters.

After 20 years of making music, it’s a completely different place to be singing and writing from, she said. “These songs are my emotional truth.”

In the title track, Rimes suggests if she could “untie” her tongue she would “use it like a whip, and watch you run,” and refuses to get stuck in the “muck and mire” of “a dirty little liar,” she writes: “You make me want to spit fire.”

In “What Have I Done,” with harmonies provided by bluegrass great Alison Krauss, a woman wonders what she has done and asks for understanding from her “first love, but not her last.”

“I wrote ‘What Have I Done’ about five years ago, before everything happened,” Rimes said, in a reference to Cibrian, who starred in TV series “CSI: Miami.”

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**Pop idol Bieber’s mom pens teenage edition of her autobiography**

**NEW YORK, 6 June —**Pattie Mallette, mother of teenaged singing sensation Justin Bieber, is releasing a special edition of her best-selling book “Nowhere but Up” aimed at teens, her publisher said on Tuesday.

The new edition, published by Baker Publishing’s Revell Books and due out on 2 July, directs Mallette’s life story as mother of the 19-year-old pop idol toward teenaged readers, and includes new features including a group discussion guide and side bars addressing topics based on questions from Mallette’s Twitter followers.

“When I was a teenager, it always helped me to hear the stories of others, and how they made it through difficult circumstances,” Mallette said in announcing the book, the original version of which was published last September. With the added features, “I hope to help teenagers identify with their own stories and navigate through some of their own pain,” she added.


Mallette collaborated with author AJ Gregory for both the original and the new edition of the book.

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**Pop singer Miley Cyrus flashes ring amidst rumours of split**

**LOS ANGELES, 6 June —**Pop singer Miley Cyrus was seen repeatedly showing off her engagement ring in an attempt to silence the latest gossip about the state of her relationship with actor Liam Hemsworth.

The 20-year-old is due to marry the 23-year-old actor later this year but in recent months there have been speculations that the two have called off the nuptials.

“They are still living together, but have no wedding plans,” people.com quoted a source as saying. “They still need to work on their relationship, but after they decided to postpone the wedding, they are doing better. They feel less stress and less pressure now. Miley can focus on her music,” the source added.

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**MTV to host biggest online-only music festival**

**LOS ANGELES, 6 June —**Concertgoers won’t have to leave their homes to enjoy the “Live Music Day Festival,” the biggest online-only event of its kind, music networks MTV, VH1 and CMT said on Tuesday.

The 24-hour virtual concert is set to kick off at 7 pm EDT on 19 June and will feature performances by more than 50 bands and artists spanning rock, indie, pop, R&B and folk. Acts include Hanson, Atlas Genius, Labrinth, Langhorne Slim and Kate Nash.

The performances, accompanied by the fan-picked O Music Awards, will be streamed live from Viacom’s offices in New York, Nashville and Los Angeles. The Roots drummer Questlove will provide beats during the festival in a 24-hour “drum-a-thon.”

Viewers will be able to watch the entire show via computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones. They also have the option of selecting only the acts and awards they want to see.

“We’ve created the first-of-its-kind music festival that’s both connecting artists and fans and allowing them to participate in the awards and festival in new ways,” Dermot McCor- rick, head of connected content for Viacom Music, said in a statement. Categories in the third annual O Music Awards include Best Web-Born Artist, Fan Army FTW (For The Win) and Must-Follow Artist on Twitter. R&B singer Frank Ocean and rocker Beck lead the awards with two nominations each.

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**LeAnn Rimes performs at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards**

The MTV logo can be seen on a sign in front of the MTV studios in Times Square New York on 12 Dec, 2007. —REUTERS
Sharapova and Azarenka get ready to rumble

Paris, 6 June—Sparks will be flying and the grand-slam trophy will be at stake when French Open holder Maria Sharapova comes face-to-face with Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka in the Roland Garros semi-finals on Thursday. While a clash between two ‘least popular’ women is likely to increase sales of earplugs around the Bois de Boulogne area over the next few hours, the 13th match-up between the two will also be under close scrutiny for reasons other than the noise level it produces.

The last time they met on clay, in Stuttgart just over a year ago, the players bumped shoulders during a changeover and never woman attempted to apologize for the collision. To make matters worse, at the end of that match Sharapova also had a dig at Azarenka’s habit of taking medical timeouts when the going gets tough — an act that blew up in the Belarusian’s face during this year’s Australian Open. In January, Azarenka was accused of gamesmanship after taking a 10-minute time out immediately after blowing five match points in her semi-final against Sloane Stephens. Should she try that stunt again, Sharapova is unlikely to be as forgiving as the inexperienced 20-year-old American. “We have played each other so many times there are really no secrets between each other in terms of our game styles and what we do well and not,” Sharapova, who trails Azarenka 5-7 in their meetings, said looking ahead to the semi-final. Azarenka, who employs the same bide-time baseline tactics as Sharapova, concurred: “We are kind of similar and kind of different in the same way. It’s going to be definitely a battle.”

In Thursday’s other semi-final, 2012 runner-up Sara Errani faces a tall order as she tries to navigate a 0-5 record against woman-of-the-month Serena Williams. Williams, whose collection of 15 majors includes one Suzanne Lenglen Cup, has been an unstoppable force this year, winning 29 straight matches.

But after being left rather hot and bothered during a three-set win over former French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarter-finals, clay-loving Ermanni knows that if she is to chalk up that first win over Williams, there is no better surface to do it on than red dirt.—Reuters

Air miles collector Van Persie feels “fresh”

KATWIJK, (The Netherlands), 6 June—Robin van Persie just finished a long successful season, but doesn’t have much time to recover with an Asia trip with the Dutch team, shortly followed by an Asia pre-season tour with his club Manchester United. With the Dutch national team Van Persie will travel to Indonesia and China, while, after a short break, with Manchester United he will visit Thailand, China (Hong Kong), Australia and Japan, Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf calculated Van Persie’s trips accumulated to a total of 80,000 kilometres this summer.

With so many air miles in a few months, it will not be the most ideal preparation for next season now year before the World Cup.

“I don’t know really because after this trip we have a small holiday break again,” Van Persie reacted to Xinhua. “And after that the pre-season tour starts which looks heavy, but I can’t really judge it now because I never experienced it. So I have to wait and see how my body copes with all the travelling, all the games and training sessions.”

“It looks heavy but I have to tell you exactly how it feels in two, three months. I had a little break last week. I have been away with the family. I had my little holiday already. I am fine. I am fresh and I am looking forward to this trip.”

Van Persie had a great first season with Manchester United by capturing the Premier League title and finishing as top scorer. Another key player of the Dutch, Arjen Robben, also ended the season with prizes, winning the German title, the German Cup and the Champions League with Bayern Munich. Van Persie was happy to see the triumphs of his compatriot. “It shows you that things can change really quickly in football,” said Van Persie. “Because Arjen Robben had a hard time a couple of months ago, he was not really playing and then a couple of months later he has three trophies in his pocket.

“So that’s how quick football life can go which is nice because you always have a second chance. You always have a second chance to make things right, sort of fight again for trophies and your place on the team, in other words, just to enjoy football again. I think Arjen Robben showed that. He is a great example for everyone just to keep going even though sometimes it is not going your way. Just keep going and keep on working hard and things can change quickly in football.”

With the Dutch team Van Persie faces Indonesia on 7 June and China on 11 June.

Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return during the women’s singles semifinal match against Jelena Jankovic of Serbia at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris, France, on 5 June, 2013. Sharapova won 2-1.—Xinhua

Marina Kirilenko of Russia after their women’s singles quarter-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 5 June, 2013.—Reuters

Spurs up against a ‘smarter’ LeBron in Finals rematch

Miami, 6 June — A more confident LeBron James heads into his fourth NBA Finals on Thursday against a familiar San Antonio Spurs team that eased his former Cleveland squad in his first title series in 2007. The core of the San Antonio team that swept that best-of-seven championship, and celebrated on James’s former home court, remains intact but it will be a much-improved James who is now a much more complete player with the Miami Heat.

“LeBron is a different player than he was in ’07. That is like ancient history,” Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich said on Wednesday. “We were basically a neophyte at the time, wondering how all this stuff worked and how it’s put together. We were very fortunate at that time to get him so early... he’ll be a lot more

Miami Heat’s LeBron James runs downcourt after scoring against the Indiana Pacers during Game 7 of their NBA Eastern Conference final basketball playoff in Miami, Florida on 3 June, 2013.—Reuters

Suarez gives Uruguay victory over France

MONTREVIDEO, 6 June— Luis Suarez came off the bench to score a second-half winner as Uruguay defeated France 1-0 in their international friendly on Wednesday. The Liverpool frontman struck just moments after replacing Diego Forlan in the 49th minute by running onto a Maxi Pereira pass and angling his shot beyond the reach of goalkeeper Steve Mandanda.

The result at the Estadio Centenario was met with muted enthusiasm by many Uruguay fans, who will be confident that they can go on to reach the World Cup.

The Uruguayan coach Oscar Tabarez, who already has his mind on next Tuesday’s World Cup qualifier away to Venezuela. Uruguay are currently sixth in the South America zone standings and must win in Puerto Or- diz to maintain their hopes of a top-four spot and direct qualification.

“The story will be written at the end of that match,” Tabarez said. “There are areas we need to work on but today there were some aspects which, collectively and individually, exceeded my expectations.” France will play Brazil in an international friendly in Porto Alegre on Sunday.—Xinhua

Djokovic ends golden oldie Haas’ Paris adventure

PARIS, 6 June — Novak Djokovic kept calm, cool and collected to下属 the challenge of 35-year-old Tommy Haas with a 6-3, 7-6(5), 7-5 win in the quarter-finals of the French Open on Wednesday.

Djokovic showed that he is a great example for everyone just to keep going even though sometimes it is not going your way. Just keep going and keep on working hard and things can change quickly in football.” With the Dutch team Van Persie faces Indonesia on 7 June and China on 11 June.

Djokovic said as he chased the one grand slam trophy currently sixth in the South America zone standings and must win in Puerto Ordaz to maintain their hopes of a top-four spot and direct qualification.

“The story will be written at the end of that match,” Tabarez said. “There are areas we need to work on but today there were some aspects which, collectively and individually, exceeded my expectations.” France will play Brazil in an international friendly in Porto Alegre on Sunday.—Xinhua

Djokovic ended the golden oldie Tommy Haas’ Paris adventure by Haas just over two months ago in Miami, he hid those fears well to set up a semi-final blockbuster with seven-times champion Rafa Nadal. Playing Rafa at Roland Garros is the biggest challenge on clay. I am ready to play five sets,” Djokovic said as he chose the one grand slam trophy missing from his collection.

Haas was one of four 30-somethings to reach the men’s quarter-finals but youth won out as only David Fer- rer, who beat fellow 31-year- old Tommy Robredo on Monday, Tuesday, made it past the last-eight.—Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates defeating Tommy Haas of Germany in their men’s singles quarter-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 5 June, 2013. Reuters

Luis Suarez, Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez, who already has his mind on next Tuesday’s World Cup qualifier away to Venezuela. Uruguay are currently sixth in the South America zone standings and must win in Puerto Ordaz to maintain their hopes of a top-four spot and direct qualification.

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Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates defeating Tommy Haas of Germany in their men’s singles quarter-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 5 June, 2013. Reuters
Kagawa, Japan out to win World Cup

SAITAMA, (Japan), 6 June — Japan aren’t satisfied with just qualifying for the World Cup. They want to win it. A night after punching their ticket to Brazil with a dramatic draw to Australia, the Japanese players were in unison about trying to contend for the title next year at what will be their fifth World Cup. “We want to win on the world stage, and we need everyone to have this kind of mentality,” Manchester United midfielder Kagawa said on Wednesday.

“Each and every player on this team needs more determination and willpower. We’ve got a lot of talented players playing their club football overseas now, but we all need to be more assertive when we play for Japan.” “One of our strengths is teamwork, but we can’t win on that alone. We need more personality, character on the team. Teamwork may sound good, but it’s just not enough. We need more players to be selfish, more players who want it — like Keisuke (Honda).” “And the fact that we haven’t been able to win when Keisuke is on the field and says everything. I think every one on the team feels the same way.”

Honda’s regal presence and his 91st-minute penalty in the 1-1 draw against the Socceroos made Japan the first team to qualify for the World Cup as Group B winners in Asia.

Japanese firm offers solar panels to Pakistan for low-cost housing

ISLAMABAD, 6 June— Japanese company Nipa Tech Energy Inc. has offered to provide solar energy technology to Pakistan to help the country overcome its continuing energy crisis, industry sources said on Wednesday.

Industrialist Naem Anwar Qureshi said a delegation of the company that visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Punjab Province on Monday offered the solar panels as a solution for lighting low-cost housing and remote areas in Pakistan.

“We told the Japanese company that we would be interested in setting up solar power plants of 1 megawatt or above for the industrial units,” Qureshi, who presided over a meeting with the Japanese delegation, told Kyodo News.

Qureshi said the Japanese company has promised get back to office bearers of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Majority of French want more reform

PARIS, 6 June— Nearly three-quarters of French want President Francois Hollande to push further ahead with economic reforms and are ready to make personal sacrifices as long the pain is fairly distributed, a survey by pollster BVA found on Wednesday.

No fewer than 67 percent of respondents favored with the statement “if we carry on like this, we are headed for catastrophe” according to results of the telephone and Internet survey of nearly 1,000 people conducted between 29-30 May.

The findings cast doubt on a common international perception that the French are un receptive to change and highlighted what BVA concluded was a “real calling into question” of decades of French political leadership.

A full 80 percent of respondents concurred with the statement that “our leaders have never had the courage to undertake the difficult reforms which our country needs”.

The poll found 74 percent were in favour of deeper reforms in the labour market, pensions and unemployment benefits.

The survey was conducted last week just as the European Commission urged France to rein in public spending, cut labour costs and reform its pension system in return for winning two extra years to bring its budget deficit within EU targets.

US Navy submarines to arrive in Philippines this weekend

MANILA, 6 June— The US Navy submarine tender USS Frank Cable and submarine USS Ashville (SSN 758) will arrive in the Philippines this weekend for routine port calls, the US Embassy in Manila said on Thursday.

USS Frank Cable will arrive in Subic Bay, northern Philippines on Friday while USS Ashville will come in Saturday. The crew of both USS Frank Cable and USS Ashville will re fuel and receive supplies, according to a statement issued.

Frank Cable has a 1,500 crew members and serves as the US 7th Fleet’s mobile repair and support platform. The ship is homeported in Guam. The Ashville is a Los Angeles-class submarine and homeported in San Diego, California.

The embassy also reported that Admiral Samuel J Locklear III, Commander of the US Pacific Command, will visit Manila on a national plan of civilian disarmament.”

The released figures will help Uruguayans “dis cuss an issue of concern that is barely visible. This issue should really raise our concern,” said Pedernera.

The NGO representative said Uruguay’s gun ownership laws “need to be aligned with international standards” to send the message that “firearms are not a right of the people, but a standard that firearms are not a right of the people, but a standard” to send the message that “firearms are not a right of the people, but a standard”

Uruguay’s high rate of gun ownership causes concerns, says NGO

MONTEVIDEO, 6 June— Uruguay has the world’s highest per capita rate of gun ownership, with one out of three Uruguayans owning a firearm, according to figures released on Tuesday by the Institute of Legal and Social Studies (IELSUR), a non-governmental organization (NGO).

Up to December 2012, 584,112 guns were registered in Uruguay, and the number of unregistered firearms is expected to double, in a country of just 3.4 million people, the NGO’s Montevideo resident told a local radio station.

The rate is almost as much as “countries such as Iraq, where there is a latent armed conflict,” said Pedernera, adding the prevalence of guns puts Uruguay in the same position as “Colombia and Brazil, where firearms are highly used.”

Supported by the European Union, the NGO un veiled a gun-control project this week, which is called “action for a democratic security policy, towards a national plan of civilian disarmament.”

The released figures will help Uruguayans “dis cuss an issue of concern that is barely visible. This issue should really raise our concern,” said Pedernera.

The NGO representative said Uruguay’s gun ownership laws “need to be aligned with international standards” to send the message that “firearms are not a right of the people, but a tool of the state for specific actions”.

Xinhua

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Xinhua

Xinhua
NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—President U Thein Sein held talks with Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong who is here to attend the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 8.45 am today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, Dr Mya Aye, U Kyaw Lwin and U Zeyar Aung, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut and U Khin Maung Aye and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by the Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar.

Meeting on New Energy Architecture sector of World Economic Forum in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

YOUNG GLOBAL LEADERS (YGLs) attending the World Economic Forum have announced a programme to tackle child malnutrition across South-East Asia including Myanmar.

YGLs said it will launch the programme at schools. YGLs started Table For Two (TFT) in 2007 as a non-profit initiative based in Japan. It encourages the developed countries to pay for children’s school meals in developing economies. TFT has served 20 million meals to school-age children in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda since it was founded. In partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it is now supporting meal programmes and sustainable school gardens at primary schools in Myanmar. The project will provide a long-term, sustainable source of nutrition for children in Myanmar by funding the development of fruit and vegetable gardens at schools. TFT aims to encourage an economy of self-sufficiency against the economic disparities and rising food prices. More than 450 corporate and organizational partners from 12 countries across Asia, North America and Europe raise funds for the initiative.

We are very encouraged to see it in South-East Asia, said the Union Minister for Energy, U Than Htay.

The report was created in partnership with the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar. It was produced in collaboration with Accenture and the Asian Development Bank and the report includes insights by contributors from industry, government, non-governmental organizations and academia.

The development of an integrated new energy plan and system offers Myanmar a significant opportunity to design a path to sustainable and secure economic growth, bolstered by its energy industry, said Arthur Hanna, Senior Managing Director, Accenture’s Energy industry group.

At the meeting with the press, the Deputy Minister for Energy, U Htin Aung, said that regarding the energy sector, Myanmar will focus on sufficiency at home and on the national interests, and will sell the energy to foreign countries only if the energy is surplus at home.

The report also suggests that Myanmar will require new sources of domestic energy, an expanded and modernized electricity grid, and innovative solutions for rural energy access to address the energy challenge.

WEF launches report to help boost Myanmar’s energy reforms

They cordially exchanged views on strengthening bilateral ties, construction of Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge, mutually beneficial cooperation in agriculture, breeding, culture, education, tourism industry and aviation sectors between the two countries and matters related to border safety.

Meeting on New Energy Architecture sector of World Economic Forum in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

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Mrs Karen I Tse.