Contribution of forum helps Myanmar reintegrate into international community

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—President U Thein Sein together with Philippine President Mr. Benigno Aquino and Chairperson of World Economic Forum 2013 Prof Klaus Schwab took part in a special roundtable discussion, at Myanmar International Convention Center, here, this afternoon.

The forum chairperson tried to find out the benefits of Myanmar’s reform process, poverty reduction scheme and holding of the forum; and the Philippine President expressed his opinion on ongoing development undertakings of Myanmar, comparing with changes and ongoing reforms of Philippines.

The Myanmar President explained progress in ensuring peace and the rule of law, ending of armed conflicts, implementing poverty alleviation scheme, the need for foreign investment, technology and human resources, and acquisition of technologies, contribution of the forum to help Myanmar re-integrate into international community, experience and advice from outside world during the forum. He also praised the success stories of the Philippines in three decades, describing Philippines’ reforms in education system and success stories as a good example for Myanmar.

MNA

Japan-France to agree to discuss dual-use exports
Xi-Obama summit to focus on “big picture” of China-US ties
Prince Philip, 91, in hospital for operation
Myanmar Senior PGA Championship kicks off
Kaboe diversion weir irrigating farmlands in KhinU
Fire engines, hoses donated to fire brigade in Dala

Dala, 7 June—Kyanissitha Ward Luke and Water Supervisory Committee of Dala Township donated two fire engines and hoses and Daw Hnin Le Phyu of Lovely Friends Co Ltd one fire engine and hose to Kyanissitha Ward Auxiliary Fire Brigade on 2 June.

On the occasion, the township administrator said that the fire engines and hoses will be kept at the office of the ward administrator so as to easily put out the fire if necessary. It is because fire engines cannot get easy access to some narrow and carving lanes.

After that, the township administrator accepted documents related to the fire engines donated by wellwishers.

The fire engines and hoses were worth K 600,000.—Kyemon-611

Myanmar Senior PGA Championship kicks off

Yangon, 7 June—The 1st Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 2013 organized by Myanmar Senior PGA kicked off at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Insein Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Patron of Myanmar Golf Federation Maj-Gen Kalewa Road, six miles checkpint on Tamu-Kalay-Kalay road.

Kyangyi-684

Over 3400 globetrotters visit Shwedagon Pagoda within five days

Yangon, 7 June—A total of 3400 globetrotters visited Shwedagon Pagoda within five days.

From 1 to 5 June, 3417 tourists visited there. So, the pagoda board of trustees fetched US$ 17055 and FEC 30 as entrance fee from them.

The most of the tourists were 619 from Thailand, 372 from the US, 249 from Japan, 248 from Britain and 241 from Republic of Korea.

The least visitors were five from Cambodia, 11 from Laos, 17 from Sri Lanka, 23 from Norway and 45 from Sweden.

Although now is rainy season, the globetrotters are still interested in visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Last month, a total of 24427 tourists visited the pagoda with 768 on monthly average.

In May, the pagoda board of trustees collected US$ and FEC 122,135 as entrance fees from the foreign visitors and received US$ and FEC 11126 as donations.—Kyemon-Htet

Trap cameras to cover nature of wildlife at Htamanthi Sanctuary

Myanmar. As of December 2012, the Forest Department and Britain-based British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has been jointly conducting the primary survey on nature of wildlife in the parks and sanctuaries including Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary by installing trap cameras. Their works are aimed at broadcasting the series of wildlife documents of Myanmar based on their observations.

To do so, the joint group installed 40 Bushnell Trophy Camera (model 119435) models trap cameras. The devices can catch the images through infrared. They installed the cameras at the trees and posts on the route of wildlife. The durable batteries are used in the cameras.

Depending on the species of wildlife, the cameras are to be kept on their routes from seven days to 45 days.—Kyemon-Forest Department

Illegal commodities seized on Tamu-Kalay-Kalay road

Tamu, 7 June—Under the leadership of District Management Chairman under the supervision of Sagaing Region Government, the mobile team was formed with personnel of Customs Department, Myanmar Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation, Special Anti-Drug Corps, Forest Department, Transport Department, Agriculture Department and UMFCCI and media persons at Tamu border area.

On 29 May, the mobile team discharge duty of checking vehicles where they carried the loads of unlicensed and illegal commodities at the checkpint on Tamu-Kalay-Kalay road, six miles from Tamu.

The team seized 20 India-made illegal Hero brand bicycles from the vehicle and 1.5 million rupees from the motorbike driven by U Ciu Lyang Thang on the road. They also found illegal commodities such as rice cookers, radios, aluminium buckets, torch lights, steel food carriers without owners which were stockpiled beside the detours near the border areas. They also saw India-made medicines in four boxes worth K 1.6 million.

Action was taken against Indian rupee possessor U Ciu Lyang Thang at Tamu Police Station and action was taken over the seized commodities.

Kyemon-WinNaing(Tamu)

Enthusiasts join basic driving course in Loikaw

Loikaw, 7 June—The basic driving course No. 1/2013 was opened at the Forward Commodity Transport Camp (Loikaw) of the Transport Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation on 1 June.

Kayah State Minister for Transport U Chat Hla made an opening speech.

Managing Director U San Myint Oo of Transport Department explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

Trainers provided trainees with modern teaching equipment in the driving course.—Kyemon

DHF prevention conducted in Insein Township

Yangon, 7 June—Anti-mosquito campaign and sanitation were carried out in Nathagon Ward of Insein Township of Yangon North District yesterday.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint, local authorities, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, local people, health staff led by Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Nw Thandar Swe and personnel participated in the tasks of sanitation at drains and roads, fighting for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Likewise, under the arrangement of the Township General Administration Department, local people joined the tasks to clean basic education schools and environs in the district and chlorinated the water tanks.

Similar activities were undertaken at BEPS No. 14 and No. 15 in Myothit C Ward of Insein Township.

Kyemon-684

HEALTH ACTIVITY

DHF prevention conducted in Insein Township

Yangon, 7 June—Anti-mosquito campaign and sanitation were carried out in Nathagon Ward of Insein Township of Yangon North District yesterday.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint, local authorities, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, local people, health staff led by Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Nw Thandar Swe and personnel participated in the tasks of sanitation at drains and roads, fighting for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Likewise, under the arrangement of the Township General Administration Department, local people joined the tasks to clean basic education schools and environs in the district and chlorinated the water tanks.

Similar activities were undertaken at BEPS No. 14 and No. 15 in Myothit C Ward of Insein Township.

Kyemon-684

NATIONAL SPORTS

Myanmar Senior PGA Championship kicks off

Yangon, 7 June—The 1st Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 2013 organized by Myanmar Senior PGA kicked off at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Insein Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Patron of Myanmar Golf Federation Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Rtd), Chairman of Myanmar Senior PGA U San Naung, Vice- Presidents of MGF U Min Thein and Secretary of Yangon Golf Club U Aung Kyi tee’d off at the opening ceremony to launch the first round.

A total of 27 golfers are taking part in the Myanmar Senior PGA.

The tournament was sponsored by Tiger Golf, Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd, KM Golf Centre, 100 Plus, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water and Yangon Golf Club.

Kyemon-Shine Htet Zaw
French President François Hollande (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before their meeting at Abe’s office in Tokyo on 7 June, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Xi-Obama summit to focus on “big picture” of China-US ties

WASHINGTON, 7 June—Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Barack Obama, are scheduled to meet on Friday and Saturday for the first time since both countries completed their latest leadership change.

During the summit, arranged at the Sunnylands estate, California, the two leaders will focus on the “big picture” of leading bilateral relations forward while taking care of both sides’ interests, US analysts say. Through informal working meetings and face-to-face interactions, observers say, the leaders of the world’s top two economies will also cultivate a closer personal relationship.

“I think it is a very timely initiative, and a very much needed one,” former US National Security Ad- viser Zbigniew Brzezinski said of the summit in a recent interview with Xinhua.

“The American-Chinese relationship is the most important bilateral relation- ship of the world. Global economic stability and global security very much depend on the healthy, friendly, cooperative and mutually accommodat- ing relationship between America and China,” he noted. In the eyes of former US Ambassador to China StapletonRoy, the fact that the get-together is their first since Xi became president and Obama was re-elected “makes the meeting all the more significant.”—Xinhua

Workers lay out pieces of shark fin to dry on a rooftop of a factory building in Hong Kong on 2 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

EU agrees to tighten its ban on “shark finning”

BRUSSELS, 7 June—The European Union agreed on Thursday to tighten an existing ban on “shark finning”, or slicing fins off sharks while they are still alive, which environmental campaigners say is cruel and threatens the sur- vival of some species. The change comes into ef- fect, the ban will forbid shark finning by all vessels in EU waters and by all EU-registrered vessels anywhere in the world, a move its supporters believe will put pressure on countries where the practice is common.

“Shark finning is one of the main threats to the shark population,” said Sandrine Polti, policy ad- viser to the Shark Alliance.

“We’re now in a much bet- ter position to push for a global shark-finning ban.”

A surge in demand for shark fins, mostly for soup and traditional medicine in Asia, and in particular Chin-a, means they can fetch up to 1,000 euros (841.5 pounds) each. The proposed new law, approved by EU ministers and expected to come into effect later this year, closes a loophole in EU rules by which fisher- men with special permits are still allowed to remove fins from shark carcasses at sea. Under the tighter rules, fishermen will have to land all sharks with their fins at- tached, although they will be allowed to slice par- tly through each fin and fold it against the carcass for ease of storage and handling.

Next US trade chief to ask Japan for more access to auto market

WASHINGTON, 7 June—The top US trade re- presentative-nominee on Thursday indicated he would urge Japan to ex- pand US access to its auto market through negotia- tions for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact.

Mike Froman told a congressional hearing that the US government has re- garded domestic calls for expanded U.S. access to the Japanese market through re- duction in non-tariff barriers as “a central focus” during preparatory talks toward Ja- pan’s joining the TPP negotia- tions.

Froman, who now serves as deputy security ad- viser for international eco- nomic affairs to President Barack Obama, made the remarks during a hearing at the Finance Committee of the Senate on endorsement of Obama’s naming him as next trade chief. Froman also said the TPP gives the United States the opportu- nity to protect its gains in the auto industry and build on “that strength going for- ward.”—Kyodo News

Obama administration defends massive phone record collection

WASHINGTON, 7 June—The Obama administration on Thursday defended its collection of the telephone records of millions of Ameri- cans as part of US counter- terrorism efforts, re-igniting a fierce debate over privacy even as it called the pro- gramme critical to warding off an attack.

The admission came af- ter Britain’s Guardian news- paper published on Wednes- day a secret court order authorizing the collection of phone records generated by millions of Verizon Communica- tions customers.

Privacy advocates blasted the order as unconsti- tutional government sur- veillance and called for a review of the program amid renewed concerns about in- telligence-gathering efforts launched after the 11 Sept. 2001, attacks on the United States.

The revelation also put a spotlight on the handling of intelligence and privacy issues by President Barack Obama’s administration, which already is under fire for searching the telephone records of Associated Press journalists and the emails and phone records of a Fox News Channel reporter as part of its inquiries into leaked govern- ment information.

“The United States should not be accumulating phone records on tens of mil- lions of innocent Americans. That is not what democracy is about.”—Xinhua

UN chief Ban welcomes talks between North and South Korea

NEW YORK, 7 June—UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed an agreement by North and South Korea to engage in government to government talks, his spokesman said Thursday. The UN chief considers the move to be “an encouraging de- velopment towards reduc- ing tensions and promot- ing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula,” Ban’s spokesman, Martin Nesirky said.

The new development follows months of heightened tension in the region, including the third underground nuclear test carried out in February by the North and the shutting of the jointly administered Kaesong Industrial com- plex in April. South Korea on Thursday accepted North Korea’s call for the talks aimed at normalizing two suspended inter-Korean economic business ven- tures and tackling other pending issues between the two sides and offered to host a ministerial dialogue in Seoul next Wednes- day.—Kyodo News

XiNhua

EU agrees to tighten its ban on “shark finning”
Ariane 5 launches off with record-setting Automated Transfer Vehicle payload

PARIS, 7 June—The record-breaking Ariane 5 has successfully lifted off from the Spaceport in French Guiana at 21:52 GMT on Wednesday with a heavy-lift mission to orbit Europe’s fourth Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV-4) for the International Space Station, media reported on Thursday.

This new launch mission, designed Flight VA213 in Ariane-space’s series, used an Ariane 5 ES version equipped with a storable propellant upper stage, with a flight time of just over one hour. During the mission, the upper stage performed two burns that were separated by a ballistic coast phase, after which the ATV was injected into a circular orbit at 260 km altitude, about 64 minutes after liftoff.

“I am delighted with this success, the 69th launch of an Ariane 5 and —as importantly— the 55th consecutive success for this launcher. Which confirms that set records not only for reliability, but also for its availability—as demonstrated once again with a perfect countdown this evening,” said Stephane Israël, Ariane-space Chairman and CEO from the Spaceport’s control room.

The Ariane vehicle delivered a total lift performance of 20,252 kg, which included 19,887 kg for ATV, making this resupply spacecraft the largest payload ever to be orbited by an Ariane launcher.

The ATV-4, orbited by Ariane-5 from a separate category for on-orbit servicing—known as “a dump trap.” The researchers speculate that this newly discovered feature is actually a protective cocoon where the critical early steps of planet formation can take place.

Astronomers now know that planets around other stars are plentiful, but when they try to model the evolution of dust grains into pre-planetary bodies, such as pebbles and boulders, they run into a problem. Once dust grains grow to a certain size, they tend to self-destruct, either by colliding with other grains or by being drawn into their central star.

“There is a major hurdle in the long chain of events that leads from tiny dust grains to planet-sized objects,” said Tol Birnstiel, a researcher at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, and co-author on the paper published in the journal Science.

“In computer models of planet formation, dust grains must grow from submicron sizes to objects up to ten times the mass of the Earth in just a few million years. But once particles grow larger enough, they begin to pick up speed and either collide, sending them back to square one, or slowly drift inward, thwarting further growth,” Birnstiel said in a statement.

To save dust grains from this fate, astronomers have proposed that a vortex, essentially a “bump” in the disk, would produce a region known as dust trap that enable dust particles to cling together, eventually setting the stage for the formation of larger and larger objects.—Xinhua
Retails’ sales rise in May, spending stays moderate

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New Light of Myanmar**

Saturday, 8 June, 2013

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

New York, 7 June— Major US retail chains, including Costco Wholesale Corp (COST.O) and Victoria’s Secret, on Thursday reported sales increases for May that suggested consumer spending continues to improve moderately.

Costco said sales at stores open at least a year, or same-store sales, rose 5 percent last month, coming in slightly below Wall Street forecasts because of lower gasoline prices. Fresh food and tools for home repair were strong categories, Costco said.

I. Brands Ltd (ITD.N), parent company of Victoria’s Secret and Bath & Body Works, said same-store sales rose 3 percent, compared with Wall Street’s expectations of 3.2 percent. The company expects a similar jump in June. Gap Inc (GPS.N) results were lifted by brisk sales at its namesake chain and at lower-price chain Old Navy, with company-wide same-store sales up 7 percent, well above expectations.

Same-store sales for the 11 US chains that report May sales rose 4.8 percent. Wall Street was expecting a 3.7 percent increase for the four weeks ended 2 June, according to Thomson Reuters.

**The Pill tied to lower ovarian cancer risk**

New York, 7 June—Women who use birth control pills are less likely to develop ovarian cancer later in life, a new analysis of past studies suggests.

Researchers pooled data from 24 studies and found Pill users had a 27 percent lower risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. And longer use seemed to be tied to more protection.

“It reinforces that there is a positive relationship between the use of oral contraceptives and ovarian cancer prevention later in life, a new analysis of past studies suggests,” said Dr. Laura Havensley, who led the study at the Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina.

“I think it adds some scientific weight to that relationship,” however, the review paper can’t prove that using oral contraception lowers a woman’s risk of disease—because there could have been other, unmeasured differences between women who took the Pill and those who didn’t, researchers noted.

About one in 72 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer during her lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society.

The disease is often caught at an advanced stage, and the majority of women who are diagnosed will die from ovarian cancer. So researchers are eager to find ways to lower a woman’s chance of developing it in the first place.

Eating a healthy diet and maintaining a normal weight may be one way to do that. Some researchers have suggested that using birth control pills—which contain the hormones estrogen and progesterin—may also lower a woman’s risk over the long run. To clear up that picture, Havensley and her colleagues combined data from 24 studies that compared thousands of women who took the Pill for various lengths of time, at a range of ages, with those who didn’t use oral contraception.

Any use of the Pill was linked to a lower risk of ovarian cancer, they found. Women who were on birth control pills for 10 years or longer were half as likely to develop the disease as those who didn’t use them at all, the study team reported Wednesday in Obstetrics & Gynecology.

If the Pill itself was responsible for that reduced risk, the researchers calculated that 185 women would have to use it for five years to prevent one case of ovarian cancer.

But, because none of the studies randomly assigned women to take the Pill or not—each woman made the decision with her own doctor—it’s not clear that the contraceptives, themselves, explain the whole cancer difference.

The researchers said there hasn’t been enough time to study how the specific hormone formulations in contemporary birth control pills affect ovarian cancer risk. Studies decades down the line. Because of that and other limitations, women should use “considerable caution” when figuring the new findings into their own personal decisions about the Pill, they wrote.

What’s more, other research suggests women who take the Pill are at a higher risk of developing ovarian cancer, said Edgardo Franco, head of cancer epidemiology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.—Reuters

**frozen berries linked to hepatitis outbreak**

LightInTheBox makes first Chinese IPO in US in 2013

New York, 7 June— LightInTheBox Holding Co. Ltd, an on-line retailer that delivers products to global consumers, held its initial public offering (IPO) on Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, marking the first Chinese company IPO in the United States in 2013.

The company, under the symbol of LTJB, priced its IPO of 8.3 million American depositary shares (ADSs), with each ADS representing two ordinary shares of the company, at $9.50 US dollars per ADS, for a total offering size of approximately $78.85 million dollars, assuming its underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional ADSs.

“LightInTheBox is a B2C e-commerce company serving global consumers. Its direct access to a global market and provision of excellent user experience based on multiple technologies are the two advantages of the company,” said Qui (Alan) Guo, co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer of the company, told Xinhua.

“At present, all suppliers of LightInTheBox are from China,” Guo said, stressing that “a great number of good and competitive Chinese suppliers have emerged in the process of China’s reform and opening up over the past decades. They are able to provide a lot of attractive products to consumers around the world.”

The company chose to go public in the United States because the US capital market is definitely one of the most active capital markets in the world, Guo said. “Through communications with US investors, the company got recognition from many US investors with a focus on the internet industry,” he added.

Shares of the company surged 28.95 percent to trade at 12.25 dollars a share in midday on Thursday after its debut.—Xinhua
**Austria to quit UN’s Golan force over Syria violence**

The departure of the Austrians, who make up about 380 of the 1,000-member United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF), threatens the whole operation. "Austria has been a backbone of the mission, and their withdrawal will impact the mission's operational capacity," said UN spokeswoman Josephine Guerro.

"The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the risk that all military activities in the area of separation conducted by any actor pose to the long-held cease-fire and the local population," the UN council said in a statement. The Security Council will meet on Friday to discuss the Austrian withdrawal.

**Deadly hot air balloon crash in Egypt blamed on human error**

"As the Swedish helicopter was flying low over the tourist hub to ban hot air balloon flights for nearly two months," Kyodo News reported that the swedish military helicopter that crashed into a mountain during a hot air balloon festival in Singapore had been operating without proper qualifications.

**EU naval warship rescues 14 Indian sailors after hijack**

"We have rescued 14 Indian sailors after their ship was hijacked by Somali pirates," Reuters quoted a NATO counter piracy Dutch warship's commander as saying. The ship, an EU Naval Force vessel, was hijacked by Somali pirates on 26 February, and the EU NavFor said it was "absolutely essential" to rescue the sailors and their ship before it was taken over by the pirates.

**EU Naval Force**

"It is imperative for the EU to take immediate action to prevent any further attacks," EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said. The EU NavFor, which has been operating in the Gulf of Aden for the past four years, has been credited with reducing the number of attacks and kidnappings in the region.

**EU NavFor**

"We have been taking steps to address the problem of piracy, but more needs to be done," said Ashton. "It is crucial for the EU to work with the international community to address this threat and to prevent any further attacks." The EU NavFor has been operating in the Gulf of Aden since 2009, and has rescued more than 100 vessels and 1,500 crew members from Somali pirates in the region.

**Somalia**

"The EU NavFor has been taking steps to address the problem of piracy, but more needs to be done," said Ashton. "It is crucial for the EU to work with the international community to address this threat and to prevent any further attacks." The EU NavFor has been operating in the Gulf of Aden since 2009, and has rescued more than 100 vessels and 1,500 crew members from Somali pirates in the region.

**Somalia**

"The EU NavFor has been taking steps to address the problem of piracy, but more needs to be done," said Ashton. "It is crucial for the EU to work with the international community to address this threat and to prevent any further attacks." The EU NavFor has been operating in the Gulf of Aden since 2009, and has rescued more than 100 vessels and 1,500 crew members from Somali pirates in the region.

**Somalia**

"The EU NavFor has been taking steps to address the problem of piracy, but more needs to be done," said Ashton. "It is crucial for the EU to work with the international community to address this threat and to prevent any further attacks." The EU NavFor has been operating in the Gulf of Aden since 2009, and has rescued more than 100 vessels and 1,500 crew members from Somali pirates in the region.

**Somalia**

"The EU NavFor has been taking steps to address the problem of piracy, but more needs to be done," said Ashton. "It is crucial for the EU to work with the international community to address this threat and to prevent any further attacks." The EU NavFor has been operating in the Gulf of Aden since 2009, and has rescued more than 100 vessels and 1,500 crew members from Somali pirates in the region.

**Somalia**

"The EU NavFor has been taking steps to address the problem of piracy, but more needs to be done," said Ashton. "It is crucial for the EU to work with the international community to address this threat and to prevent any further attacks." The EU NavFor has been operating in the Gulf of Aden since 2009, and has rescued more than 100 vessels and 1,500 crew members from Somali pirates in the region.
**BUSINESS**

**UAB opens Mandalay branch**

United Amara Bank (UAB) opened its Mandalay branch in 84th street in Yadanabhummi west ward in Maha Aungmye Township in Mandalay Region on 3 June.

Township Administrator U Myint Oo, chairman of Daw Thi Thanaka and KT Construction U Kyaw Thet Hliang and Chairman U Tun Lin Aung of Eternal Green Co Ltd which is the sole agent of Loajia motorcycle formally opened the branch.

**Boiler explosion causes noodle factory fire**

YANGON, 7 June—The fire outbreak of Hong Kong Noodle Factory in No. 2 Industrial Zone in Nyaung village-tract in Hlithethaya Township is ignited by the explosion of boiler.

Three buildings in the fire that broke out at 6:20 pm on 4 June were reduced to ashes.

The firefighters could prevent further outbreak of fire as they could withdraw 17 barrels of fuel oil. Hlithethaya Police charged U Tin Tun, in-charge of the factory, with reckless handling of fire.

**Python handed over to Forest Dept**

BHAMO, 7 June—A Python Molurus which is one foot round and nine feet long was handed over to Bhamo District Forest Department by the Maha Mingyi monastery in Thonemine Shwepyitha ghetto in Bhamo recently.

Assistant Director of Bhamo District Forest Department U Aung Naing, Township Staff Officer U Ye Htay and officials collected the python which will be then transferred to the Zoological Gardens.

Twenty eggs were also transferred by to the department.

**Pobbathiri Tsp Sangha Nayaka Office opened**

Chairman of Pobbathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Adeçaavamsa of Wegyi Monastery and other executive monks attended the ceremony.

Pobbathiri Township Police Force commander Police Major Min Zaw presented the gazette of the formation of Pobbathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Committee to the chairman Sayadaw.

Religious officer of Pobbathiri Township U Sein Lin supplicated on religious affairs.

The office is situated in Kyakan Monastery in Ywada.—MMAL-

**IRRIGATION**

**Kaboe diversion weir irrigating farmlands in KhinU**

KhinU, 7 June—Thaphanseik Dam is irrigating farmlands in KhinU Township in Sagaing Region.

Khan Thit village-tract put 991 acres of farmlands under summer paddy out of 8490 acres by the whole town. It is a few days away from harvest of summer paddy. Despite low rainfall in later May, Kaboe diversion weir irrigated the farmlands for successful harvestation.

**Pyinnya Alinn Library opened in Hsipaw**

HSIPAW, 7 June—To promote reading habits of rural people, Pyinnya Alinn Library of Sanphaik Village in Shanhpaik Village-tract, Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State, was opened at front of the library, here, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Hsipaw Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw, Head of Hsipaw Township Information and Public Relations Department U Sai Tun, Assistant Director, Director and Chairman of the Library and Sanphaik Ward Administrator cut the ribbon to open the library.

The Hsipaw Township Administrator and the Head of Hsipaw Township IPRD spoke words of thanks at the ceremony.

The library, one-story brick noggan building, was built at a cost of K 3 million totally—K 1 million by the Government and K 2 million by the people.

**Upgraded BEHS opened in Aunglan**

AUNGLAN, 7 June—A ceremony to upgrade Basic Education High School (branch) in Aunglan in Magway Region to No. (3) Basic Education High School under the permission of No. (2) Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education took place on 3 June.

There were formerly two full-fledged Basic Education High Schools both in the northern part of the town.

The new school lies in the southern part of the town on Yangon-Pyay highway.

Headmaster U Win Bo, teachers, parents and students are happy with the opening of the newly upgraded school as it has eased difficulties of the students in the southern outskirts.—MMAL-

**Mandalay schools collect more than 20000 high school students**

MANDALAY, 7 June—Basic education schools in Mandalay District of Mandalay Region have accepted 20,457 high school students, 69,712 middle school students and 99,321 primary school students in 2013-2014 academic year.

The district has 37 high schools, 26 middle schools, 281 primary schools, eight affiliated high schools, 18 affiliated middle schools and two affiliated primary schools in seven townships.

This year, school children from grade 1 to grade 5 received stipends of K 1000 and six exercise books each.

**Local News**

Mandala, 8 June—To

New Light of Myanmar

local news

Saturday, 8 June, 2013

[Image]
It is the best time for foreign investors to make investments in Myanmar: President U Thein Sein

Share to fight malnutrition

Malnutrition contributes to 45 per cent of the global deaths of the children under the age of five, suggests a research published in the Lancet medical journal, corroborating the claim of UK charity Save the Children just a few days ago that says chronic malnutrition has put a quarter of the world’s children at the risk of underperforming at the school.

Again, a recent report of the United Nations has put the spotlight on the problem of malnutrition as it says malnutrition is estimated to cost the world $3.5 trillion in health care and lost productivity, ahead of a summit on nutrition today in London.

Poor nutrition has resulted in the deaths of about 3.1 million under-fives annually, according to WEF a few days ago, adding the first two days of life—from conception to two years—have lasting impact on health. In Myanmar, “wrong idea about breastfeeding and healthy meal for children” is still common in many parts of the country where grandmothers with their long-held traditional beliefs forbid the mothers-to-be as well as babies to have a balanced diet, often leading the children to grow up smaller and shorter.

Malted children suffered irreversible damage. They grew up smaller and weaker and the brains might not fully develop, and malnourishment is driving a literacy and numeracy crisis in developing countries, says the charity. It is welcome news that Young Global Leaders (YGLs) will expand its child nutrition programme into South-East Asia, starting with Myanmar.

Children in Myanmar will be the first beneficiaries of the Table For Two (TFT), a Japan-based non-profit initiative of the YGLs, in South-East Asia. The initiative pays for children’s school meals in developing countries.

It is just ironic that while the haves are wasting the foods, the have-nots are starving to death. Perhaps, the spirit of sharing will heal the wounds and make the world much better.

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June—Private companies offered mobile services and money exchange services to the guests of 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia held in Nay Pyi Taw, on 5-7 June.

Elite Tech Co sold MPT-GSM, FFC, SMS cards, CDMA, top-up cards and mobile handsets. Kanbawza Bank (branch-1) and CB Bank in Nay Pyi Taw opened money exchange counters at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) where the forum is held.

“The guests can take out money with the use of ATM machine, Master Card and Visa Card and exchange foreign currency for Myanmar kyats. Almost 100 customers use exchange counter a day. Plans are under way to provide services at the coming Gem, Jade and Pearl Emporium and other grand ceremonies,” said Ko Hein Htet Myat from Marketing and Customer Service Promotion Department.

“I recognized success of that forum. And I am very pleased with Myanmar’s hospitality including security, information and communication and monetary sector. Successful holding of that forum is directly related with Myanmar’s favorable environment and better services, said Ms Julia Nesherwot from US who attended the forum.

Moe Thu Zar Soe

Private companies offer mobile and money exchange services at WEF

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June—President U Thein Sein met leaders of world’s leading companies, at World Economic Forum on East Asia at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) here this morning. It was attended by the Union ministers and 40 businessmen.

The President said that Myanmar’s reform processes which are divided into two sections—political and economic—were in accord with people’s desires. Political stability could bring economic development to the country, which brought about peace and stability. So, politics and economy were inter-related.

Myanmar’s reforms processes had four steps—(1) handing over of administrative power to civilian government from Tatmadaw government; (2) ending decades-long armed conflicts; (3) emergence of good governance and clean government; and (4) development of private sector.

Economic sector was being implemented on the foundation of three pillars—private sector, cooperatives sectors and State-owned sector, where private sector accounts for 90 percent. Due to two-decade-long economic sanctions, there were so many needs for revival of country’s economic sector. Myanmar prioritized poverty alleviation and rural development tasks as 70 percent of the country’s population were living in the rural areas. Rural areas Development was crucial as Myanmar was an agro-based country. The country had food sufficiency for current population and food surplus, which accounts for 30 percent of export. Myanmar had set target for food sufficiency of future population.

Agricultural businesses alone could not make the country rich. The country had welcomed Establishment of industrialized country needed capital and technologies. The country had enacted Foreign Investment Law for foreign investors. And Myanmar could ensure easing of economic sanctions and EU’s reinstatement of GSP rights. The rest of works would be decided only at the Congress as the US administration lifted its economic sanctions against Myanmar, he added.

It was the best time for foreign investors to make investments in Myanmar. Mutually-beneficial Foreign Investment Law covered prescriptions that protect investors. For country’s economic development, there was a bag of challenges and difficulties as well as other opportunities. Myanmar was like a bridge that connects South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia. And Myanmar shared borders with China, India, Bangladesh and ASEAN countries which is a big market with a population of 2000 million. Resource-rich Myanmar with a population of 60 million had favorable climate, fertile soils and adequate workforce.

Myanmar citizens had to work in foreign countries as the country had fewer job opportunities. Those people would return home if there were so many job opportunities. Combination of foreign capital, technology and human resources with Myanmar’s natural resources and labour strength would lead to the win-win-win situation—for the country, its people and the investor. That was the reason why Myanmar invited local and foreign investors, he said.

The President and the Union ministers replied to the queries raised by those present on Myanmar’s reform processes, investments in agriculture and tourism industry, human resources development, investment policy, foreign investment law and citizen investment law.

The meeting between the President and the leaders of world’s top companies would bring the fruitful results to the country.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets leaders of world’s leading companies, at World Economic Forum on East Asia at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC).—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June—Myanmar should focus on education and capacity building for its young workforce as the country is opening up for business, said a report released at the World Economic Forum on East Asia today.

The report describes that Myanmar is ready to go to work, but it needs local and international involvement to educate its people.

Japan and India rank top among the countries at the forefront of this effort, with the Japan Interna-
WEF Founder pledges continued assistance for Myanmar’s reform process

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host a dinner to participants of World Economic Forum at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. —MNA

India offers capacity building training to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textile of India Mr Anand Sharma, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here this noon.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads. They held talks on promotion of economic cooperation and comprehensive cooperation, cooperation in pharmaceuticals production, training for Myanmar on capacity building in various sectors including in textile and trade, implementation of joint special economic zones, and increasing the number of border trade camps for development of border regions. —MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textile of India Mr Anand Sharma. —MNA

Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines agree to set up ASEAN Common Smart Tourism

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—President U Thein Sein received Prof Klaus Schwab, founder and co-chairperson of World Economic Forum and co-chairpersons at anteroom in Mani Yadana Jade Hall here yesterday evening.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw.

Prof Klaus Schwab and co-chairpersons promised to continue to support Myanmar’s reform process and assist in her bid for development.

They said the intention of holding WEF in Myanmar is not only for economy but for “socio-economic development of Myanmar people” and to enable the world countries know more about investment opportunities in Myanmar.

The Myanmar President thanked for their support for Myanmar’s reforms, saying that the country, though being an agro-based economy, is working toward to the end of an industrialized nation for development and prosperity by inviting foreign investment as the country is lacking capital, technologies and human resources. He hoped that the World Economic Forum would draw foreign investment. He again expressed his gratitude toward the WEF chairperson and co-chairpersons for fulfilling the requirements of Myanmar.

The President and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to the participants of WEF at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

Present at the dinner were Vice-President Dr Sai Maikham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Union ministers, Hluttaw affairs committee chairpersons, deputy ministers, departmental heads and delegates to WEF on East Asia.

Artists from Culture Ministry entertained the guests with traditional songs and dances. —MNA

Vietnam takes quick step to invest in Myanmar’s unexploited hospitality industry

YANGON, 7 June—A groundbreaking ceremony for Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Center was held on 5 June on Kaba Aye Street in Bahan Township, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe, Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Mr Vu Huy Hoang, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Mr Hoang Anh Gia Lai Group Chairman Mr Phan Thanh Dung, Chairman of Hoang Anh Gia Lai Group Mr Doan Nguyen Duc and Chairman of Association of Vietnamese Investors into Myanmar (AVIM) Mr Tran Bac Ha drove the stakes.

The first phase of the centre is scheduled to be complete in 2015, the second phase in 2017 which means Vietnam has become the first to invest in Myanmar’s hotel industry with the announced investment of $440 million.

The region chief minister then attended the Myanmar-Vietnam Investment Cooperation Seminar at Sedona Hotel. He invited the investment of Vietnamese businessmen in Myanmar on mutually beneficial terms, followed by discussions between Myanmar and Vietnamese businessmen. —MNA
LOCAL NEWS

**NATURAL DISASTER**

Heavy rain damages road section on Pathein-Monywa Highway

KYANGIN, 7 June—The strongly heavy rains caused flooding of Kyaukphyuoo Creek around Hmyinwataung Village-tract of Myawaddy Township of Ayeyawady Region at 10 am on 5 June. The flood eroded the road section from mile posts 109/7 to 110 on Betye-Yekyi Road of Pathein-Monywa Highway. In the incident, the flood destroyed an RCC box culvert and its surrounding parts and about 15 feet long road section. That was why the transport route caused blockage.

Assistant Engineer U Phone Hliang of Road Construction Special Group No.2, SAE (Special) U Than Myint Aung and JE-II U Ngwe Aung supervised the repairing of the road.

On 5 June, there was 9.9 inches of rainfall in Myanmar Township.

Kyemon-Htay Min (Kyangin)

Mayan Village to have access to electricity

MEKTHILA, 7 June—Mayan Village, a remote village 16 miles northwest of Wundwin Township in Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, thanks to solar electrification of the region government, will have access to electricity after years of out of the reach of national power grid.

The village in Nyaungto Village-tract has a population 400 with 148 households. Every household will be provided with two solar panels, one bulb and one battery by the region government and the solar panels have already arrived, said the village-tract administrator.

The solar electrification was jointly brought to the village by the region government and poly-ice Company under the poverty alleviation and rural development of the State.

Chan-Tha-Mektila IPRD-Kyemon

Land plots donated to Pariyatti monasteries in Mawgyun, Yangon

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 7 June—U Maung Hla-Daw Shwe Sein and (Daw Mya Lwin) family of No. 46 on 14th Street in Ward 7 of Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyawady Region donated their farmland plots worth K 84 million to monasteries in Mawlamyinegyun and Yangon on 5 June.

At the residence of the wellwishers, U Maung Hla (Maha Thiri Thduhamma Manijotadhara)-Daw Shwe Sein (Thduhamma Theingi) and (Daw Mya Lwin) family donated documents related to the land plots to Pithsamayon Monastery, Phaygayi Taik and Kanna Monasteries in Mawlamyinegyun and Yangon Mingalayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery.

West Bank Village gets Knowledge Bank

PAPUN, 7 June—West Bank Village in Papun Township, Papun District, Kayin State got a library named Thuta Padetha literally as Knowledge Bank on 29 May. The library was formally opened by Kayin State Finance Minister U Saw Win Htein, Kayin State Information and Public Relations Department Head U Tin Maung Aye and the Papun District Deputy Commissioner formally opened the library. Also present on the occasion were district and township level departmental heads, social organizations and students.

Kyemon-Ni Toe (Mawlu)

ODD NEWS

Lightning kills one in Mongpan

MONGPAN, 7 June—One man was killed and the other man lost consciousness by the lightning in Mongpan in Langkho District, Shan State (South) on 3 June. U Sai Myo, 40 and U Sai Aung 29, both from Ywathit, Langkho District, Shan State (South) on 3 June.

U Sai Myo was pronounced dead on the spot and U Sai Aung shocked unconscious. Authorities rushed to the scene and helped the victims.

Sai Zaw Latt (Langkho) Kyemon
Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III and visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao in Manila, the Philippines, on 6 June, 2013. Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III and visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao affirmed the strong relations of the two countries as they witnessed the signing of three agreements on Thursday.—Xinhua

MANILA, 7 June—Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III and visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao affirmed the strong relations of the two countries as they witnessed the signing of three agreements on Thursday. Aquino welcomed Gusmao in Malacanang, the presidential palace. Gusmao is on a five-day visit to Manila.

The discussions the Prime Minister and I had this morning affirm our dedication to strengthen the relationship between our two nations particularly through engagements in education, defence, infrastructure development, and trade,” Aquino said. The following agreements were signed in Thursday’s ceremonies: a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a bilateral mechanism between two foreign ministries; an MoU meant to help Timor-Leste with its infrastructure development; and an agreement between the Philippine Normal University and Timor-Leste’s education ministry to develop a programme for teachers and education officials of Timor-Leste.

Aquino said the Philippines also support Timor-Leste’s bid to join in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) community. Gusmao thanked the Philippines for its support on Timor-Leste’s bid for ASEAN membership. He said his trip to Manila was part of his programme to visit all ASEAN countries this year to strengthen both bilateral and regional ties with Timor-Leste’s neighbours. “We look forward to joining with the Philippines in the ASEAN family,” he said. Gusmao was Timor-Leste’s first president after achieving independence in May 2002. He is currently serving his second five-year term as prime minister, having first assumed the position in 2007. He is concurrently minister for Defence and Security.

Xinhua

Six Taiwanese nabbed in N Philippines for credit card fraud

MANILA, 7 June—Philippine police have arrested six Taiwanese men allegedly involved in credit card fraud during an operation in a rented townhouse in the northern Province of Pang- panga, according to police report released here on Thursday.

One of the foreigners arrested even tried to brbe the operatives with 500,000 pesos (11,933 US dollars) in cash, a report submitted to National Bureau of In- vestigation (NBI) Director Nonnatus Rojas stated.

The arrest of the Tai- wanese prompted the NBI to conduct a wider probe into the possibility of a biger syndicate operating in Central Luzon as the sus- pects apparently are con- nected with the group of 16 Taiwanese earlier arrested by the bureau for online fraud in Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zamboales Province, in April.

Xinhua

Mt Everest glaciers shrink 14% in 50 yrs

TOKYO, 7 June—Researchers have found that glaciers on Mt Everest in the Himalayas, the world’s highest peak, have shrunk by about 14 percent in the past 50 years in what they suspect is the effect of climate change.

The pace at which the glaciers have been decreasing in recent years is nearly six times that of the average between 1958 and 1975, according to recent research led by Sudeep Thakuri of Italy’s University of Milan.

Members of the re- search team are warning that the decline in glaciers and snow will likely pose a ma- jor impact on Asia’s water resources and agriculture. “The Himalayan glaci- ers and ice caps considered a water tower for Asia since they store and supply water downstream during the dry season,” Thakuri said in a Press release. The research team also found that the ends of the glaciers have retreated by 400 metres since 1962. In a sign of global warming, the average temperature in the Mt Everest region has marked a 0.6 C degree in- crease since 1992.

But the team has yet to establish a strong link be- tween glacial and climate change.—Kyodo News

File photo taken from Mt Kala Pathar in Nepal shows Mt. Everest, the world’s highest mountain with a peak at 8,848 meters, on 22 May, 2013. The South Col is seen in the centre right.—Kyodo News

Japanese doctor helping Afghans wins Asian culture prize

FUJUOКА, 7 June—A Japanese doctor known for his charitable work in Afghanistan and Pakistan was chosen on Friday as the grand prize winner of the 24th Fujioka Prize, given to individuals and organizations that have contributed to the creation and pres- ervation of Asian culture, award organizers said.

Tetsu Nakamura, 66, a local representative of the civic group Peshawar-Kai, became the second-ever Japanese to win the acco- lade given by a committee jointly managed by Fujioka City and a local founda- tion.—Kyodo News

Air New Zealand raises stake in Virgin Australia

WELLINGTON, 7 June—New Zealand’s national carrier has agreed to buy another 3 percent of the shares of the Virgin Aus- tralia airline, taking its stake to 22.99 percent, Air New Zealand announced on Thursday.

The agreement was subject to the Foreign In- vestment Review Board (FIRB) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission conditions, which was to hold public enquiries into the purchase, said a statement from Air New Zealand.

Air New Zealand would consider buying a further 3-percent stake in Virgin Australia and had made an application to FIRB on that basis. The additional inter-

est affirmed Air New Zealand’s strong belief and confidence in Virgin Aus- tralia and the strategy it was pursuing, said the state- ment.

“Our New Zealand is not seeking a position on the board of Virgin Austral- ia nor does it have the inten- tion of obtaining control of Virgin Australia,” it added. Xinhua

Thailand to link Bangkok with China via high-speed train

BANGKOK, 7 June—Thailand will be connected with China via a high-speed railway running through northern Laos within the next seven years, assured Thai Transport Minister Chadrat Situpint

Delivering a key-note speech on Thursday at a seminar and exhibition entitled “Thailand 2020” in the Thai northeastern Province of Nakorn Ratchasima, the transport minister said the government has planned to build a 625 km rail system to link Bangkok with the northeastern border Prov- ince of Nong Khai, across Mekong River from the Lao capital of Vientiane while Chinese high-speed trains will arrive from southern China. During the initial stage of a 730-billion-US- dollar rail and logistical programme, designed for reconstruction of major rail routes in all regions of Thailand, a 250 km Bang- kok-Nakhon Ratchasima route will be built first. Then, the next phase will see a 375 km Nakhon Ratchasima-Nong Khai route built up for the Thai high-speed train to shuttle passengers and cargoes, ex-pecially including fruits and vegetables, between Thai- land and Laos, which will be connected via the high- speed train with southern China, Chadrchat said.

Given such a modernized rail system, Thai food will be delivered fresh and daily to China, according to the transport minister.

“Nakhon Ratrasima is not only the economic hub of the entire northeastern region of Thailand but a gateway to welcome an ASEAN Economic Com- munity, which will open in 2015,” he commented.

Thailand will have one rail route for all high-speed trains to run through- out the country, including the Bangkok-Phitsanulok-Chiang Mai route to the North, the Bangkok-Hua Hin route to the South and the Bangkok-Pattaya-Rayong route to the East and the Bangkok-Nakorn Ratrasima-Nong Khai route to the Northeast. Xinhua

Workers of a rescue team work at the site of the collapsed bridge in the northeastern state of Penang, Malaysia, on 7 June, 2013. An interchange ramp to a cross-sea bridge that is under construction in northern Malaysia collapsed on Thursday, and rescue teams are still searching for survivors who might be trapped under the debris.—Xinhua
Argentina, S Africa sign agreement on agricultural cooperation

BUENOS AIRES, 7 June—Argentina and South Africa here on Thursday signed an agreement on agricultural cooperation aimed to strengthen trade and technical exchanges.

EU steps up fight against cigarette smuggling

BRUSSELS, 7 June—The European Commission on Thursday adopted a package of measures to further fight against illegal tobacco trade at various levels, in particular cigarette smuggling.

The package includes heavier sanctions for smuggling, stronger enforcement of tax, customs, police and border authorities, as well as measures to decrease smuggling incentives and improve the security of supply chains. “With the package of measures to clamp down on cigarette smuggling, we can help to better protect the public purse, the health of our citizens and legitimate businesses,” the EU’s taxation commissioner Algirdas Semeta said here on Thursday.

Every year, the cost of illegal tobacco trade for the EU and its member states amount to 10 billion euros (13 billion US dollars) in terms of unpaid taxes and duties. It also involves organized crime groups operating across borders, in addition to undermining European and national health policy initiatives.

The Commission presented an action plan to tackle cigarette smuggling at the EU’s eastern land border back in 2011, but for the past two years the EU has been facing a rising influx of illegal tobacco brands as well as increased illegal production and distribution inside the bloc.

Australian hackers get creative with government data

SYDNEY, 7 June— Australian hackers have used their powers for good in the 2013 GovHack competition held across the country, remixing government data to create innovative applications over 1-2 June. Web and application developers, open data and visualization experts, user experience and accessibility specialists teamed up for a weekend of creative app development using publicly-available government information.

The winners of the national contest were announced on Thursday night in Canberra.

“With over 700 hackers undertaking over 10,000 hours of development, this is by far Australia’s largest partner program for government research and development,” said event coordinator Pia Waugh.

“Government agencies had mentors on the ground to build community understanding of the information they hold, and the community was able to showcase clever ideas and talk directly with responsive government agencies from the federal level all the way through to local councils,” she added.

Winning projects included an application by a Brisbane group to help users learn about Australia’s migration history, utilizing information from the National Archives of Australi’a’s passenger arrivals data combined with historical statistics.

In the Science category, “When will my house be underwater?” used data from Geoscience Australia and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make personalized predictions about sea level rise and individual Australian homes.

A Canberra team put together a picnic planner for the national capital, with a map of all public playgrounds, BBQs, furniture and toilets plus interesting historical information.

The contest attracted over 1,000 participants, including 900 hackers and 130 competition entries, competing for glory prizes, together with our usual prizes for having fun and being creative,” she added.

During the two-day lockdown, participants received guidance from professional mentors from organizations such as Google, Geoscience Australia, Dictionary of Sydney, Adelaide City Council, Public Transport Services, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, several universities and government departments.

UN advances in plan to withdraw peacekeepers from Haiti

SANTO DOMINGO, 7 June—More than 4,950 UN peacekeepers have left Haiti since 2011, as part of a withdrawal plan announced by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the world body’s peacekeeping force in the country said on Thursday.

Nigel Fisher, head of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah), said in an open letter posted on the UN website that in keeping with the scaleback, the peacekeeping forces’ budget has also been reduced by 30 percent.

The Haitian government and Minustah have been holding talks to solidate the UN troop withdrawal plan since last February, based on the progress made on key goals such as beefing up Haiti’s national police, he said.

“We are in the process of improving the plan to ensure it is feasible and contains clear indicators for the strengthening of national institutions and the reduction of Minustah’s presence,” Fisher said.

Last year, the UN Security Council said the number of Minustah troops should be based on the security situation in Haiti and the country’s increasing capacity.

Fisher said a joint working group is supervising the plan’s execution, adding that economic resources that become available due to the plan will be transferred to UN peacekeeping missions in other countries.

“I am sure both the Haitian and international actors agree that the gradual and orderly withdrawal of Minustah from Haiti is desirable and necessary,” he said. “They also agree that the withdrawal is tied to the progressive strengthening of Haitian institutions that are key for security, the elections and the rule of law.”

Minustah was established in 2004 to replace the multinational forces authorized by the United Nations following then Haitian president Jean Bertrand Aristide’s oust and ensuing instability in the country.

In October 2011, Ban informed Haitian President Michel Martelly of his goal to begin a gradual withdrawal of the mission.
Broadway to celebrate Tony awards with NY street party

New York, 7 June — Broadway is gearing up for the annual Tony theatre awards on Sunday with a roster of top stars set to hit the red carpet and a simulcast slated for a mass viewing party in Times Square. The 67th annual awards, Broadway’s highest honours, will be held at Radio City Music Hall and include appearances by nominee Tom Hanks and other stars including Scarlett Johansson, Sigourney Weaver, Jake Gyllenhaal, Anne Kendrick, Zachary Quinto, Sally Field, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Jon Cryer.

Hanks is the odds-on favourite to win best actor in a play for his Broadway debut in the late Nora Ephron’s “Lucky Guy.” Other top contenders are musicals “Matilda,” a British production based on a Roald Dahl novel, and “Kinky Boots,” which features songs by pop star Cyndi Lauper. There is nothing like celebrating Broadway’s most spectacular night, with Broadway’s biggest fans, right in the heart of Times Square,” said Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of The Broadway League, and Heather Hitchens, executive director of the American Theatre Wing, in a joint statement. Reuters

Sting returns to his childhood for new musical, album

London, 7 June — Sting has turned back to his childhood in the shadow of a struggling shipyard in northern England for a musical that will debut on Broadway next year and his first album of original material in 10 years. The musical, “The Last Ship,” is based on Sting’s experiences of living near the Swan Hunter Shipyard in Wallsend, Newcastle, and watching the demise of Britain’s shipbuilding industry in the 1980s. A spokeswoman for Sting on Wednesday said the musical had also inspired the rock star to produce his first album of new material in nearly 10 years, also called “The Last Ship,” which will be released on 23 September “Guest artists on “The Last Ship” with roots in the northeast (of England) include Brian Johnson, Jimmy Nail, The Unthanks, The Wilson Brothers and Kathryn Tickell,” the spokeswoman said in a statement. “The Last Ship”, released on Universal Music Group’s Polydor Records, will feature 12 songs and be produced by Rob Mathes. Sting, 61, has released 10 albums since going solo from the band the Police around 1984. This is the first time he has taken a major role in producing a musical. Reuters

Paris Jackson reportedly attempts suicide.

Los Angeles, 7 June — Paris Jackson, the 15-year-old daughter of late pop star Michael Jackson, was rushed to a Los Angeles-area hospital on Wednesday after an apparent suicide attempt, her mother said, but her family later reported she is “physically fine.” “Paris is physically fine and is getting appropriate medical attention,” Perry Sanders, an attorney for Paris’ grandmother and guardian, Katherine Jackson, said in a statement. “Being a sensitive 15-year-old is difficult no matter who you are,” said the statement added. “It is especially difficult when you lose the person closest to you.” Pop singer Jackson died in 2009 at age 50 from a lethal dose of surgical anesthetic propofol while preparing for his “This Is It” series of concerts in London. The Jackson family’s wrongful-death lawsuit against concert promoter AEG Live is currently at trial in Los Angeles and family attorneys have been expected to call Paris as a witness. Paris’ mother, Debbie Rowe, told entertainment TV programme “Entertainment Tonight” that her daughter attempted suicide and had “a lot going on lately.” “We appreciate everyone’s thoughts for Paris at this time and their respect for the family’s privacy,” an attorney for Rowe said in a statement.Celebrity website TMZ.com, which first reported the suicide attempt, said Paris had been taken from her family’s home in Calabasas, California, by ambulance at about 2 am, citing unnamed sources. Los Angeles County Sheriff deputies responded to a medical situation in Calabasas at 1:27 am, sheriff spokesman Steve Whitmore said, declining to provide additional details because of privacy laws. Reuters

Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla celebrate women’s courage.

Mumbai, 7 June — The team of forthcoming movie Gulab Gang, which is based on the real life story of women’s grit and determination, has launched BELIEVE, a campaign that celebrates the triumphs of women’s heroism. Gulab Gang, directed by Soumik Sen, is loosely based on Uttar Pradesh-based social activist Sampat Pal and her Gulabi Gang, which works towards liberation of women in the state. Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla, who play pivotal roles in the film, believe their work should inspire audiences. “As a creative artist, my job has been to inspire audiences with art and films I’m part of. And the campaign allows me to present before you stories that are inspiring for us all. I look forward to saluting the unknown heroines of the country,” Madhuri said in a statement. An initiative by Benaras Mediaworks in association with Gulab Gang, the campaign will bring forth stories of valor from across the country and talk about unheard stories and unsung heroines. The campaign will invite entries of women from across the country, who have battled odds and emerged victors. —PTI

Helena Bonham Carter goes glam to play Elizabeth Taylor.

Los Angeles, 7 June — British actress Helena Bonham Carter will play late screen icon Elizabeth Taylor in a TV movie that will explore Taylor’s tempestuous relationship with actor Richard Burton who captivated audiences and headlines. The first photograph of Bonham Carter as Taylor and British actor Dominic West as Burton was released by BBC on Wednesday, ahead of the premiere of “Burton and Taylor” on BBC America in fall this year.

The film’s central focus will be on Taylor and Burton’s appearance as co-stars in a 1983 Broadway revival of Noel Coward’s 1930s romantic comedy play “Private Lives.” In the play, which brought Taylor and Burton together seven years after their second divorce from each other, the former couple portrayed a man and woman having an affair while married to other people.

Taylor, who died from heart failure in 2011 aged 79, became one of the most recognizable Hollywood actresses in the 1950s, famed for her beauty and violet eyes. She was married eight times, twice to Burton. “Private Lives” would be Burton’s last performance. He died in 1984 from a brain hemorrhage aged 58. Last year, troubled former child star Lindsay Lohan played Taylor in the Lifetime TV movie “Liz & Dick,” which also chronicled her stormy life with Burton, and was panned by fans and critics. Bonham Carter, 47, began her acting career in British period dramas, such as 1992’s “Howard’s End,” before progressing to grittier roles. She starred in 1999’s “Fight Club” and played a chimpanzee in 2001’s “Planet of the Apes.”—Reuters

Sting performs “Lonesome Day” during the 2013 MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honouring Bruce Springsteen in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2013. Reuters

MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honouring Bruce Springsteen

Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla celebrate women's courage

Believe, a campaign that celebrates the triumphs of women's heroism.

Actress Helena Bonham Carter

Sting

Paris Jackson reportedly attempts suicide.
Serena mauled Errani, Sharapova awaits in final

PARIS, 6 June—Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in their women’s singles semi-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 6 June, 2013. —Reuters

Sluggish Bolt beaten by Gatlin in Rome

ROME, 7 June—Usain Bolt’s defeat by Justin Gatlin in the 100 meters at the Rome Diamond League meeting on Thursday is unlikely to cause the Olympic champion too much concern ahead of August’s world championships. American Gatlin, bronze medalist at the London Games after a four-year doping ban, ran 9.94 seconds to edge Bolt by 0.01 in a race that showed the Jamaican has yet to fully recover from the hamstring injury that dogged him earlier in the season.

Ferrer to give Tsonga tougher time than Federer, says Forget

PARIS, 7 June—Jo-Wilfried Tsonga can expect David Ferrer to give Roger Federer a tougher time than Roger Federer managed when they met in their French Open semi-final on Friday, former France Davis Cup captain Guy Forget has warned. Sixth seed Tsonga is bidding to become the first Frenchman to win Roland Garros, upset alone a grand slam title, since Yannick Noah prevailed in Paris in 1983. “For Jo, it is going to be harder against Ferrer than against Roger (Federer),” Forget, a former world number four, told Reuters on Thursday. Tsonga upset second seed and 17-times grand slam champion Federer in the third and fourth rounds on Sunday to get the second major of the season back on track. “The (weather) system we’re in now is 140 miles deep and it’s going to take a good seven hours to get out of here,” Sue Witters, the lead rules official at the LPGA Championship, told reporters. “Then we should get a good break in the middle of the night, hopefully for the golf course to percolate the rain Friday morning, the last I was told, is supposed to be scattered and spotty, and then we have a big window.” Saturday is better and Sunday is no rain at all, so Sunday actually is our best day with the most golf that we’ll have to play.” More than an inch of continual rain on Thursday morning left the course saturated, giving organizers no chance to get the layout ready for a possible delayed start in the late afternoon. “Once the threat of lightning left the area about noon, we could have opened up the practice facilities, but the problem then became the golf course,” said Witters. —Reuters

LPGA Championship first round postponed due to bad weather

LOS ANGELES, 7 June—Lightning, followed by torrential rain, at Locust Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York on Thursday forced the first round of the LPGA Championship to be postponed until Friday. Organizers hope to complete the opening round on Friday and the second round on Saturday before playing both the third and fourth rounds on Sunday to get the second major of the season back on track.

“The (weather) system we’re in now is 140 miles deep and it’s going to take a good seven hours to get out of here,” Sue Witters, the lead rules official at the LPGA Championship, told reporters. “Then we should get a good break in the middle of the night, hopefully for the golf course to percolate the rain Friday morning, the last I was told, is supposed to be scattered and spotty, and then we have a big window.” Saturday is better and Sunday is no rain at all, so Sunday actually is our best day with the most golf that we’ll have to play.” More than an inch of continual rain on Thursday morning left the course saturated, giving organizers no chance to get the layout ready for a possible delayed start in the late afternoon. “Once the threat of lightning left the area about noon, we could have opened up the practice facilities, but the problem then became the golf course,” said Witters. —Reuters
Seven dead, four missing in Nepal landslide

KATHMANDU, July 6—A landslide flattened two houses in a mountainous district in northeastern Nepal early Thursday, killing seven members of a family and leaving four other people missing, police said.

The landslide hit Thuklinba village in the Talejung district about 240 kilometres east of Kathmandu at 12.35 am, Deputy Superintendent of Police Govinda Acharya, who is police chief for the district, told Kyodo News by telephone. Police, Nepal Army soldiers and Armed Police Force personnel are searching for the four people still missing.

Acharya said the district had seen intermittent rainfall for the past few days.

Maxpower Thaketa / Navigat Energy

Indonesia, France seek to expand cooperation in energy, transport

JAKARTA, 7 June—Indonesia and France are seeking the possibility to expand their cooperation in renewable energy and transport sectors, according to government sources.

French Minister for Foreign Trade Nicole Brice, during her recent visit to Indonesia, said France’s experience in the application of renewable energy would contribute to the planned cooperation in the sector with Indonesia.

“I come here to understand the opportunity of investment in Indonesia so that I can tell the firms in France,” said Nicole when meeting with Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Jero Wacik on Wednesday to discuss the possibility of cooperation in the field.

She added that France has both the experience and capability in developing renewable energy, Wacik said that Indonesia badly needed more energy, and electricity in particular.

“Right now theMadam minister (Nicole) said that she was very confident in investing in Indonesia’s electricity, because of its market of 250 million people here,” Wacik told a joint press conference after his meeting with Nicole.

Indonesia’s demand for electricity grows by 9 percent annually, but currently the country’s electrification rate is only over 70 percent, the energy ministry said. In addition to the renewable energy sector, France also was seeking the possibility to cooperate in mass rapid transport and air transport sectors.

Earlier on Tuesday, Nicole met with Indonesian Deputy Minister of Transport Bambang Susantono at the transport ministry, saying that France seeks to develop super fast trains and electric railways in Indonesia.—Xinhua

Under-fire Perez says his Monaco move not ‘stupid’

MONTE Carlo, July 6—Sergio Perez has defended himself against criticism that he drove like an idiot at last month’s Monaco Grand Prix, insisting he did nothing wrong.

“The move that you try to do in Monaco to try to overtake people is on the limit which at the end of the day went badly. The result was not the one I was expecting,” Perez told reporters on Thursday ahead of this weekend’s Canadian Grand Prix. “I did a couple of moves on the limit which were right. I did nothing stupid.”

Perez made contact with Raikkonen when he tried to overtake him at the end of the chicane on the tight Monaco street circuit. Raikkonen’s Lotus suffered a tire puncture and he fell back through the field before recovering to finish 10th. Raikkonen, who is currently second behind Sebastian Vettel in the championship standings, suggested the 23-year-old McLaren driver needed a punch in the face. But Perez, who failed to finish the race, said he was unfazed by the criticism and did not expect any lingering problems at Montreal’s Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, another tricky street circuit. “At the end of the day we are humans, and you are very upset, very angry, and straight away you want to criticize somebody,” Perez said.

Reuters

McLaren Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico steers his car during the qualifying session of the Monaco F1 Grand Prix on 25 May, 2013. Reuters

Under-fire Perez says his Monaco move not ‘stupid’
President U Thein Sein receives Philippine counterpart

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, holds discussion with Mr Benigno Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines. MNA

World Economic Forum helps put Myanmar back on international stage

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 June—World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 held for three days including pre-forum seminars wrapped up successfully today.

It is the first for Myanmar to host an international forum under the theme of “Sharing Prosperity” with the attendance of heads of State for East Asia, ministers, deputy ministers, personalities, company presidents and CEOs, experts in various fields and over 300 well-known media men from around the world.

The final day of the forum focused on social security, encouraging development through strategic infrastructure, overcoming challenges with technological advancement, comprehensive and sustainable tourism development, effective investment, and cooperation with Myanmar.

The successful forum could make the world countries understand more about Myanmar. Under the theme of “ Courageous Transformation for Inclusion and Integration”, it has provided an excellent opportunity to Myanmar to reshape and rebrand herself.

A Thai technician said, “A very interesting. I particularly focused on how the government and private businessmen can cooperate for the future of Myanmar. I’m especially interested in what would happen here over the coming years.”

Matriculation exam results released through Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Athan

Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Radio will air the matriculation exam results of the students who sat for the exam held in March, 2013 at exam centers in regions and states with poor transportation. Such regions and states include Thingangyun.

Matriculation examination results released

The results of the matriculation examination held in March 2013 are released at 06.00 am today (8-6-2013) Saturday. The results are posted at the same time at respective examination centers in respective regions/states and townships. In addition, the exam results of the students from Yangon Region/states are posted at No.1 Basic Education High School Insein, No.1 BEHS Yankin, No.3 BEHS Kamayut, No.1 BEHS Lammadaw, No.2 BEHS Dagon, and No.1 BEHS Thingangyun.

Memorandum of Cooperation between MRCS, NRCS signed

Yangon, 7 June— Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Cooperation between Myanmar Red Cross Society and Norwegian Red Cross Society was held at Central Council Room, Myanmar Red Cross Office, here, on 5 June. Professor Dr Tha Hla Shwe, President of MRCS addressed an opening speech and Mr Sven Mollkelev, President of NRCS spoke on the occasion.

After that, the MRCS President and the NRCS signed Memorandum of Cooperation, in the presence of the Secretary-General of MRCS and the Regional Representative Asia of NRCS. Heads of Divisions of MRCS, Representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Partner National Societies, guests and local and foreign journalists attended the ceremony. Under the Agreement, MRCS and NRCS will implement the projects: Community Based DRR and Urban DRR Projects, Logistics Development Project, Water and Sanitation Emergancy Preparedness and Response, and Community based Health Development Programme focused on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

The presidents of societies, then, answered questions raised by journalists.

Moe Thu Zar Soe